NOTRE DAME — A group of 10 Holy Cross priests said the decision to invite President Barack Obama as the University of Notre Dame’s commencement speaker “portends a distancing of Notre Dame from the church which is its lifeblood and the source of its identity and real strength.”

“They wish to join and support the ‘courageous students and treasured alumni’ who similarly opposed the university’s ‘sad and regrettable decision’ to host Obama as the school’s May 17 commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient.”

Critics of Obama say his support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research make him an inappropriate choice to be commencement speaker at a Catholic university.

The group of priests echoed the U.S. bishops’ 2004 document, “Catholics in Political Life.” The document says:

“Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions.”

In an early April letter to Notre Dame’s board of trustees, not released by the university, the priests said they wished to join and support the “courageous students and treasured alumni” who similarly opposed the university’s “sad and regrettable decision” to host Obama as the school’s May 17 commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient.”

The priests’ signed letter to the editor was published in the April 8 issue of Notre Dame’s student newspaper, The Observer.
Honoring our baptism honors death and resurrection of Christ

Easter and baptism

What a sacred privilege, something true beyond words and becoming more and more a joy to me, as I pass through my last years as your bishop. I refer to the celebration of the services of the sacred triduum, and especially of the Easter vigil. I baptized three people at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, this year; and many more adults and children were baptized at these sacred ceremonies throughout our diocese. I thought of my own baptism at Our Lady of the Presentation Church in Brighton, Mass., in August, 1932. When blood and water poured forth from the side of Christ, as recounted in John’s Gospel, it symbolized the Holy Spirit being poured out on the church and the world.

But this Spirit could not come until he offered himself in sacrifice. “If I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” — Jn 16:7.

When we honor our baptism, we are honoring the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What can truly be said is that his death is our life.

The baptismal font of Pope John Paul II

Pope Benedict XVI quotes Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a great German writer: “A poet stands a poet should visit his native land.”

Pope Benedict XVI says, “This is also true for those who wish to understand the life and ministry of John Paul II; it is necessary to come to the city of his birth.” In 1979, in his first pilgrimage to Poland as pope, John Paul stated: “In this baptismal font, on June 20, 1920, I was given the grace to become a son of God, together with faith in my Redeemer, and I was welcomed into the community of the church. I have already solemnly kissed the baptismal font in the year of the millennium of the baptism of Poland, when I was archbishop of Krakow. I kissed it again on the 50th anniversary of my baptism, when I was a cardinal, and today I kiss this baptismal font for the third time, as I come from Rome as the Successor of St. Peter.”

The first confirmation

On Easter Monday night, I made the short trip to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. It was my privilege to establish this parish. I was there a few weeks previously in Lent as part of a highly successful parish mission. On this night, I conferred the sacrament of confirmation on 126 young people in a beautiful ceremony.

Confirmation is the completion of baptism. At baptism, we are made children of God; and in confirmation, witnesses to Christ. Again, it is from the loving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that these graces are put forth. Please pray that I may somehow in the weeks that lie ahead, be enabled to express this truth in a language that will bid entry into the hearts of young people and also of their parents. It will be the 25th spring time when I have the privilege to give this sacrament of Christian maturity in our diocese, and the 35th overall. This year, I pray for the grace of conveying to the listeners at the various parish churches in the diocese for the closeness of Christ to them through the sacraments, and also, what is a mature Easter faith.

Concerning unseemly and unhelpful demonstrations at Notre Dame

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

April 10, 2009

I urge all Catholics and others of good will to stay away from unseemly and unhelpful demonstrations against our nation’s president, or Notre Dame or Father John J. Jenkins, CSC. The Notre Dame community is well-equipped to supervise and support discussions and prayer within their own campus.

I had a positive meeting this week with Father Jenkins, and I expect further dialogue will continue. These are days of prayer and hope when we should turn to the risen Christ for light and wisdom.

Let us all work towards a peaceful graduation experience for the class of 2009 at our beloved Notre Dame.

It seems to me, that the mature Easter faith is what the Lord said to Thomas, the Apostle, “Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed.”

A few words in South Bend

At the bottom of this page in this edition of the newspaper, I have shared a statement I sent to the media on Good Friday. My statement speaks for itself. It is necessary, at this time, to concentrate clearly on the issue at hand. Within the campus of Notre Dame, young people are gathering in prayer, and distinguished faculty members are making presentations. My purpose was to distance the Catholic Church from unseemly demonstrations, which attack the president of our country, or Notre Dame or Father Jenkins. Such demonstrations are distractions. The true issue remains, the sacredness of every life and the necessity of honoring this sacredness in our decisions, as well as our words.

Especially moving

How wonderful to hear from our parish priests about the large number of confessions during Lent. At the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Holy Saturday, five priests heard confessions for two hours each, after hearing many confessions the previous day. I was privileged to hear confessions with Father Michael Heintz, after the Good Friday service in South Bend.

The work of the church

Holy Week and Lent is a great time to be a priest and bishop. Now, let us concentrate on the Easter season and the Resurrection accounts. It seems to me that the fullness of Easter faith, to which we are all called, is found in the Lord’s words to Thomas: “Blessed is he who has not seen, but has believed.”

My ball team is struggling. I am ready, if they need me. Still — no call. See you all next week.

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

NEWS & NOTES

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

April 19, 2009

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

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今日的天主教报纸

今天是我们的洗礼日

-than that his death is our life.

这是对约翰保罗二世说的，一个诗人应该去他的家乡看看。“如果我没有去，圣灵将不会来。”

教皇本笃十六世引用约翰·沃尔夫冈·冯·歌德的话：“诗人应该去参观他的家乡。”

教皇本笃十六世说：“对那些想要理解约翰保罗二世的生活和使命的人来说，这是必要的，他需要来到他的故乡。”1979年，作为教皇第一次访问波兰，约翰保罗说：“在这座洗礼池上，我于1920年6月20日，我被赋予了成为上帝儿女的恩典，以及与我的救主同在的信仰。我还在我做红衣主教时吻过它，在我做枢机时吻过它，今天，我从罗马来，作为圣彼得的继承人。”

第一次确认

在复活节星期一晚上，我做了从圣伊丽莎白安·塞顿堂的短途旅行。这是我做神职人员后的两个星期。在那里的时候，我领受了一个非常成功的教区使命。在这样一个晚上，我为126个年轻人在美丽的圣礼中举行了圣洗礼。

圣洗礼是洗礼的完成。在洗礼中，我们成为上帝的孩子；在确认时，我们是基督的见证。再次，这是从基督的死亡和复活，从这些恩典中被赐予的。请祈祷，我能以某种方式在接下来的几周里，使这些人能够理解这一语言，这一语言将把基督的恩典带入年轻人的心中，也包括他们的父母。这一年，我为提供给在各个教区教堂里的听众，通过这些圣礼，了解基督的恩典，祈祷。这也是一种成熟的复活信仰。

关于不恰当和无益的示威活动

教宗约翰·保罗二世的声明

2009年4月10日

我呼吁所有天主教徒和所有有好意的人们远离不恰当和无益的示威活动。针对我们的国家总统，或印第安纳大学-南本德主教约翰·J·詹金斯，CSC。印第安纳大学-南本德社区足够准备好监督和支援讨论和祈祷，他们在自己的校园内。

我有一个积极的会议与詹金斯主教，我期待进一步的对话将持续进行。这是祈祷和希望的时候，我们应当回到复活的基督，寻求光明和智慧。

让我们都努力工作以实现和平的毕业经验，对于2009年班的我们挚爱的印第安纳大学。

看来我，成熟的复活信仰是耶稣基督对门徒说的，「赐福那些没有看见却相信的人。」

复活节中一瞥

在复活节星期一晚上，我去了圣伊丽莎白安·塞顿堂。这是我做神职人员后的两个星期。在那里的时候，我听过许多的悔罪。神父们在我在圣枝週期间。在圣母无染原罪大殿，人们聚集在祈祷中，著名的教员也在场。

在复活节星期一晚上，我准备在印第安纳大学-南本德的圣枝週期间。我分享了我对复活节星期五的声明。我的声明就其本身而言，是必要的。这时，我们需要将注意力集中在手头的问题上。印第安纳大学校园内，年轻人正在集会在祈祷中，杰出的教员正在做陈述。我原意是将天主教会与不恰当的示威活动分开，那些攻击我们的国家总统，或印第安纳大学-南本德，或詹金斯主教。这些示威活动是分散注意力的。真正的问题仍然存在，即复活节的圣洁，以及我们需要在我们的决定中，尊重这一圣洁，同样，也是复活节信仰。

尤其感人

多么美妙地听到我们的牧师们，关于大量悔罪的期间。在圣母无染原罪大殿的圣枝週日，五位神父听了两个小时的悔罪，之前，听了许多悔罪。我有幸去听悔罪，与迈克尔·海因茨神父，参加了在南本德的圣枝週星期五。基督的圣事

耶稣基督的工作

复活节和週一，神父和主教才。现在，让我们将注意力集中在复活节的季节和复活的帐幕中。似乎，失去了复活节的信仰，对我们来说都是叫的，被找到在主的话中对托马斯：「祝福那些没有看见，却相信的人。」

我的球团正在挣扎。我准备好了，如果他们需要我。不——没有电话。见你下周。
Deacon McCoy prepared for God’s call to the priesthood

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Working on the front lines as a counselor at a crisis pregnancy center and realizing that “holiness is possible and something we’re called to in the midst of regular, real life,” helped lead Deacon Charlie McCoy along the path to priesthood.

The middle of three children, McCoy says he always wanted to be a priest. After spending his grade school years in Catholic school, McCoy graduated as valedictorian of his public school and went on to make friends with many evangelical Christians at Baylor University, Armed with the love of Scripture from an early age, McCoy says his family upbringing prepared him for many challenges.

“When I got to Baylor,” recalls McCoy, “I was very happy to talk with the Christians there about Scripture, and about where some of the differences in the Bible were with that they maybe found odd, or kind of strange... what the scriptural foundation for these things would be.”

McCoy says he by no means had all the answers, but many of his evangelical friends were surprised to meet a Catholic who knew the Bible so well.

When asked how the average Catholic might develop a better appreciation of Scripture, McCoy says to go with your strengths.

“If you like to pray the rosary,” he explains, “then try reading the Passion narrative when you’re praying the joyful mysteries. Or read the birth narrative when you’re praying the joyful mysteries. If you’re a poetry person, the Psalms are a great place to get into Scripture. If you’re looking for a good novel to read, maybe every once in a while, instead of picking up another novel or something like that, pick up a book of the Bible and just start reading through. When you have questions, talk to your priest about that. I would think a priest would be pretty happy to know his parishioner is interested in Scripture and has a question.

Parishioners at Christ the King in South Bend have benefited from having two deacons in two years. In fact, associate pastor, Holy Cross Father Steve Lacroix, who was ordained one year ago, and McCoy were classmates in the second year of formation, teaching at Portland University while Father Steve finished a year ahead of his friend. McCroy was surprised when he, too, landed at Christ the King.

“It’s nice... we know it’s a privilege to have three fairly young guys,” McCoy grins, referring to himself, Father Steve and the pastor, Holy Cross Father Neil Wack. Associate pastor, Holy Cross Father Ron Tripi, seems to have no trouble keeping up with the younger priests, as he joins Father Neil and Father Steve in the back of church after the 8:30 a.m. weekday Mass on Friday.

“Like most Holy Cross religious,” continues McCoy, “I think we take the community stuff faithfully. So we pray together every single day during the week... Saturday’s the only day, I guess, we don’t pray together because of the different weekend schedule. We have meals together almost every single night. So there is a real chance in the every day routine to kind of get to know one another, and they’re all three very good guys.

“I think we’re each pretty different men,” McCoy continues, “and I think we complement each other well in that sense... We have different strengths and weaknesses, and so together as a team I think we’re pretty good.”

McCoy says it’s that “down to earth spirituality” along with the education mission that attracted him to the Holy Cross order.

“Having earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in mathematics, McCoy enjoys teaching and also refers to his time spent working as a counselor at Women’s Care Center as “one of the best experiences of my life.” In fact, he wishes everyone who does pro-life work could experience what he did working at the center.

“I still have a real devotion to that place,” he smiles. “One of the things I got to see there was just the real beauty and humanity of these women who were coming to us, and especially wish that people who cover the pro-life and pro-choice struggle in the media would spend some time there, because

**HUMANITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

was attended by about 100,000 people.

A sea of flowering trees and shrubs, and other colorful blooms, decorated by companies from the Netherlands, decorated the steps and central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica.

The pope, who turns 82 April 16, tripped without further incident when he climbed the dais where the papal throne sat in the central balcony.

He offered Easter greetings in 63 different languages and gave special encouragement to those struck by the April 6 earthquake and string of aftershocks in Italy’s L’Aquila province.

During the April 11 Easter Vigil, Pope Benedict anointed and confirmed one woman and two men from Italy, a woman from China and Heidi Sierras, a 29-year-old mother of four from St. Joseph Church in Modesto, Calif.

The pope used a small golden shell to pour the holy water over each catechumen’s head. The newly confirmed man from Italy, a woman from the Netherlands, decorated the steps and central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica.

During the evening ceremony in St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope asked that the fragile flame and “sense of emptiness, which tends to intoxicate humanity, has been overcome by the light and the hope that emanate from the Resurrection.”

“Time at world food short- age, of financial turmoil, of old and new forms of poverty, of disturbing climate change, of violence and deprivation which force many to leave their homelands in search of a less precarious form of existence, of the ever present threat of terrorism (and) of growing fears over the future, it is urgent to rediscover grounds for hope,” he said in his Easter message.

“Christ’s resurrection “is neither a myth nor a dream, it is not a vision or a utopia, it is not a fairy tale, but is a singular and unrepeatable event” that brings light to the dark regions of the world, he said.

The “sense of emptiness, which tends to intoxicate humanity, has been overcome by the light and the hope that emanate from the Resurrection,” he said.

But while the resurrected Christ vanquished death, “there still remain very many, in fact, too many signs of his former dominion,” said the pope.

**Pope Benedict XVI**

**Delivers his Easter blessing “urbi et orbi”** (to the city of Rome and the world) April 12 over looking St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. In his message he called for renewed efforts to bring about peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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**Holy Cross Deacon Charlie McCoy, in this photo taken inside Christ the King Church in South Bend where he is currently serving, will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, April 18, at the Sacred Heart Basilica on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.**

During the evening ceremony in St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope asked that the fragile flame and “sense of emptiness, which tends to intoxicate humanity, has been overcome by the light and the hope that emanate from the Resurrection.”

“The earthquake in central Italy was never far from the pope’s mind during Holy Week and Easter services.

At the end of the candlelit Way of the Cross at Rome’s Colosseum April 10, Pope Benedict again asked for prayers for those affected by the earthquake.

“Let us pray that in this dark night, the star of hope — the light of the risen Lord — will appear also to them,” he said.

The meditations for the rite were written by Indian Archbishop Agostino Vallini, the papal vicar and India, as well as two Franciscan friars from the Holy Land, were among those who carried the black wooden cross.

After the 14th station, Cardinal Agostino Vallini, the papal vicar for Rome, handed the cross to the pope who stood and held it aloft.

“We have relived the tragic event of a man unique in the History of all times, who changed the world not by killing others but by letting himself be killed as a sign from a cross,” Pope Benedict said at the end of the ceremony.

Pope Benedict left the Vatican Easter vigil Mass for the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

Receiving the “Regina Coeli” prayer with hundreds of visitors gathered in the courtyard of the villa April 13, the pope said Christians rejoice because “the resurrection of the Lord assures us that, despite all the dark moments in history, the divine plan of salvation certainly will be fulfilled. This is the Easter reality is our hope.”

“Those who have risen with Christ through baptism must now follow him faithfully with holiness of life, walking toward the eternal Easter, sustained by the awareness that the difficulties, struggles, trials and sufferings of our existence — including death — can no longer separate us from him and his love,” the pope said.
Poor Handmaids elect leadership

DONALDSON — During the Provincial Chapter of Elections held April 3-4, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC) delegates elected a leadership team who will lead the PHJC American Province during the next four years.

The previous team of Sister Nora Hahn, provincial, Sister Virginia Kampwerth, first counselor, and Sister Marlene Ann Lama and Sister Kathy Haas, counselors, were reelected for a second term.

With the congregation’s promise of unity, support and collaboration, Sister Nora and her team will guide the congregation to accomplish the directions and focus set forth at the Chapter of Affairs held in January. The focus for the next four years includes internationality, voice in issues of justice, transformational aging, living in the consciousness of the new universe story, spirituality and leadership.

“With this approach,” she wrote, quoting the document. “If we repeatedly and clearly state that we do not support the president on these issues, we cannot be understood to ‘suggest support.’”

“I do not wish our dialogue to appear as a form of expression which would suggest support.”

FATHER JOHN J. JENKINS

The newly elected Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Provincial leadership team are, in back, from left, Sister Nora Hahn, provincial, and right, Sister Kathy Haas, counselor. Front left is Sister Virginia Kampwerth, first counselor, and right is Sister Marlene Ann Lama, counselor.

OBAMA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

versity but published April 8 by LifeSiteNews.com. Holy Cross Father John J. Jenkins, university president, said the invitation to Obama, announced March 20, was in keeping with the “letter and the spirit” of the bishops’ document.

He said university officials understood the document to be specifically referring to Catholic politicians, a view he said has been supported by canon lawyers and what other university presidents have been told by their bishops.

As far as the university giving honors, awards or platforms “which would support” for speakers that do not support church teachings, Father Jenkins wrote that he always has been clear to express his disagreement with the president “on issues surrounding the protection of life, such as abortion and embryonic stem-cell research.”

“If we repeatedly and clearly state that we do not support the president on these issues, we cannot be understood to ‘suggest support,’” he wrote.

“However misguided some
Health care workers urge Obama not to rescind conscience rights

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dr. John T. Bruchalski would rather close the doors of his highly successful Fairfax, Va., medical practice than violate his conscience if he is forced to offer services that violate the basic tenets of his Catholic faith.

A pro-life obstetrician and gynecologist whose Tepeyac Family Center delivered 629 babies in 2008, Bruchalski is concerned that a Department of Health and Human Services proposal to rescind a conscience protection regulation for health care workers would force him to perform abortions or, at the very least, refer patients to physicians who offer the procedure.

Bruchalski told Catholic News Service he wants no part of that.

“The rule, which took effect two days before President Barack Obama took office, codifies three longstanding federal statutes prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in abortions or other medical procedures because of their religious or moral objections. “From our perspective the heart of the Social Justice is the Gospel of life,” Bruchalski said in an interview following an April 8 press conference hosted by Freedom2Care at the National Press Club.

“At the heart of freedom is the right of conscience, a properly formed conscience. If conscience becomes truncated or coerced or undercut, then every other right we have as citizens becomes hollow,” he continued.

“We have to be obedient to our conscience, which is telling me to love God and love my neighbor. As Peter said, where else can I go?” he said. “I must be an active, alive Catholic physician and that will help health care and the nation at large, because I bring a perspective that ought to be heard. If they silence that, they’re silencing Catholics from being physicians.”

Bruchalski was not alone in his sentiments. He joined 40 other doctors, anesthesiologists, physicians assistants, pharmacists and nurses — all donated in white coats or operating-room scrubs — who packed the press conference to address their concerns a day before a monthlong public comment period on the HHS plan ends.

Freedom2Care, a coalition of 36 secular and medical organizations dedicated to protecting conscience rights, and the Susan B. Anthony List, which promotes and represents pro-life women in politics, are spearheading a campaign that has led to 36,000 comments being filed against the proposal.

A similar effort by the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, an arm of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has filed another 35,000 comments, according to Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the bishops’ Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

Dr. David Stevens, CEO of the Christian Medical Association, told reporters that the group had sent Obama a letter detailing its concerns about the proposal as the press conference started. The letter said thousands of health care professionals “would be put at a crossroads in their careers” should the conscience rule be rescinded.

Among the 37 signers of the letter were Dr. Louis C. Breschi, president of the Catholic Medical Association; Brian Burch, executive director of CatholicVote.org; Terese S. Collet, professor of law and director of the University of St. Thomas School of Law ProLife Center; and Austin Ruse, president of C-Fam, a Catholic family and human rights organization.

“The rights of conscience are guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and rescinding those rights would send the country down a perilous road,” Stevens said.

“When the state demands we surrender our conscience, it becomes totalitarian and dangerous,” he said. “As Hippocrates knew and have sometimes forgotten, the moral integrity of health care professionals is the patient’s best protection, especially in a health care system increasingly driven by cost.”
Vermont legalizes same-sex marriage; D.C. recognizes same-sex unions

BURLINGTON, Vt. (CNS) — Vermont legislators voted to override the governor’s veto of same-sex marriage legislation April 7, making the state the first to allow same-sex marriage and the first to do so without a court order. The same day, the District of Columbia Council voted to recognize same-sex unions formalized in other states. Both votes came less than a week after the Iowa Supreme Court’s unanimous decision to legalize gay marriage by striking down a state law defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman. The Vermont law will allow same-sex marriages in the state beginning in September. The two houses of the Vermont Legislature voted in early April on the same-sex-marriage legislation. The votes were four short of the number needed to override a veto and Gov. Jim Douglas vetoed the measure April 6. Some legislators changed their votes April 7 to override the governor’s veto in a 100-49 vote. During a March hearing about the same-sex-marriage legislation, called the Freedom to Marry Act, Bishop Salvatore R. Matano of Burlington defended the church’s opposition to same-sex marriages, saying it has been the Catholic Church’s “consistent teaching ... that marriage is the union of man and woman.”

Daring rescue of ship’s captain leaves Vermont parish overjoyed

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When news of the bold liberation of U.S. Capt. Richard Phillips from the grip of pirates off the coast of Somalia filtered through his Vermont Catholic parish April 12, members of his church community felt like their Easter prayers had been answered. “We’re so happy that it turned out the way that it did,” said Donna Schaeffler, secretary of St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center, Vt., the parish where Phillips, 55, and his wife, Andrea, regularly attend Mass. “There is so much media here and we’re trying to give the Phillipines their privacy, but we’ve been praying at Mass for his safe release,” Schaeffler said. Catholic News Service April 13 in a telephone interview. “Our pastor (Father Charles R. Danielson) also asked everyone to pray for the Phillipines during the Easter morn- ing Mass. We were just so happy to hear the news of his rescue later in the day,” she said. Phillips allowed himself to be taken hostage by four pirates who tried to seize the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama, off the coast of Somalia April 7 in the Arabian Sea, in order to keep the crew of the 17-ton ship safe. He was detained by his armed captors on one of the ship’s lifeboats for five days. U.S. naval forces surround ed the boat and Navy snipers killed the Somali pirates, a Navy commander told The Associated Press April 13.

Pope Benedict to find Holy Land changed since predecessor’s visit

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will encounter a Holy Land that has changed greatly since Pope John Paul II visited in 2000. Pope John Paul arrived in Israel and the Palestinian territories on a trip that, despite stumbling blocks in the peace process, the jubilee year celebrations seemed to buoy the Holy Land with a booming tourism industry. But Pope Benedict will visit amid considerable Israeli-Palestinian tensions months after a controversial Israeli invasion of Gaza and during continuing Palestinian rocket attacks against southern Israeli towns. On his visit to Bethlehem, West Bank, Pope John Paul was received by a united Palestinian Authority, led by longtime Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. In May Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is struggling to unite the Palestinian factions following a 2007 split with the Islamic fundamentalist political party and militia Hamas, will welcome Pope Benedict.

Parishioners from eight dioceses seek mediation for parish closings

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Parishioners from 31 groups in eight U.S. dioceses have joined forces to ask the Vatican to suspend parish closings and to instruct bishops to negotiate the closures with local Catholics. In an 18-page letter delivered April 7 to several Vatican offices, the parish representatives said the decision to close hundreds of parishes across the country has left the U.S. Catholic Church at a “tipping point” of permanent damage and irreparable decline.

Latin patriarch says Resurrection is present in relationships, life

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The resurrection of Jesus can be revisited in relationships with family and friends and in daily life, said Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem in his Easter homily April 12. “ Becoming incarnate, (Jesus) comes into our human story, into the history of our church and right into our personal lives,” the patriarch said. The resurrection is at work each time we choose to give succor and to love ... Jesus in our neighbor; each time we prefer his forgiveness to hate, each time that we allow love and peace to claim a place among men,” Gallilee, where Jesus told his followers to meet him, is everywhere, including among “the sick, the marginal- ized, the victims of violence” and even the powerful “who push him out from the society and are deter- mined to grant him no public forum,” he said. Although Jesus is pushed to the margins, Jesus continues to offer “his mercy, forgive- ness and love,” the patriarch said. Although believers “dare” to talk about joy and victory over death, they are not blind to wars, diseases and natural catastrophes, Patriarch Twal said.

Gunman opens fire at Korean Catholic retreat center in California

TEMECULA, Calif. (CNS) — One woman was killed and three people were injured April 7 after a 69-year-old man opened fire at a remote Catholic Korean retreat center in Southern California. The Associated Press identified the gunman as 69-year-old John Chong, a volunteer who lives at the Kkottongnae Retreat Camp, about 85 miles southeast of Los Angeles. No motives have been determined for the attacks. Chong was eventu- ally disarmed and tackled by those he was attacking. He was hospital- ized April 7 in an unconscious state. The retreat center is in Temecula on the grounds of a former summer camp in the San Bernardino Diocese. It has eight to 10 cabins for visitors and seminarian res- idents, some of whom had been homeless. The center is one of four U.S. branches of the Kkottongnae Brothers and Sisters of Jesus, a Catholic group founded in South Korea to serve the poor and home- less. Kkottongnae is a Korean word for “flower village.” Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino said in an April 8 statement that he was “deeply saddened” by the shooting and asked for prayers for the “vic- tims of this tragic act and for the sisters who run the retreat camp.”

Pope’s Way of the Cross adopts an Asian viewpoint

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — This year’s meditation for Pope Benedict XVI’s Good Friday Way of the Cross has a distinctly Asian perspective, referring to Hindu scriptures, an Indian poet and Mahatma Gandhi. But the linch- pin of this Eastern reflection is the passion of Jesus Christ. In that sense, it reflects Pope Benedict’s view of Christianity’s relationship with the non-Christian worlds — that the Gospel enlightens and fulfills the beliefs of other faiths. Indian Archbishop Thomas Menamparambil of Guwahati wrote the meditation on the 14 sta- tions, to be read as the pope leads the candlelit “Via Crucis” at Rome’s Colosseum. The pope chose Archbishop Menamparambil, a 72-year-old Salesian, after hearing him deliver an impressive talk at last year’s Synod of Bishops on Scripture. The archbishop took it as a sign of the pope’s interest in Asia. “His Excellency is a perfect reflection of the identity of Asia, the cradle of civilization. Moreover, our Holy Father has a prophetic vision for the Christian church that very much cher- ished by him and his pontificate,” he said. The immediate assumption among many Vatican observers is that the pope chose an Indian would serve to highlight religious freedom issues in the wake of anti-Christian violence in parts of India.
BISHOP D’ARCY TO HOST HANNAH’S HOUSE BLESSINGS CAMPAIGN

MISHAWAKA — Hannah’s House has announced that Bishop John M. D’Arcy will be the chairperson for the 2009 Blessings from Heaven Campaign starting May 31.

The 2009 Blessings from Heaven Campaign will raise funds needed to insure that pregnant women and babies in crisis have a safe, secure and nurturing home. Each year Hannah’s House serves 40 to 50 pregnant women in need of physical, emotional and spiritual support. Hannah’s House is funded solely through churches, businesses, individuals and other donations.

“We are so blessed to be able to announce Bishop D’Arcy’s support of the Blessings from Heaven Campaign,” said Karen DeLucenay, MSW, executive director for Hannah’s House. “Bishop D’Arcy is standing with Hannah’s House to support pregnant women who have chosen life for their babies. The Blessings from Heaven Campaign is a wonderful opportunity for pro-life groups and individuals to actively change the lives of women and babies in need.

This year has been a challenge keeping the doors to Hannah’s House open, given the current economy. We have seen an increase in the number of women needing a helping hand and nurturing home. Through this campaign and the support of the community, we hope to be able to continue to support women who choose life,” DeLucenay said.

Along with housing, Hannah’s House provides educational services, employment assistance, counseling, programming and spiritual support to enrich the lives of pregnant women in need. Hannah’s House serves seven women at a time, however more are currently on a waiting list. Women may move in anytime during their pregnancy and stay for up to ten months after the birth of their child.

For more information on how you can support Hannah’s House, please contact Dianna Nauman, director of development at (574) 254-5309.

REDEEMER RADIO ANNOUNCES SHARATHON

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, has announced its annual Spring Sharathon, with the theme of “Thy Will Be Done,” April 22-24, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

Don Schenkel, chairman of Fort Wayne’s Tower Bank and Redeemer Radio Sharathon chair, said: “We know that the impact that Redeemer Radio Sharathon has made on the local community will continue to grow.”

The “Thy Will Be Done” Spring Sharathon will again be hosted by Jerry Usher at the studios of Redeemer Radio. Usher is the former host of Catholic radio’s most popular national program, “Catholic Answers Live;” heard on Redeemer Radio weekdays from 6 to 8, mornings and evenings. He is now the president of Third Millennium Media and is one of America’s most sought after hosts.

Throughout Sharathon, Jerry will be joined by Redeemer Radio hosts Sean McBride, Dr. Matt Bunson and Mariam Schmitz. Local and national guests will also give of their time and share their perspectives on the vital importance of Catholic radio to the local community. Special guests will include priests from the diocese, such as Fathers Dave Rupert, Daryl Rybicki, Phil Widman, Ken Sarrazine, George Gabet, Cyril Fernandes, John Kuzmich, Terry Shoemaker, Tony Steinrueck, Glenn Kehrmann and Mark Gurtner.

Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry is also scheduled to be a guest. Listeners will be asked to support Redeemer Radio over the three days of the Sharathon. Pledges from individuals and businesses will be accepted by phone (260) 436-1450 and toll-free (888) 436-1450, by email to Redeemer Radio, 4705 Illinois Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46804, online at www.redeermerradio.com, or in person at the studio located at 4705 Illinois Rd., Suite 104. Volunteers will also be welcome.

SAINT JOSEPH’S HONORS 23 STUDENTS

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph’s High School has recognized 23 Saint Joe Scholars, students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 or better. At a Mass on March 19, celebrating the feast of St. Joseph, the top academic achievers were announced to the assembled student body, faculty, staff, guests and Bishop John M. D’Arcy.

These students topping the list are co-valedictorians Michael Furdyna and Renuala Mitra and salutatorian Brian Huang. Furdyna is the son of Margaret Dobrowskala and Jacek Furdyna. Mitra is the daughter of Monolita and Raman Mitra. Huang is the son of Nancy and Yih-Fang Huang.

The remaining 20 scholars are Adam Arsenault, Samantha Champion, Yeoju Chun, Arnav Dutt, Elexis Ellis, Peter Fredkloso, Matthew Goepfrich, Brigid Halloran, Shelby Herm's, Devin Jenkins, Samuel Jones, Mary Kearney, Madeline Makielski, Matthew McCarthy, Claire McClain, Brianna Neblung, Kristi Potts, Taylor Thomas, Jeffrey Wei, and Ye Seul Lucienne Yoo.

ANCILLA COLLEGE GOLF TOURNAMENT SLATED

PLYMOUTH — Ancilla College is hosting its Annual Ancilla College golf tournament at the Plymouth Country Club, overlooking Pretty Lake in Plymouth, on Monday, June 8. The tournament will follow the four-person Florida scramble format.

This year’s tournament will feature a catered cookout lunch followed by a steak dinner after the tournament. Golfers will be welcomed at the ninth hole by the always popular, Heavenly Putters. The “Putters” offer the opportunity to save a stroke if a golfer gives a small donation and allows a Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ sister to take a putt for them.

Funds raised provide educational opportunities at the college. Participants can take part in a raffle for a number of great prizes as well as an auction following the tournament.

Those interested in entering a team or being a hole sponsor may contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (574) 936-8898 ext. 355. Brochures with entry forms may be found at: www.ancilla.edu/development.

BRIAN HUANG NAMED AN INDIANA ACADEMIC ALL-STAR

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph’s High School senior Brian Huang has been named a 2009 Indiana Academic All-Star. The Indianapolis Star, Indiana Association of School Principals and Indiana Department of Education are the sponsors of The Indianapolis Star Academic All-Star program. Supporting sponsors of this program are Earlham College and Franklin College.

Each Indiana high school may nominate one senior for those prestigious awards. Ninety students are recognized as regional winners by a selection committee and 40 of those are chosen as Indiana Academic All-Stars.

Huang was chosen as one of the 40, a remarkable distinction. These 40 students, their parents, and an inspirational supporter of their cause were to be present for the awards ceremony April 15 in the Indiana Roof Ballroom. These students will also be the subject of a feature article in a future edition of the Indianapolis Star.

SAINT MARY’S COLLEGE TEAMS UP WITH REBUILDING TOGETHER

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College students, faculty and staff will get their hands dirty on Saturday, April 25 as they spruce up a River Park home as part of Rebuilding Together 2009. The college’s Office for Civic and Social Engagements (OCSE) is sponsoring a home at 701 S. 34th St. in South Bend and will be working there from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

OCSE will be hosting a jewelry show to raise money for the college’s sponsored home. “Just Jewelry for a Just Cause” will be held in the Student Union of the Student Center on Tuesday, April 21, from 3-7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Eight local artisans will be selling jewelry, braclets, pendants and more. Each crafter has agreed to donate at least 20 percent of her proceeds to the Rebuilding Together cause.

Rebuilding Together is a national program that rehabilitates selected houses belonging to elderly, disabled or low-income homeowners.

For more information on OCSE or Rebuilding Together, visit www.saintmarys.edu/~ocse and www.rebuildingtogether.org.
ICC’s pro-life agenda headed toward home stretch

INDIANAPOLIS — With less than two weeks to go before the April 29 session adjournment deadline, the Indiana Catholic Conference’s (ICC) pro-life legislative agenda is headed toward the home stretch.

Several abortion-related bills supported by the ICC are moving forward. A bill to hold abortion doctors accountable for the abortions they perform, SB 89, physician admitting privileges, passed the House Public Policy Committee, 8-4. “The purpose of the bill is to make sure that the doctor is available for follow up treatment if a woman has complications due to the abortion,” said Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis), the bill’s author.

The proposal allows abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at hospitals in the adjacent counties where the abortions are performed. The bill is expected to pass the House.

ICC supports SB 89.

Also part of the ICC’s legislative agenda was a bill to enhance penalties for feticide. The Indiana House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill, 96-0, April 6 to create harsher penalties for killing the unborn — a crime referred to as feticide.

Senate Bill 236 enhances the penalty from a class-C felony to a class-B felony, which would increase the prison term from six to 20 years. A class-C felony is a prison term from two to eight years. A class-B felony is a prison term from six to 20 years.

Feticide is the deliberate killing of the fetus, except in an abortion. The primary focus of SB 236 bill provides for enhanced penalty when pregnancy ends as a result of committing or attempting to commit a crime against the mother. The bill defines this crime as “termination of human pregnancy” and is consistent with current feticide statute and in the opinion of

Indiana Catholic Conference

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

some, easier for prosecutors to argue in courts.

Rep. Mike Murphy (R-Indianapolis), House sponsor of the bill who has been a primary advocate for enhancing the penalty for feticide, said, “This bill creates a measure of justice for families whose unborn children are murdered as a result of violent crimes.”

The Senate is likely to concur with the changes in SB 236 and the bill will go to the governor for signature before the end of the session.

ICC pro-life agenda — priority bills at a glance

Feticide, enhances criminal penalties up to 20 years (criminal case) SB 236, passed House, 96-0, passage likely. Church supports.

Wrongful death of fetus (civil case) SB 341, passes Senate, 47-2, House bill withdrawn, resurrection possible, conference committee. Church supports.

Physician admitting privileges, holds abortion doctors accountable for abortions, SB 89, passed Senate 44-6, House Public Policy Committee 8-4, passage likely. Church supports.

Abortion matters, enhanced informed consent for abortion, passes Senate 39-11, resurrection possible in conference committee, passage uncertain. Church supports.

Death Row inmate execution times changed and death row inmate housing study, SB 296, passed Senate 48-0, House Rules Committee, passage unlikely. Church supports.

Foreclosure notice for tenants, SB 225 and HB 1081, conference committee negotiations. Church supports.

Sales tax exemption for energy assistance, HB 1080, passed House, resurrection possible in conference committee, passage uncertain. Church supports.

The wrongful injury or death of a fetus, SB 341, will likely not pass this session unless it can be attached to another bill in conference committee. The proposal passed the Senate, 47-2, but not debated or voted on in the House due to amendments that attempt to extend the liability beyond a viable fetus, which is the intent of the bill. This bill applies to civil suits. Rep. Peggy Welch (D-Bloomington) had hoped to bring the bill back but couldn’t get an agreement from lawmakers who wanted to amend the bill. The bill may be resurrected by being amended to a similar subject bill in conference committee. The ICC supports the bill.

A proposal to change the execution times and initiate a study of death row inmate housing, SB 296, passed the Senate, 48-0. In its original form SB 296 would have forced death-row inmates to move into another correctional facility where only solitary confinement cells were available. Because of the detrimental effects to the human person, the church opposed this aspect of the bill. The ICC successfully worked to get the bill amended to study death-row inmate housing rather than forcing inmates to move into solitary confinement for up to a decade or more prior to execution.

The school scholarship tax credit, SB 528, was amended into the budget bill, HB 1001, by the Senate Appropriations Committee April 9. “This provides an excellent vehicle for passage this session,” said Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director. “Because SB 528 did not get a hearing in the House the only way for it to pass was that it have become part of another bill.

“Having a place within the budget is better than having to insert it during budget negotiations or working separately in another bill. We are very pleased with the Senate’s action,” said Tebbe.

House bills must be passed by the Senate and visa versa by the April 16 deadline to move forward. However, bills which have passed at least one chamber could be resurrected and amended into an existing bill with a similar subject during the conference committee phase beginning April 16. The Indiana General Assembly must pass a biennium budget and adjourn by Wednesday, April 29. The ICC is hopeful that many of the bills it has supported will pass this year.

Upcoming deadlines

April 15 Last day House and Senate can approve bills sent over by the opposite chamber

April 16 Conference Committee Phase begins

April 29 Session adjourns

Find out what’s going on at the state legislature and how you can become involved. Go to www.indianacc.org and click “Legislative Action Center” on the left side of the screen.

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC

April 19, 2009
No second thoughts: Easter promises a fresh start

Some days life feels grey and predictable: moving in the same direction, making the same turns, waiting at the same lights. Dirty dishes, unfolded laundry, nothing good on TV.

Some days the notion of house swapping seems like just the ticket.

Which is why every day hundreds of people stuff messages in bottles and cast them into the cyber sea, hoping their homes will appeal to others far away because of the hot tub, the gas stove, the nearby golf course ... or simply because of the novelty.

There’s something for everyone on house-swapping sites like HomeExchange.com and Craigslist.org — whether you’re trading for a weekend or a lifetime, moving in or out of the city, upsizing or downsizing, seeking sun or snow, pines or plains, East or West.

Some swaps are easy to understand. An Omaha, Neb., resident hopes for Honolulu. Charleston, W. Va., requests Istanbul, Turkey.

The incredible thing is that these desires go both ways. On one site 1,328 Italians are looking to leave. Alfonbra, Costa Rica, asks for Allentown, Pa. Alta Gracia, Argentina, yearns for Boston.

Other bids are broader, “open to all offers” — whoever e-mails first, any city they’ve never seen, any name they can’t pronounce.

When you peek online, one picture will catch your eye and tickle your imagination as you take out the trash, teasing out some long-ago dream. Maybe you can write the great American novel under the Tuscan sun or take a cooking class in Paris or learn to salsa in Puerto Rico.

Maybe you can get away, get a tan, get rich, get over him, get a life.

Maybe you can render the seemingly impossible possible with the swift click of a keystroke.

It’s a heady antidote to an economy that can easily depress, instilling a sense of limitation, of blocked avenues and restricted paths.

The beauty of our Christian faith is that it offers us a fresh start every day. There is no such thing as a dead end for believers, no rut that can’t be scaled, no sin that can’t be forgiven. Every muddied slate can be wiped blank.

We can leave bad jobs, bad relationships and bad decisions far, far behind with the saving power of our risen Lord. We are Easter people; we believe in the ultimate triumph of life over death. Old made new. Sin turned into grace. Darkness shattered by light.

The Resurrection is not a one-time miracle. It’s a lifestyle, something we can experience every day, an ongoing adventure.

This year we remember St. Paul, the ultimate house swapper. He traded homes, names and religions. Friends and neighbors hardly recognized him. The man who had killed Christians was suddenly defending Christianity. He traveled through Asia Minor, sailed for Europe and preached in Philippi — a tireless apostle, a changed man.

I love how Pope Benedict XVI chronicles this conversion. “Dazzled by the divine light on the road to Damascus,” he wrote, “(Paul) did not hesitate to change sides to the Crucified One and followed him without second thoughts.”

It sounds like a resolute house swapper: a swift click and no second thoughts. We are each called to follow Christ with that alacrity and authority, to be decisive disciples like St. Paul.

“How timely his example is today!” the pope wrote.

No matter how dark your days or sinful your ways, don’t despair. When you cling to Christ, you can make a swap.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at christina@readchristina.com.
Diocesan purchasing department supplies more than office goods

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — It's a little known, but most valuable resource that is found right here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The purchasing department, located in the basement level of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne, is a mini-warehouse for in-stock items as well as a clearinghouse for schools, churches and diocesan offices to order items both large and small.

Mary Lou O'Keeffe, general manager of the purchasing department, says she'd like to get the word out about this service. In-stock items consist of sacramental wines and unconsecrated hosts for Masses at the Noll Center, retreats and the smaller churches that don't buy in large quantities, a variety of ceremonial candles, light bulbs, janitorial goods, cartridges, paper and other office supplies. Rows of boxes and shelves filled with supplies attest to stock availability.

And beyond the ordinary, O'Keeffe handles big ticket items, such as office or school furniture and copiers. She even orders palms and pascal candles for the churches for their Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations.

O'Keeffe will celebrate her 31st year in the department in August and has seen some interesting changes over the years. She began work for the diocese in 1978 as secretary of the purchasing department, bringing her executive secretarial skills from her previous position in New York.

“My boss was stern and expected a lot from me when I came here, but he taught me all about purchasing,” she says. Soon she was filling orders on her own. She recalls in those days filling out three-part forms by hand or on an old typewriter. “There were no computers then,” she says. Her biggest thrill was when her manager purchased a rather large typewriter with a memory that held her purchased orders. “It was a more efficient way to do the job,” she recalls.

O'Keeffe has worked with several managers over the years and has been involved in a monthly newsletter for the purchasing department, which, until 2004, was located on the first floor of the Catholic Center. It was at the time of the move to the Noll Center that she accepted the position of manager.

The purchasing department is a member of the Catholic Purchasing Services (CPS), which gives negotiating flexibility for the items the department can carry. O'Keeffe is sure to attend the annual meetings to keep abreast of the latest in purchasing and also maintains a list of the most current and popular items provided by the CPS in their annual catalog.

Items such as mats or carpet for churches, tables, freezers, furniture, chalices, clergy shirts, and computer tables, lab supplies and projector screens for the schools are within the purchasing department's realm. O'Keeffe says she buys directly from the manufacturer and negotiates the best discount possible. “My interest is saving money at the bottom line,” she says.

Many schools and parishes in the diocese call the purchasing department to investigate a price or a needed item from the catalog and O'Keeffe is happy to accommodate them.

“I love the challenge of finding items the customer wants,” she says, adding, “I also have a good rapport with the customers on the phone. I love solving problems if I can.” And if someone calls for “an oddball thing,” O'Keeffe directs them to a vendor who can serve them.

O'Keeffe says she purchases items from the “best possible place for the best possible price and always from good people.” Her network of vendors provides a warranty, options and prices.

A longtime member of St. Jude, O'Keeffe’s faith and involvement in her parish sustain her during good times as well as the challenging ones. “Faith absolutely plays a role in staying here (in the purchasing department) and how I treat people. ... I always feel like the customer is king,” she says.

Of the purchasing department service O’Keeffe says, “The most important thing is the customer service — one-on-one service and always from good people.” The purchasing department is located in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne.

For information or to make a purchase contact Mary Lou O’Keeffe at (260) 422-4611, ext. 3313.

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Discovery garden benefits Catholic community

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Sometimes the best education is outside the classroom. That’s the basis for the discovery garden, a joint project between the University of Saint Francis (USF) and Most Precious Blood Catholic School in Fort Wayne.

Teresa Beam, chair of the biology department at the University of Saint Francis, said it was a “perfect chance” that brought the university and the grade school together. She noted the garden is the brainchild of a few science teachers at Precious Blood who wanted to improve the science curriculum while promoting the spirit of environmentalism. In turn, the project enables the university to support local Catholic schools like Precious Blood.

Early in the planning phase, a few science teachers met to develop a project that would fit these guidelines. The idea of a discovery garden was proposed, Beam said, because it’s a great way to promote stewardship and get back to your roots.

The concept came to fruition last fall when Precious Blood was selected to receive a 2008 GreenWorks! Community Action & Service Learning Grant in the amount of $5,000. The grant is sponsored by Project Learning Tree (PLT), a national organization that strives to increase students’ understanding of the environment, stimulate students’ critical and creative thinking, develop students’ ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues, and instill in students the commitment to take responsibility action on behalf of the environment.

So far the monies have been used to install a state-of-the-art learning and discovery garden near the former convent on the Precious Blood campus. In Beam’s words, the garden is a “way of observing nature in an urban environment.”

The project is designed to teach lessons both in and outside the classroom. For example, Beam said some of the crops will be donated to the needy and the flowers used at special Masses. Inside the classroom, teachers will engage students with lesson-based projects. Ann Baker’s students will decorate slate roof tiles to adorn the garden’s border. And Jessie Bloom has a Native American lesson planned in which students will learn about crop rotation.

“Everyone has a bit of a hand in it,” Beam explained.

The project also has an outreach aspect, as part of the funding will be used to support a PLT environmental workshop at the University of Saint Francis in the fall.

Looking forward, Beam said she hopes the effort will create a sense of solidarity in the Catholic community.

“I’m hoping that we begin to understand that we’re a larger Catholic community and (people will) reach out and see that we have a lot of common goals,” she said.

The garden is also a means to promote science and Catholic education in accordance with the university’s Franciscan values, she said.

So far the project has been well received by the community at large. Supporters have already donated plants and other items to back the effort.

Overall, Beam said the “green” movement has inspired people to take action locally.

“People are starting to understand you have to get back to your roots,” she said.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled for May 15 at the garden site. Mayor Tom Henry, the police captain and Gary Bard, dean of USF’s school of arts and sciences, are scheduled to make an appearance. Community members are welcome to attend.

To make a donation or for more information, contact Dr. Beam at tbeam@sfu.edu.
St. Jude parishioner takes on role to save the Maumee River

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — They say if you’re not a part of the solution; you’re a part of the problem.

There’s no doubt local environmental activist Abby Frost is part of the solution.

Frost is founder of Save Maumee, a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to raising awareness about the conditions of the three rivers in Fort Wayne. Through various environmental restoration projects, Frost hopes to repair and improve the rivers and reverse pollution.

Frost, 35, said she was exposed to environmental activism at a young age. In her words, her mother, a teacher at St. Jude’s in Fort Wayne, lived sustainably long before the term environmentalist was coined.

Case in point: Frost recalls her mother reusing baby foods jars long into her adulthood.

“My mom was environmentally friendly before it was in,” she recalled.

A turning moment was when she bought a house in the South Anthony neighborhood on Niagara Drive overlooking the Maumee River. Frost said in retrospect, Frost said she was familiar with the stigma surrounding the health of the three rivers and the house’s location was an invitation to further explore it.

“I wanted to take the kids to the river,” she said. “I was curious to (find out) why it was horrible.”

Frost experienced the river’s pollution firsthand and was eager to change the state of affairs. A few years went by and it was 2005. By then Frost said she “couldn’t keep her mouth shut” and wanted to do something “tangible” to affect change. That year she founded Save Maumee, the manifestation of an ambitious vision.

Looking back, Frost said through this series of events God was calling her to undertake this effort. “I felt a calling ... I knew that I was told and given a task to do,” she said. “It all happened the way ... it was meant to be.”

Faced with an overwhelming mission before her, Frost reminds people that we’re all in this together as stakeholders in the earth. This problem does not know socioeconomic differences. Doctors, lawyers, accountants — they all should be concerned with the state of the rivers, she noted.

“It’s all inclusive,” she said. “It’s the entire human race.”

Frost said this can-do attitude is the result of her mother’s influence.

“My model was always my mother,” she said. “She lived by example ... never pointed a finger. It was always about (how people could make a change).”

Now her son, a student at St. Jude, is the third generation of activists. Frost, with son Canaan, have taken an activist role to save the Maumee River.

Environmental principles illuminated by Pope Benedict

BY KAY COZAD


Though initially considered a scholarly theologian, Pope Benedict has inspired the world with his persistent focus on the moral responsibility of living a “green” lifestyle to protect not only the planet but the poor who suffer due to environmental waste and shortages. He has been called the “green pope.”

Derived from the second section of the 2004 “Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church,” the 10 commandments were first offered by Bishop Giampaolo Cregg, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, as “ten principles of environmental ethics”: guiding principles for responsible stewardship of God’s creation. These soon became known as the 10 commandments for the environment.

Those 10 commandments, though not actually written by Pope Benedict, reflect his teachings on the current environmental issues. His papal musings and homilies are presented in easy to understand sections with Scripture references, quotes and resources throughout. Each chapter is devoted to one of the 10 commandments.

The 10 commandments include:

• The human being, created in God’s image, is placed above all other earthly creatures, which must be used and cared for in a responsible way in cooperation with the divine plan for redemption.

• Nature must not be reduced to a utilitarian object of manipulation, nor absolutized or placed above human dignity.

• Ecological responsibility involves the entire planet in a common duty to respect the environment as a collective good, from present and future generations.

• In dealing with environmental problems, ethics and human dignity should come before technology.

• Nature is not a sacred or divine reality, removed from human intervention. Thus, human intervention that modifies some characteristics of living things is not wrong, as long as it respects their place in the ecosystem.

• The politics of development must be coordinated with the politics of ecology, and every environmental cost in development projects must be weighed carefully.

• Ending global poverty is related to the environmental question, remembering that the goods of the earth must be shared equitably.

• The right to a safe and clean environment needs to be protected through international cooperation and accords.

• Environmental protection requires a change in lifestyles that reflect moderation and self control, on a personal and social level. That means moving away from the logic of consumerism.

• Environmental issues call for a spiritual response, inspired by the belief that creation is a gift that God has placed into our responsible hands, so that we can use it with loving care. The human person’s attitude toward nature should be one of gratitude and gratefulness to the God who has created and supports it.

The inspiration of the text shines through with the commandments as the reader explores the papal statements on justice, Scripture and supportive scientific data. Pope Benedict’s passion for creation and its care is evidenced in this book and is a spiritual board for radical conversion. In this day and time this book is a must read for a deeper understanding of the church’s view on environmental stewardship.

“Ten Commandments for the Environment” includes a wealth of resources for further study on each commandment in the “notes” section in the back of the book and is published by Ave Maria Press.

Glitzy celebration planned for Luers Knight

BY BONNIE ELBESON

FORT WAYNE — Plenty of silver and gold and lots of glitz will punctuate the festive celebration planned for Luers Knight on Friday, April 24, according to committee chairman Lona Pritchard.

The fundraising event will be the culmination of an entire year’s worth of activities recognizing Bishop Luers High School’s 50th anniversary, which has already included a Mass and rededication of the school, an open house and homecoming events tailored to the special occasion.

The gala evening will be a black tie affair with an Oscar night feel, says Pritchard. Attendees will enter the gaily decorated school gymnasium by walking down a red carpet as flash bulbs pop and students conduct interviews with arriving celebrity guests. A sumptuous dinner will be served and entertainment will be provided by the Luers jazz band and the Luers Minstrels show choir. Students will also serve the meal and provide valet parking for the evening.

Guest of honor will be Bishop John M. D’Arcy, with Jim Fitzpatrick acting as master of ceremonies and auctioneer. The traditional bishop’s auction is an annual feature of the fundraiser and usually produces sizable donations. In addition, a live auction will feature popular items like Notre Dame football tickets, Cubs tickets, Carolina Panthers tickets, a Wii game and a condo in Florida.

Last year’s auctions yielded $110,000, with this year’s goal as $130,000, says chairman Pritchard. Proceeds from the event are used to fund the school’s technological and curricular needs and to provide tuition assistance to Bishop Luers students. With tuition currently set at $34,175 per year, 78 percent of the student body qualifies for assistance. Last year 225 students were helped with the money, she points out.

Special invited guests include principals and teachers from all of Luers’ feeder schools, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Star of St. Therese, St. John the Baptist, St. Aloysius, St. John, New Haven, Most Precious Blood, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, St. Louis Besancan, St. Joseph Monroeville and Huntington Catholic schools. Many clergy and religious usually attend along with parents and friends of the school. Last year’s dinner drew 300 guests and a similar crowd is expected this year.

Though Pritchard heads up the event, she credits committee members Leah Gabrek, Pat Lanham, Mary Ann Mckay, Jenny Paris, Angie Rorick, J. D. Rector, Debbie Stoffel, Betsy Till, Deb Hall, Cindy Hoch, Renee Groat, Mary Van Dyck, Michele Eckert, Julie Hill, Laura Klierer and Laurie Miller for lending their talents. “We work a full 24/7,” she says.

Friends and family members who cannot attend the dinner that evening may go to the school Web site, www.bishopsophiers.org to watch a live feed of the festivities. They may also make a donation by clicking on online donations, then clicking on bishop’s auction and providing the required information.

Pritchard is both excited about the upcoming event and optimistic about meeting the ambitious goal. “We have very generous people at Luers,” she points out. And the school was recently recognized by the Exemplary School Award, she says, proving that the funds are put to exceptionally good use.

Lourdes Dinner Dance planned to sponsor pilgrim

SOUTH BEND — During his pilgrimage to Lourdes last September to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady, Pope Benedict XVI reflected poignantly on the Blessed Mother’s smile, which made such an impression on young Bernadette and which continues to radiate from this holy place.

For over four decades, Knights of Columbus Council 553 in downtown South Bend has sought to radiate the smile of Our Lady towards those who are sick by selecting one person each year to send to Lourdes for an all-expense paid pilgrimage. Ranging in age from small children to the elderly, these pilgrims have experienced not only the healing power of the Lourdes baths but also the spiritual fruits of this famous shrine which attracts over 5 million visitors annually. Besides seeking donations to cover the cost of the yearly pilgrimage, Council 553 hosts an annual Lourdes Dinner Dance and silent auction. This year’s event will be held on Saturday evening, May 2, at the Knights of Columbus Clubrooms, 553 E. Washington St.

One of the beneficiaries of this annual fundraiser is Kathy Black, who accompanied her disabled 3-year-old son Patrick to Lourdes in September 1995. “It was a very stressful time as we were not programmed on any level to anticipate, let alone handle a child with a chronic mental/physical health condition,” Black says. “Our heart was very open going to Lourdes. What mother wouldn’t want a miracle for her sick child? The experience in the baths area was the most emotional for me. I felt even more linked to this unique journey with my son than I ever had before.”

“We were wrapped together in a single sheet when we disrobed,” she adds. “The fresh, mountain spring water was very cold as we lay in the bath for several seconds. After we came out, I remember not feeling chilled at all. In fact, I felt very dry and clean. After witnessing the events of the week, I began to understand the meaning of suffering in general, and where Patrick was concerned in particular in a whole new way.

“By seeing that I was not alone in my unique struggles as a mother of a disabled child, I came to accept my role in Patrick’s life, as well as his illness, as necessary components of God’s plan for us,” Black says. “Life was not going to be spent simply coping with the aftermath of an unfortunate event anymore. The experience gave me more grace and confidence in the whole matter, and to this very day, Reflections of my spiritual healing are ones of happiness, gratitude and humility that we would even be asked to raise a child like Patrick. I know that he will be perfect in every way someday and I rejoice in that thought. I am very grateful to raise a soul like his, for the glory of God.”

Another beneficiary of the annual Lourdes Dinner Dance is John Lehner, who was selected to make a pilgrimage in October 2005 after being involved in an accident with a semi-truck, which resulted in multiple serious injuries.

Lehner recounts the lasting effects of what he experienced in Lourdes: “As you literally immerse your entire body in the icy waters of the baths, you feel so very warmed by the closeness to God and his mother, as you pray for yourself and others to be healed, refreshed and renewed in body and spirit. I know that I have had several since I have returned from my pilgrimage; but God had given me the strength and courage to accept these surgeries and my physical limitations for a wonderful life, a loving wife and son, daughter-in-law and grandson and granddaughter.

Reservations for this year’s Lourdes Dinner Dance can be made by calling chairpersons Terry and Cathy Riorian at (574) 272-6184 by Friday, April 24, and mailing checks to Brian Masterson, P.O. Box 7, South Bend, IN 46624. The evening begins with a wine and cheese social and silent auction at 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dinner catered by Fiddler’s Hearth. Afterwards there will be dancing to the modern music of Mike Vaszari and his band. The cost of the dinner dance is $30 per person, $60 per couple.

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EDITORIAL

Being a steward of God’s creation

The Easter Vigil reading of Genesis recounts creation and how God puts mankind in dominion over the blessings of the earth: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

Genesis continues: “God also said: ‘See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.’ And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.”

This week, as we celebrate Earth Day, let us recall our dominion over God’s creation and consider our stewardship roles.

When it comes to environmental or global warming issues — although we are not going to editorialize whether global warming is fact or fiction — it is important to remember whenever these issues involve humanity, such as displacement, migration, there the church is.

For example, as many parts of the world experience drought, which often leads to starvation, there the church would respond with food relief. Or wherever typhoons, tsunamis, displace people, there is the church to offer her aid. The same with migration of people looking for work. The church is there to offer her aid.

The 1992 U.S. Catholic bishops document, “Renewing the Earth” urges public officials to focus more directly on the ethical dimensions of environmental policy and on its relation to development, to see the common good and to resist short-term pressures in order to meet our long-term responsibility to future generations.

Individually, we can all do our part to create a cleaner, safer world for our children and grandchildren. Curbside recycling in most of our towns has made it easy to organize and recycle plastic, cardboard, newsprint, catalogs, etc. Some companies have partnered with schools and parishes to recycle newsprint and cardboard and actually offer a stipend per ton of materials collected. Some parishes and schools have utilized this as a fundraiser.

With tough economic times, however, many of these recycling companies are seeing the prices drop and cannot offer as great a stipend as in previous times.

The green garden

One of the best ways we can serve the hungry, the poor, and continue to be “green,” is growing a garden. Maybe this year, we may want to consider growing a larger garden to share with those who are finding it difficult to make ends meet.

And locally grown vegetables and fruits do not require the transportation costs as food items trucked across the nation. Consider contacting a food pantry at your parish or a nearby parish to bring extra produce. Perhaps your parish could offer a “table of plenty” where gardeners could bring in their extra produce to share with those who do not have healthy, homegrown vegetables. If your garden gets out, this could be a tool of evangelization — to bring folks outside of our own parishes to our grounds.

It is often less expensive to purchase processed packaged foods. Organic and home-grown vegetables and fruits are often more expensive, which many struggling with financial problems may have to forego.

Consider growing more produce. Consider sharing it with family, friends, your community and offer some healthy options to those who may not have the opportunity or space to grow their own fresh food. It’s not only healthier, it’s being “green” and charitable with God’s bounteous gifts.

PRO-LIFE POLITICIANS MUST WALK THE TALK TO RECEIVE MY VOTE

LET’S LOOK AT THE FACTS, FOLKS: Abortion figures and research with a belief that the “facts” presented were true, nevertheless, they simply are not. So, let’s look at these “facts” one by one.

First, let’s look at the statistics from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the number of abortions for President Carter’s four years in office (1977-1980) averaged just under 1.2 million per year. In addition, while the CDC number for 1977 was 1,079,430, the number for 1980 was 1,297,606. This amounts to a 20 percent increase over Carter’s four years. The CDC number for 1981 when President Reagan took office was 1,300,760 (about 3,000 more than Carter’s last year). By 1988, the number stood at 1,371,285, or what amounts to a 5.4 percent increase in Reagan’s eight years. These CDC numbers continued to rise until reaching their height in 1990 with 1,429,247. They began dropping, then, in 1991, in the third year of President GW Bush’s term of office and have continued to drop since then, including during President GW Bush’s term of office.

Secondly, the assertion that abortion fell 50 percent during President Clinton’s term of office is simply not true. Part of the problem in the numbers that S. Larsen is relying upon is that in 1998, the CDC stopped including abortion statistics from California and a few other states in their national totals. In fact, due to often lax reporting standards in many states, the CDC’s numbers don’t give the whole story. Often, it is more helpful to look at the numbers from the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), which is closely associated with Planned Parenthood (the nation’s largest abortion provider) and which surveys all abortion providers. Their numbers are consistently higher than those of the CDC. Using AGI numbers we see the same decline noted by CDC that began in 1991. The AGI number for President Clinton’s first year in office in 1993 was 1,495,000 and the number for his last year in 2000 was 1,312,990. This amounts to a 12 percent decline over Clinton’s eight years, not 50 percent.

Thirdly, while S. Larsen is correct in stating that there are many factors involved in why abortions have declined, there is really no evidence that it is linked specifically to Democratic administration, or even to any administration. It can be noted that the sharp rise during the Carter years and how the numbers began their steady fall during the GW Bush years and which continued through both the Clinton and GW Bush years.

Fourthly, S. Larsen attributes the factors that have led to decreases in abortion to government programs like WIC and Medicaid. No doubt these have played a role. However, there are many other factors that have been borne out by the research. One factor is the aging of the baby boom generation to beyond the child-bearing years. Another would be the decline in premarital sexual activity in the early ’90s due in part to the AIDS epidemic. Yet another can be found in pro-life legislation passed in dozens of states that mandate informed consent, waiting periods and parental notification for minors. A huge factor and, perhaps the greatest, has been the ongoing growth and development of crisis pregnancy centers across the country that offer direct assistance and education, including the use of ultrasound. The astounding growth and development of the Right to Life Women’s Care Center in our own diocese bears witness to this phenomenon. Finally, while it is true that we need pro-life politicians who will walk the talk — what our country really needs are Catholic politicians and citizens who are unabashedly Catholic in the public arena, and who promote the church’s social teachings in their integrity.

We need, of course, to provide direct assistance to expectant mothers in distress, but we can never allow ourselves to become complacent that the right to life of every human being from conception until natural death. Such a basic respect for the dignity of every human being is the bedrock of a humane and thriving democracy. Our task, as Catholics, is to speak this truth, to reach out in love, to fight tirelessly for justice and to pray merily for God’s grace to do this faithfully.

Fred Everett
Office of Family Life
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

COMMENTARY

Pro-Life politicians must walk the talk to receive my vote

S. Larsen
South Bend

Research shows that abortions declined during the Clinton years because of many factors. But higher funding of “safe” programs like adoption education, WIC and Medicaid are cited as the most prevalent reasons women chose adoption or to keep their child. Abortions then rose again during the GW Bush administration, and women interviewed for the study said they were choosing abortion because they could not afford their child, thought adoption was too complicated, had no support or did not qualify for Medicaid.

My guess is that Catholics who vote for pro-choice candidates who run on pro-life platforms do not walk the talk. Some of us think it seems better to vote for the candidate who actually will make changes on other Christian issues than the candidate who will tout their sense of morality to get elected but not truly act on it. Abortions will happen whether they are legal or not. The key to reducing or eliminating abortions is to give women other options and to turn unwanted pregnancies into wanted ones. What party offers the money to pay for these options? This is one reason I vote for Democrats because they are willing to spend the money on the programs that have actually been shown to reduce abortions. I have never heard long enough to see that actions definitely speak louder than words, especially in politics. True disillusionment occurs when you continue the same action (vote) expecting a different outcome.

Abortion figures and research provided to me by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC.

Today’s Catholic welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC

April 19, 2009

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
Music soothes the broken heart

Many of us can recall with fondness the music of our youth. Melodies laden with lyrics that cause our toes to tap and lyrics that touch our hearts bring back memories of endearing times we treasure.

Most of my married friends have what they consider “their song.” Perhaps it is a tune that marks their first date or one with lyrics that reflect their special relationship. Those songs speak to the very heart of our existence.

I was never a fan of the rock group the Rolling Stones, but my husband Trent knew every song by heart. He was known to spout, “You can’t always count on what you want...” At the time I failed to embrace the delight those tunes brought him. When he died, I couldn’t get enough of Mick and the boys. Even now, 18 years after Trent’s death, I still am deeply touched and swept back in time when I catch one of the Stones’ songs on the local oldies station. It reconnects me to him.

Music is a connector. It reconnects us not only to events but to people. It can even reconnect us to ourselves. Those who have lost a loved one, whether it be a spouse, a child, a parent or friend, know the importance of music and melody in their lives.

Marie, whose teenage son, Jon, died in a motorcycle accident, recalls his love of folk music. She and her husband, Jim, found it very painful to hear that genre shortly after his death. But six years later they both agree, “We find a piece of Jon in his music. Sometimes we get one of his CDs out and listen to it together. It seems to soothe our souls and brings him close to us.”

Karen, who has been widowed for seven years, agrees, but shares a different perspective on music. “It’s not only that you have a song that was “yours,” but I find a lot of music, especially easy listening, has a love and commitment theme. Just hearing it makes me sad for what I’ve lost.”

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Resurrection offers greatest prize of all

2nd Sunday of Easter
Jn 20:19-31

Once more in this Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles furnishes the Liturgy of the Word with its first reading.


In modern Bibles, St. John’s Gospel stands between the Gospel of Luke and Acts. For this reason, this strong message of continuity between Jesus and the early church is obscured or even lost as the faithful today read the New Testament.

Certainly, the church officials who selected these readings for the liturgies following Easter knew well the reality offered by this bond between Luke’s Gospel and Acts. It is, more broadly, a bond between Jesus and the apostles and the ongoing, living community formed by those who love the Lord.

This weekend’s reading from Acts describes the early church, and it clearly describes the Christians themselves. Christians were “of one heart and one mind.”

Love and common adherence to the Lord were central to their lives. So, importantly, was reverence for the apostles, who had seen the risen Lord, had been the Lord’s special followers and students, and whom Jesus had commissioned to continue the work of salvation. They literally had seen the risen Lord.

St. John’s First Epistle supplies the second reading. It too defines the Christian, as this definition was understood in the first century.

Each believer fully gives self in love to God, through trust and faith in Jesus. As a result of this commitment, and of the Lord’s redeeming acts, each Christian is a child of God. This term means much more than merely earthly creation. It means eternal life. Baptism in water symbolizes this absolute commitment.

The Gospel reading for this weekend is from St. John’s Gospel. It is a Resurrection narrative. Risen to a new and eternal life, no longer confined by earthly space and circumstance, Jesus passes through locked doors to encounter the apostles. Standing before them as the Redeemer and the victor over death and evil, the Lord sends them into the world.

Of the 11 surviving apostles present at this moment, only one apparently was absent, Thomas, the twin. Thomas would not believe the story the others told him of this meeting with Jesus.

Then, Jesus appeared again. He showed Thomas that indeed Resurrection had occurred. Overwhelmed, utterly convinced, Thomas saluted Jesus as lord and as God.

The Lord then gave the apostles the greatest of divine power. He empowered them to forgive sins.

Reflection

In the Easter Vigil, and on Easter, the church celebrates the Lord’s resurrection in the most magnificent of its rituals. Without any question, these two great moments are the most awesome occasions of worship in the entire Catholic year.

Almost immediately, as in this weekend’s readings, the church calls its people to have faith and to rejoice. Resurrection, and redemption in Jesus, are not memories to be commemorated.

Why? The Resurrection occurred in time and place, but it transformed the world. For those who willingly turn to Jesus, conversion changes life forever.

Whatever the crosses individuals may carry, if they are one with Christ, they will share everlasting life, the greatest prize of all.

The apostles and those who have succeeded them, have the power that is the most certain conqueror of sin. They forgive sins. This forgiveness, and the means to attain it, are the Lord’s loving gifts. Thus, we celebrate. He lives! He lives here and now!

Readings

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-9 Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2-9, 17-20 Jn 3:31-36
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 Mk 16:15-20

CATEQUIZ’EM

In April the church remembers Fidelis of Sigmaringen. This quiz, inspired by his name, looks at faith.

1. An oddity about the term faith is that in many translations
a. it occurs much more commonly in the Old Testament than in the New Testament.
b. it occurs much more commonly in the New Testament than in the Old Testament.
c. it occurs only in the New Testament.

2. St. Fidelis’ name was never shortened to “Fido,” even though many fidos wear dog collars. Why is this?
a. The name “Fido” refers only to an orthodox unmarrried deacon, so the Catholic Church would not normally canonize these.
b. Fido, derived from the title defender of the faith given to Henry VIII by the pope, is reserved for Anglican churchmen.
c. The name Fido is used almost exclusively by dogs (or rather by their owners).

3. Ezekiel 22 recounts how the Israelites “broke faith” with God by offering sacrifices at:
a. High places (pagan holy places)
b. Roman temples (pagan temples)
c. Galilean glaciers (melting, therefore not kosher)

4.1 Maccabees 10 tells us how in an attempt to ingratiate himself with the Jews, King Demetrius promised that if the Jews would “keep faith with us” he would free them from certain taxes, including this culinary necessity:
a. the bacon tax b. the toast tax c. the salt tax

5. The Book of Wisdom admonished the people to remember how when their enemies had had their first-born killed and were then drowned; the Hebrews had kept their faith. What event is this an allusion to:
a. the Passover in Egypt, when the first-born died of any families who had not followed the Passover rules observed by the Hebrews.
b. the flood when all save Noah and his sons died.c. the war against the Gideonites when all the soldiers swore to die before surrendering.

6. Sirach Chapter 49 praises King Josiah for his faith; in fact it says only three kings had faith, Josiah, Hezekiah and this most revered Jewish King
a. Zadok b. Herod c. David

7. Psalm 146 noted that God is he who keeps faith forever and also
a. gives food to the hungry and imprisons the slave
b. gives food to the sated and sets prisoners free
c. gives food to the hungry and sets prisoners free

8. Exodus 21 reflects a whole different social structure, when it mentions that a girl in this unenviable predicament cannot be sold to a foreigner:
a. a girl who was sold as a slave by her father but rejected by her new master
b. a girl who refuses to learn any language but Greek
c. a woman who refuses to get married but instead wanted to become a nun

9. When Absalom plotted against his father, King David, 200 men had accompanied Absalom to Hebron from Jerusalem “…in good faith.” What does this mean?
a. They are all Jews not tainted with Samaritan religion
b. They knew nothing of the plot against King David
c. They are from Judah, not from the gentile “Decapolis”

10. In Mark’s Gospel Chapter 5 Jesus tells a woman, “Daughter, your faith has saved you.” She had enough faith to know she would be cured if she just did this:
a. Followed Jesus to the cross
b. Touched Jesus’ cloak
c. Poured fragrant oil on his feet and wiped it with his hair

11. In Luke’s Gospel Jesus tells his followers that if they have faith the size of this, they could command nature:
a. a Carthaginian war elephant
b. a bishop’s hat
c. a mustard seed

ANSWERS:
1b, 2c, 3a, 4c, 5a, 6c, 7c, 8a, 9b, 10b, 11c
Marriage within Eastern Rite Catholic Church honored

I am dating a lady who was raised in the Eastern Rite Ukrainian Catholic Church. I was raised Roman Catholic. I am not familiar with the Eastern Rite. We are planning to get married and have children baptized there also. Are these sacraments honored by the Roman Catholic Church?

For some, the pads popping on a dugout or from a state championship game. He was the one of the toughest, most hard-nosed players I ever played with or against or coached. I’ll never forget him. Even today, his mannerisms behind the plate provide the image in my mind of what a catcher — of what a leader — should be.

I try to include at least one song in each of the community workshops I have the opportunity to present and at each support group as well. I believe music can center us and provide the springboard from which to face our work as we learn to integrate our loss into our lives and learn to live again.

I encourage those I work with to allow themselves the opportunity to be still and listen to music of their choice. It can transport the listener to a place of comfort.

That’s A Good Question

Concerning your specific situation, there is no issue with your marriage as long as you consent to have your marriage blessed by the Ukrainian Rite pastor. Again, this is a fully Catholic marriage in this case. Concerning the baptism of your children, canon law states that through baptism a child is enrolled in the rite of his or her father unless both parents agree and fully request that the child be enrolled in the rite of his or her mother. In your case, if you have your children baptized by the Ukrainian Catholic priest, your children would actually be Latin Rite Catholics, unless you and your wife agree and freely request from the priest that the children be enrolled by baptism in the Ukrainian Rite Church.

I am not familiar with the Eastern Rite. I am dating a lady who was raised in both churches but would like some reassurance about the sacraments honored by the Roman Catholic Church?

In the Catholic Church, there are many different rites. A rite is a particular tradition within the Catholic Church that is characterized especially by their own sets of laws. You and I belong to the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, which happens to be the largest rite in terms of members.

Marriage within Eastern Rite Catholic Church honored

THAT’S A GOOD QUESTION

In the Catholic Church, there are many different rites. A rite is a particular tradition within the Catholic Church that is characterized especially by their own sets of laws. You and I belong to the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, which happens to be the largest rite in terms of members.

The Eastern Rite Catholic Church also has a particular tradition within the Catholic Church. It is distinguished by its liturgical and sacramental practices, which are rooted in the Byzantine tradition.

The Eastern Rite is divided into several national chairs, each with its own particular tradition. The Ukrainian Catholic Church is one of these national chairs within the Eastern Rite. It is a Church that exists in Ukraine and other countries and is distinguished by its liturgical and sacramental practices, which are rooted in the Byzantine tradition.

The Eastern Rite is distinguished by its liturgical and sacramental practices, which are rooted in the Byzantine tradition. It is a Church that exists in Ukraine and other countries and is distinguished by its liturgical and sacramental practices, which are rooted in the Byzantine tradition.

While the Eastern Rite may be different from the Latin Rite, it is still a legitimate form of Catholicism. If you and your future spouse choose to be married within the Eastern Rite, you will need to contact the Ukrainian Catholic Church in your area to discuss the possibilities.

Baseball, a return to our roots

I can breathe again.

I say it every April. I take a deep breath, inhale through my nose to smell it, close my eyes to envision and hear it, slow my breathing to savor it, and then exhale.

I am alive again. I have returned to my roots. All is right in the world.

Baseball has begun.

Forget for a second the competitive nature of the male species. It’s not entirely about that for me, although “America’s pastime” offers tremendous competitive appeal. I love the notion of battling it out on the baseball diamond.

But football, basketball, hockey, etc., have the same competitive component.

Baseball is different for me.

It was my first love.

I bask in the setting that is a baseball diamond. Football, basketball, soccer and hockey are rectangle patches of land with dirt and grass strategically placed on sharp right angles in some areas, and rounded in others. It has walls of varying heights and distances for your long, concrete structures on each side of the field called dugouts where the players congregate between innings, and an elevated pile of dirt where a man winds up and throws a baseball to another man with a glove.

I have proven deeply touching to those who have lost a loved one. If you are mourning the loss of dear ones, may I suggest you “be still and listen.”

Music can evoke important memories and is a timeless gift to ourselves that can soothe our broken hearts.

I would like to share a partial list of contemporary selections that have proven deeply touching to those who have lost a loved one. If you are mourning the loss of dear ones, may I suggest you “be still and listen.”

“Angels,” by Kathy Zavada;

Some of the most influential people in my life were men who coached me on the baseball field. I recently had breakfast with my high school coach, who last instructed me in 1978. I’ve stayed in periodic communication with my grade school coach, who happens to live across the street from my aunt and uncle.

Last year, while coaching third base in a high school game, I saw a woman frantically waving at me from behind the dugout. I didn’t recognize her. But after the game, I talked to her. She was the daughter of my Little League coach.

Through the years, I have formed a fraternity of some of the most influential people in my life. They are part of a group of people who define much of who I am and what I stand for.

Baseball and the people who have been involved in the sport with me have helped make me competitive, responsible, account-
**Sports**

**B Y  J O E  K O Z I N S K I**

**SOUTH BEND — Many things are on the mind of Saint Joseph’s High School Athletic Director Eric Gohike when it comes to the spring season; staff, budget, improvements, competitiveness and probably the most important, the Bishop’s Cup.

“It looks like we are neck and neck with Marian for this year’s cup,” commented Gohike. “It is a fierce but fun rivalry; our kids come into the athletic office just to find out where we are and how we are doing.

“Our staff is a veteran one that adds a new experienced coach in the girl’s tennis program, Coach Mountford. Gohike said. Coach Mountford brings with him college playing experience, The United States Naval Academy and college coaching experience. We are glad to welcome him aboard.

**Softball**

The softball team is one of the teams competing for the Bishop’s Cup that could make a difference in the sectionals.

“We played well last season and our expectations are to be better this year,” commented Coach Earl Keith. “What has been fun about this team is that they are all softball players, some play multiple sports, but they all are dedicated to becoming good softball players.

“We are strong at pitcher with the return of polished sophomore Jenny Bals,” remarked Keith. “We are blessed with two seniors that provide us with talent as well as leadership with Ashley Zappia and Lexie Czarnecki.

“Juniors Amanda Chamblee and Sidney Hofferth will solidify a formidable infield that should keep us in all of our contests,” added Keith. “We have a whole different level of dedication that I believe will pay off when we hit the diamond.”

**Baseball**

Maturity and consistency will be the focus as the Indians take the field as the very talented Northern Indiana Conference takes aim at the upstarts.

“Indiana Conference takes aim at the very talented Northern Indiana Conference as the Indians take the field as the very talented Northern Indiana Conference takes aim at the upstarts.”

“We have a year under our belts and hopefully we are all grown up and understand what it takes to be good at this level,” said Coach John Gump. “In high school defense is a big deal and we have a shot to be good if we can be consistent in the field.

“We are expecting good things this year based primarily on a pitching staff that is back with experience,” Gump said. “Jacob Brewer did great things last season as a sophomore, seniors; David Osowski, Andrew Vasquez and Dustin White give us a very deep and dependable staff.

“Dustin White was junior player of the year and will bring back his intensity,” Gump said. “We will not have a problem swinging the bat, but are we a year better defensively? I think so.

“I feel good about this team and the chemistry is great,” exclaimed Gump. “The competition combined with our experience should make for a solid year.”

**Girls’ tennis**

Though the girls’ tennis team is being guided by a newbie to the Saint Joseph’s family, the cupboard is definitely not bare and the skipper is not without a long distinguished resume.

“I played college tennis at the United States Naval Academy and have most recently assisted at the University of Notre Dame,” explained Bill Mountford. “I feel blessed to have the opportunity to coach these very talented girls.

“We really are strong and deep program returning six starters from last year’s semi-state team,” remarked Mountford. “It looks like we have two freshmen and a sophomore that will be in the mix that means nine girls fighting for seven slots.

“We have our last season’s number two singles back in Jessi Rink, Alaina Roberts is very talented freshman that is playing well,” commented Mountford.

“Bridge Veldman who played number two singles and Elle Harding will make up our number one doubles team.

**Boys’ track**

Graduation hit the Saint Joe men’s teams hard but an exuberant group of newcomers will try to continue the legacy left behind.

“Our boys are young and inexperienced after graduating a dominant senior class last year,” explained Coach McCarthy. “We are three-time defending South Bend City champs and hope to hold onto the title this season.

“We are led by some hard-working athletes, two-time All NIC in cross country, Michael Bradley will focus his efforts on the 800 and relays,” commented McCarthy. “Former state finalist in the 4x1 and 4x4 relays, Zach Matthews is a key member of our 4x4 relay team and potentially could be a state finalist in the 300 hurdles.

“Big things are expected from Brendan Favo who posted the third best 400 time in the state last year for a sophomore,” McCarthy continued. “Connor McCreery is a freshman that was second team All NIC in cross country and has loads of potential.

“Senior Brendan McBride and Mike Zendtara bring experience and accomplishments to our middle distances,” McCarthy stated. “Luke O’Connor was one of the most improved athletes from last season and key candidate in the sprint relays as well as the 300 hurdles.

“Our freshman class boasts 20-plus quality athletes, which may mean that we are solid by the season’s end,” remarked McCarthy. “We will have a great team in 12 months; we just need some physical maturity and training time.”

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**HOLY CROSS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOSTS GOLF OUTING**

Kick off the Blue/Gold weekend with the Holy Cross College Alumni Association during the Seventh Annual Golf Outing. This outing will be held on Friday, April 17, at Knollwood Country Club in Granger. Registration and lunch will begin at 12:30 p.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Following the outing there will be an awards ceremony along with a tailgate-style get together. Registration fee is $100 for an individual and $400 for a team.

To register visit www.hccaogolfouting.org or contact Jason Proctor, Holy Cross College Alumni Association, at (847) 551-3329 or e-mail jproctor99@hcc-nd.edu.

**Dwenger gymnastics takes fourth in state competition**

**FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School’s gymnastics team competed March 21 for the state title and took fourth place.**

After two events, the team enjoyed an overall lead, but after the third event, the girls were in second by .35 of a point. The final event — beam — did not go the Saints’ way.

They finished fourth in the tough field of competition with a very respectable score of 110.5, just one point out of second place.

Although the gymnasts wanted to place higher at state, the coaches were pleased with their performance.

Competitors included seniors Alicja Roche, Olivia Lee, Grace Schenkel, Michelle Sordelet and Ashley Faghiti; junior Katherine Nix; and freshman Brittany Trahn.

Additional honors were given to Roche, Schenkel, Lee, Nix and Trahn who made first team all-SAC. Sordelet made second team all-SAC. Faghiti and Theresa Hilger made honorable mention all-SAC.

Roche, Lee, Schenkel and Sordelet made all state academic distinction.

Bishop Dwenger High School gymnast Alicja Roche was named the Mildred M. Ball Mental Attitude Award winner at the gymnastics state competition. Roche placed fifth in the all-around with a total of 37.575 points. She is pictured with Bishop Dwenger Principal Fred Tone and her check for $1,000 from Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, which will be used for tuition assistance.

**THEOLOVY**
BISHOP LUERS COMMUNITY HONORS 2-A STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS AT PEP RALLY

In an April 7 afternoon assembly, the Bishop Luers Knights Class 2-A state basketball champions assembled to present the state trophy to Luers Principal Mary Keefer. In the photo, senior Lawrence Barnett makes the presentation. The team was also honored by Bishop John M. D’Arcy who prayed and congratulated the team. Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry proclaimed April 7, 2009 Bishop Luers High School Boys’ Basketball Day in the City of Fort Wayne, Greg Jones from the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette presented junior Deshaun Thomas the Parade magazine All-American Award.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Day of reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be Wednesday, April 29, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis Convent. The theme for the day is “We are Called, We are Chosen.” Please bring your Bible. The cost of the day is $15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, April 24, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Pancake breakfast served
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570 will have a pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 19, from 8-11 a.m. in the Holy Family Parish Center. Adults $5, children ages 5 to 12 $2.50. All proceeds benefit Holy Family School.

Pasta night dinner helps athletes
South Bend — The St. Matthew Athletic Board will sponsor a pasta night Friday, May 1, from 5-7 p.m. in the St. Matthew gym. Meals provided by Papa Vino’s Italian Kitchen. Tickets are adults $6.50, seniors $5.50 and students $3.50. Tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets available at the school and will be sold after Mass.

Youth Mass and pizza
New Haven — St. John youth ministry will have a youth Mass Sunday, April 19, at 6 p.m. at St. Louis Besancon Church. A program for high school teens on St. Paul will follow in the parish hall with pizza dinner included. This is a free event.

State convention announced
South Bend — The 72nd State Convention of the Daughters of Isabella will be held April 24-26, at the Blue Chip Casino Hotel in Michigan City. On Sunday, April 26, an 11:30 a.m. Mass will be offered at Queen of All Saints Church with installation of state officers to follow. Members are asked to bring non-perishable food items for the needy.

Tenderloin fry
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a tenderloin fry on Friday, April 17, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. at the Knight’s hall on Bell Drive. Cost is $6, which includes tenderloin sandwich, fries, cole slaw, and drink. Proceeds will be used for seminarian support.

Pancake breakfast
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a pancake breakfast after the 8:30 and 11 a.m. Masses on Sunday, April 19, at the Sacred Heart Church parish hall.

Lunettes dinner dance
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus, 553 E. Washington, will have a dinner dance Saturday, May 2. Reservations needed by April 24 to (574) 272-6184. Tickets are $30 per person. The evening begins with a wine and cheese social and silent auction from 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dinner catered by Fiddler’s Hearth and dancing to the music of Mike Vaszari and his band. Proceeds benefit a candidate to Lourdes, France. Applications available.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Msgr. J. William Lester will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at MacDougall Chapel on Tuesday, April 21, at 7:15 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Msgr. Lester is retired and resides at St. Anne Home.

Christ Child Society plans garage sale
Fort Wayne — The Christ Child Society will have a garage sale Friday, June 5, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday, June 6, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Queen of Angels Activity Center, 1500 W. State Blvd. Proceeds benefit needy children in the area.

Bishop Dwenger announces online auction
Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger High School will sponsor an online auction from April 13 through May 4. For information visit www.bishopdwengersonline.com.

Sacred Heart Home

Columbia City
Donna V. McCoy, 78, St. Paul of the Cross

Elkhart
Harold R. Deschene, 88, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne
Ronald L. Jacquay, 70, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Cecilia I. Stellhorn, 79, St. Peter

Mishawaka
Charles Bruggeman, 80, St. Joseph

St. John Catholic Parish

Fort Wayne
Michael G. Wisniewski, 21, St. Joseph

South Bend
William J. Sinkovic, 88, Christ the King

Apostle Catholic Church at 1405 N. Main St. will have their spring luncheon saloon on Wednesday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be in the church basement (elevator available). A donation of $6 includes their famous hot chicken salad, many cold salads, bread, dessert and beverage. Carry-outs are available. Tickets may be purchased at the door or ahead of time by calling (574) 596-1673.

Focus on Health at USF
Fort Wayne — The University of Saint Francis will have Focus on Health Friday, April 17, from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the Hutzell gym. Free massage, health screenings and obtain lab tests for a reasonable cost. For information call Erica at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8501.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, April 24, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Carry-out available.

The blessing of the bikes
Arcola — A blessing of bikes by Father Cyril Fernandez will be Saturday, April 18, at 1 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish. Music, food and all bikes welcome.

St. Paul presented at St. Joseph
Roanoke — St. Joseph Parish will offer St. Paul — In His Own Words, a live, Bible-based theatrical presentation by Mark Price Sunday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the church, 641 N. Main St. Free to the public. For more about Mark Price Ministries see www.markpriceministries.com.

Orientation classes begin
Avilla — The St. Charles fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will begin orientation classes Sunday, April 26, in the teacher’s lounge at St. Mary of the Assumption School, 232 N. Main St., from 2-4 p.m.

Talent show support mission
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Talent Show will be Friday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the SAC gym. Tickets are $3 for students and $5 for adults. Proceeds will be given to Dr. Rick Reifenberg ‘83 to support his medical mission to Bolivia.

Bishop Luers performs play
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will perform “Beauty and the Beast” Thursday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 2, at 2 p.m. following a tea party luncheon, and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, April 21, at 7:30 for $10. Tea party and performance tickets are $15.

Manager Needed

The St. Vincent de Paul Society needs your donations of appliances, furniture, mattresses, miscellaneous household items, and gently used clothing. With today’s economy, we are experiencing shortages and cutbacks. Please do your Spring Cleaning early this year and call our Home Pickup department at 234-6000 ext 118 for a home pickup or bring it to our store located at 3408 Ardmore Trail (east side of the building) in South Bend.

Visit us at www.provena.org/sacredheart
Bishop D’Arcy celebrates Triduum, Easter

HOLY THURSDAY

Recalling how Jesus became a slave by washing the feet of his disciples, Bishop John M. D’Arcy reenacted how the Savior demonstrated charity at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. The bishop described how Christ’s sacrifice was an exercise of love without limit and how his institution of the holy Eucharist is a perpetual gift for the faithful as a means to personal salvation.

GOOD FRIDAY

A young member of St. Matthew Cathedral venerates the cross at Good Friday services in South Bend.

EASTER SUNDAY

Bishop John M. D’Arcy speaks to the participants of the Fort Wayne TV Mass before it began on Easter Sunday. Bishop D’Arcy was the celebrant for the TV Mass.

Salute the Class of 2009!

Express your best wishes to your graduate in TODAY’S CATHOLIC pull-out keepsake section to be in homes on May 14, 2009

Heather Johnson
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