FORT WAYNE — The Christ Child Society (CCS) in Fort Wayne is alive and well. Founded in 1997, some would even say it is flourishing in its efforts to live out its founder, Mary Virginia Merrick’s vision of serving at risk children of the community. The membership of the Fort Wayne chapter, over 180 strong, join the over 7,000 national members in celebrating the recent news that their founder is being considered for canonization.

According to Margaret Saffell, national director of program and chapter relations, the Christ Child Society is thought to be the oldest nonprofit service organization in the country, at over 120 years old. Its signature program is infant layettes, but each chapter facilitates creative programs to serve the specific needs of the children in their community.

Fort Wayne Christ Child Society supports the layette program that gifts at-risk expectant mothers with baby clothes, diapers and blankets. Other proactive, hands-on programs include coats for kids, foster children’s Christmas party, backpacks for kids, tutoring and the crib clubs located at the Women’s Care Centers.

All this, says Saffell, because Merrick gave back to those in her community “in the name of the Christ Child through a collaborative effort with other agencies.” Merrick’s philosophy, she adds, focused on personal contact with the poor as the true element of charity.

Mary Virginia Merrick was born in 1866. She founded the Christ Child Society, dedicated to serving at-risk children through collaborative efforts with other agencies. Merrick believed in personal contact with the poor as the true element of charity.

**Christ Child Society founder venerated**

**BISHOP D’ARCY responds to ND**

Explain U.S., bishops’ statement

**Doctors’ hospital privileges**

Indiana House approves

**Where in the world?**

Sam Stein can tell you

**April showers ...**

Delay CYO softball

**TELLING OUR FAITH STORY**

I came back to the Catholic Church because after searching for a certain feeling, for a certain belief system, one that matched how I wanted to believe; that essentially was more convenient, I decided to search, to seek the truth. And as promised, it has set me free.

Rebecca Howe
Let Notre Dame family come together in prayer and conversation

A moment of fidelity

Late last Friday, I took the plane from the South Bend airport and flew through a winter storm to Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love. In a way, it was like a pilgrimage. The purpose of my visit was to celebrate Mass for Sister Alphonsus Moran, OSF, or as we knew her in my home by her baptismal name — Mary Agnes. She came to my home in Boston a year or two before I was ordained a priest; a cousin, the daughter of my uncle, John Moran, an Irish farmer from County Mayo. After a few years in Brignon, she entered the convent, and this was her golden jubilee — her 50th anniversary as a sister. It was a joyful reunion, as my two sisters took the train from Boston to Philadelphia. It was a grace to see how Sister Moran has served over her 50 years with humility, and love, and profound Christian simplicity. It was also like a pilgrimage; you see my sister, Mary, was a member of that congregation for 18 years, having entered religious life six months after graduating from Brignon High School.

I met many of her contemporaries, and learned how much they loved her, and how devoted she was to her only brother; indeed, an intense love I did not deserve. The convent years were hard, but also very profound Christian simplicity. It was also like a pilgrimage; you see my sister, Mary, was a member of that congregation for 18 years, having entered religious life six months after graduating from Brignon High School.

News & Notes

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (CNS) — Bishop John M. D’Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend said he was not opposed to “peaceful” demonstrations against the University of Notre Dame’s invitation to President Barack Obama to speak at this year’s commencement.

His spokeswoman, said in an e-mail to Catholic News Service April 20 that a statement the bishop issued on Good Friday urging Catholics not to participate in “unseemly and unhelpful demonstrations” was aimed at protests that “attack” Obama, university president Holy Cross Father John J. Jenkins and/or the university.

The spokesman, Vince LaBarbera, director of the diocesan communications office, said the bishop does not want people participating in demonstrations organized by those who have vowed to make the controversy into “a circus.”

Critics of Obama have said his support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research make him an inappropriate choice to be a commencement speaker at a Catholic university. Obama also will receive an honorary degree from Notre Dame.

“The Notre Dame community is well-equipped to supervise and support discussions and prayer within their own campus,” he said.

In that statement he said he had had “a positive meeting” with Father Jenkins, and expected further dialogue” would continue.

A dozen student groups have formed a campus coalition called Notre Dame Response to express their opposition to Obama speaking at the commencement. On April 17 the coalition held a march for life with speakers and a rally.

The question at hand

A few people have written asking for clarification about a statement written here last week relative to demonstrations, in which I urged Catholics to avoid those demonstrations which personally attack the president of our country; Notre Dame; or Father John Jenkins, CSC.

An outside person has come to town, and an acute and articulate, “I agree.” His aggressive approach is not helpful. Within the campus of the university, there are students and others who are gathering for talks and prayer to present, as is most fitting in universities, an enlightened position based on truth and rooted in respectful dialogue. This is not only appropriate, but is at the very core of what it means to be a university.

Let the Notre Dame family come together in prayer and conversation; and I will, of course, as is my obligation, continue my conversation with Father Jenkins.

Two welcome guests

I have 30 confirmations lined up this springtime and have already carried out six of them, but I will have two exemplary bishops here to assist. First is Bishop William Houck, the retired bishop of Natchez-Jackson, Mississippi — a true missionary. He has been here many times before and will reside at St. Pius X, Granger. Also coming will be Bishop Carl Mengeling, the retired bishop of Lansing. He is a native of Gary and was a priest there for many years. Like Bishop Houck, he is an excellent preacher, and is well-known by many priests in our diocese with whom he studied.

I know you will welcome them if they come to your parish.

A team resurgent

My beloved baseball team has now won five in a row, and the ship is being righted. I guess I have to admit it. Their pitching is improved, and they do not really need me. It is the truth. See you all next week.

Bishop D’Arcy not opposed to ‘peaceful’ protests about commencement

In March a Notre Dame spokesman told CNS that he had heard anecdotally that most students were pleased with this year’s choice of Obama as the commencement speaker and “a car had honored the first black U.S. president would accept Notre Dame’s invitation from among the many he has received.
Statement to the faithful

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, Father John Jenkins, CSC, in a letter of response to Bishop Olmsted of the Diocese of Phoenix, who had written him, cited the decision to invite President Obama to speak and receive an honorary degree of law at Notre Dame, indicated that it was his conviction that the statement “Catholics in Political Life” (USCCB) did not apply in this matter. Father Jenkins kindly sent me a copy of his letter, and also at a later meeting, asked for a response.

In an April 15th letter to Father Jenkins, I responded to his letter.

Now the points made in his letter have been sent by Father Jenkins to the members of the Notre Dame Board of Trustees and have been published nationally, as well as locally in the South Bend Tribune. Since the matter is now public, it is my duty as the bishop of this diocese to respond and correct. I take up this responsibility with the confidence that the truth will be heard, that it is at the heart of my diocesan duty to lead others to serve the poor and that the always steadfastness of those who have lived a life in the service of the Christ Child Society, of which Merrick was a member, is a reminder of the true mission of Catholicism, and its to each by Saffell and Grace.

I. The meaning of the sentence in the USCCB document relative to Catholic institutions is clear. It places the responsibility on those institutions, and indeed, on the Catholic community itself.

“The Catholic community and 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.” — “Catholics in Political Life,” USCCB.

II. There is a doubt concerning the meaning of a document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, where does one find the authentic interpretation? A fundamental, canonical and theological principal states that it is found in the local bishop, who is the teacher and lawgiver in his diocese. — Canon 330, 375 §§ 1 & 2; 380; 381 § 1; 391 § 1; 392, & 394 § 1. § 3. I informed Father Jenkins that if there was any genuine questions or doubt about the meaning of the relevant sentence in the conference’s statement, any competent canonist with knowledge of the tradition and love for Christ’s church had the responsibility to inform Father Jenkins of the fundamental principle that the diocesan bishop alone bears the responsibility to provide an authoritative interpretation.

III. I reminded Father Jenkins that the action in itself should not “suggest support” for his actions, because he has expressed and continues to express disapproval and disagreement with him on issues surrounding protection of life. I wrote that the actions of hundreds of thousands who are shocked by the invitation clearly demonstrates, that this invitation has, in fact, scandalized many Catholics and other people of goodwill. In my office alone, there have been over 3,300 messages of shock, dismay and outrage, and they are still coming in. I believe that the action in itself speaks so loudly that people have not been able to hear the words of Father Jenkins, and indeed, the action has suggested approval to many.

In the publicity surrounding the points Father Jenkins has made, it is essential to follow the document of the bishops by “laying a basis for engagement with the president on this issue.” I indicated that I, like many others, will await to see what the follow up is on this issue between Notre Dame and President Obama.

6. As I have said in a recent interview and which I have said to Father Jenkins, it would be one thing to bring the question here for a discussion on healthcare or immigration, and no person of goodwill could rightly oppose it. We have lived through the granting of an honorary degree of law to someone whose activities both as president and previously, have been at odds with laws against the dignity of the human person yet to be born.

In my letter, I have also asked Father Jenkins to correct, and if possible, withdraw the erroneous talking points, which appeared in the South Bend Tribune and in other media outlets across the country. The statements which Father Jenkins has made are simply wrong and give a flawed justification for his actions.

I consider it now settled — that the USCCB document, “Catholics in Political Life,” does indeed apply in this matter. The failure to consult the local bishop who, whatever his unworthiness, is the teacher and lawgiver in the diocese, is a serious mistake. Pray hope of the Christ Child Society, of which Merrick did goes beyond extraordinary.

A prolific writer, Merrick’s works are currently being transcribed and information on her extraordinary ministry will be presented to the Archdiocese in Washington with a letter opening for the cause of sainthood. Saffell adds that it is unusual for a person not associated with a religious community to be considered for sainthood and it is not the mission of the Christ Child Society to canonize their founder, but to serve at-risk children.

To that end a separate fund established with donations is subsidizing the cause.

The Fort Wayne Christ Child Society chapter and its president Lisa Didier welcomed Saffell and Christ Child Society president Mary Grace of the Cleveland chapter April 14-15. After board meetings that included Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Mass and extensive tour with Women’s Care Center Crib Club, the chapter held a luncheon meeting where the national representatives presented a moving DVD on the life and legacy of their founder to its members. The DVD will be made available to the 41 chapters across the country following visits to each by Saffell and Grace.

It’s a tie, a bridge. It’s a reminder of the true mission of Christ Child Society,” says Saffell.

Of the Fort Wayne chapter, Grace says, “It’s been a rewarding trip. The people in the community are very gracious. The work they’re doing here serving children is the legacy of Mary Virginia Merrick.”

Saffell agrees saying, “This is an exceptional chapter. They are truly living Merrick’s legacy.”

For information about the Christ Child Society call (260) 424-3624 in Fort Wayne, (574) 271-0199 in South Bend or visit www.nationalconfratic-childsoc.org.
Educators urged to follow example of Christ in his teaching ministry

BY DORIS BENAVIDES

ANAHEIM, Calif. (CNS) — Speakers addressing educators April 14 at the National Catholic Educational Association’s annual convention encouraged them to follow the example of Jesus Christ in his teaching ministry. Father Bill Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Granger, was honored at the convention.

“I send my best wishes and gratitude for the great work you do in Catholic education, for the great role in evangelization, for delivering the Gospel message to those under your pastoral care,” said Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington in a letter read to the audience by Servite Father Gerald M. Horan, the superintendent of schools of the Orange Diocese, the host of the event.

Archbishop Wuerl is known nationally for his catechetical and teaching ministry and for his efforts on behalf of Catholic education. He is chairman of the NCEA board and the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis.

“We are a mighty force for good in our world. We carry a grand story of people who travel to teach about Jesus,” said Karen M. Ristau, NCEA president. Karen M. Ristau, NCEA president, told an audience of more than 3,000 educators gathered at the Anaheim Convention Center’s arena.

During the 106th NCEA convention, which took place April 14-17, was being held concurrently with the National Association of Parish Catechetical Directors’ annual conference and the Catholic Library Association’s annual meeting.

In a keynote titled “You Matter Much,” Bishop Gerald P. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., stressed the importance of educators in guiding students to increase their knowledge of Christ.

“Remember you matter much,” he told the teachers, school administrators, religious educators, pastors, parents and volunteers who attended the national event.

“What you do is at the heart of the church’s mission. You bring faith (and) transmit it, generating a relationship with Jesus Christ,” he said.

Bishop Kicanas, who has a doctorate in educational psychology, told the educators they are important to the church’s future and that for their hard work they deserve a “big fat bonus check,” especially during these hard economic times.

He urged them to become witnesses.

“This (new) generation listens to witnesses, and if they listen to their teachers, it is because they are witnesses,” he said. “A teacher affects eternity and you can’t (have) influence when it (witnessing) stops.”

Most of Bishop Kicanas’ speech centered on what he said are the five pastoral priorities set by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He called those priorities a source of energy for Catholic education and urged school leaders to focus their future faculty meetings on those proposals.

They are: faith formation and sacraments; strength of family who did not know the biblical tale of Joshua bringing down the walls of Jericho, he stressed the “dire need” for catechesis.

He said there are four generations in the church — those born before the Second Vatican Council, those born during Vatican II, those born after Vatican II, and those called the “millennials,” born between the years 1979 and 1997.

Millenials have a different way of viewing the church, he said, and expressed special concern for them because they are coming of age in a world where the economy is near collapse and where many people are uninterested in the faith, “with one foot in the world and one in the church, or maybe two feet in the world.”

Bishop Kicanas encouraged the teachers to talk to their students about “Christ’s way of life for others that leads to joy.” To promote the faith he suggested engaging in family catechesis, paying attention to the youth culture, and encouraging people to learn about and participate in the sacraments.

He urged the educators to address the issue of marriage with their students, since the family is the primary place of formation for all people. He also underscored the importance of talking about the dignity of human life from conception to natural death.

“Some don’t accept that teaching (about life),” he said, calling for “a new way of living” that treasures the value, love and joy of human beings.

To illustrate the need to pro mote vocations, he shared his own experience: His eighth-grade teacher was key in his decision to enter the priesthood, which he said has been a great blessing in his life.

Regarding multicultural ministry, he highlighted the importance of learning a second language as well as educators understanding the cultures of their communities.

“Get out of your comfort zones to engage in the multicultural of your communities,” he told the teachers.

Bishop Kicanas said that “the work of the church will be much impeded” if people try to serve the young without taking into account the bishops’ pastoral priorities.

At the convention, Father William Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Granger, was one of 13 priests recognized from across the nation for the NCEA Distinguished Pastor Award.

At the presentation, it was stated, “One of the teachers at St. Pius X School summarized the reason for which Father Bill Schooler received this award: ‘His most amazing contribution to our parish has been the building of our Education Center. Father Bill had a vision of not just a school, but an education center that would serve the needs of the whole parish. He took on a project that had the potential of dividing the parish and not only accomplished his goal, but also ended up with the support of the school behind him.”

The presentation added: “Here’s how one parishoner wrote about Father Schooler’s vision for Catholic education: His plan has not been to build a parish around a successful school; it has been rather to build a school within a successful parish. Father Bill’s mantra is that the parish has the responsibility to educate its members from cradle to grave. The newly built St Pius X Education Center houses not only a parish grade school but also a host of educational programs for parishioners of all ages, including an adult education program. Beyond education, the center houses retreats, service ministry meetings, adult athletic events, youth activities and countless other parish functions.”

More than 400 workshop sessions were presented at the NCEA convention, and more than 400 companies were exhibitors.

The NCEA, established in 1904, has a membership of 200,000 Catholic educators who serve more than 7.6 million students in Catholic education institutions.

Today’s Catholic staff contributed to this story.

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Father Bill Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Granger, was one of 13 priests recognized with the National Catholic Educational Association’s Distinguished Pastor Award. Father Schooler is shown at the presentation awards dinner.
USF co-valedictorians are academic buddies

BY KAT COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis (USF) graduating class of 2009 is scurrying to finish papers and final projects in these last weeks of the semester. The graduation ceremony they all look forward to will take place on May 2. This year, two exceptional students will share the coveted valedictorian spot.

Angela Conroy, communications/public relations major and Tyler Kimmel, who studied biological sciences, are academic buddies and honored to share the role of valedictorian for their graduating class. Both have worked tirelessly to achieve academic excellence during each of the four years of their undergraduate studies. But what makes the honor even more significant is they are both Bishop Luers graduates and longtime friends.

Conroy is from Yoder, the second of Jim and Rita’s children, but she grew up in Ossian. She attended St. Therese School and by her own account was “studious and very athletic in school.” She says, “I am extremely driven and a perfectionist. I don’t accept less than the best. That’s difficult at times. But I push myself until I get it.”

These words hold true as well as her friend Kimmel, who is the oldest of Tim and Joyce’s two children. Kimmel attended St. Joseph School, which is associated with St. Rose Church, his family’s home parish in Monroeville. The family resides in New Haven.

Like Conroy, Kimmel was competitive in academics throughout his career, and says, “Both my parents are competitive in academics, my mom in literature and English and my dad in science and math. They helped me along.”

His enrollment at Bishop Luers High School was vital to his academic career as his parents felt “strongly about Catholic education.” Of his studies Kimmel says, “The education was strong at both schools.” The small size made a world of difference, he adds. Following in her mother’s footsteps Conroy enrolled in Bishop Luers High School as well, and feels her experience there prepared her well for college. “It was awesome at Luers! I love the teachers, the activities and everything. The classes were small and you know everyone was always there to make sure you did your best.”

She credits her years at Bishop Luers for her self motivation and discipline, as well as her time management skills. “What I learned in high school helped in college,” she says confidently.

Along with her studies, Conroy played soccer until her senior year. It was instrumental in reviving the SADD program at the school. She graduated third in her class at Bishop Luers High School and it was there during freshman year that she became friends with Kimmel.

At Luers, Kimmel took advanced classes and felt well prepared for college as well, earning 11 college credits before he even enrolled at University of Saint Francis. Not surprisingly he earned valedictorian status at his 2005 graduation from high school.

For the four years of high school these two scholars competed academically in many classes, and participated in several extracurricular activities including National Honors Society and peer ministry. Conroy says of their friendship, “We were competitive but helped each other. We watched out for each other.”

The two considered several universities but ultimately made the choice to stay in Fort Wayne where they could remain close to family. Each received scholarships from the University of Saint Francis and Kimmel says, “It was a nice transition from the Catholic education at Luers to the Catholic education at Saint Francis. They hold a lot of the same values.”

The friends agree that faith and family are important elements of their success. Kimmel says, “I usually attribute my success to my family. I feel very fortunate to have such a wonderful Catholic education that led me to more confidence.”

Conroy agrees saying, “Family

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More than 2,000 see Archbishop Dolan’s installation in New York

NEW YORK (CNS) — St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York overflowed with people, music, interaction and good will Wednesday, April 15 installation of Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan as the 10th archbishop of New York. More than 2,000 guests in the cathedral listened to two church choirs and a brass ensemble and watched on television monitors as Archbishop Dolan, waiting outside on 50th Street, waved, pointed, grinned and called out to many of the 1,000 robed clergy and laity who moved into place ahead of him in the 45-minute opening procession. His entrance through the main doors of the cathedral on Fifth Avenue was greeted with echoing applause. The Mass of installation was attended by 12 cardinals and more than 115 archbishops and bishops. Some 800 priests in white chasubles participated from a sea of folding chairs arrayed on three sides of the high altar. The Gospel, read by a deacon, was Luke’s description of Jesus meeting the disciples on the road to Emmaus. In his homily, Archbishop Dolan said contemporary Christians should turn to Jesus and “recognize him again in his word, in the ‘breaking of the bread’ and in his church. Let him ‘turn us around’ as he did those two disciples, turned around because, simply put, they were going the wrong way.”

Cardinal George clarifies comments about Obama and Notre Dame

CHICAGO (CNS) — Although the University of Notre Dame is not controlled by the U.S. Catholic hierarchy, “in Catholicism, no person or institution is totally independent,” Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago said. “Any institution that calls itself Catholic needs to anticipate in some fashion the impact their decisions make on the faith of the faithful.”

Vatican orders ‘doctrinal assessment’ of group representing U.S. nuns

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has ordered a “doctrinal assessment” of the “activities and initiatives” of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Maryland-based association whose members represent about 95 percent of the 67,000 women religious in the United States. Sister Annmarie Sanders, a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who is LCWR director of communications, confirmed the investigation in a brief statement released to Catholic News Service April 15. “At this time, LCWR knows neither the process nor timeline for completion of this assessment,” the statement said. “As more information is made available to LCWR, the conference will take the appropriate steps for its participation in the assessment.”

Announcement links Mass of reparations to Notre Dame controversy

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando will celebrate a Mass of reparations May 3 at the Cathedral of St. James in downtown Orlando “for all of our transgressions against the Gospel of life.” The announcement of the Mass on the diocesan Web site, www.orlando-diocese.org, linked it to the decision by the University of Notre Dame in Indiana to invite President Barack Obama to speak at its May 17 commencement and to give him an honorary degree. “As Catholics we are aware of the many shortcomings and transgressions committed against the dignity and sacredness of human life in our world,” the announcement said. “That is why it is inconceivable, it said, that Notre Dame, “a Catholic institution of higher learning, should receive and honor anyone who promotes policies that are contradictory to who we are as a people of faith.”

Pope celebrates low-key birthday with brother at papal villa

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI celebrated a low-key birthday with his brother and wept as the pope received the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo. The pope, who turned 82 April 16, had a very informal “family celebration” that included a visit by a small group of top Vatican officials, the Vatican’s spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told reporters. The officials, including the secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, visited the pope in the morning to offer their birthday wishes. The pope then had a private lunch with his brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, who turned 85 early this year, Father Lombardi said. The Vatican spokesman said the pope received from government and church leaders worldwide many letters wishing him a happy birthday and “even some sweets.” Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, who sent a special written message for the pope’s birthday and the fourth anniversary of his election as pope April 19, thanked Pope Benedict for his support of those hit by the April 6 earthquake in central Italy.

Young celebrities continue mission, vision of famed ‘rosary priest’

NORTH EASTON, Mass. (CNS) — It’s a page right from Holy Cross Father Peyton’s playbook, or rather his prayer book. Family Theater Productions in Hollywood, Calif., affiliated with Holy Cross Family Ministries in North Easton, recently released a DVD, “Rosary Stars Praying the Gospel.” The project aims to spread the Gospel message by making the rosary more accessible, particularly for younger generations of Catholics. It features 21 young athletes, actors, directors, TV hosts, recording stars, authors and lecturers sharing a Scripture reading, their own personal reflection and a decade of the rosary, encompassing the four sets of mysteries of the rosary: joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous. It includes a meditation from Father Peyton, known as the “rosary priest,” J. Omar Castro, one of the celebrities recruited to help with the DVD, told The Anchor, newspaper of the Diocese of Fall River, that he was “flattered to be asked to take part in this DVD.” He has appeared in the television hit shows “CSI,” as well as in films with Nicolas Cage and Cuba Gooding Jr. “I saw this as a great opportunity to show others the power and relevance of the rosary as a prayer tool and maybe to demystify what the rosary is,” he said.

Creators say ‘My Mass Kit’ aims to help children learn about liturgy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An Indiana Catholic couple has come up with an educational toy called “My Mass Kit” to help children ages 4-11 understand and participate in the liturgy more fully. Steve and Joni Abdalla created Wee Believers, located in Fishers, Ind., a Catholic educational toys with childlike appeal in an effort to increase a child’s knowledge of the Mass and enrich his or her love for God. “My wife and I came up with the idea while sitting in Mass with our small daughter .... We saw other children who didn’t know what was going on and we thought how do you help children see both the practicality and mystery of the Mass,” Abdalla said in a phone interview with Catholic News Service. The kit comes in a durable canvas case and includes a booklet and 12 plush, washable pieces: a crucifix, chalice and thurible, or censer; a finger bowl and purificator, the small cloth used by the priest to hold the hosts. The kit can be ordered on the Web site www.weebelievers.com, or by calling (877) 933-2587. A kit costs $89.99 plus shipping and handling.
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters celebrate Founder’s Day

HUNTINGTON — Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters celebrated Founder’s Day on Friday, March 13. The celebration honored their founder, Father John Sigstein.

Six sisters, who knew him personally and as their spiritual advisor, recalled memories for the congregation.

Events included a Mass, festive dinner and singing of the order’s anthem, “We Have a Holy Mother.”

Sister Helen Prejean to speak at the USF commencement

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis has announced that commencement ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 2, at 2 p.m. at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

Graduating senior Rachel DeKold will deliver the invocation. Angela Conroy and Tyler Kimmel are the valedictorians of the class of 2009. Approximately 480 students will be graduating.

The commencement speaker, Sister Helen Prejean, has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on the death penalty and helping to shape the Catholic Church’s newly vigorous opposition to state executions.

A member of the Congregation of St. Joseph, Sister Prejean was asked to correspond with a death row inmate, Patrick Sonnier, at Angola. She became his spiritual adviser. Concerned with the plight of murder victims’ families she founded “Survive,” which provides counseling and support for grieving families. Subsequently she wrote “Dead Man Walking,” a book about the experience.

Baccalaureate Mass will be held on Saturday, May 2, at 10 a.m., at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, located at 1122 S. Clinton St. Graduates and their families and friends of all faith traditions may attend this service.

For further information, contact the Office of the President at (260) 399-7700 ext. 6910.

Huntington County Right to Life sell carnations

HUNTINGTON — Huntington County Right to Life will hold its 31st Annual Mother’s Day Carnation Sale May 8, 9 and 10. Long-stemmed carnations, corsages and vases will be sold Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Right to Life office, located at 34 E. Washington St. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Right to Life office, J.C. Penney, Etna Avenue Huggay Bear, Urscheln Farm and Home Store, Family Dollar, Walgreen Drug Store, Kmart and Wal-Mart.

Long-stemmed carnations and corsages will also be sold at Saturday and Sunday Masses at St. Joseph, St. Mary and St. Peter and Paul churches. Carnations will be made available on Friday for children at Huntington Catholic Middle Building and Huntington Catholic Primary Building.

Prices are $1 each for long-stemmed carnations, $2 and up for corsages, and vases start at $3. Corsages, vases and large quantities can be ordered in advance by calling (260) 356-5933. Office hours are weekdays 2:30-6 p.m. (closed Wednesdays). All proceeds will benefit pro-life efforts in Huntington County.

University of Saint Francis offers summer tutoring

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis’ Oaks and Willows Center is offering an academic support program for students Monday through Thursday mornings on the university campus, beginning June 30.

The program is open to all students in the community who need individualized help in reading, math and written expression for remediation or enrichment. Students will work in a small group of their peers with one tutor to enhance their skills. Work within the group is prescriptive. The program provides computer-assisted instruction along with a variety of hands-on materials under the direction of experienced teachers from the community.

Students in grades 1-3 will attend class from 8:30-10 a.m. Students in grades 4 and up will attend class from 10:15-11:45 a.m.

The cost is $250 for the first student and $200 for each additional student in the same family. A 10 percent early bird discount will be given if deposit is received by May 1. The fee includes all activities, evaluations and required supplies.

For further information and registration contact Staci Mathias at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8409. The registration deadline is May 26.

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. John the Baptist Catholic School, New Haven, student, Carly Robinson, won the 2009 state first place award, in the Knights of Columbus State Poster Contest. Robinson received the $50 check from Grand Knight Stephen Haydock, right, with school Principal Janice Comito, left, in attendance on March 25. Subject of this year’s contest was “Substance Abuse Awareness.” Carly’s poster was judged locally by Holy Trinity council No. 12741, and won the regional and state contest. Her poster has been submitted to the Supreme Council for competition at an international level. The contest was open to students ages eight through 11.

Knights Announce State Poster Contest Winner

Ancilla receives grant from Marshall County Community Foundation

DONALDSON — Ancilla College has been awarded a grant from Marshall County Community Foundation in the amount of $10,000 towards the purchase of the iStan human simulator.

A next-generation patient simulator, iStan is capable of mimicking the anatomical workings of the human body to a level of realism beyond all previous simulators, giving students and local emergency personnel a level of hands-on training that far exceeds the established norm.

Ancilla College’s Ann Fitzgerald, director of nursing, Dr. Joanna Blount, dean of Academic and Student Services, Tom Sibal, assistant director of Institutional Advancement, and Mike Brown, executive director of finance and administration, were all on hand at a recent program hosted by the Marshall County Community Foundation to receive the grant.

“The monetary donation received from the Marshall County Community Foundation to help purchase the iStan high fidelity simulation mannequin will impact the quality and training of our students in a ripple effect for the next several years,” said Fitzgerald in a written statement.

“Working with Marshall and surrounding counties will allow Ancilla College to create a Regional Simulation Center that will assist all healthcare personnel maintain and perfect their life-saving skills. Living in a rural area does not create an expectation of sub-standard healthcare, and at Ancilla College, we are working diligently to ensure our regional healthcare is second to none.”

With the grant, Ancilla has raised $66,000 for the simulator, $23,000 shy of the total cost.

Tree giveaway on Arbor Day at the University of Saint Francis

FORT WAYNE — In association with the Fort Wayne Arborist’s Association, the University of Saint Francis will host a tree give-away on Arbor Day, Friday, April 24, beginning at 7 a.m. in front of Trinity Hall, 2701 Spring St., on the west end of campus near Lindenwood Road.

Free flowering dogwood, tulip trees, red bud, canaan fir, dogwood and hackberry trees will be distributed to community participants a maximum of three trees per person — until supplies are gone. Approximately 1,200 trees will be given away.

For more information, please call the Grounds Department at (260) 399-7700, ext. 6112.

Dwenger teacher honored by Siemens Foundation

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger math teacher, James LaMarca, was one of 50 teachers selected nationally to receive Siemens’ Award for Advanced Placement. Each year, the Siemens Foundation honors the nation’s top teachers in the areas of math and science education. This marks the 11th year for the award recognizing the achievement of students, teachers and high schools who excel in the College Board’s Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) math and science awards.

LaMarca teaches AP Calculus at Bishop Dwenger. Over the past three years, a total of 85 out of 106 students have achieved a perfect score of three or higher on the College Board’s AP® exam, with 34 students receiving a five, the highest score they can receive.

LaMarca is now in his 11th year of teaching at Bishop Dwenger High School.

Bishop Dwenger High School student, James LaMarca’s AP Calculus classes help celebrate his being honored with an Advanced Placement Award by the Siemens Foundation.
INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana House of Representatives passed a proposal, 73-20, April 15 that requires abortion doctors to obtain hospital admitting privileges and enhances Indiana’s informed-consent law by adding that a pre-born baby might feel pain during the abortion.

The purpose of the measure, SB 89, according to the bill’s author Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis), is to provide better follow-up care for women who have complications following an abortion by requiring abortion doctors to obtain hospital admitting privileges in the county and adjacent counties where the abortions are performed.

“I’m very encouraged that the House passed the bill,” said Sen. Miller. “It’s been a number of years since the House has passed any pro-life legislation. I was also encouraged that several attempts to weaken the bill in the House Public Policy Committee were averted.”

Sixteen amendments were filed in preparation for second reading in the House. Eleven of the amendments were called by the amendment authors. Only three of the amendments passed. Rep. Tim Brown (R-Crawfordsville) offered the amendment that adds fetal pain to Indiana’s informed-consent law, which passed 62-27. Women seeking abortion would be informed prior to the procedure that “a fetus might feel pain.”

House sponsor of the bill, Rep. David Cheatham (D-North Vernon) offered an amendment to extend hospital admitting privileges to all physicians that perform surgery and passed by a voice vote. Cheatham said it became evident to members of the House Public Policy Committee that there are other types of surgery where patients are not provided adequate follow-up care including for example lasik eye surgery and liposuction cosmetic surgery.

“We felt that this could be addressed so that other types of doctors would have admitting privileges so the patient would know where to go to get follow-up care,” said Cheatham.

Since the House amended the bill, the bill’s author, Sen. Miller, must either concur (agree with) the amendments made in the House to SB 89, or dissent (disagree with). If Sen. Miller concurs the bill can go to the Senate floor for a final vote. If Miller dissents on the amendments, the bill will go to conference committee where lawmakers would iron out differences.

Concerns have been raised by some regarding the inclusiveness of all health care providers and the potential unintended consequences that it creates, not to mention the excessive and unnecessary administrative burden on all physicians and hospitals.

Rep. Matt Bell (R-Avila) House cosponsor of the bill said that he is concerned that Rep. Cheatham’s amendment to include all physicians performing surgery to have admitting privileges “changes the dynamic a lot as a policy. If I am remembering the numbers given during testimony correctly, there are about 12,000 licensed and practicing physicians in Indiana. About three quarters of those currently have admitting privileges,” said Bell. “So if the bill passes as it currently stands, that’s going to affect over a thousand doctors.”

Despite these challenges, Bell said he is hopeful and very encouraged by the vote of 73 House members supporting the bill. “I think the vote is indicative of where Hoosiers are on this issue,” said Bell.

Another concern raised by Sen. Miller is that the bill does not specify what constitutes a surgical procedure. “This means something as simple as having a mole removed could be covered in the legislation,” said Miller. “I would prefer to concur with the amendments so the bill does not have to go to conference committee. However there are some problems with the bill as it currently stands. If there is any way I can concur with the House amendments, then that’s what I’m going to do.”

The legislation was prompted because of problems in Fort Wayne where local doctors had to take care of patients seen by abortion practitioner George Klopfer at the Fort Wayne Women’s Health Organization. Klopfer, who resides in Illinois, comes to Indiana to perform abortions in Gary, South Bend and Fort Wayne.

There are nine abortion centers located in five different counties. Testimony during the panel hearing indicated just one of the abortion practitioners operating in Indiana has hospital admitting privileges. Planned Parenthood has expressed concern that if this legislation passes it will limit access to abortion.

If SB 89 passes this year, Indiana would join 11 other states which require abortion doctors to maintain local hospital admitting privileges. These states include Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Utah.

The Indiana General Assembly must adjourn by the April 29 deadline.
St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School celebrates milestone

FORT WAYNE — One-hundred-forty days, 140 years are concepts that may have challenged the youngest students at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School on Tuesday, April 7. That day, the 140th day of this school year, the school celebrated 140 years of continuous Catholic education in the Fort Wayne-South Bend.

After attending Mass, students formed a “living rosary” in the school gym. Each grade was responsible for leading a portion of the rosary, after which, students took their seats on the bleachers for a trip back in time.

Parishioners and grandparents, Jerome Herber, Millie Steenman, Godfrey and Rita Strack, Tom Rauner, Sr., Carole Sorg, Marylou Schwaiger and Jeanette Klingenberger came to share stories about “the old days,” when they or a spouse attended St. Joseph School. Some were old enough to have attended classes in the old school building, which existed from 1907 until 1961.

Jerome Herber, who began first grade at St. Joseph’s in 1940, told stories about how sisters of the Franciscan were with their students. Writing a punishment 500 times was not unheard of. He recalled that his younger brother had gotten in trouble for putting a ponytail of the girl who sat in front of him into the ink bottle on his desk so that it was stuck.

Even though the good sisters had plenty of misbehavior to contend with, families taught their children to respect their teachers. Families would send a pail of milk or fresh eggs and produce from their farms, so the sisters would have enough to eat. Herber was glad when it was his turn to deliver the milk pail, so he could get a sucker as reward. His 14 siblings wished it had been their turn.

Millie Steenman, age 90, recounted that students would often have to write their multiplication tables many times as a punishment. She said they learned their multiplication facts much faster that way. One boy, however, thought he would take a shortcut. He retrieved his paper from the trash after his teacher had thrown it away, and was ready for the next time he had to write that punishment.

Carole Sorg related a story about her husband Ron had told her about the parish’s school bus, known as the “chickie hack.” Approximately 10-12 parish families had scraped together enough money to purchase the 1929 Dodge bus, with boards running along the inside for seats. Only students living east of the St. Mary’s River were able to ride. Children living on the other side of the river had to get to school any way they could. Many walked. Some came by horse and buggy. Parents took turns as bus driver. Once, Ron Sorg thought he would get out of going to school by hiding behind the corn shocks near the road. The bus driver saw him, got off the bus and hauled him onto the bus.

Sorg also told the story of Emil Herber, who was scheduled to serve Mass on Dec. 25, 1925. He had quite a distance to walk that cold morning. Sorg’s grandfather, Anton, happened by in one of the first cars owned by parishioners. He gave Herber a ride so that the boy would be able to serve the Lord at the altar.

Rita Strack showed the students her father’s German Bible. Many families spoke German at home. The children learned English at school. Godfrey Strack added that the pastor let families know that he expected them to send their children to the closest Catholic school.

Tom Rauner, Sr. was in the eighth grade when the current school building was built in 1961. He said he could “still smell the old school.” It smelled of “coal dust and everybody’s lunch.” He remembers when a black wrought iron fence surrounded the parish cemetery, and when the large oak tree near the school was much shorter and smaller around. These days, Rauner is a caretaker for the church and school property.

Marylou Schwaiger added that when her three sons attended St. Joseph’s, they would clean restrooms and classrooms after school since they lived nearby and didn’t ride the bus.

Every story was evidence of the hardworking, respectful families that built St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Church and School. These memories are precious treasures shared with the children. Louise Schultheis, principal, told the students that one day, when they grew up, perhaps they would come back to school and share their stories.

PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Recalling the history of their school from left are Carole Sorg, Millie Steenman, Jeanette Klingenberger, Marylou Schwaiger and Rita Strack. Standing is the school principal, Louise Schultheis. To share a story in the rich history of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel please contact the school office at (260) 639-3580.
Privacy laws add difficulty to healing ministries

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Ministering to the emotional and spiritual needs of the ill in the church community of Fort Wayne and surrounding area is a big job. Several priests minister full- or part-time in area hospitals as well as Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home and Renaissance Village Nursing Home.

While visiting, the priest is sensitive to the Catholic patient’s needs and remains only a brief time unless an extended stay is requested. He speaks to the patient about his or her illness and offers encouragement and the opportunity for reconciliation and Communion, though an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist offers Communion to the patients each day. The priest will make return visits when appropriate.

Another important aspect of the visit is the opportunity to receive the anointing of the sick, a sacrament for spiritual and physical healing. This sacrament is not necessarily or only for the dying, but for all who are ill. Many of the priests report that fallen-away Catholics have returned to the church and the sacraments through a hospital visit from a priest.

And while the priests take their hospital ministries very seriously, being informed of their parishioners’ illnesses and hospital stays has become problematic. During a scheduled visit, the priest may have access to the hospital census, but otherwise hospital stay information is restricted due to privacy laws. Many find the HHS Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 or HIPAA privacy rules to be a hindrance to their ministry. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Web site “The Privacy Rule, a federal law, gives you rights over your health information and sets rules and limits on who can look at and receive your health information.” And though patients are asked to disclose their religious affiliation during registration into the hospital, unless they specifically request that their church or priest be contacted, no information can be disseminated to the parish priests.

Father George Gabet, a priest of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter and chaplain of the St. Mother Theodore Guerin community, is part-time chaplain at Lutheran Hospital. Of the HIPAA rules he says, “HIPAA has a lot of good qualities, but barriers as well and makes it impossible to know Catholic patients are there who need a priest.”

He adds that the rule is sometimes “carried overboard” for fear of lawsuits. “It is hard for staff to know where to draw the line,” he says. “But we support them and understand they’re doing the best they can.”

Father Ken Sarrazine, pastor of St. Joseph, Roanoke, and St. Catherine of Alexandria-Nix Settlement makes patient visits and offers Mass at Lutheran Hospital, Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home and Renaissance Village Nursing Home. He agrees with Father Gabet saying, “HIPAA makes it difficult to know who’s there. But you are offering services and are available when notified. It is in God’s hands.”

Father Sarrazine does receive information of patient stays from the nursing home but says the hospitals no longer call. He relies on the families of the patients to notify him for assistance.

Father Jim Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, visits patients at Lutheran Hospital as needed. He relies on family calls as the only means, those that miss and then they think we’re not doing our job.”

It is imperative, he says, that family members contact the parish with information about loved ones and their spiritual needs during an illness.

Father Bob D’Souza, associate pastor at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, ministers part-time at St. Joseph Hospital and full-time at Parkview. Though he relies on family calls, which he says he receives from St. Jude parishioners as well as other area parishes, he has a working relationship with the nurses and other chaplains in the facilities who inform him of the Catholic patients’ needs. He says, “Hospital ministry is a very important ministry. I would advise families to inform us they are Catholic so a parish priest can visit — so their spiritual needs are taken care of.”

All the priests agree on the importance of periodically reminding their parishioners that due to the constraint brought by HIPAA rules, they are now responsible for notifying the parish of their loved one’s hospital or nursing home admission. Bulletin and pulpit announcements assist with the priests’ efforts to support those in need.

And as Father Gabet says, “Priests don’t have a crystal ball — the rules make it difficult to get the information those in need. Parishioners must call for a priest’s visit.”

NIH head foresees ethical concerns about draft stem-cell guidelines

BY NANCY FRAZIER O’BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The acting head of the National Institutes of Health said he expects many of the public comments on the agency’s new draft guidelines on embryonic stem-cell research will focus on ethical concerns about the research.

The NIH guidelines, which Kington said reflect “broad support in the public and in the scientific community,” would allow the use of federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research only on embryos created for reproductive purposes at in vitro fertilization clinics and no longer needed for that purpose.

Specifically banned by the draft guidelines is funding “for research using embryonic stem cells derived from other sources, including somatic cell nuclear transfer, parthenogenesis and/or IVF embryos created for research purposes.”

Also prohibited is funding of research in which stem cells “are introduced into nonhuman primate blastocysts” or research “involving the breeding of animals where the introduction of human embryonic stem cells or human-induced pluripotent stem cells may have contributed to the germ line.”

Kington said research on adult stem cells and induced pluripotent cells — which do not require the destruction of human embryos — will continue to receive NIH funding.

The draft guidelines were issued at the direction of President Barack Obama, whose March 9 executive order overturned President George W. Bush’s ban on federal funding of research that involved the destruction of human embryos. Obama asked NIH to draw up guidelines for embryonic stem-cell research that would be “scientifically worthy and ethically responsible.”

When Obama’s decision was announced in March, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said it represented “a sad victory of politics over science and ethics.”

Kington said the draft guidelines would be published some time during the week of April 20 in the Federal Register, opening a 30-period for public comment.

“At the end of the 30 days we will analyze the range of comments, consider them and ultimately have them inform our decision on the final guidelines,” which will be issued by July 7, he added.

The draft guidelines set seven requirements for informed consent in cases when embryos created for reproductive purposes are later donated for use in research:

• “All options pertaining to use of embryos no longer needed for reproductive purposes” have been explained to the potential donors.

• No inducements were offered for the donation.

• The health care facility has a policy in place to assure that quality of care is not affected by a decision to donate or not to donate.

• There is clear separation between the decision to create the embryos and the decision to donate them.

Consent was obtained at the time of donation and donors were informed they could revoke consent at any time.

• When possible, the physician responsible for reproductive care of the donor is not the person who will perform the research.

Written consent must include nine separate elements contained in the guidelines, including an acknowledgment that the research could have commercial potential that would not benefit the donor.
US, Canadian Catholics react to new stem-cell research technique

BY MICHAEL SWAN

TORONTO (CNS) — Several Catholic officials welcomed a breakthrough in stem-cell research that could advance the science of regenerative medicine, but at least one Catholic ethicist wanted more information about the procedure.

Dr. Andras Nagy of Toronto’s Mount Sinai Hospital announced a new technique for creating pluripotent stem cells that can develop into most other types of human tissue. Nagy’s method of turning just about any cells, such as skin cells and blood cells, into stem cells avoids the use of spare embryos from in vitro fertilization and bypasses previous techniques that used viruses to turn back the clock on adult cells.

In 2005 Nagy created Canada’s first embryonic stem-cell lines from donated embryos. That research led to his discovery of the “piggyBac” method of reprogramming cells without using viruses to deliver growth factors to the cell’s chromosomes. Viruses used to carry growth factors will incorporate themselves into the cells, which then could turn cancerous.

Adult stem cells have been used to treat Parkinson’s, cystic fibrosis and other diseases that break down entire systems in the body.

In a March 4 interview with Catholic News Service, Richard M. Doerflinger, associate director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, applauded the advance, noting that researchers “have now figured out how to inject this genetic material directly and then remove it once it has done its job.”

Nagy published the results of his research in an online version of the prestigious journal Nature Feb. 27.

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Foundation provides medical equipment and supplies to needy individuals

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — The Brenda Hanchar Foundation was established in 2006 to provide medical equipment, supplies and prescription drugs to those who cannot afford to pay for themselves, do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid coverage and/or have no or limited health insurance coverage.

Tom Hanchar, parishioner at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and owner of Thomas International Convalescent Shop, created the nonprofit foundation to honor the memory of his late wife Brenda and to carry forward her active involvement in the profession of nursing.

“When a beautiful honor” it is to memorialize her, says Hanchar. After his wife’s death from cancer in December of 2003, Hanchar saw a need to help procure medical equipment for those “who fell into the hole,” that is, individuals with medical needs that were not funded by insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. So he created the nonprofit foundation whose mission it is to help those who are unable to afford physician directed medical equipment, medical supplies or prescription medication to enhance and maintain a reasonable quality of life. For those qualifying individuals, equipment is loaned out to them for as long as that condition exists.

The foundation receives support from manufacturers in New York, California and Illinois. Other charitable organizations donate usable equipment. In addition, notices placed in Fort Wayne area church bulletins requesting donations of gently used items produced “a very good response,” he says. There is always a great need for durable medical goods like wheelchairs, semi-electric hospital beds, concentrators, hyperbaric oxygen chambers and the like.

The Brenda Hanchar Foundation works closely with other nonprofit agencies like Mustard Seed, Council on Aging, Matthew 25, Turnstone Center and League for the Blind. It “acts as a lazy Susan” in making the medical equipment and prescription drugs it obtains available to other agencies’ clients.

“It’s a big circle,” he says. Hanchar is especially pleased about the foundation’s annual fundraiser, Flavor of Fall, in which northeast Indiana chefs prepare soups and gumbo for tasting in return for donations. A very popular event, last year’s tasting at the Baker Street Station in downtown Fort Wayne was held on his and Brenda’s anniversary date of Nov. 6. That was “kind of sentimental,” he admits. An added feature was a number of personal testimonials given by clients of the foundation in appreciation for the assistance they have received. Executive director Cindy Cornwall handles day-to-day operations and public relations and a board of directors is responsible for establishing the requirements to qualify an individual for any financial or continued service requirements relating to their medical equipment, medical supplies and pharmaceutical needs.

“We’re tickled pink that we’re able to help the community,” but it couldn’t be done without the generosity of lots of caring people, says Hanchar.

Individually needing assistance may call (260) 432-0400 to see whether they qualify for the program. Visit www.brendahancharfoundation.org.

The Brenda Hanchar Foundation donates medical items to patients who can’t afford them. Tom Hanchar, left, founder of the Brenda Hanchar Foundation, and Jeff Siples, former Brenda Hanchar Foundation president, stand behind portable wheelchairs that are among the inventory to be donated.

Panel discusses ethics and religious values in business

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Members of the academic and business community gathered March 23 at the Allen County Public Library Theatre to discuss business ethics and its relevance to the modern workplace.

Father Oliver Williams, academic director of the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Religious Values in Business, Notre Dame marketing professor Patrick Murphy, Ian Rolland, former chairman and CEO of Lincoln National Corp., and Tim Kenesey, president and CEO of Medical Protective were guest panelists during a question and answer session cosponsored by the Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne and Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana.

The panelists started with a brief discussion of personal philosophy on ethics, followed by field questions from the audience.

Father Williams, a Mendoza School of Business faculty member, likened ethics to the Ten Commandments, as they are guidelines to remind us of what is right. In the wake of numerous scandals in the business world, he noted, self-interest is the biggest problem society faces right now. Business professionals must adopt the same moral standards they exhibit in their personal lives in their business lives, he said.

Unfortunately there is no universal definition of ethics. And many people have the attitude that the end justifies the means, said Rolland. Taking an oath is not enough to be a moral business person, Kenesey suggested.

“It’s how you act,” he said. “It’s not until you really are challenged you can see if you’re following the rules or not.”

Rolland echoed Williams’ comments about setting an example.

“The ethical environment of the organization is really set by the person at the top,” he said. Employees, he said, need to have confidence in their CEO to do the right thing. He then went on to outline Lincoln’s seven shared values that are demonstrated at lower and medium levels as well as upper levels of management.

In conclusion, Murphy said a system of ethics starts at the top. “Cultural leadership questions are demonstrated at lower and medium levels as well as upper levels of management,” he said.

Taking an oath is not enough to be a moral business person, Kenesey suggested.

Panelists addressed questions from the audience. “Don’t go near that line,” he said.

Similarly, Rolland offered this word of advice: “Be sure your actions are consistent with words.”
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, spoke with Catholic News Service’s Nance Frazier O’Brien March 24 about the Obama administration’s move to rescind a Department of Health and Human Services regulation guaranteeing conscience protections for health care workers and institutions. Here is a transcript of the interview:

CNS: Why should the average Catholic be concerned about this?

Bishop Murphy: You’re right. The regulations from HHS are regulations that came from the Bush administration in the last period of their governing. And what they are are anti-life regulations. Now the Obama administration says all we’re doing — with emphasis on all — is taking away the regulations. However, the Catholic bishops and experts tell us that the regulations are totally in conformity with the statutes. So to take back the regulations raises a real issue, because the statutes are intended to protect human rights — rights of conscience and rights of freedom of religion. So why should everyone be concerned about this? Because if one person’s rights can be compromised, everybody’s rights can be compromised.

CNS: But won’t Congress still be able to guarantee conscience protections via the statutes if the regulation is overturned?

Bishop Murphy: Well, that’s one of those “what ifs” that doesn’t make sense. If we’re guaranteeing them now, why should we take them away and ask Congress to put them back? Second, there’s a fallacy in this. Neither the United States government or the Congress or the administration gives us rights. We have rights — because we’re human beings and no state has the right to compromise or interfere with human rights.

There’s a real problem in that kind of thinking — that somehow or another the government has given us something and the government can take it away. The government did not give us rights and the government is acting wrongly if it attempts to try to regulate rights in the sense of compromising anyone’s rights. All the government can do is foster and guarantee and defend rights, but it’s a false government.

Can I tell you a good story? When I was meeting with (Fidel) Castro in Cuba several years ago, I raised the issue to him about human rights and he said, “I guarantee all human rights so long as no one uses human rights against the state.” It doesn’t take a genius to figure out that he’s not giving them human rights. The state controls. That’s why the Congress is not the source of human rights.

CNS: Where do you think the next threat might come if this regulation is rescinded?

Bishop Murphy: I think that just about anything is open. Because once you compromise in one area, then you may not be compromised in every area. And I would say for example what’s going to happen with Catholic hospitals? If the government tries to say that abortion is a constitutional right, then a woman who comes to a Catholic hospital which receives government funds — and they all do — (if the thing) says (it’s) performing an abortion), and the woman says, “But it’s my right,” then what do you have? So it’s clear. It’s a serious movement in constitutional history and in the protection of the rights and liberties of citizens.

CNS: How would you respond to those who argue that it threatens women’s health? Do they have a right to health care providers to decide whether to participate in abortion or other procedures that violate their conscience?

Bishop Murphy: I’m baffled by that question. It’s a religious test — is this really serving the health of the mother — even if you were to allow, which I do not, that abortion is OK in the instance of rape and incest — the fact of the matter objectively is that is a miniscule percentage of the abortions that are performed. They don’t even have a blip in the screen, and you’re still having to face the fact that abortion is the direct taking of innocent human life.

CNS: Do you think the move to rescind this regulation is an attempt to implement part of the Freedom of Choice Act without having to introduce FOCA?

Bishop Murphy: I’ll tell you what my fear is. They have not introduced FOCA and I believe part of it, and I don’t know this, my guess is that they received so many cards across the country from the efforts here to say “Do not have FOCA,” that they’ve decided as a tactical strategy not to have a FOCA bill, at least at this time.

Why do I believe they are trying to do — and I hope I’m wrong, but I suspect this — is what I call death by a thousand slices. (The) Mexico City (of the human person) gets its freedom, the use of taxpayer money to fund organizations that promote or perform abortion or forced sterilization in other countries gets repealed. HHS regulations get turned back. And the answer is, well, those are both Bush things. No, they’re not. They have to do with right of conscience and freedom of religion.

Embryonic stem-cell research is called sound science. It isn’t sound science. There’s never been one person who’s been cured or even successfully treated with the results of embryonic stem-cell har-...
EDITORIAL

Human Embryology 101

With all the discussions surrounding embryonic stem-cell research, it may be helpful to keep in mind some basic facts of human embryology.

First of all, there are important distinctions among the terms “human life,” “human being” and “human person.” Unfortunately, due to the politics of bioethics and the emotional overtones of these terms, statements are often made that can easily be refuted by sound science. For example, it is common to hear the statement that “no one knows when human life begins.”

The fact is that “human life” as such began at least tens of thousands of years ago. Any living cell is either human or belongs to some other species. Living human cells only come from other living human cells. So, the right answer is that “human life” began when the species homo sapiens was created thousands of years ago.

Every “human being” is the product of living human cells — or at least of their DNA — that have been joined. Once the pronuclei of a human sperm cell fuses with the pronuclei of a human egg cell, you have a one-celled human being called a zygote. It is no longer just human life, but is now a human organism or creature. In other words, from the point of this fusion, known as syngamy, you have a living being that is human, no longer just “human life.”

Finally, the question of human personhood is a little trickier. Now we are no longer talking about straightforward scientific facts, but of anthropology, ethics and the law. A person can, for example, be understood simply in legal terms as an entity with standing before the law which is not property, but which rather, can own property. However, personhood, understood in its deepest anthropological reality, refers to a being with an immortal soul.

Contra to popular belief, the church does not teach that an immortal soul is infused at the moment of conception. The church admits that philosophical or theological arguments can legitimately be made that would hold that the infusion of an immortal soul occurs a little later, such as when the fission or twinning of a human embryo into two human embryos is no longer possible.

Nevertheless, the church does indicate that it is probable that the infusion of an immortal soul does occur at conception. Even so, the church clearly holds that from the moment of conception, every human being should be treated as a person. The question of the soul’s infusion aside, we do know one thing with scientific certainty: this entity is a fellow human being for this reason alone deserves the same respect that would be accorded to any other human being.

Consequently, this dispels the depth of the horror of federally-funding embryonic stem-cell research. In such research, researchers kill embryonic human beings — human beings that are not just fertilized eggs, but have already over a hundred cells that are differentiated. These human beings are certainly smaller than we are; more delicate and dependent on us; and very much less cognitively developed than we are.

However, none of us is more of a person and more deserving of respect because of a larger size, a high level of independence or superior cognitive abilities. We share the same dignity because we are all human beings.

Advance directives that help

An advance directive is a document which provides guidance when a person is no longer competent to make his own health care decisions. An advance directive can take the form of either a living will or an appointment of a health care representative. A living will will try to anticipate various health care situations and to make health care decisions. An advance directive can take the form of either a living will or an appointment of a health care representative. A living will will try to anticipate various health care situations and to make health care decisions. An advance directive can take the form of either a living will or an appointment of a health care representative. A living will will try to anticipate various health care situations and to make health care decisions.

Since a living will cannot accurately predict every possible future medical condition and treatment option, the appointment of a health care representative is recommended by the church. The Indiana Catholic Conference has a model advance directive form that includes both basic Catholic principles and the appointment of a health care representative. The form can be downloaded and filled out without the need to consult an attorney. Go to the “Resources” tab at www.indianaccc.org.

Withdraw invitation

What is the Notre Dame community thinking? Is all of this for 30 pieces of silver? It is morally distressing:

• To offer a petition at liturgy for the end to the culture of death and an end to abortion when the greatest proponent of abortion is the scheduled commencement speaker and who recently released U.S. funds to abort.

• To pray under the gilded dome of the basilica, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven ...” when a university platform is given to a man whose personal judgment is that the sanctity of life is “above his pay grade.”

• To remember Jesus in the words of the consecration, “When on the night he was betrayed, ...” when the community is showcasing the man who signed embryonic stem-cell research into U.S. law and which the Holy Father recently proclaimed as highly immoral.

What must Bishop D’Aycy, Bishop Jenky, CSC, our Holy Father, Benedict, be thinking of when he made the judgment and prudence of the administration of Notre Dame? Please withdraw the university invitation!

Catholic Women’s Book Club, Elkhart County

Maureen Wosniak, Sue Stuckman, Linda Reed, Maria Fite, Sue Peterson, Jody McDougal, Velia Kall, Cynthia Herm

Supports Obama visit

Such a lovely day Holy Thursday has been in my life — until now.

As I read my Tribune and Today’s Catholic, I was dismayed by the position taken by the head of the Holy Cross Order regarding the upcoming visit to Notre Dame by the most powerful, surely most courageous man in the world. How honored I feel for our Notre Dame to have the leader of the greatest republic in the free world speak to the young people who are graduating into it. Many of them, like many good Catholics all over this nation, sent Obama to that office. Without Catholicism, sexual abuse, violent crime, alcoholism would have been substantially less. My dismay turned to fear and terror as I read the vicious threats by Randall Terry. This was height-ened when I saw the protesters out stirruping trouble near campus instead of rectifying the acts of the Cross and making a solemn reconciliation during this Holy Week.

I ask Bishop D’Aycy to reconsider his position and demonstrate love in his leadership of our people by coming to pay respects and honor the democratically elected President Barack Obama at the commencement. At least then any possible untoward results of this ungodly uproar will not lay at his feet.

M Louis L. Lonergan

South Bend

Pray for the president

Why are we not storming heaven with the one tool we have to change President Obama’s mind — prayer.

One Hail Mary said every day by the people in every diocese from the east coast to the west coast would surely attract attention. If every one said this prayer at noon each day for the intention of changing the president’s mind on family planning, I’m sure it would get heaven’s attention.

On March 25, Cardinal Dolan could ask Son for help, as she did at the wedding feast at Cana when they were running out of wine. Obama is a family man, very smart, but not necessarily wise. Our Blessed Mother could teach him wisdom. He would not stand a chance.

We should have started praying when he was elected. It is never too late.

Mary R. Sparks

South Bend

Where was Notre Dame’s board?

The issue Holy Cross Father John Jenkins created has left myself and even non-Catholic friends wondering — how did this happen? Where was the board?

Did Father Jenkins send the invitation and only tell everyone once he heard back? How could a man be in his position and be clueless as to what issues might surface? Was he so determined to be the one to get President Obama to come he was blinded by the honor? How could he not realize that the very person he was professing to want to honor would be thrown into an embarrassing mess. A mess he created.

I totally support Bishop John M. D’Aycy. It had to be a hard decision, because as a man of his stature in the Catholic Church he had to have deep feelings about causing the new president any embarrassment.

The bigger issue had to be beliefs. What does the Catholic Church stand for? Father Jenkins obviously saw a grey area. I’m not disputing his reasoning for choosing the president, but had he followed protocol, had he gotten through the church heads, he might have avoided embarrassing our president, putting our bishop in a difficult situation and worst of all, taking away from graduates their hard-earned big moment. It should have been about them and the families that supported them. Instead it is a divisive situation.

Tell me, Father Jenkins, is this what you pictured?

Carol Rainwater

Huntington

The truth about farm animals

As a person who spent 40 years of his life working and living around dairy cattle, I hope to clear up some misconceptions about farm animals.

According to all cows are artificially inseminated because it can improve genetics, sanitation and safety. Bulls that run loose in herds can be dangerous for the farmers.

Cows having calf after calf is no different than any animal in the wild that has babies every year. Yes, cows do grieve over having their babies taken away, but a farmer can take better care of a calf than a mother cow can in the herd.

When her productive life is over, she is sent to a slaughter house. By the time the slaughter house I visited, the cows never saw other cows die. Death was caused instantly by shot in the head with an air gun.

And yes, some bull calves end up in veal houses when they are a few months old. Hogs are slaughtered at 6 months and chickens at 6 weeks. The best way to secure the future of any domesticated animal is to eat it. Otherwise, why raise it?

Bill Morehouse

Mishawaka

Father Pacholczyk responds

I am happy to read that Ms. Shaffer agrees so strongly with the Catholic Church, and with what I have always stressed in my writings, namely, that every child that comes into this world is a source of great joy and always a blessing. Every newborn is to be rejoiced over as a kind of “miracle” and “grace,” no matter how it was conceived.

While it is certainly true that babies are always a blessing, it is certainly false that their arrival somehow sanitizes or justifies those kinds of disordered human choices via which they may have gotten here. Murder, abortion, teen pregnancy, pre-marital sex, cloning or in vitro fertilization. I believe Ms. Shaffer would benefit from going a little deeper into the matter and shifting her attention away from the emotional appeal of babies and toward the truth for a moment on the very important and serious ethical obligations we have surrounding their procreation.

Rev. Tadros Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
National Bioethics Center
The Obama stem-cell darkness

President Obama, on March 9, 2009, signed an important executive order that vastly expanded federal funding for human embryonic stem-cell research and crossed a significant and troubling ethical line. This decision, and the rhetoric during the signing, encouraged scientists and researchers to enter the moral quagmire of taking some human lives in order to benefit others. During his signing speech, in order to support his decision, the president invoked the name of Christopher Reeve and other patients desperate to find cures for their ailments. Desperation, however, rarely makes for good ethics.

I once heard a true story that brought this point home for me in a dramatic way. The story involved a father and his two young sons. They had a favorite swimming hole out in the countryside, which they would visit on hot summer days. The father, however, had never learned to swim, while the boys had learned when they were younger and could swim moderately well. Their father would sit on the shore while the boys would swim inside a line of bright red buoys that marked where the shelf on the floor of the swimming hole would drop off steeply. Each year, the father would tell his sons not to cross that line, because if they did, he would not be able to swim out and rescue them. Each year they would faithfully obey. This particular year, however, they decided to challenge their dad’s authority and venture beyond the buoys. As they swam beyond the line, their father saw them and called out to them to return, but they feigned they couldn’t hear him and continued to swim out even further. Their dad got nervous, and began to walk out into the water, as it got deeper and deeper, and suddenly he moved into the drop-off section and began sinking.

From a distance, the boys spotted him railing around in the water, gasping for breath, trying to keep his head above water, and slapping the water with his hands. They suddenly realized he was drowning, and swam towards him. As they got near him, they yelled at them not to come any closer. He cried out, “Get away! Don’t touch me!” In fear, they kept their distance until he stopped struggling in the water, and began to sink beneath the surface, with gurgling and bubbling.

As he slipped into unconsciousness, the boys approached him and grabbed him as best they could and dragged him back to shore, where he awoke and revived and finally coughed out the water he had taken in. Later, the boys told their father the story of the drowning, but the father could not bring himself to scold the boys, he simply thanked them for their quick thinking.

**His mercy and power remain**

**THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

**3rd Sunday of Easter**

Lk 24:35-48

The Acts of the Apostles, again finds the first biblical reading. Each year every Sunday in the Easter season features a reading from this book of the New Testament. In this reading, Peter preaches to the crowds in Jerusalem. Preaching about salvation and God’s mercy seem to be not at all unusual. Americans are very accustomed to preaching. They hear it on the radio. They hear it on television. It is a product of this country’s Protestant heritage. Actually, to preach is to assume a mighty role and a great responsibility. Preaching, after all, by definition is not simply lecturing or speaking aloud. It is speaking in the very name of God.

Those who preached, by ancient Jewish standards, were privileged people indeed. None chose to be a preacher. Rather, God selected each preacher. Therefore, Peter stood before this Jerusalem crowd as the representative of God.

Most importantly, he spoke in the place of Jesus. He preached the good news of Jesus. This reading makes two points. First, it establishes the identity of Peter. He is an apostle. Moreover, he is the chief of the apostles. He speaks on behalf of them all.

Secondly, because of Peter and the other apostles, the salvation given by Jesus still reaches humankind. They continue the Lord’s work.

The First Epistle of John provides the second reading. The epistles of John are alike in their eloquence and splendid language. They are alike in the depth of their theology and revelation.

This reading proclaims the majesty of Jesus, the savior. However, it cautions, accepting Jesus as Lord is more than lip service. It is the actual living of the commandments of God, and through which, humans realize the perfection, love, order and peace of life in God.

St. Luke’s Gospel is the source of the last reading. It is another Resurrection Narrative, and it looks back to the Emmaus story — which reports the walk to a small town outside Jerusalem by two disciples and by the risen Lord, and the disciples’ recognizing Jesus in the “breaking of the bread,” or Eucharist.

As this group of disciples was walking, Jesus stood in their midst. He was no longer bound by location or time. Risen from earthly life, victorious over sin, Jesus now lived in the fullness of eternity — even in the Incarnation, true God and true man.

He showed them the pierced hands and feet. Indeed, these witnesses were encountering the Crucified. But, the Crucified had overcome death and had lived!

**Reflection**

The church continues to summon us to the joy of Easter celebration. He lives! The readings once more this week exclaim the church’s great trust in, and excitement about, the Resurrection. As Paul said, the Resurrection is the bedrock of our belief.

In these readings, the church calls us to the fact that redemption was in Jesus. He is Lord. He is God. In Jesus, God saved the world from death. As did the Lord, all people, even all believers, must die. But, as did Jesus, they too will rise if they do not relent in their love of, and obedience to, God. Thus, all believers can anticipate, and provide for, eternal life in God.

Christians further can rejoice in the fact that salvation did not pass away when Jesus, who lived for a time on earth, ascended into heaven. His mercy and power remain.

His words endure. God has provided for us, so that we too may have salvation. We may encounter Jesus. We may hear the Lord’s words. We reach the risen Jesus, and we learn from Jesus, from the apostles. The church is the mystical body of Christ, created to continue their work, which is the ongoing, life-giving work of Christ.

**Readings**

**Sunday:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
Ps 4,2,4-7,9 1 Jn 21-25a Lk 24:35-48

**Monday:** Acts 6:15-18 Ps 119:23-24, 26-27,30-30 Jn 6:22-29

**Tuesday:** Acts 7:51-8:11 Ps 31:3cd 4ab,7b,8a,17,21ab Jn 6:30-35

**Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 66:1-3a,4-7a Jn 6:35-40

**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:9,16-17,20 Jn 6:44-51

**Friday:** Acts 9:1-2 Ps 117:1-2 Jn 6:52-59

**Saturday:** Acts 9:31-42 Ps 116:12-17 Jn 6:60-69

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**Catequizem**

**St. George’s Day is April 27. This quiz looks at this dragon slayer.**

1. Bet George is a building dedicated to St. George in this African country, with a rich Christian past. St. George is the patron saint of the country: a. Mali b. Ethiopia c. Yemen

2. George is also patron saint of this Iberian country which only has one border with Spain: a. Andorra b. Ceuta c. Portugal

3. This city, historically dominated by a Maronite elite, also has St. George as its patron: a. Beirut b. Damascus c. Jaffa

4. George is also patron of this Slovenian city whose name presents a pronunciation challenge to many non-Slovenes a. Ptuj b. Split c. Maribor

5. This military order which spread the faith in Eastern and northern Europe also has George as one of its patrons: a. The Knights Templar b. The Teutonic Knights c. The Hospitallers

6. This one may be a sainthood no-brainer. St. George is patron of a. Pen Dragon, Wales b. The jungle c. Georgia (the country)

7. Probably because of his chivalric military prowess, St. George is a patron of these: a. horsemen b. Druze militias c. pacifists

8. St. George is the patron of England but also of this peculiarly named English society of honor and fame: a. The order of the big fat pig b. The order of the garter c. The order of friars

9. If George had really wanted to slay a dragon he would have had to trek to this island or one of its neighbors: a. Ireland b. Malta c. Komodo

10. George is honored outside the Catholic world. In the east he is patron of Istanbul, better known in Christian history as: a. Nicaea b. Constantinople c. Trebizond

11. He is patron of this Russian capital: a. Moscow b. St. Petersburg c. Kiev

12. Young men may know George as patron of this organization started by Baden-Powell: a. The Knights of Mole b. Boy Scouts c. Young Whippersnappers for BP

13. According to Shakespeare, Henry V used the phrase “God for Harry, England and St. George” as a rallying cry to get his troops to go here: a. Once more down the pub b. Once more onto the beach c. Once more unto the breach

14. George, again because of his military history, is patron to these, whose tools include various types such as cross, long and composite a. sword makers b. archers c. fry cooks

15. Several towns in Malta such as Gozo have St. George as a patron, but the link to George nationally is rather unusual. It is that the island’s people a. were awarded the George cross, which is on their flag, by English king George b. almost always Maltese (unless Jewish or Muslim) call their first born George or Georgina c. are ethnically originally Georgian and possibly descendants of St. George

**Answers:** 1b, 2c, 3a, 4a, 5b, 6c, 7a, 8b, 9c, 10b, 11a, 12b, 13c, 14b, 15a
Indulgence requirements clarified

In the letter in the Today's Catholic regarding the indulgence that one can receive during this Pauline year, there is no mention of the source of the how and where one goes for this votive Mass, etc. Can any further explanation be given?

Anonymous

It’s up to the priest in the individual places to schedule things like votive Masses. For the people to do something themselves they would have to go in a group of two or more (because it has to be public) and read aloud from St. Paul’s letters or do a Litany of St. Paul aloud.

The ‘green’ issue entices me to reconsider the digital version of Today’s Catholic. How does that work?

Readers of Today's Catholic can download the electronic, digital, version of the newspaper either from our Web site, www.dioceseofswsb.org or receive it through e-mail. Most issues are of print on their computer screen. The digital version is definitely the “green” way to go. It cuts out printing, mailing and transportation charges.

But recycling your Today's Catholic after you read it is also “green.”

Readers may also be interested to know that archived issues are available for download as a PDF. So if you misplaced and recycled your paper and wish to find a back issue, one can do so on our Web site.

If you get the newspaper in the mail and want the e-mailed version, please contact our subscriptions manager, Kathy Voiorl, at kvoiorl@fw.dioceseofswsb.org, and please provide your label mailing address and then your e-mail address.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne, answered the first question. Tim Johnson, editor, answered the second question.

Religious freedom: American security


A 21-year veteran of the Foreign Service, Tom Farr was the first director of the State Department’s Office of International Religious Freedom. In that capacity, he traveled the world, trying to persuade persecuting governments to cease and desist. That was hard enough.

Farr’s hardest work, however, was inside his own department in Washington.

The Department of State, like the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency, is institutionally allergic to the idea that religious conviction has something to do with how the 21st century world works — and why the 21st century world explodes. That allergy reflects the bias of foreign policy realists, according to whom military and economic power are the only units-of-account in world politics; the biases of secularization theory, according to which a modernizing world is becoming ever more secular; and the personal biases of Foreign Service officers, many of whom were educated at elite universities where religion equals mythology.

You might think that 9/11 would have drawn these intelligent people’s attention to the fact that religious conviction is — put it gently — a dynamic factor in today’s international environment. But you would be wrong. To this day, the chief foreign policy and national security agencies of the U.S. government live in a state of denial about contemporary history’s falsification of the notion that a modernizing world is getting ever more unreligious. By empirical measure, the world is getting more religious, not less; that basic fact of life has yet to take hold at State, Defense and CIA.

Thus the task that Tom Farr sets himself in “World of Faith and Freedom” is both essential and difficult: to change the corporate mind of the American foreign policy establishment on the relationship between religious conviction and world affairs, and on the role that promoting religious freedom ought to play in U.S. foreign policy. His tone is measured, his analyses are fair and balanced. He understands that policy-fornalism is a complex business in which competing goals must be weighed and tradeoffs inevitably occur. No one can reasonably accuse Farr of being a naïf.

“World of Faith and Freedom” also offers an intriguing look at the difficult legislative birth of the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act and the even more difficult labors involved in giving the State Department’s new Office of International Religious Freedom some bureaucratic traction. The late Wayne Hays, (D-Ohio), used to say that the two things people shouldn’t see being made are sausages and laws — to which Farr would likely add, “new offices at State that State doesn’t want.” The story is a fascinating, if sobering, look at what claws out when you lift up the bureaucratic rocks.

Tom Farr’s tests his own proposals for reconciling the role of religious freedom in U.S. foreign policy by applying them to two tough cases: religious freedom in Islamic states, and religious freedom in China (which Secretary of State Clinton unfortunately deemed less important than working with China against global warming). I’d argue with some of Farr’s specific proposals; he senses possibilities in the idea that Brotherhood becoming a long-term force for decency in the Islamic world that I can’t quite see, for example. But with his general proposal — that religious freedom, successfully secured, advances American security because states that believe everyone’s religious freedom are less likely breeding grounds for terrorism or aggression — I am in complete agreement.

The liberals of the Obama administration seem oddly enamored of a “new realism” in foreign affairs. They, as others learned before them, that there is nothing “realistic” about supporting tyrants on the ground that only natties can keep the lid on in nasty places like the Middle East. It doesn’t work. U.S. policy that helps channel religious energies into building civil society where freedom is imperiled is far more realistic. Tom Farr’s learned, lively and important book shows why, and how.

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

SCRPITURE SEARCH

Gospel for April 26, 2009
Luke 24:35-48

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle B: the Risen Christ meets his disciples after he is raised. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BREAKING BE WITH YOU GHOST MY FEET BONDAGE BREAD TERRORISHED TROUBLE WRI TEN FORGIVENESS LAW OF MOSES NATIONS PEACE SEEING MY HANDS FLESH SPOKE PSALMS WITNESSES

FLESH AND BONES


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BIOETHICS

Continued from page 15

The liberal assumption that every case is a unique case is something that bioethicists are aware of. They are aware that every case is different and that every case has its own unique circumstances. However, they are also aware that there are some common themes that recur in many cases. These themes include the following:

1. Autonomy: The right of the individual to make decisions about their own body and life.
2. Beneficence: The obligation of healthcare providers to do what is best for the patient.
3. Non-maleficence: The obligation of healthcare providers to avoid doing harm to the patient.
4. Justice: The obligation of healthcare providers to treat all patients fairly and equally.

In the case of the fetus, the ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice apply. However, there are also some additional ethical principles that apply in this case. These include:

1. The principle of proportionality: The obligation of healthcare providers to weigh the risks and benefits of an intervention.
2. The principle of foreseeability: The obligation of healthcare providers to be able to predict the outcomes of an intervention.

In the case of the fetus, the principle of proportionality is especially important. If the medical professionals are unable to predict the outcomes of the intervention, they are not able to make an informed decision. This can lead to a situation where the medical professionals are performing procedures that are not in the best interest of the fetus.

In conclusion, the ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice apply in the case of the fetus. However, there are also some additional ethical principles that apply in this case. These include the principle of proportionality and the principle of foreseeability.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuro-science from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass.
Eagle Scout project benefits parish

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — St. John the Evangelist parishioner, Patrick Wheeler, completed an Eagle Scout project that parishioners will be able to enjoy for years to come. Wheeler admitted that originally he contacted the local parks department to see if they needed anything but he didn’t receive a reply. So he asked his pastor, Father Chris Smith, if there was something he could do.

Wheeler said Father Smith had two items on his wish list — an outdoor rosary and a walking Stations of the Cross. “So I took both into my hands,” Wheeler said. “The rosary is built out of bricks laid out in the shape of a rosary. I could’ve made the cross but there were already two crosses by the preschool from when the school was built so I included one for the cross of the rosary.”

The brick path walking rosary surrounds the grotto across the street from the church. The walking Stations of the Cross also begin at the grotto of the Blessed Mother and continue down the rectory driveway and across the street, ending at the Pieta statue. Wheeler’s brother, Mark, planted the landscaping around the Pieta statue. Wheeler’s brother, Mark, planted the landscaping around the Pieta statue.

“My father was a member of Troop 325, chartered through the People of Praise in South Bend — an ecumenical prayer group that is predominately Catholic.

The Wheeler family moved to Goshen from Nebraska about at least years ago. Wheeler works part-time assisting the school custodian at St. John the Evangelist School and he will soon be starting a second parttime job at a local coffee shop.

Wheeler said the project took five hours to complete, including planning. He began in the spring of 2008, but due to summer camp the work took until October to complete. With warmer spring weather arriving, parishioners at St. John the Evangelist will be able to utilize the outdoor devotionalis for spiritual development.

Stein places in national geographic bee

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — Seventh grader Sam Stein recently represented St. Louis Academy, Besancon, at the state level in a National Geographic Bee in Indianapolis. The event was held at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis’s (IUPUI) lecture hall on Friday, April 3.

Only 100 students across Indiana qualified to participate placing Sam in the top 1 percent of the nation’s fourth through eighth graders in terms of geographic literacy.

St. Louis Academy’s first-year principal and a former social studies teacher, Cheryl Layton, introduced the contest to the students feeling it was important to expose the students to the opportunity.

At the state competition, the nervous 13 year old made it through the preliminary round correctly answering seven of eight questions to advance with an elite group of 17 others to the second round before being asked what the northern most capital city on the Northern Gulf is. Sam admits, “I had no idea. I did not know many of the cities in that area.” The correct answer was Kuwait City. With the miss, Sam placed in an impressive three-way tie for 11th place.

The winner of the contest was from Holy Nativity Catholic School in Portage and will advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C. where “Jeopardy” host, Alex Trebek, will ask the final round of questions. The winner will be awarded a college scholarship of $25,000.

Sam’s favorite subject is science and he has hopes of becoming a meteorologist. The youngest son of Dan and Rosy Stein, Sam resides in rural New Haven.

When I go to pray...

My Chapel is down the hallway

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Priest not surprised by Scottish woman’s performance

BY SIMON CALDWELL

LONDON (CNS) — The audience snickered and the judges of “Britain’s Got Talent” either rolled their eyes or allowed their blank expressions to betray their bemused skepticism as the awkward-looking middle-aged woman told them she wanted to be as famous as the popular British actress and singer Elaine Paige.

Then Susan Boyle began to sing, and they were spellbound and shocked by the beauty of her voice and rose to their feet in applause.

But Father Basil Clark, who watched the show on television at his home in Broxburn, Scotland, was not surprised.

He has seen the situation unfold many times before, having regularly accompanied Boyle, 47, on the annual Legion of Mary pilgrimage to the Marian shrine in Knock, Ireland.

“When I watched the judges’ faces it reminded me of what I was like when I first saw Susan singing — absolutely blown away by the quality of the singing and by that fantastic voice,” said Father Clark, dean of West Lothian, the district that covers Boyle’s home village of Blackburn.

“Anyone who sees her for the first time behaves the same way. I have never heard her sing badly, though she might lose the words if the stress gets too much,” he told Catholic News Service in an April 16 telephone interview.

Boyle first appeared before judges Simon Cowell, Piers Morgan and Amanda Holden on the ITV1 sister show of “America’s Got Talent,” broadcast April 11.

Her fame spread on the Internet, and in just five days she had attracted more than 15 million YouTube viewings of her rendition of “I Dreamed a Dream,” from the musical “Les Miserables.”

Part of Boyle’s attraction is that she appears to be such an unlikely candidate for stardom. She said on TV that she has “never been kissed” and has lived alone with her cat since her mother died in 2007.

According to British media, she has learning disabilities as a result of being starved of oxygen at birth. She is unemployed and, as a churchgoing Catholic, her social life revolves around her family and her parish of Our Lady of Lourdes. She also enjoys karaoke in her local pub.

Father Clark said, “When she gets up to sing it can either be wonderful or you can get the unpredictable eccentric behavior, but it is to do with the fact that she has learning difficulties.”

“In a sense, there is a beautiful voice trapped in this damaged body,” he said. “It is an absolute contrast. There she was on television acting very peculiarly and the audience was expecting peculiar things to happen and then a voice of an angel comes out — and that’s Susan.”

Father Clark said that local people who knew Boyle, the youngest of nine children of a family descended from Irish migrants, were “unemployed and, as a whole, are proud of her and wish her the best but they are aware of the risks she is running,” adding that her behavior has previously drawn cruel taunts from children.

“I am quite worried for her,” he added. “I think it’s great at one level. It might just be the thing that will make her, but she is a very vulnerable person and it could be quite difficult.”

“It is a great opportunity for her and as far as I am concerned she should make the best of it, and if it lasts, it lasts, and if it doesn’t, then it’s still more than almost any one of us will ever achieve,” he added.

“It is important in sustaining her and making sure this is all a very, very beneficial experience.”

The world’s media has camped outside Boyle’s home where she grew up and where she still sleeps in the same room as when she was a child.

She said that she wanted to make her performance “a tribute to my mother” who had encouraged her to sing.

“I knew it was something I had to do,” she said. “I had to get on with it. That’s when the courage came from, my mother.

“The ones who made fun of me are now nice to me,” she said.
**What’s Happening?**

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

**MISC. HAPPENINGS**

**Luncheon card party**
South Bend — The St. Anne Society of Our Lady of Hungary Parish will have a luncheon card party Sunday, April 26, at noon. Donation of $5. Bring your own cards.

**Rummage sale**
Bremen — Altar Rosary Society of St. Dominic Parish will have a rummage sale on Thursday, May 7, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, May 8, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the parish hall, 803 Bike St.

**Bioethics conference planned**
Notre Dame — The Midwest Regional Bioethics Conference will be held Saturday, May 2, with welcome at 10:45 a.m. and concludes with Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5 p.m. with Bishop John D’Arcy as celebrant. Registration is needed by April 27. Speakers include Eugene Diamond, M.D., Brian Clowes, Ph.D., A. Patrick Schneider, M.D. and Christopher McIntire, D.O. Tickets are $20 for students/clergy, $50 general public, $75 physicians and include lunch. To register or for more information visit www.illinoiscmo.org

**Victory Noll to host poverty simulation**
Huntington — Victory Noll Center, in partnership with Purdue Extension of Huntington County, will host a poverty simulation Wednesday, May 6, beginning at 7 p.m. at Victory Noll Center, 1900 W. Park Dr. Leading the simulation will be Karen Himshaw, extension educator of Purdue Extension-Huntington County, along with Sue Wilhelm, director of Victory Noll Center.

There is no cost to participate in the program, but registration is required by May 1 to Sue Wilhelm at (260)356-0628, ext. 128, or by e-mail at suewilhelm@olvm.org. Additional information is available at www.olvm.org/vincentcenter.html.

**Rib tip and chicken dinner**
South Bend — The St. Augustine Altar and Rosary Society will have a rib tip and chicken dinner Friday, April 24, from 4-8 p.m.

**Knights plan fish fry**
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, May 1, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

**Light weight orientation meeting planned**
Mishawaka — The Light Weigh Catholic Bible Study DVD series without weigh-ins orientation meeting will be held Monday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish office, 220 W. Fourth St.

**Harvest House announces Older American Day celebration**
Kendallville — The Harvest House council will have an Older American Day celebration Thursday, May 14, at Immaculate Conception Church. Doors open at 10:15 a.m. with Mass at 11 a.m. A luncheon will be served and includes entertainment by a female barbershop group and raffles. Tickets are $8 and reservations are needed to Rita at (260) 347-4014 by May 9.

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

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

**Catholic Networking Offered**
Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network will meet Friday, May 1, at the Chamber of Commerce, 826 Ewing St. Mass will be held at 7:30 a.m. with Father Tony Steinacker. Meeting will follow. Tower Bank’s Don Schenkel will be the keynote speaker. For information visit www.thecatholicbusinessnetwork.com.
Charles Rice, professor emeritus at the University of Notre Dame Law School and pro-life champion, speaks to a crowd of about 200 gathered before Friday’s March for Life on campus. Professor Rice currently teaches law and morality at Notre Dame.

that proper attention is paid to life issues in both Notre Dame’s teaching and research.

Brown says Father Jenkins is willing to discuss any of those issues, but not as pre-conditions to a meeting, ND Response leaders, meanwhile, say they remain open to “true dialogue with Father Jenkins on this issue.”

According to Brown, several private meetings with Notre Dame alumni are scheduled. Father Jenkins turned down an offer to be interviewed by Today’s Catholic.

Rice reminded those gathered that the grotto would be full of people praying the rosary on May 17 during graduation. The professor recalled the power of prayer throughout history.

“That’s what is our secret weapon,” he said. “The rosary at Lepanto in 1571 sank ships. I think Mary can take care of this.”

The victory at Lepanto was attributed to Our Lady, as a rosary was offered that day in St. Peter’s Square in Rome for the success of the mission of the Holy League to hold back Muslim forces from overrunning Western Europe.

Rice also invited everyone to attend the annual eucharistic procession through campus, to be held Sunday, April 26, after the last Mass.

“What it is, and what you are, and what the incredible reaction to this outrage is, is Mary taking her university back. And that’s what Mary can take care of this. So, the most important thing, really, we have is prayer. And it’s the rosary. And it’s doing what you’re doing. And don’t let them buffalo you.

Don’t let them talk you out of it. Just do what you’re doing. Let’s continue to pray. Pray to Notre Dame... the words mean “Our Lady... that she will take her university back for her Son.”

Following Rice’s speech, those gathered began the march through campus. Led by students carrying a banner that read, “Irish Fighting for Life,” the group followed Notre Dame Security bike officers through the South Quad, toward the gates of the university and back to the Golden Dome. Some talked about the abortion issue and Notre Dame’s decisions, while others prayed the rosary.

As they headed back to the Administration Building, marchers passed rows of white crosses set up in the grass near the law school. One sign read, “In the time it takes to play one ND football game, 600 children (on average) are aborted. The white crosses are for them.”

Behind the crosses were 3,600 pink and blue flags, in reference to the 3,600 abortions reported to take place every day. Another sign quoted Mother Teresa: “It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so you may live as you wish.”

According to Chris Labadie of ND Response, students might make the March for Life an annual event on Blue-Gold weekend. He also asked people to watch the ND Response Web page for updates on events. ND Response hopes to announce plans for a vigil and rally to take place on the weekend of commencement. For more information, go to www.NDResponse.com.