NOTRE DAME — Amidst continued protests, from the quiet and prayerful to the loud and obvious, one thing remains unchanged: President Barack Obama will give the commencement address and be honored with a doctorate of laws degree at the University of Notre Dame Sunday.

Those opposed to University of Notre Dame President Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins’ decision are not conceding defeat. ND Response, a coalition of 12 Notre Dame student groups and organizations, will continue to stand for their university’s Catholic identity. The group received permission to host a prayerful demonstration on campus on commencement weekend.

“As students of this university, we invite all those interested in respectfully and constructively standing alongside us,” said ND Response spokesman John Daly, Jr. “We hope you will join us in making May 16-17 days of powerful and constructive witness to the Catholic identity of Notre Dame and to the fundamental principle of the sanctity of life.”

According to ND Response, Bishop John M. D’Arcy will attend eucharistic adoration, which begins May 16 at 9:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Coleman-Morse Building. Anyone interested may sponsor an hour of prayer during this all-night vigil by e-mailing NDResponse@gmail.com.

Adoration will continue throughout Saturday night and Sunday morning. It ends at 10:45 a.m. with Benediction led by a Holy Cross priest, followed by an outdoor Mass held on the South Quad, near the Rockne Memorial. All priests, bishops and cardinals who travel to Notre Dame for this weekend
Visits to Catholic colleges are part of ‘Ex Corde Ecclesiae’

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

A visit to two colleges

Recently, during a four-day stay in the South Bend area, I made a pastoral visit to two local institutions of higher learning. One was a Catholic college, but certainly rather unique in our diocese; and the other was Mennonite. Both were interesting.

Ancilla College in Donaldson

I went to Ancilla College as part of my pastoral care for our Catholic colleges. This is my responsibility under “Ex Corde Ecclesiae,” which calls for the local bishop to have a close relationship of communion, mutual respect, trust and dialogue, with the Catholic colleges and universities in this diocese.

“Ex Corde Ecclesiae” indicates that even when he is not involved in the governance of the colleges, the bishop is not an outsider in these institutions.

Ancilla was, as always, very pleasant. Having been caught up in another meeting in Mishawaka, I was a bit late. The president is Dr. Ronald May. This is an institution where only 17 percent of the students are Catholic. So, it could be called a missionary college. In a recent book on Catholic higher education, it was called a college of the Diaspora. This term refers originally to the believers, the Jewish believers, who were dispersed or scattered away from their homeland and drew other people to belief in the one true God. The college is owned and under the guidance of the Poor Handmaid Sisters, a congregation with a storied history in this diocese.

Most of the students have found it very difficult to find the time and the resources, which enable them to attend this college. Dr. May told me, as he has in the past, that he is here because he is supportive of the spirit of the sisters. Originally, this college was for the training of these sisters. But for decades now, it has been the only possible source of higher education for many rural people in Marshall County and St. Joseph County.

Included in our visit was Sister Carlene Wrasman, who is the official head of Campus Ministry.

Among the faculty is Father Glenn Kohrman. Although he has taught theology in the past, I was informed that this semester he taught mathematics. Father Glenn is a graduate of Purdue, where he obtained a graduate degree in engineering.

We discussed a number of important issues, and I found the visit very productive. Dr. May spoke, as he had in my previous visit, about his deep appreciation for being part of the delegation of educators from our Catholic schools and dioceses who met with Pope Benedict XVI in his visit to this country, just over one year ago.

A visit to Goshen College

Earlier in the same week, I had a different kind of a visit to Goshen College. Goshen, as you probably know, is a Mennonite school. I raced across from South Bend, arriving just as Morning Prayer was begun. After a hymn and introduction from Mr. Bob Yoder, the campus minister, I talked about the Year of St. Paul and St. Paul’s devotion to the theology of the cross. Afterwards, Dr. James Brenneman, president of Goshen College and a distinguished biblical scholar, made a most gracious speech of welcome. He said that he considered himself a low-church Catholic or a high-church Mennonite. He presented me with a beautiful edition of the Bible, which included a portion that he, himself, had translated.

Later, I met with him in his office, and found out that he is both a distinguished biblical scholar and a scientist. He has a doctorate in both disciplines. We talked theology and biblical studies, and it was easy to see his own great respect for the Catholic Church and its teaching. He told me how much he welcomed the Catholic ministry at Goshen. This is under the direction of Mary Glowaski, our diocesan director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry. It was pioneered by Linda Furge and Sister Margaret Michael, CSC; along with Sister Jacinta Kecevic, OFS; Maria Pirrie; and others. Dr. Brenneman told me how much he appreciated the presence and work of Lupita Zepeda, who is currently the leader of the Catholic ministry at Goshen. I am also grateful to Father Chris Smith, pastor of St. John, Goshen, who has a strong presence at the college. About 5 percent of the students at Goshen are Catholic. Later, after meeting with those who work in our various colleges, I celebrated Mass for a group of 30, and had a most pleasant lunch.

Catholics and Mennonites have a painful history with some difficulties in the Middle Ages, but that was certainly not evident in this pastoral visit.

The result of prayers

I interviewed and accepted two candidates for the priesthood this week. One was from Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne, and the other from the small parish of St. Francis Xavier, Pierceton. This brings us to five, the number of young men who have been accepted for the seminary this year. I have no doubt that this is the result of all your prayers.

Always more meetings

A wonderful meeting with the Presbytery Council this past week. Among those things we discussed were: the Year of the Priesthood, which has been declared by Pope Benedict XVI, and will begin on the feast of the Sacred Heart. Also, an excellent discussion on the place of the tabernacle in the church. After consulting with the council, I will be preparing a document on this to be released soon. Also, a sharing about whether or not a reflection should be allowed at the end of a Mass of Christian Burial. The priests, all of whom are pastors, had very strong and highly appropriate advice on this matter.

Also, I was at a meeting of an excellent group of laity and priests, who give advice on endowments for our parishes and schools, called the Catholic Community Foundation, which is under the chairman-ship of Father Tony Szakaly, CSC. This excellent endorsement, if we can keep it growing, will strengthen our schools and parishes and other institutions for the future.

It was also my privilege to celebrate Mass at Saint Joseph Hospital, Fort Wayne, on the exact day 140 years later when Bishop John Luers established Saint Joseph Hospital by purchasing an old hotel.

Welcome Lou.

On June 2, my good friend Lou Holtz, former head football coach at Notre Dame, will be the guest speaker at a fund-raising event for the Women’s Care Center, which takes care of babies before and after birth. I will tell you more about this event next week. Tickets may be obtained by calling the Women’s Care Center in Fort Wayne at (260) 424-9377.

See you all next week.
lead to tragedies such as this," he said.

Pope Benedict’s May 11 visit to the memorial came after a period of Catholic-Jewish tension, following the pope’s lifting of the excommunication of a traditionalist bishop who publicly minimized the extent of the Holocaust. After sharp criticism from many other leaders, the pope reaffirmed his dedication to improving Catholic-Jewish ties.

Gisela Hargil, 70, was one of six Holocaust survivors invited to meet the pope at the memorial and, although she said she is indebted to a Catholic for her survival, she also said she hesitated going to the papal event.

Hargil said she hesitated because the pope, as a boy, was a member of the Hitler youth movement, an enrollment that he has said was obligatory. Hargil also said she was not happy about Pope Benedict welcoming back into the church Bishop Richard Williamson, a member of the Society of St. Pius X who had denied the extent of the Holocaust.

“The pope said (he) made a mistake (about Williamson) and that is a big thing," she said, explaining why she finally decided to accept Yad Vashem’s invitation.

“I love my life to Catholics and to the Poles who saved me," said Hargil.

At Yad Vashem, the pope, who lived under the Nazi regime in his native Germany, did not analyze the specific causes of the Holocaust. Instead, he focused on the remembrance theme of the Holy Land.

“Christians. “The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent: They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness,” the passage began.

One of the survivors the pope met was 13-year-old Edward Mosberg, told reporters afterward that the meeting was very emotional.

“I told the pope that he was born in Germany, but I don’t look at him as a German; I look at him as a human being and head of the Catholic Church and I give him my respect,” Mosberg said.

“We would like to accept Yad Vashem’s invitation. I feel the same emotions about meeting with him (as a Catholic would), but I know how to respect and conduct a respectful visit,” said Mosberg.

Bonyd was born in Prague, in what was then Czechoslovakia, in 1923. After the German occupation a 12-year-old Naquin went to work as a farm laborer. Later she was interned in the Nazi-run Terezin Ghetto and in 1943 was transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. From there, she was sent to a number of work camps; when the camps were liberated, she was sick with typhus and weighed only 77 pounds.

Following her recovery she returned to Prague and, with the establishment of Israel in 1948, she immigrated.

Bonyd has written numerous books and historical works about the Holocaust period and Czech Jewry. She has won various awards for her writing and translation works.

Along with the survivors, Pope Benedict was introduced to Ivan Vranetic, 82, who said meeting the pope made him feel excited like a little boy, in 1978 Notre Dame graduate and former board chairman of the Women’s Care Center, Dr. David Solomon, director of the Notre Dame Center for Ethics & Culture, chair of the steering committee for the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life; Holy Cross Father David Miscamble, a professor of history at Notre Dame; and Lacy Dodd, a 1999 graduate of Notre Dame and member of the board of directors for Room at the Inn.

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“I don’t know about you, but I’d much rather pray to our Lord and listen to Father John Rapha, a 1998 graduate of Notre Dame and principal of St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, La; Elizabeth Naquin, a 1978 Notre Dame graduate and former board chairman of the Women’s Care Center; Dr. David Solomon, director of the Notre Dame Center for Ethics & Culture, chair of the steering committee for the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life; Holy Cross Father David Miscamble, a professor of history at Notre Dame; and Lacy Dodd, a 1999 graduate of Notre Dame and member of the board of directors for Room at the Inn.

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While some members of the Notre Dame faculty and staff are excited to hear Obama’s commencement address at the Joyce Center, others who are in support of their Catholic teaching.

Political science professor Tara M. Lavalle is expected to take part in the day of prayer.

“My reason for doing so is simple," explains Lavalle, who is also a wife and mother of two adopted sons. "I am a Roman Catholic, and therefore, I must stand up for the worth and dignity of all human life. For me, it is not a matter of debating the merits of differing interpretations of canon law or the democratic ideals of open political debate. Rather, it is a matter of following the way of life that is mandated by my faith.

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Summer youth leadership conference features service within the diocese

By Kay Cozad

NOTRE DAME — The Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has teamed with Campus Ministry of Christ Cross College Notre Dame, this year to offer a unique leadership experience for the teens of the area. The summer leadership camp, bcS-Servant Leadership, to be held at Holy Cross College from July 21-25, will feature service projects in the local area.

bcS-Servant Leadership, says Cindy Black, director of the Office of Youth Ministry, is a “mission trip in your own back yard,” and open to all high school students in the diocese, including incoming freshman and seniors. The retreat offers opportunities to develop gifts and talents as a servant-leader and investigate Catholic teachings in the context of prayer and community.

The distinctive title of the mission trip, bcS-Servant Leadership, hopes to call youth to “be” Christ (bX) and “see” Christ (cX) in those they serve. X is the ancient symbol for Christ.

Benefits of the local proximity include opportunities to build long-term service relationships with local agencies and organizations and ensuring the understanding that service is not just a trip abroad but a lifelong attitude. The low cost makes the trip, in these economically challenged times, more affordable.

The mission trip will begin Tuesday evening with check-in and a session on service and Catholic social teaching on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Reconciliation, prayer and eucharistic adoration will follow. Wednesday through Friday the students will work with local agencies or organizations each day.

The first evening on campus, July 21, the students will have time for prayer, eucharistic adoration, participation in and celebration of the sacraments and small group discussion.

“Tine need to process and share their experiences. They’re not just doing jobs that are fun but are true servanthood,” says Black. Projects, seminars and lay ministers will be on hand to facilitate the sessions. Praise and worship music will be provided by a band from Kentucky.

Of the retreat opportunity Black’s hope is to “go deeper into a relationship with Christ — be rooted in him to serve as he calls.”

Saturday morning, the students will attend a special closing Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy followed by a picnic for family and agency members the students worked with throughout the week.

The students will truly be following Christ when they are asked to turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones, while doing service. However, they will be encouraged to create a blog in the evenings to share the experience of the mission with those who remain at home.

Black says this unique mission is new to the diocese and stems from the need to not only offer the youth opportunities for meaningful prayer, catechesis, sacraments and community, as the past two summer leadership camps have also to focus on Christian service.

“God really does provide,” says Black as she explains that she and Megan Oberhausen, assistant director of the Office of Youth Ministry, took the need for service to prayer. Oberhausen had brought the hope and mission idea from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, but a location was undetermined.

Bob Kloska, vice president for mission advancement of Holy Cross College and former director of campus ministry there, soon contacted the diocese, but youth office and together they developed the mission trip to be hosted at Holy Cross.

Black hopes that this unique service opportunity will grow and the ministry will be able to offer missions in the Fort Wayne area in the future.

“Service needs to come from the heart,” says Black, adding, “We must see Christ in those we serve. If we approach service through the eyes of Christ, we can love as he did. A life of Christian service is rooted in a relationship with Jesus Christ.”

The mission program will be funded in part by a generous grant from Our Sunday Visitor. The cost is $160 for registrations before June 1, $200 for late registrations between June 1 and July 1. Applications and registration materials are available online at www.diocesefwb.org/missions.

For more information or to offer ideas for service projects call (260) 522-4611 or e-mail cblack@fw.diocesefwb.org or moberhausen@fw.diocesefwb.org.

New campaign against embryonic stem-cell research launched

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the National Institutes of Health continued to gather comments on the draft guidelines that would permit federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops launched a new campaign urging support for ethical cures and treatments “we can all live with.”

The “Oppose Destructive Stem-Cell Research” campaign at www.usccb.org/stemcellcampaign also encourages Web users to contact Congress and NIH to express opposition to the draft guidelines.

May 26 is the NIH deadline for public comment on the draft guidelines, which would allow the use of federal funds for stem-cell research on embryos created for reproductive purposes at in vitro fertilization clinics and later discarded.

The home page for the bishops’ new campaign outlines the reasons that the proposed guidelines are considered unacceptable and provides links to USCCB resources on stem-cell research.

In a video on the site, Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said the U.S. bishops “will be writing to Congress and the administration about the need to restore and maintain barriers against the mistreatment of human life in the name of science, and we urge other concerned citizens to do the same.”

The campaign Web site says the proposed guidelines, drawn up after President Barack Obama’s March 9 executive order reversed the Bush administration’s prohibitions on stem-cell research involving the destruction of human embryos, “would — for the first time — use taxpayer funds to encourage the killing of embryonic human beings for their stem cells.”

The campaign also features three new ads for Web and print use, each focusing on the advances made in stem-cell research that does not involve the use of embryos.

“Embryonic stem cells have been hyped,” says one of the ads. “But it’s the adult stem cells that are showing hope.”

On the campaign Web site, the bishops said members of Congress and the Obama administration have plans to expand stem-cell research. “They want to obtain stem cells by destroying human embryos specially generated for research through in vitro fertilization or cloning procedures — a ‘create to kill’ policy,” they said.

BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL 2009 SUMMER CAMPS

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Wrestling June 8-10
Track June 8
Boy’s Soccer June 16-19
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Dance June 24-26
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From guest to parishioner, mentor family eases transition

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — In the fall of 2007, a Stewardship Advisory Board was formed to investigate ways to improve stewardship within the parish. According to Betsy Quinn, director of evangelism and stewardship at St. Pius X, a strategic plan for stewardship was developed in January of 2008 that included expansion of the new parishioner welcome ministry. The concept of “mentor families” for new parishioners was formed from the plan and in the fall of 2008 the first training program for this ministry was held.

To ease the transition from guest to new parishioner, there are several phases in new parishioner welcome. The first step is registering with the hospitality ministers after a Mass or with the parish secretary, Leona Wigent. Once registered, new parishioners receive a packet that includes a welcome letter from the pastor, a staff listing, site map, parish directory, school brochure, quarterly newsletter, stewardship information, counseling information from a local counseling center and a refrigerator magnet printed with the church’s phone number, Mass times and Web site.

Subsequently, the name of the new parish family is forwarded to a committee who call and welcome the family and to Quinn who offers the new parishioners the opportunity to participate in the mentor family program.

Established parish families who want to participate as a mentor family attend a training meeting where objectives of the program are explained. Discussion includes understanding the importance of welcoming and hospitality in the parish, establishing an initial relationship with the new parishioner family through personal contact, attending new parishioner gatherings with their assigned family and engaging the family in the life of the parish.

Each mentor family commits to the ministry for one year and may be assigned a new parish family each quarter. The mentor family is encouraged to communicate and socialize with the new parishioner family throughout the year.

“Whether sending a card, calling, or e-mailing, the mentor family is encouraged to stay in contact with the new parish family,” Quinn explains. “The mentoring family may ask the new parishioner family if they would like to meet on doughnut Sunday or the pancake breakfast after Mass and talk. At Easter or Christmas the mentor family might ask the new parishioner family which Mass they will be attending and remind them to get there early for parking,” she adds.

The mentor family and new parishioner family initially meet at the new parishioner gatherings, which are held quarterly at the church. During the gathering the families go on a tour of the building, meet together for Mass, and have a dinner afterwards where the mentor families are also present at the dinner to welcome them.

Kate and Mike Mannor, who became new parishioners at St. Pius in December 2008, recall being initially overwhelmed by the size of the St. Pius community. But their fears were eased by the outpouring of love they witnessed following Mass.

“After Mass there were mobs of people standing around and talking, hugging and laughing so much that it took forever just to get to the door. We knew right away that something great was happening in this parish,” Kate recalls.

The Mannors’ mentor family, Sally and Dave Flask, have helped their family feel welcomed. “The Flasks were there with us for a tour of the church and facilities. They helped keep the kids happy and entertained while my husband and I paid attention to the details of the tour,” says Mannor. “These things all helped us to feel very comfortable, and helped us feel like this was our new parish sooner than expected.”

Additionally the Flasks encouraged the Mannors to become involved with church ministries.

“We have both attended Christ Renews His Parish retreats and through these experiences have continued to build new bonds with other parishioners. In just this short time, I’d say we are already shifting from just a ‘mentor family’ link with the Flask family to ‘good friends’ in a great parish,” Mannor exclaims.

On the “mentoring” side of the ministry, the Flasks also enjoy the new friendships that have evolved from their involvement. Sally Flask is encouraged by the expansion of new parishioner welcome found in the program. “It seemed like a natural fit for our parish and frankly, we were amazed that no one had thought of it before,” she notes. Flask recalls that being in a new area or church can be very stressful and is hopeful that this new ministry will help to allay some of those fears.

“We remember what it’s like to be the new family with no connections, just another set of faces in the pews. We want to help new families achieve that feeling of belonging that comes with knowing you are part of a community that cares, shares and worships together.”
Nearly 25,000 celebrate 75 years of church growth in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Diana Torres’ voice resounded with the nearly 25,000 other worshippers at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis May 3, thanking God for the blessings bestowed on the Catholic Church in central and southern Indiana for 175 years. "It's amazing to see this many people in one area for God," said Torres, a member of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis, who came to the anniversaries celebration as a confirmation sponsor for her niece, one of the more than 2,300 youths and adults confirmed during the Mass. About 200 couples were honored for 50 or more years of married life and religious jubilarians were praised for their many decades of faithful ministry and consecrated life. The readings and prayers during the Mass were in English, French, German, Igbo, Italian, Korean, Latin, Latvian, Spanish and Vietnamese, reflecting the many cultures of the Indianapolis community. "You don't realize how many Catholics and how many different cultures there are. It means unity, family and community. There are no barriers here," Torres told The Criterion, archdiocesan newspaper of Indianapolis.

Pope condemns anti-Semitism, prays for interreligious harmony

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Reaching Israel, the country at the heart of his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Pope Benedict XVI condemned anti-Semitism and prayed for a new era in which all believers in the one God would live in peace and treat each other with respect and justice.

In his arrival speech May 11 at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, the pope praised President Obama that Israel's prophecy would be fulfilled and all the peoples of the world would walk along God's paths — "paths of peace and justice that lead to reconciliation and harmony." The pope was welcomed at the airport with warm handshakes from Israeli President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as well as the greetings of other government officials and representatives from Israel's Jewish and Muslim communities. At a reception in the garden of the president's residence in Jerusalem that afternoon, Pope Benedict said, "I pray daily for a peace born of justice that will allow all to return to the Holy Land and the entire region, bringing security and renewed hope for all." 

Majority of Americans rely on faith in economic downturn, poll says

HUNTINGTON (CNS) — In a recent poll, a majority of adults said their faith will help them weather the country’s continued economic downturn and more than half said they believe personal actions can play a strong role in helping to turn around the economy. The survey, for which results were made public May 4, was conducted online in March by Harris Interactive, a national polling company, on behalf of Our Sunday Visitor, a Catholic publishing company in Huntington. The survey polled 2,315 adults 18 and older. In the poll, 70 percent of respondents agreed with the statement: "Strong faith is one of the most important elements to help one persevere through an economic crisis." When asked how the economy has impacted their spirituality or their personal lives, less than 10 percent said they changed the amount of time they attended religious services, sought counsel from church leaders or read more spiritual or self-help books. Only 2 percent said they had lost faith in God or a higher power during the economic downturn.

Priest removed from parish, radio ministries overtold photos

MIAI (CNS) — The Miami priest suspended from his parish and Catholic radio posts after photos of him with a woman on the beach were released by a tabloid magazine said he had a romantic relationship with the woman for about two years and is in love with her. Father Alberto Cutie, who had been administrator of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Miami Beach and general director and president of Pax Catholic Communications, spoke about the unnamed woman in a May 11 interview with “The Early Show” on CBS television. The photos of the Cuban-American priest — dubbed “Father Oprah” because of the advice he gives to couples on Spanish radio and television — were published in the Spanish-language magazine TVNotas May 5. Father Cutie opened the “Early Show” interview with apologies to the Catholic community, Miami Archbishop John C. Cavadora and his fellow priests for his actions, which he called “irresponsible” and “stupid.” “I don’t support the breaking of the celibacy promise,” he said. “I understand fully that this is wrong.”

Catholics asked to pray for a nation on path to a ‘culture of death’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The prefect of the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature at the Vatican told about 1,500 Catholics May 8 that they must pray for the U.S. political leadership to change course from policies leading the nation into an “anti-life” and “anti-family” culture. During the sixth annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington, U.S. Archbishop Raymond L. Burke also called the prospect of the University of Notre Dame granting President Barack Obama an honorary degree “the source of the greatest scandal,” and questioned the Indiana institution’s Catholic identity for honoring a politician who supports legal abortion. Archbishop Burke, former archbishop of St. Louis, expressed his disapproval that a majority of U.S. Catholic voters cast their ballot for Obama in last November’s election and said they should reflect on the direction the country has taken since he has been in office. He mentioned a policy that allows funding for overseas family planning groups that provide abortions and moves by several states to make same-sex marriage legal. He called on U.S. Catholics to have “open eyes to the gravity of the situation in our nation” and to be “clear and uncompromising” in a mission of ridding the country of the “great evils of contraception ... and so-called same-sex marriage.”

Catholic universities put potential speakers through vetting process

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Commencement season has arrived and the controversy over President Barack Obama’s scheduled address at the University of Notre Dame’s May 17 graduation ceremony has drawn a spotlight onto the end-of-the-year festivities at Catholic colleges nationwide. Though officials at some U.S. Catholic universities and colleges have said Obama would not have made it through their selection process to receive an honorary degree or serve as commencement speaker, others said he probably would. All those interviewed by Catholic News Service said candidates considered to deliver the commencement address at their college — or to receive an honorary degree — must meet specific criteria. “We do respect President Obama for the position he is in, and if he would be so inclined to come here to discuss issues of the day, we would love to have him here for an academic exercise,” said Rosalie Mirenda, president of Neumann University, a Catholic institution in Aston, Pa., that recently achieved university status. “But he probably wouldn’t make it through the vetting process we have for selecting a commencement speaker.”

Visitng mosque, pope says believing in God means respecting others

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — To believe in God is to pray, to be merciful and compassionate, to witness to the truth and to uphold the family, Pope Benedict XVI said after visiting a new mosque in Amman, acknowledging that much of the history of Christian-Muslim relations has been marked by misunderstanding and tension, the pope said it is faith that calls people to respect each other and join together to promote the common good.

The pope visited the King Hussein Mosque in Amman May 9, the second day of his eight-day trip to the Holy Land. It was his second visit as pope to a mosque; he made history in 2006 when he entered the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey, and stood praying next to the imam. Pope Benedict said the new mosque, with its copper-topped dome and four copper-topped minarets, and other places of worship “stand out like jewels across the earth’s surface. From the moment one sets out on the pilgrim’s path, the magnificent to the humble, they all point to the divine, to the transcendent one, to the Almighty.”

ARCHBISHOP BUECHLEIN CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY MASS

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein celebrates a special Mass marking the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. At right is transitional Deacon John Hollowell. The special Mass drew a crowd of nearly 25,000.
The Office of Worship will provide Afternoons of Reflection to supplement parish retreats for extraordinary ministers of holy Communion and proclaimers of the word (lectors).

These Afternoons of Reflection will be led by diocesan seminarists. There are no registration fees for Afternoons of Reflection but registration by the Wednesday before the retreat is required.

The schedule is the following:
- Sunday, June 14, 1-4 p.m. — Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne; or Holy Cross Church, 150 Wilber St., South Bend;
- Sunday, June 21, 1-4 p.m. — Immaculate Conception Church, 319 E. Diamond St., Kendallville; or Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 225 Gilliam Dr., Warsaw.

Many parishes provide their own parish retreats. All extraordinary ministers of holy Communion and proclaimers of the word must spend some time once a year in a retreat experience. This retreat experience does not have to be a diocesan retreat. It can be a parish or even a personal retreat, if the pastor determines it will fulfill the requirement. Even those who are not involved in a particular lay ministry are welcome to register for the Afternoons of Reflection.

For a registration form visit www.diocecesfwsb.org/WORSHIP/ and click on the “2009 Afternoons of Reflection brochure” link.

Congressman Joe Donnelly to speak at Ancilla commencement

DONALDSON — Ancilla College officials have confirmed that Congressman Joe Donnelly will be the speaker at this year’s commencement ceremony, scheduled for May 9 in the Ancilla Domini Chapel.

Donnelly is the congressman for Indiana’s 2nd District, a post he has held since Jan. 4, 2007.

A member of the Democratic Party, Donnelly graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1977 with a bachelor degree in government and is also a 1981 graduate of the University of Notre Dame’s law school.

He has proven very active during his tenure as congressman, serving as a member of the Blue Dog Coalition and acting as a member of two committees that aim to meet the diverse needs of Indiana’s 2nd District: Financial Services and veterans’ affairs. He has also served on the agriculture committee.


This year’s commencement ceremony will mark the graduation of Ancilla College’s 42nd class since opening its doors to the public in 1966.

World Apostolate of Fatima honors jubilarians

FORT WAYNE — The Fatima Apostolate will honor 14 priest jubilarians, living and deceased, who have honored Our Lady of Fatima in a special way during their priesthood at a celebration scheduled June 13 at St. Jude Parish, 2130 Pemberton Dr., Fort Wayne. The rosary will be prayed at 7:50 a.m., Mass celebrated at 8:15 a.m. followed by a catered breakfast in St. Jude’s basement hall.

Following the breakfast, there will be a showing of a short DVD film featuring the late co-founder, of the Blue Army, John Haffert, interviewing Dominic Reis, in 1956, a personal witness of the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima, Portugal. Jubilarian priests to be honored and their years of service include the following: Fathers Robert Traub, Herman Schnurr (deceased), 70 years; Father Paul Miller, 65 years; Fathers Raymond Balzer and William Peil, 60 years; Fathers Paul Bueter, Thad Kwak (deceased) and Camillo Tirabassi, 50 years; Fathers Laurence Tippmann, Msgr. James Wolf and Bosco Perera, OMI, 40 years; and Fathers Steve Colchin, Paul McCarthy and Bruce Pechocki, 25 years, as well as all priests and deacons. Father Herman Schnurr served the local apostolate as spiritual director from 1991-1998.

Msgr. J. William Lester will be the main celebrant and homilist at this Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. All priests are invited to concelebrate. All are invited to meet the jubilarians, to thank these priests who said “yes” to God’s call to holy orders and who possess the power to act “in persona Christi Capitis.”

Recently Pope Benedict declared 2009 the Year of the Priest, which will begin June 19, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Reservations for the breakfast are requested before June 3 by sending name, address and $6 per adult, $3.25 per child ages 4-9 (children age 3 and under are free) to: James Monper, 8032 Westwood Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46818. For questions and information, please call Emma Monper at (260) 625-3281.

St. Anthony alumni invited to attend Lewallen retirement party

SOUTH BEND — St. Anthony De Padua Catholic School is extending an invitation to all former students, alumni, alumni parents and parishioners to join the current school community in wishing Principal Martha Lewallen well in her retirement. A party Sunday, May 31, from noon until 2 p.m. in the school gymnasium will consist of a luncheon, short program and congratulations to Principal Lewallen for 27 years of distinguished service as a teacher and principal.

Those interested may access the school Web site, www.stanthonywb.org or for more information or may RSVP to stanthonywb@gmail.com. Everyone is encouraged to send notes, pictures and congratulatory messages to lettersforlewaller@gmail.com.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth students receive Carson Scholarship

FORT WAYNE — Two students at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School and one alumnus were award Carson Scholarships. Mark Hellinger, son of Dan and Karen Hellinger, is currently a seventh grade student. Nancy McNamara, daughter of Dan and Julie McNamara, is in the eighth grade. Samantha Rahrig, an alumnus of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, has also been given this honor.

Garrett principal receives business award

GARRETT — St. Joseph Catholic School, Garrett, received the 2009 Garrett Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award.

The award was presented to St. Joseph Principal Linda Speer at the Chamber of Commerce annual dinner on Friday, April 21.

School of Creative Arts to host graduate thesis exhibition

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis will open the “Graduate Thesis Exhibition,” with works by Laura Adducci, Angela Applegate, Audrey Riley and William Eby on Saturday, May 23, from 7-9 p.m. at the John P. Weatherhead Gallery in the Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center.

This exhibition spotlights graduates who are completing their master’s programs through the School of Creative Arts.

The exhibition will run through July 1. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, please contact Amy Schreiber at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001.

Saint Mary’s College grads noted for academic success

Three Saint Mary’s College students — Rachael Johnson, Caitlin Brodmerkel and Megan Raper — are all graduating from the college with summa cum laude designation. All three girls are 2005 graduates of Bishop Luers High School and also attended St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne, from kindergarten through eighth grade.
BISHOP LUERS MATH TEAM GOES TO STATE

Academic Super Bowl teams ended their regular season on April 21 at the area meet held at Paul Harding High School. Although the area meet is the qualifying event for state, only the top six teams in the state advance to the state competition. The Bishop Luers math team advanced to the state finals on May 9 at Purdue University. This is the second math team in Bishop Luers’ five years in the program to advance to state. The team is coached by Ellen Douglas, math teacher at Bishop Luers. Team members shown are Henry Wu, Sean Driscoll, coach Ellen Douglas and Talitha Frecker. Other members of the math team not pictured are Lauren Hellingier and Michael Welling. Other teams earning a first place finish were science, fine arts and interdisciplinary.

Going the extra distance ...

Students participate in two-year Education for Ministry program are shown in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center at a recent class. The next two-year program for 2009-2011 will be offered in the South Bend area beginning in August. To learn about the Education for Ministry classes, visit the diocesan Web site at www.diocesefwsb.org/OC or call Connie Bruner at (260) 422-4611 Ext. 3351.

But Stockstader said the classes were cancelled on the nights the weather was the most difficult. There is a time commitment, especially for those outside of the Fort Wayne or South Bend area. The Syracuse carpool group would leave at 5:40 p.m. Most class nights, they would return home around 10:30 p.m.

“The classes are so interesting and enjoyable that they are definitely worth the drive,” Dockstader said. “I’m also blessed with a husband who is very supportive of this commitment, and that makes it much easier for me.”

And Dockstader offered this recommendation: “There is so much for us all to learn. I think it’s the responsibility of each of us as Catholics to be able to speak intelligently about and defend our faith. It’s always a shame when we (especially cradle Catholics) aren’t able to answer questions we’re asked by people of other religions. It weakens the church as a whole when we can’t explain what we believe and why we do what we do and it sets a poor example for our children.”

To learn about the Education for Ministry classes, visit the diocesan Web site at www.diocesefwsb.org/OC or call Connie Bruner at (260) 422-4611 Ext. 3351.
A graduation Psalm

To you, O Divine One, from whose hands
comes the work of creation, so artfully designed,
I pray that this work I am about to do
may be done in companionship with you.

May the work that I will soon begin
sing praise to you
as songbirds do.

May the work that I will soon begin
add to the light of your presence
because it is done with great love.

May the work that I will soon begin
speak like a prophet of old
of your dream of beauty and unity.

May the work that I will soon begin
be a shimmering mirror of your handiwork
in the excellence of its execution,
in the joy of doing it for its own sake,
in my poverty of ownership over it,
in my openness to failure or success,
in my invitation to others to share in it
and in its bearing fruit for the world.
May I be aware that through this work
I draw near you.

I come to you, Beloved,
with ready hands.

From “Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim” by Edward Hays
Victoria Daugherty: Carroll High School co-vedictorian

FORT WAYNE — “My faith is a guiding force in my life. I know where to walk based on the tenets of my Catholic faith,” says Our Lady of Good Hope parishioner Victoria Anne Faustina “Torii” Daugherty, who is the co-vedictorian of Carroll High School in Fort Wayne.

Outside of her activities at Carroll High School, Daugherty is very involved at Our Lady of Good Hope. “My mom and I co-founded the Amazing Apostles at Our Lady of Good Hope,” she says. “It is a special needs youth group, a group intended for individuals whose parents are not comfortable placing them into other youth group environments. We have an amazing group of apostles. They are a lot of fun and always ready to jump into whatever craft or skit we have prepared.”

Daugherty has an interest in pursuing occupational therapy studies at the University of Southern Indiana.

Her favorite classes are science. “I enjoy learning seemingly unrelated concepts and realizing that I can make connections between them,” she says. “Everything in science is inter-linked.”

And her most treasured memories include physics class experiments. Her teacher, she says, “strung a bowling ball on a metal chain and hung it from the ceiling.

He, then, had students stand against a wall, hold the bowling ball against their foreheads, let go, and not move. The ball swung away from them but then toward them again.

When the bowling ball swung back at their heads, it did not hit them. I had fun laughing at my friends cringe as the ball swung just shy at their head as I cowered in my seat, refusing to try.”

She explains, “Air friction causes a loss of energy in a system. So, more potential energy (ball at rest near forehead) existed in the system than kinetic energy (ball swinging just short of forehead).”

Outside of school, Daugherty’s interests are in horseback riding, cross stitch and leading a youth group.

Daugherty thanks her parents, “for all that they have done to bring me so far.”

Her words of wisdom to younger students: “Give your all and never be discouraged. There are no limits to what you can accomplish if you remain persistent.”

In celebration of graduating “WITH DISTINCTION” from Norwell High School

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Julie Ankenbruck

and all of the graduating seniors

in the parish family of St. Joseph, Bluffton

Julia Ankenbruck: Norwell High School, distinction

BLUFFTON — “My faith gives me motivation to strive to be a better person and motivation to help others. It has also had a huge influence on my morals and my character,” says Julia Ankenbruck who will graduate with distinction at Norwell High School in Ossian. Norwell high school does not single out vedictorians or salutatorians.

A member of St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton, Ankenbruck is involved with religious education, is an altar server, volunteers for church social events like the Lenten fish fry and participates in the blood drive.

At Norwell, “I think some of my most treasured memories from high school are times that I’ve spent with my friends. Also being the state champion for both marching band and drumline,” Ankenbruck says. Her favorite classes have been criminal justice and Spanish.

She adds, “I work a lot in my spare time, but I also enjoy dancing, hanging out with friends, shopping, spending time with the family.”

Next fall, Ankenbruck will attend Xavier University and plans to study criminal justice with hopes of pursuing a career as a prosecutor.

Ankenbruck says, “I’d like to thank my parents for setting a good example and always pushing me to strive for the best. I wouldn’t be who I am without their influence. I’d like to thank my family in general for all of their support and encouragement.”

And her words of wisdom for younger students: "I would tell younger students to follow their dreams, as cliché as that sounds. I would tell them not to let anything stop them or get in the way. I would also tell them to have fun and enjoy life. Middle school and high school can be rough, but we all get through it. Just trust in the Lord and keep your chin up. You’ll make it through.”

Nick Marchi: Mishawaka High School vedictorian

MISHAWAKA — “(Faith) is the center of my life. I owe all my talent and happiness to God,” says Nick Marchi, vedictorian of Mishawaka High School.

Marchi is a musician and plans to pursue music education and violin performance at Ball State University.

“I play violin at 11:00 Mass every Sunday,” says the St. Bavo parishioner. “I also help out on the Antioch youth retreats.”

His thanks extends to his parents, teachers, friends and God, and says his most treasured memory of high school is becoming vedictorian. His favorite classes are calculus and English.

Outside of school and the parish, Marchi listens to music and likes to “eat, sleep, watch TV/movies, hang out with friends, etc.”

In 10 or 20 years, Marchi says, “I want some type of job in the field of music and a family.”

Marchi’s words of wisdom to the younger students is a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: “Trust thyself, every heart vibrates to that iron string.”

The parishioners of Our Lady of Good Hope send congratulations and expressions of honor to Victoria Daugherty

VALEDICTORIAN

CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL

Our prayers, best wishes, and Good Hopes are extended to Victoria and all of our parish graduates.

In celebration of graduating “WITH DISTINCTION” from Norwell High School

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Julie Ankenbruck

and all of the graduating seniors

in the parish family of St. Joseph, Bluffton

She’s ready.

• She got a running start as co-captain of the Saint Mary’s College cross country team.
• She reached the finish line with a B.S. in nursing, and experience working with patients in a hospital setting.
• She’s going the extra mile as a full-time nurse at St. Francis Hospital while pursuing a post-graduate degree at the University of Indianapolis.

She’s Saint Mary’s.

Congratulations to all our graduates!

For information call (574) 284-4587 or visit saintmarys.edu.
Jessie Rose Sample: Northfield High School salutatorian

WABASH — "My faith has kept me grounded when I’ve faced challenges and temptations," says St. Bernard parishioner and Northfield High School salutatorian Jessie Rose Sample. Sample is a lector and member of St. Bernard Parish’s youth group.

Undecided about a major, Sample says she knows she wants to work with children as she pursues her education next fall at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Her favorite classes at Northfield have been home economics and chemistry. She says her most treasured memories are “retreats, adoration and the time spent with my family and friends.”

Kaylyn Troyer: Mishawaka High School valedictorian

MISHAWAKA — “My faith gives me the strength to keep on going and never give up hope because I know God has a plan for each of us and he knows what he’s doing,” says Kaylyn Troyer, the valedictorian of Mishawaka High School and member of St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka.

At St. Joseph Parish, “I help out with the parish’s vacation Bible school. I also am a eucharistic minister for the Antioch youth Masses, which are held at St. Bavo.”

The things Troyer treasures most about high school include “retreats, adoration and the time spent with my family and friends.”

Physics and calculus are Troyer’s favorite classes in high school.

Outside of academics, Troyer says, “I like to listen to Christian music, read, play ultimate Frisbee, and just spend time with my family and friends.”

She will be heading to the University of Notre Dame next fall pursuing a degree in computer engineering.

Troyer says, “I would like to thank my parents, family, friends and God, who gave me the grace to make it to this point.”

And 10 or 20 years from now, Troyer says, “I envision myself possibly being married and helping out with youth ministry, but I’m open to whatever God’s plan for me is.”

Her words of wisdom for the younger students: “Never give up hope because every day holds new possibilities, and always remember that God is walking with you on every step of your journey.”

Nikolaus Kleber: Bishop Dwenger valedictorian

FORT WAYNE — “My faith gives my life meaning. God has given me everything I have, and I need to give everything I have back to God. Thus, my faith prompts me to give my fullest effort in all my endeavors ‘for the greater glory of God’ even though the task may seem pointless,” says Nikolaus Kleber, Bishop Dwenger High School valedictorian.

A parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo in Fort Wayne, Kleber has ambitions of pursuing a degree in engineering at the University of Notre Dame. His favorite classes at Bishop Dwenger have been calculus, advanced-placement chemistry, and Great Catholic Thinkers.

Of his most treasured memories of Bishop Dwenger, Kleber says, “I always valued the school Masses. The students came together physically through celebrating Mass and spiritually through receiving the Eucharist. Even football games could not unite us in such a fundamental way.”

Kleber says, “A Catholic education is priceless. The loving environment and devoted teachers alleviate the stresses of learning, and the Catholic world view gives purpose to our studies. A Catholic education helps one to become a fuller person, not just a scholar. Furthermore, we can use theology now through eternity, whereas general studies are only useful for this life.”

As for extracurricular activities, Kleber says, “I play the clarinet for the school’s marching band, pep band, and pit orchestra for the spring musical. In addition, I compete as a clarinetist in ISSMA solo and ensemble festivals. I am also an officer for the mathematics academic team, a member of the science team and a member of Knowledge Masters.”

His hobbies include collecting coins and, when time permits, playing Nintendo.

Kleber extends, first, his thanks to God. “He does not need me,” says, “yet he gives me all things out of his love, including the people I want to thank. I thank my entire family, especially my mother and father, who lovingly support me and teach me things school never could. I also thank my dedicated teachers for their superior instruction and all the priests who have administered life-giving sacraments to us at Bishop Dwenger.”

As for plans after college, Kleber says, “We make plans, and God simply laughs at them. While I do have personal ideas for the direction of my life, I can guarantee that what I stumble will not be the case in 10 or 20 years. Simply, I hope to be doing what God wants me to be doing in 10 or 20 years.”

And his words of wisdom for younger students comes from First Corinthians, “The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

Everyone at St. Anthony of Padua Parish Rejoices with all of our 2009 graduates and with Theresa McHugh - VALEDICTORIAN

Ben Hoffman Winner of Lily Endowment Scholarship parish members at Angola High School

Kaylyn Troyer Mishawaka High School Congratulations Kaylyn! You continue to amaze us! You have proven you can accomplish anything with God’s love! Good luck at Notre Dame! God Bless! Mom, Dad, AJ, Suzanne & Ryan

Olivia Lee, Bishop Dwenger salutatorian

FORT WAYNE — “I feel that my Catholic education has influenced every aspect of my high school career,” says Bishop Dwenger High School salutatorian Olivia Lee. “One of the things I have most enjoyed about going to a Catholic school has been the religion classes. I have really appreciated how the teachers integrate prayer and our Catholic faith into all the classes as well. Also, one of the most rewarding activities I have encountered has been service, which Dwenger strongly encourages, supports and makes it easy to become involved in.”

Lee adds, “I try to keep my faith in mind in everything that I do, whether its school, sports or relationships with friends and family. I just always try to trust that God has my life in his hands, and I pray that he helps guide me toward whatever he wants me to do.”

Lee is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne.

She says, “I would like to thank God for giving me so many opportunities and blessings in life. I would also like to thank my parents for sending me to Catholic schools and always doing what was best for me, even if I didn’t like it.”

Lee’s words of wisdom for the younger students is, “Never give up no matter what and work hard in everything that they do. Also, if you’re ever unsure about something, nervous, or don’t know what to do, always ask God for his help.”

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**Lauren Hellinger: Bishop Luers salutatorian**

FORT WAYNE — “I think a Catholic education gives young people a chance to practice living out and learning the faith in a comfortable setting so that the faith is strong enough to them when they must face the real world,” says Lauren Hellinger, salutatorian of class of 2009 at Bishop Luers High School. The Roanoke resident and member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne plans to study mathematics education at Purdue University with her sights set to teaching high school math or religion.

“My life would not be the same without my faith. It guides my actions and decisions every day,” Hellinger says.

She says she enjoys religion, journalism and math classes the most at Bishop Luers.

Her extracurricular activities at Bishop Luers include serving as president of Students Against Destructive Decisions and participating in soccer, swimming and tennis. She is a member of the Academic Super Bowl team, a peer tutor and teaches religious education at St. Elizabeth. Hellinger is also a Big Sister for the First Mentors program of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Other than activities at school, church and community, Hellinger likes to read, clean her home and “hang out with my friends.”

**Kara Baumgartner: Bishop Luers valedictorian**

FORT WAYNE — “The Catholic education I have received is priceless and a part of who I am. It has helped me to become stronger in my faith and taught me how to live and grow closer to God. I think that a Catholic education provides a solid foundation for students to enable them to be faithful, compassionate people,” says Kara Baumgartner, valedictorian of the class of 2009 at Bishop Luers High School.

Baumgartner is a member of St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne. “I love being involved in my faith, such as being a lector at my parish, participating in peer ministry at Luers, and helping with services like Vacation Bible School over the summer,” she says.

At Luers, journalism classes have been a highlight for Baumgartner. “I have also enjoyed my creative writing class, and my AP English class,” she says.

Baumgartner will attend Loyola University in Chicago next fall though she hasn’t decided my major.

“One of my favorite high school memories is from this year when I went on the Right to Life March in Washington, D.C.,” Baumgartner says. “There was a big group of Luers kids that went on the trip, and it was a really amazing experience.”

Of other fond memories of Bishop Luers, she adds, “There are also many little memories I will never forget, such as sipping hot chocolate at a football game, listening to the slamming of the lockers as everyone celebrated another end of the school week one Friday, cheering on with my fellow classmates at a pep assembly, and playing hide-and-seek in the school at the Junior/ Senior Knights of Faith Retreat.”

Baumgartner is involved with many activities. “I have participated in Peer Ministry, journalism, Key Club, National Honor Society, World Culture Club, Academic Super Bowl, Junior/Senior Retreat Team, freshman mentoring, Students Against Destructive Decisions, soccer, track and basketball,” she says.

Her list of thank-yous includes her parents, “for supporting me throughout these 18 years, for believing in me, for pushing me to be the best person I can possibly be.” She also thanks her little sisters, grandmother and godparents “for guiding me and always being there for me.”

And to her “extended family,” she adds, “I have been blessed with so many loving relatives, and I am so very grateful to have all of you in my life. My thanks go out to all of my teachers and coaches as well, especially to Mrs. (Eileen) Brodmerkel, who has taught me all four years here at Luers. I would also like to thank the Bishop Luers community, and the St. Joseph Parish community, two places overflowing with love and encouragement, my ‘second homes.’ To my friends: you have made my life full of laughter and even tears when we laughed too hard.”

Baumgartner’s words of wisdom for younger students: “Take the time to enjoy high school. I know it sounds incredibly cliché, but the four years really do fly by. I can’t believe it’s already over for me. I just want everybody to realize that college or whatever follows high school will come soon enough, so don’t rush through it and don’t let it pass you by.”

**Catherine ‘Katie’ Firth: Marian High School valedictorian**

FORT WAYNE — “A Catholic education not only provides students with the opportunity to grow in their faith, but also a positive learning environment where they are able to develop intellectually,” says Catherine “Katie” Firth, valedictorian of the Marian High School class of 2009.

Firth, who is a member of St. Paul Parish, Granger, says, “My faith is very important to me. I am so grateful to have a solid foundation for my life. I realize faith is a gift, so it’s important to share it, to encourage others by word and example to follow Christ.”

Firth’s favorite classes at Marian High School have been math and science, and next fall, she will be studying at the University of Notre Dame with a major in math and economics.

Firth says her favorite memories of Marian are “the time spent with good friends and important life lessons learned.”

At Marian, she was a member of the golf and swim team. “I also participated in mock trial and German Club, and served as president of the National Honor Society,” she says.

Honors have included winning Academic All-State honors, senior year; named to the Top Ten Academic All-State team; and awarded NIC Honorable Mention, senior year.

Outside of academics, she says, “I enjoy listening to music, reading, golfing, cooking and running.”

Firth says, “I would like to thank my family for supporting and encouraging me my entire life, and more importantly, for challenging me to become the best person I can become.”

In 10 or 20 years, Firth says, “I envision myself being happy.”

And she concludes with these words of wisdom for younger students: “I would encourage younger students to try to find and maintain balance in their lives. The temptation to become absorbed in one thing (or in many cases, too many things) is enormous, and finding that balance is key to being a well-rounded, happy person. Enjoy the freedom of your youth while you can.”
Michael Urda: Marian High School co-salutatorian

MISHAWAKA — “The value of a Catholic education is that it’s an education centered on the truth of Christ, which is the ultimate truth,” says Michael Urda, salutatorian of the Marian High School class of 2009. “That puts things into perspective and gives every-thing else you learn a real foundation. When you receive a Catholic education, the faith becomes an integral part of who you are — not something separate.”

A member of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend, where Urda attended school from kindergarten through eighth grade, he notes that he was baptized by Bishop Joseph Crowley.

“My Catholic faith is at the center of my life,” he says. “The faith that I learned at home, at St. Matthew’s and at Marian is a part of every aspect of my life and informs every decision I make.”

At Marian, Urda says, “I’ve really enjoyed almost all of my classes at Marian.” Particular favorites are history, biology, four years of German, Greek class and Father Dan Scheidt’s “Great Catholic Thinkers” class.

Urda will attend the University of Notre Dame in the fall. He intends to major in classics — Latin and Greek — with hopes of following in the footsteps of his dad, brother and sister — and become an attorney.

Urda says, “At Marian, my extracurricular activities have included being a member of National Honor Society, as well as a four-year member of the Varsity Quiz Bowl Team, Junior Statesmen of America, and the German Club. I’ve also been an altar server all four years and a lector during my senior year. Quiz Bowl has been my favorite extracurricular. It’s very fast-paced, and I love competing against teams from the other high schools. Mr. Andrzejewski has been a great coach, leading our team to the city championship two years ago and to the state tournament each of the last three years. I’m really going to miss it.”

Urda adds, “Outside of Marian, my primary extracurricular activity has been Scouting. I’ve been in Scouts for over 10 years. This past summer — my last as a Boy Scout — I helped build an outdoor shrine for the Blessed Mother at Marian and went on a backpacking trip with my dad and other members of our troop to Philmont Scout Ranch in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico. It was a great way to end up.”

In his free time, he says, “I enjoy reading, playing the piano, juggling, following the Cubs, Bulls, Bears, Blackhawks and Notre Dame, going to movies with my friends, and spending time with my brother and sisters and my mom and dad.”

His notes of thanks are to his parents, brother and three sisters, “for being so great to me and so supportive.”

He adds, “I’m also especially grateful to Father Michael Heintz, Mr. Steve Dance, and Mrs. Julie Considine, and to our principal, Carl Loesch, and my teachers — particularly Mr. Andrzejewski, Mr. Tricker, Frau Cunniff, Mr. McCauley and Father Dan Scheidt — for their encouragement. And thanks, of course, to my friends, who have made the good times better and the not-so-good times bearable.”

Urda has these departing words of wisdom: “Be good to each other. Be nice to your parents. Always try your hardest to do your best. And, in the words of Winston Churchill, ‘Never, never, never, never quit.’”

MICHAEL
URDA

Congratulations to the alumni of
St. Joseph - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Schools

Bishop Luers Valedictorian
Kara Baumgartner

Bishop Luers Salutatorian
Lauren Hellinger

Bishop Dwenger Salutatorian
Olivia Lee

We are very proud of you and all of our graduates.

You will always be a part of the
ST. JOSEPH - ST. ELIZABETH FAMILY

Best Wishes to
Johnathon
Warble

Bishop Luers
High School 2009

With love from,
Nanny, Mom,
the Rossiter family,
the Pat Denice family,
and the Gooch Denice family

THEO RANDALL, Asst. Professor of Sociology & Anthropology
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-SPRINGFIELD, M.P.H., UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, PH.D.
ANTHROPOLOGIST | STUDIES HUMANS | CREATES SCHOLARS

GET TO KNOW US

Michael Urda: Marian High School co-salutatorian
Elise DeBuysser: Marian High School co-salutatorian

MISHAWAKA — The value of Catholic education at Marian High School is that “it instills a good sense of moral values,” says Elise DeBuysser who is the salutatorian for the class of 2009. “I always try to be a good person,” she adds.

The South Bend resident will head to Stanford University in the fall to pursue studies in environmental science, especially in the areas of water policy and conservation.

“I love going to the beach and hiking the dunes, any outdoor sport, chilling with friends at the coffee house,” says DeBuysser of her favorite ways to spend time.

At Marian, she founded and served as president of the Environmental Club, an organization active in recycling, conservation and education. She is also a member of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, a research assistant at Notre Dame’s Center for Aquatic Conservation, is a member of the National Honor Society, plays classical guitar and participates in Reins of Life and the recently formed “Spotlight Dance Club.”

These have all brought about some of her favorite memories of Marian: “getting involved in great opportunities; getting stuck on the parking lot hill; driving my friend home in a snowstorm; learning ballroom dance; meeting great people; and finally feeling comfortable being myself.”

DeBuysser’s awards include being named the Senior of the Month, winning a gold medal in the National Latin Exam, earning first place for her piano solo and first place for her musical composition at ISSMA, as well as numerous awards for her science research project. She served as Marian’s ambassador to the HOBY Leadership Conference at the end of her sophomore year.

Her favorite classes at Marian have been advanced-placement physics and Latin.

DeBuysser thanks, “all of the teachers and staff at Marian, the Lodge Lab at Notre Dame, and my family especially.”

After college, DeBuysser says, “I would like to work locally and internationally to help preserve our resources (especially the Great Lakes) through policy and diplomacy. Twenty years (into the future) seems like a long time to plan ahead, life is an adventure.”

DeBuysser’s words of wisdom to younger students: “Senior year is the best — the social dynamics are really chill. Get involved in what you want to do. If nothing is available, start something or go outside your school. Never get discouraged, life is a journey. I was failing chemistry when I first came to Marian, so I decided I was going to be a chef. But now I really love science and am going to a great university.”

Michael Furdyna: Saint Joseph’s co-valedictorian

SOUTH BEND — “A Catholic education provides students with a faith-guided framework that they can use to apply their knowledge throughout their lives. It enables them to excel in all they do, and do so in a Christian manner,” says Michael Furdyna, co-valedictorian of the class of 2009 at Saint Joseph’s High School.

Furdyna, a Granger resident, is a member of Sacred Heart Parish at Notre Dame and says of his faith, “My faith is a source of strength, comfort, guidance and motivation for me, and I try my best to keep it in mind in all I do.”

Favorite classes at Saint Joseph’s include those in the science and math departments, with advanced placement calculus and advanced placement biology the most exciting for the co-valedictorian. Furdyna was also active in tennis, the Quiz Bowl and GREIA tutoring, among other activities. In his spare time he enjoys reading, playing trivia games, listening to music and hanging out with his friends.

Furdyna will attend University of Chicago with a major in biologic sciences. He hopes to enjoy a career as a doctor in a medical practice or in medical research.

Of the many memories he has of his high school years at Saint Joseph’s Furdyna says, “My most treasured memories are those of the end your work will be worth it.”

Renula Mitra: Saint Joseph’s co-valedictorian

SOUTH BEND — “The rigor of a Catholic education prepares students for higher learning,” says Saint Joseph’s class of 2009 co-valedictorian, Renula Mitra, who adds, “My faith provides me with strength and reassurance when I’m under pressure, and it helps me maintain a balance in my life.”

Mitra, a Granger resident, plans to attend Williams College to study economics and media studies.

While a student at Saint Joseph’s Mitra enjoyed most of her courses, but says favorites include English, film studies, math, economics and French. This well-rounded student was active in fencing, tutoring and playing the piano as well, and had a passion for her membership on the Fed Challenge team.

Outside leisure activities include playing in a rock band. She says, “Outside of that, I love to read, listen to music, watch movies and hang out with my friends.”

Of her high school experience Mitra cherishes many fond memories and says, “Several humorous experiences in the classroom, long nights talking with my friends and working on scripts, and excited pursuits in creating projects are some of my treasured memories.”

For those memories she has so many people to thank and says, “In particular, I would like to thank my parents for their undying support and guidance. They have sacrificed a lot for me, and I am so grateful and blessed to have them as my parents. In addition, I would like to thank some of my teachers for their support, inspiration and devotion to teaching.”

With her future wide open, this co-valedictorian shares these words of wisdom for other students, “Never study and work hard just to beat another person; do it for your own satisfaction, development and passion.”

Congratulations to Carroll High School Valedictorian Tori Daugherty

• Co-founder and leader of Amazing Apostles
• Parishioner - Our Lady of Good Hope
• Volunteer at Turnstone
• Equestrienne
• Future Occupational Therapist

Thank you Carroll High School and hello to The University of Southern Indiana

Congratulations on your hard work, being a great sister, a good Catholic role model and a wonderful daughter. We love you...

Mom, Dad, Bryan and Philip

Congratulations to BISHOP DWENGER GRADUATES

Mary Black and Addi Tomlinson and Best Wishes as you enter Purdue University...GO BOILERS!

Your Aunt Lois is very proud of you.
**Brian Huang: Saint Joseph’s salutatorian**

SOUTH BEND — “A devout Catholic with a clear understanding of the faith and the mechanics of its defense is a better witness than the most eloquent of speakers,” says Saint Joseph’s class of 2009 salutatorian, Brian Huang, of the value of his Catholic education.

His faith has seen him through and he says, “My faith is inextricably tied to my very identity. Raised all my life in a Christian household, sometimes it can be hard to single out its influence. Especially in recent years, when my own will and strength would have failed me, it has given me the power to continue.”

Huang, a resident of Granger, is undecided about the college he will attend but his intent is to study biochemical engineering with his sites set on earning a doctorate in biochemical or biomedical engineering to engage in cutting-edge research.

At Saint Joseph’s Huang particularly enjoyed his “classes with Mr. Wojtowicz, apologetics with Mrs. Wales, macro and microeconomics with Mrs. Chismar, and biology with Mr. Carrier.” He participated in a wide range of extracurricular activities including tennis, quiz bowl, mock trial and Fed Challenge, but the most significant, he says, was his musical studies. “I’ve been a violinist for nearly 15 years now and have only recently, during my high school years, begun to appreciate the blessing of music. Today, it is an enjoyable pastime and expression of my soul, all wrapped into one,” he says.

The close-knit community at the high school was a driving force for the salutatorian. He says, “One of the greatest parts about an education at Saint Joe is the amazing community. The support of my friends and teachers helped to sustain me through my weakest moments. I particularly remember hanging out with my friends at Lulu’s café, taking a load off from a particularly trying week. We were playing a game in which we thought of five adjectives to describe each person’s greatest strengths in the eyes of the others. When they chose my five, I was completely blown away. It remains, to this day, one of the most encouraging memories of my life.”

For that and so many cherished memories, Huang offers heartfelt thanks to “my parents for raising me, my teachers for educating me, my friends for supporting me and my brother for simply being the best ever!” His encouragement for younger students at Saint Joseph’s High School — “Whatever you want to do, start early. Even if you don’t know exactly what it is, you can always begin moving in some general direction. Success operates on a first-come-first-serve basis.”

**Serrans of Fort Wayne present Christian Leadership Awards**

FORT WAYNE — The 2009 Christian Leadership Award winners from Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers high schools attended a luncheon in their honor on May 1. The pastoral ministers, Barb Loomis from Bishop Dwenger and Sue Mathias from Bishop Luers, introduced their students and their achievements at the respective schools.

Jenna Roy, from St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, was a class officer eucharistic minister and helped start the Social Justice Club at Bishop Dwenger. She will be going to Rwanda, Africa this fall for social work and as an educator.

Nathan Maskal, from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, played for the Bishop Dwenger tennis team and was in all bands except marching band. Maskal was in several clubs and has been accepted by Bishop John M. D’Arcy to attend the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Minnesota this fall.

Jessica Allphin, from St. Therese Parish, has been a peer minister for four years, the sound system expert at Bishop Luers, made honor roll all four years and was one of the chairpersons for the Junior-Senior Retreat. Allphin will be attending the School of Nursing at the University of Saint Francis this fall.

Jacob “Jake” Ware from St. Aloysius, Yoder, has been a peer minister for three years, made honor roll all four years and was the Knights’ mascot. Ware was in several clubs at Luers. He is also an Eagle Scout and will be attending Ball State this fall in secondary education.

Of special note, Jacob Ware was the third child in his family to receive this award. The Chad and Kathy Ware family have been honored at the Serran luncheon for the last three years. They still have a freshman at Bishop Luers, and children in kindergarten and preschool at St. Aloysius.

**The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish family extends prayerful best wishes to the 2009 parish graduates of**

- Homestead High School
- Canterbury School
- Bishop Dwenger High School
- Bishop Luers High School

**and in particular to**

- OLIVIA LEE
  Salutatorian - Bishop Dwenger High School
  and
  LAUREN HELLINGER
  Salutatorian - Bishop Luers High School

**Alumnæ of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Grade School**

“May the Lord guide you in your journey”
SMC students receive service awards

NOTRE DAME — The Office for Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) at Saint Mary’s College has announced that three students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend were recognized with unique service and volunteer awards. The award winners were recognized at a dinner on April 29.

Alma Bravo of South Bend, whose intended major is nursing, will receive one of five new annual awards. Bravo was honored with the Sister Maria Concepta McDermott Award for service in education. Sister McDermott (1913-1990) was an outspoken voice for the rights of the poor.

Bravo is a first-year student who, as a Citizen Scholar, receives financial aid assistance for hours she works in the community. Bravo works at Warren Primary Center in South Bend as a teacher’s aide in two English-as-a-New-Language (ENL) classrooms four days each week.

Bravo is a graduate of Riley High School and a parishioner of St. Adalbert’s Parish in South Bend. She is the daughter of Nicolas Bravo and Rafaela Najar Bravo.

Caitlin Brodmerkel of Fort Wayne, who is majoring in nursing and biology, will receive one of five new annual awards. Brodmerkel was honored with the Sister Olivia Marie Hutcheson Award for service in the health field. Sister Hutcheson (1917–2008) was a compassionate nurse, hospital administrator, builder and spiritual guide.

Brodmerkel has worked at the Sister Maura Brannick Health Center in South Bend, which serves those without insurance and provides critical health care to those with few resources, since her freshman year, assisting with intake and patient assessment. She has also worked with the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center Outreach Program since freshman year.

Brodmerkel spent 10 weeks in Kyarusozi, Uganda, during the summer of 2008, where she worked as a nurse at a health clinic started by the congregation. She also taught health science at St. Joseph Hill Secondary School. Since returning, she has raised nearly $10,000 for the clinic in Uganda.

Brodmerkel is a graduate of Bishop Luers High School and a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne. She is the daughter of Myron and Eileen Brodmerkel of Fort Wayne.

Alicia Wilkins of Mishawaka, an elementary education major, will receive the Patricia Arch Green Award for her exemplary service to the community’s children through the College Academy of Tutoring (CAT) program at Saint Mary’s College. Green (1939-2004) graduated from Saint Mary’s in 1961 with an elementary education degree. She lived a life dedicated to serving others and believed in teaching by example.

Wilkins has given over 476 hours of her time to the CAT program over the past two years. She works as a teacher’s assistant at Lincoln Primary Center in South Bend and as a tutor at the St. Joseph County Public Library.

Wilkins also participates in the “12 Days of Christmas” initiative, the “Yes, We Can! Walk for the Hungry” and the Pen Pals program. Alicia Wilkins is a graduate of Penn High School and a parishioner of St. Bavo’s Parish in Mishawaka. She is the daughter of Tammy Wilkins.

The Faculty, Staff and Students of Bishop Luers High School congratulate the Class of 2009 who have received acceptances from the following:

- Art Institute in Indianapolis
- Ball State University
- Bluffton University
- Butler University
- Central Michigan University
- DePaul University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Franciscan University
- Indiana Business College
- Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne
- Indiana University
- IPFW
- Ivy Tech
- Loyola University Chicago
- Manchester College
- Miami of Ohio
- Michigan State University
- North Park University
- Purdue University
- St. Joseph College
- St. Mary’s College
- Trine University
- University of Illinois
- University of Indianapolis
- University of St. Francis
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Marines
- U.S. Navy
- Valparaiso University
- Warren Wilson College
- Winthrop University
- Xavier University

Abigail Kleber
IPFW
Abbie, what a fantastic 4 years of college! You have accomplished much and we are very proud of you. Love, Mom and Dad

Nikolaus Kleber
Bishop Dwenger High School
Congratulations, Nik, on your graduation - we are very proud of you. May God bless you as you start your college career at Notre Dame. Love, Mom and Dad
Is rugged individualism compatible with Christianity?

Rugged individualism has often been considered by many to be a virtue in our Western culture, especially in the United States. Another way of saying it is that independence, counting mostly on oneself, is considered a great attribute. It is the attitude that says, “I can do it myself without any help!” People are lauded and admired for reaching their goals with little or no real assistance from others. We hear it said gloriously, “She pulled herself up by her own bootstraps,” or “He started that company single-handedly.” In other words, they succeeded basically without any much assistance. They were pretty much in control. Why is it often so difficult for so many of us to ask for or accept help from others? Why do we applaud those who seem extremely independent and, in our view, can take care of themselves? Why is saying that we need another’s help too often considered some kind of a weakness? Many of us find it much easier to give than to receive. We may be very generous and great at assisting others, but find it hard to ask for help when we need it or to allow someone to do something nice for us. I think this is so because, when we are in the role of the giver, we are more in control. When we permit others to give to us we can become vulnerable. Too often vulnerability is seen as a weakness. Whether we like it or not, it is very difficult to go it alone in life. We need others and they need us. It would be very lonely if we carried out rugged individualism to the extreme. Our present world situation has shown us just how much we depend on one another. As Christians we are called to love, and true love according to Jesus involves give and take. To be part of a community is to be interdependent. There is no room for radical self-sufficiency in the life of one who follows Jesus. It is truly a gift, not a weakness, to allow others to show their love for us. We must learn to accept help graciously and be willing to help and support others when they need us. Jesus reminds us of this again and again, especially when he washed the feet of his disciples. We all need one another whether we like it or not. It would be a good exercise to sit down and reflect upon all the people, whether directly or indirectly, we depended upon in a day. Consider the farmers who grow the food we eat or the police officers who keep our cities safe. Now is the time to think of others who have an impact on your life, and be thankful for them.

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cssisters.org.

Grace for the graduate:
A leap of faith, a new beginning

Dear Graduate,
I know how you’re feeling—light-headed and faint-hearted. You’re trying to process the culmination of four long years that flew by, trying to smile prettily and keep it straight—left hand takes diploma, right hand shakes, tassel flips from right to left.

You’ve managed to master biochemistry and the sociology of the cafeteria, Professor Martin of biochemistry and the sociology department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

You’re treading in the deep end of emotion, torn between a career or no real assistance from others. We hear it said gloriously, “She pulled herself up by her own bootstraps,” or “He started that company single-handedly.” In other words, they succeeded basically without any much assistance. They were pretty much in control.

Why is it often so difficult for so many of us to ask for or accept help from others? Why do we applaud those who seem extremely independent and, in our view, can take care of themselves? Why is saying that we need another’s help too often considered some kind of a weakness? Many of us find it much easier to give than to receive. We may be very generous and great at assisting others, but find it hard to ask for help when we need it or to allow someone to do something nice for us. I think this is so because, when we are in the role of the giver, we are more in control. When we permit others to give to us we can become vulnerable. Too often vulnerability is seen as a weakness.

Whether we like it or not, it is very difficult to go it alone in life. We need others and they need us. It would be very lonely if we carried out rugged individualism to the extreme. Our present world situation has shown us just how much we depend on one another.

As Christians we are called to love, and true love according to Jesus involves give and take. To be part of a community is to be interdependent. There is no room for radical self-sufficiency in the life of one who follows Jesus. It is truly a gift, not a weakness, to allow others to show their love for us. We must learn to accept help graciously and be willing to help and support others when they need us. Jesus reminds us of this again and again, especially when he washed the feet of his disciples.

We all need one another whether we like it or not. It would be a good exercise to sit down and reflect upon all the people, whether directly or indirectly, we depended upon in a day. Consider the farmers who grow the food we eat or the police officers who keep our cities safe. Now is the time to think of others who have an impact on your life, and be thankful for them.

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cssisters.org.

Bishop Luers High School class reunion information updated

• Class of 1964 (45 year) reunion is planned for the week of Aug. 21-22. Contact person is Jack Rauch at (260) 452-2610 or jackr98765@aol.com.

• Class of 1965 — Ken Hensch will host his annual class/family reunion on Oct. 10 on his property at 4:45 p.m. The cost is $20 per person or $30 per couple. Those attending are asked to bring a side dish to share. Beer and soda are included. To RSVP, please contact Tom Schilling at tsjennyenergy@comcast.net or at (260) 625-4083 or (260) 625-6924. The fax is (260) 625-6926.

• Class of 1969 (40 year) reunion is planned Saturday, Sept. 12, at Lester’s. Contact persons Jim Nill jnill@tmcc.com or Rita Hayes rahaze@yahoo.com and Patty Shank at plsh715@comcast.net.

• Class of 1970 — Greg Bosh is interested in starting to plan their 40th reunion. To help, contact him at (260) 410-2344 or gbosh@verizon.net.

• Class of 1974 (35 year) reunion is planned for Saturday, July 11, at Brookwood Golf Club from 6-11 p.m. Contact persons are Brenda Price at (260) 456-1261 ext. 3041 or (260) 447-7780, Ed Henline at (260) 483-0759 or Chuck Litchfield at (260) 639-3352. Cost is $25 per person or $40 per couple.

• Class of 1979 (30 year) reunion is planned for Saturday, June 20. Mass will be celebrated at 3:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne. Dinner will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Reed Road from 6:30-11:30 p.m. The cost is $20 per person. Contact persons are Tess (Weber) Steffen at (260) 456-6247 or hoosiertoogd@ymail.com and Chris Andorfer-Ward at (317) 585-8826.

• Class of 1984 (25 year) reunion is planned for Saturday, Sept. 26, from 7 p.m. to midnight. Food will be provided by Casa and Nine Mile restaurants. There will be a cash bar. Contact Joe Strack at (260) 433-8995 or Dean Robinson at (260) 748-7545 or mad.donor@verizon.net for those interested in helping.

• Class of 1989 (20 year) reunion is planned for Saturday, Sept. 19, at 6 p.m. at Columbia Street West in the second floor banquet room. Classmates are asked send their favorite pictures and memories to share to contacts Maria Merz Parsenov at (260) 447-0591 or jammar96@aol.com or Arny HooK Allen at (260) 436-0992.

• Class of 1994 (15 year) reunion is planned for Friday, Nov. 27. Those interested in helping to organize the reunion should contact Bishop Luers High School Alumni Office.

• Class of 1999 (10 year) reunion is planned for Saturday, July 25, at Fire Engine House No. 5 on Broadway. Contact Gabe Ortiz g.oee77@yahoo.com or Darcey Palmer-Shultz at darcypey@gmail.com or Rachel Nix Dirig.

• Class of 2004 (five year) reunion is planned for Saturday, May 23, from 8 p.m. to midnight at Columbia Street West. Cost is $20.04 per person. Contact persons are Molly Rowan and Brittany Reher. E-mail your current mailing address to BLHS.2004@yahoo.com.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at Christina@readchristina.com.
Let the graduates have their special day

Graduation commencements serve as a means to honor the graduates of our high schools, colleges and universities who have achieved a milestone and are ready to tackle another venture in life. In essence, it’s the graduates who we honor. Indeed, it is their special day.

That is something we need to keep in mind this Sunday as the University of Notre Dame celebrates the class of 2009. Many groups from outside the university have called on people across the diocese and nation to come to campus to protest the university’s selection of a commencement speaker, U.S. President Barack Obama, who will also receive an honorary degree.

I claim the president’s record on life issues — support for legalized abortion and embryonic stem-cell research, reversal of the Mexico City policy and campaign promise to pass the Freedom of Choice Act and even more recently to examine reversal of the health workers’ conscience protection clause — made him an inappropriate choice to be speaker and receive the honorary degree.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy, himself a critic of the choice of speaker, responded with a statement: “After much prayer, I have decided not to attend the graduation. I wish no disrespect to our president, I pray for him and wish him well. I have always revered the office of the presidency. But a bishop must teach the Catholic faith ‘in season and out of season,’ and he teaches not only by his words — but by his actions.”

His March 24 statement added, “My decision is not an attack on anyone, but is in defense of the truth about human life.”

“I have in mind also the statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in 2004. ‘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.’ Indeed, the measure of any Catholic institution is not only what it stands for, but also what it will not stand for.”

Just a few weeks later, Bishop D’Arcy once again addressed University of Notre Dame President Father John I. Jenkins with another statement clarifying the U.S. bishop’s statement: “I have in mind also the statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in 2004 that even non-Catholics should not be honored at a Catholic university if their policies were in opposition with church teaching.

Critics of Bishop D’Arcy have claimed everything from “he should go to the commencement and form a dialogue with the President Obama,” to “he should do more” which includes taking the university out of the Catholic directory to other issues.

We are grateful to the bishop’s leadership on this issue. We are assured the makes that life is sacred comes from the Holy Spirit. Having been our diocesan shepherd, now in his 25th year since May 1, the bishop knows the University of Notre Dame.

Bishop D’Arcy has been a strong voice when the media spotlight came down upon our diocese. He has encouraged the efforts of ND Response, a coalition of students who have worked with the Notre Dame administration in stating their concerns and organized activities that are characterized by respect, prausyness, outspoken fidelity to the church and true concern for the good of the university.

While groups outside of the university and the diocese have threatened to “create a circus,” Bishop D’Arcy advocates that his flock work with the program and events devised by ND Response.

In just last week’s News and Notes column, Bishop D’Arcy said, “...I once again ask that everyone in the South Bend area stay away from the interlopers who have come here from outside to draw attention to themselves, who contribute nothing, except to divide us. Let us hope and pray that Notre Dame will have a quiet and peaceful graduation that the young people will remember positively.”

Let us stay loyal to the cause for the protection of life. In many ways we see how divided we are on the issue of life that we should all embrace and how to best express our message and the Church’s message is save life, save the right to life from conception to contraception, to the embryonic stage, to the child in the womb, to natural death. We need to unite and come to the best strategy for promoting life.

But at the same time, let the graduates have their special day. The graduation platform is not the place to debate issues.
Mother loss: It matters not at what age

For most of us, it matters not what age we are — our mother’s love remains the very essence of our lives. Mom was the one who supported us in our challenges, comforted us in our distress, believed in us when we didn’t believe in ourselves and nurtured our very souls with unconditional love and acceptance.

And for those who have lost our mothers, it matters not what age we are, we sometimes feel we have lost our anchor and our life compass.

Tamara was nine when her 39-year-old mother died of cancer. Though her father remarried, her life, she says, was changed forever.

“I still grieve my mom’s death, even now. I wonder what it would have been like to have her here for prom, graduation, my wedding,” she says wistfully as she recalls the strong mother-daughter bond they shared. She adds, “She died too soon.”

Tamara’s father ensured that she would mourn her loss in healthy ways, creating a memory box that held favorite belongings, remembering her mom on special occasions and sharing stories and feelings as they arose.

Because of the grief work she embraced, the memory of her mother continues to have positive impact on the way in which Tamara navigates life.

To mourn the loss of the one who gave you life, whether by biological birth or by receiving you into her family, I believe in the importance of remembering. Memories help us stay connected to our deceased loved ones.

Tamara recalls with joy the special outings her mother would enthrall her with. Whether it was a trip to the library to huddle together over a favorite book, a special zoo day or a simple walk in the park, she time spent together gave her a sense of belonging and of being loved. And the memories live on.

As she awaits the birth of her first child, Tamara continues to remember her mom, and knows she will take the best her mother offered her and incorporate it into her parenting. “I intend to have special times for my child and me, just like my mom did. It’s important that my child feel secure and loved,” she says.

Unlike Tamara, I had my mother until I was an adult in my mid-30s. She was my rock and my sounding board.

As my three sisters and I sat vigil around my 70-year-old mother’s death bed, we wondered how we would ever live without this courageous, bullheaded, loving woman. Now, 15 years later, I see

HOPE, PAGE 20

KAY COZAD

Called to love each other

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

6th Sunday of Easter
Jn 15:9-17

The Acts of the Apostles once more provides an Easter season liturgy with its first reading. It is an important reading, since the lesson is important.

In this reading, Peter goes to the house of Cornelius. The name suggests that he was a genteile and likely a Roman. His relatives and guests that day probably also were gentiles and Romans as well.

For devout, loyal Jews, if anything was worse than being a gentile, and of pagan stock, it was being a Roman. After all, Jews at the time were living under the crushing, unmerciful heel of Rome. Understandably, representatives of the Roman occupation especially were despised.

Yet, even these gentiles understood what Peter was saying. God was reaching to them, not only to the chosen people.

The lesson is that they understood Peter’s proclamation of Jesus, and that Peter accepted them in baptism.

When Cornelius attempts to pay homage to Peter, Peter stops him. Peter protests that he himself is only human. Peter is not God. However, he was Christ’s appointed representative and possessed power.

When Cornelius offered his house and family to God, Peter’s response is, “Your belief is my belief and your love is my love. What does this mean? From God’s very character, identity and reality, selfishness is absent. Insecurity, the root of selfishness, is absent. God has nothing to fear. He lives forever, forever giving life. So, God creates. So, God redeems.

When Christians are called to love each other, they are asked to be what they should be: pure hearted, unclouded by sin, love. Love is much more than warmheartedness of kind gestures. Loving God requires us to keep the commandments.

We humans are part of the human race, homo sapiens. Nevertheless, we are God’s children, and since Jesus was the son of Mary, a human, we are brothers and sisters of Christ in our human nature.

Created by God, with the Lord as our brother, we properly should mirror Jesus in our lives. He gave life itself on Calvary as an act of love for us and an act of homage to God. Our love must be as intense.

How can we approach Jesus? Where can we find Jesus? Christ comes to us through and in the church. In the church, in its sacraments and God’s word, Jesus lives still. In the church, the divine power given Peter still lives.

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Campion

The recent advent of swine flu (under whatever name it is referred to now) evokes memories of ancient plagues. This quiz looks at a very specific set of plagues.

1. The plagues associated with Egypt are described first in this book of the Bible:
   a. Genesis
   b. Exodus
   c. Plagues

2. The basic reason for the plagues was
   a. Moses wished to seek revenge for the enslavement of the Hebrews.
   b. to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go.
   c. to convince Pharaoh to give up Aton and worship JHWH.

3. How many plagues were there?
   a. 13, this was the origin of 13 being considered unlucky
   b. 12 — one for each tribe of Israel
   c. 10, same as the commandments

4. Both believers and scoffers agree that all but the final plague have this in common:
   a. They are all also consistent with natural phenomena.
   b. They all begin with the Hebrew letter “Joth” same as the name Jahweh.
   c. They are the same issues that the Hebrews had to deal with in the desert.

5. The first plague turned this river red:
   a. the Nile
   b. the Tigris
   c. the Red Sea or Reed Sea

6. The next included these creatures whose legs are a French delicacy:
   a. horses
   b. frogs
   c. truffles

7. This natty term may refer to a variety of insects as this is somewhat vague:
   a. dragonflies
   b. butterflies
   c. gnats

8. And this next even had its own lord, Beezebub:
   a. flies
   b. Baal
   c. nevts

9. Pharaoh was ultimately not cowed by this plague:
   a. disease of livestock, possibly a type of foot and mouth
   b. the turning of all water into wine
   c. an early version of marching bands playing incessantly

10. This hot-sounding affliction even prevented some Egyptians standing:
   a. inflammation of the heels
   b. ear wax melting
   c. boils

11. Although Egypt is regarded as invariably sunny, it does indeed, albeit rarely, suffer from this plague:
   a. global warming
   b. icebergs
   c. hail

12. The next plague was later in history a menace to the Moormen, and remains a threat to many parts of the world:
   a. the ban on polygamy
   b. locusts
   c. ants

13. This of course occurs each night, but in Egypt when it happened during the day it obscured the Aton, a sun god:
   a. the moon waxed full
   b. darkness
   c. sun devils

14. The final plague has no natural explanation. It was the death of the firstborn of every family who did not take specific precautions.

   b. slaughter of the Hebrew children by the Egyptians who were concerned about their numbers.
   c. the Black Death, which struck the Egyptians if they ventured out-side.

15. The fact that the Angel of the Lord did not inflict this on certain households gave rise to the name of the associated feast:
   a. Booths (or huts) because the Angel skipped Hebrew booths
   b. Lots, because lots of the Egyptians were killed
   c. Passover, because the Angel passed over certain houses

ANSWERS:
1. b, 2.b, 3.c, 4.a, 5.a, 6.b, 7.c, 8.a, 9.a, 10.c, 11.c, 12.b, 13.b, 14.a, 15.c
Why Bush and not Obama? The death penalty and abortion

I am having trouble understanding why it was okay to have President Bush, who supports capital punishment, speak at the University of Notre Dame and not Obama, who believes abortion should be legal. I thought the church was against abortion and capital punishment. Please have an article explaining why it is okay to have a speaker at Notre Dame who approves capital punishment but not a speaker who approves of abortion. I know I am not the only Catholic who is having trouble understanding what appears to be a double-standard. — C.A.

There needs to be an important distinction made here between capital punishment and abortion. It should be clearly noted that the church teaches today, as it has always taught, that the state has the right to inflict the death penalty on capital criminals. However, in recent times, especially because of the teaching of Pope John Paul II, our understanding has deepened of how this right is to be exercised by the state.

What ‘church’ does ND belong to?

O f all the commentary I’ve read on Notre Dame’s decision to invite President Obama to receive an honorary doctorate of laws as the university’s 2009 commencement speaker, the most disturbing came from Father Kenneth Himes of the Boston College theology department. In a Boston Globe story about Professor Mary Ann Glendon’s courageous and (correct) decision to decline Notre Dame’s Laetare Medal because the university had defied the U.S. bishops’ policy barring honors for pro-abortion politicians at Catholic events, Father Himes suggested this: “There are some well-meaning people who think Notre Dame has given away its Catholic identity, because they have been taught in the gamemanship of American higher education, bringing in a star commencement speaker even if that means sacrificing their values, and that accounts for some of this … But one also has to say that there is a political game going on here, and part of that is that you demonize the people who disagree with you, you question their integrity, you challenge their character, and you brand these people as moral poison. Some people have simply reduced Catholicism to the abortion issue, and, consequently, they have simply launched a crusade to bar anything from Catholic institutions that smacks of any sort of open conversation. I trust Father Himes is not referring here to Professor Glendon, or William McGurn of the Wall Street Journal, or Holy Cross Father Wilson, or Tamara Grimes, the Notre Dame faculty, or me — or other serious critics of Notre Dame’s decision. For if Father Himes is suggesting that any of us has demonized the president, branded him “moral poison,” reduced Catholicism to the abortion issue, or summoned a crusade to eliminate debate at Catholic colleges and universities, he is perilously close to committing calumny.

Yes, there are self-serving nuts in the forest, one of whom has seized the Obama/Notre Dame issue for their own purposes. By what does Father Himes waste time bashing fringe universities, is he perilously close to committing calumny.

This is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2267, says about it: “Assuming that the guilty party’s identity and responsibility have been fully determined, the traditional teaching of the church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.”

If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people’s safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person. Today, in fact, as a consequence of the possibilities that the state has for effectively preventing crime, by rendering one who has committed an offense incapable of doing harm — without defacing his personality — it is possible to give him the possibility of redeeming himself — the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity very rare, if not practically nonexistent.”

Ultimately, it is the officials of the state, like the president or governors, who have the responsibility of determining whether the conditions exist under which the death penalty could be imposed. Even though I think it fair to say that most church leaders would agree that the conditions, at least in the United States, do not warrant inflicting the death penalty on anyone, reasons could be offered to disagree on this point and still be good Catholics. So if the president holds that the guilty party’s identity exists under which the death penalty could be imposed, we may disagree with him about that judgment (even disagree with him vehemently), but that disagreement is itself what makes us not disqualify him from speaking at a Catholic university.

On the other hand, there is no room for such judgment in the case of direct abortion and embryonic stem-cell research. These things are always and under any circumstances evil and, accordingly, to the U.S. bishops, “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.”

So, there is no double standard here because the church does teach that the death penalty can be used under certain circumstances, but direct abortion and embryonic stem-cell research can never be used under any circumstance, and those who advocate such positions should not be honored by Catholic institutions.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne, answered this question.

The Catholic Difference

Why Bush and not Obama? The death penalty and abortion

Father George Weigel

Dame “in,” if any? ... Notre Dame is speaking and acting as though it were not a member of the local church, let alone Rome.”

That’s exactly right. There’s also a high-stakes “political game” under way here, and not the one Father Himes suggests. The Obama administration is full of very smart political operators. Reading last November’s electoral entrails, they’ve sensed the possibility of driving a wedge through the Catholic community in America, dividing Catholics from their bishops and thus securing the majority Catholic vote Obama received in 2008. And they’ve been judiciously judged that the soft underbelly of Catholic resistance to the Obama administration’s radical agenda on the life issue is the Catholic intellectuals, their presigious institutions (like Notre Dame and Georgetown), and their opinion journals — the very people and opinion centers who claimed last year that Obama was the true pro-life candidate. It’s a clever move on the church’s own turf, and baring extraordinary actions from the bishops, it will likely meet with considerable success.

HOPE

Continued from Page 19

that my mother’s legacy lives on in me and my sisters as we usher our own children into adulthood.

Since her death, we’ve gathered frequently to share stories, laugh and, yes, shed tears about the incredible woman we called mom. We see her strength in each other. But remembering encompasses both the good and the ugly. Over the years my sisters and I have spoken of old wounds and forgive ness that refreshes the soul. Some may not hold dear memories and grieve what they feel they didn’t receive from their mothers. Their mourning may include a life review as a springboard for forgiving a mom who did the best she could with what she knew.

Healthy grieving allows our hearts to move forward toward healing.

I have learned of the importance of mourning a loss just as Tamara was able to do over the years with her father’s guidance. It’s never too late to start. It matters not what age we are, remembering how your mother enriched your life can provide a compass to guide you. And forgiving old hurts will set you free. A mother’s love never dies, it remains yours for the asking.

Kaz Codz is a certified grief educator and news editor/writer of Today’s Catholic. She is author of “Prayer Book for Widows,” and can be reached at kcodz@todayscatholicnews.org

SCRIPITURE SEARCH

Gospel for May 17, 2009

John 15:9-17

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B: Jesus’ promise that we are friends, not servants. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

Sacred Scripture

TRESPASSER

FATHER

HIS LOVE

NO ONE

FRIENDS

CALLED YOU

CHOOSE

FRUIT

LOVES ME

MY JOY

GREATER

IF YOU DO

EVERYTHING

APPOINTED

WHATEVER

KEEP

ONE ANOTHER

ONE LIFE

MASTER

HEARD

BEAR

YOU ASK

APPOINTED

N O O N E I F Y O U D O

J R K L O V E S M E R G

O D E J L M F A T E R

N F E H O Y R N A I V E

E H P K T J I N N S E A

S E D I J O E O A L T T

L A U I P Y N U M O A E

I R T P D X D A D V H R

F D A L L E S S E W A

E S O H C T P K O N E E

C A L L E D Y O U N O B

E V E R Y T H I N G D P

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Lady Eagles cap ‘our year’

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Since the first practice of the season, “Our Year” has been the motto for the St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, Eagles’ girls’ soccer team.

After coaching on and off at the recreational level for more than 20 years, Coach Jim Dwire explains, “We knew this was a special group of girls two years ago when they played together as fifth and sixth graders and made it to the championship game.”

In 2007, the team lost 1-0 to the St. Charles sixth-grade team then were keys to our success.

And win a championship they did. The Lady Eagles defeated St. Vincent, 3-1, at Kreager Field on Wednesday night, May 6. The first goal came on a “Whitman to Whitman connection” with a nice cross from Mayson to sister, Annie. Megan Lee scored the second goal on another cross from Mayson Whitman. Finally, late in the game, Kelly Dwire got off the final shot from right outside the 18. St. Vincent’s goal was scored by Brea Rahrig on an impressive shot from around 30 yards out.

The Eagles’ defense was anchored by Patsy Berghoff and included Taylor Gonzalez, Andrea Choka and Kate Eifrid.

“Our girls did a fantastic job all season. Their speed and intensity were keys to our success. Everyone gave all that they had all season long and if they did have an off day, there was always someone there to back them up,” Dwire summarized.

The 2009 CYO champs’ roster was made up of 15 girls with a balanced mix of skilled club players, girls with speed and role players. Throughout the season, Dwire, along with the other Eagles’ coaches, Greg Lee and Catherine Whitman, stressed that everybody plays defense — predicting that offense wins games and defense wins championships.

“We knew it would take the combination of potent offense and stingy defense this season,” explained Dwire.

“We also had the luxury of a very good goalie in Kathleen Welling,” Dwire added.

The team finished, 10-0, giving up only five goals the entire season and recorded six shutouts.

It was a great day all around for the south side with the boys’ team from St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne/St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel also winning theCYO championship by a score of 3-0 over St. Jude. Their story will follow next week.

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ST. JOHN GIRLS’ TEAM WINS SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

The Lady Eagles of St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, defeated St. Vincent, 3-1, at Kreager Field on Wednesday, May 6, to win the CYO girls’ soccer championship. In the photo are: front row, Victoria Bernardi, Taylor Gonzalez and Megan Lee; kneeling, Kate Eifrid, Kelly Dwire, Mayson Whitman, Mary Cerajewski and Haley Stronczek; standing, Olivia Holman, Madison Steele, Annie Whitman, Patsy Berghoff, Andrea Choka, Kathleen Welling and Alexis Shifflett; back row, Coaches Jim Dwire and Greg Lee. Catherine Whitman was not present for photo.

ST. JOHN-ST. JOSEPH TEAM WINS SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

The boys’ soccer team from St. John, Fort Wayne/St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel won the Catholic Youth Organization city championship by a score of 3-0 over St. Jude. In the photo are: first row, Nick Strack, Enzo Possemato, Collin Hire, Sean McMans, Sam Stronczek, Anthony Hartle, Brenden Gonzales, Ben Oberley and David Shank; second row, standing, Coaches Joe Strack, and Mike Stronczek, Brennan Mullins, Matt Williamson, Nick Burrell, Tom Hall, Channing Williams, John Fink, Jack Sturm, Tom Carrier, Cody Rine and Coach Dan Fink.
"Battle for Terra" (Lionsgate) Ambitious animated parable, set on a distant planet that’s being invaded by aggressive refugees from earth, in which a downed human airman (voice of Luke Wilson) finds his loyalties divided when he’s befriended by one of the peace-loving, tadpole-shaped locals (voice of Evan Rachel Wood) his warmongering commander (voice of Brian Cox) is intent on destroying. Director Aristomenis Tsirbas’ feature debut is an honorable, if at times heavy-handed, cautionary tale about prejudice, violence and environmental degradation, but the battle scenes — especially as intensified by the 3-D presentation in some theaters — are too strong for the youngest viewers, and quasi-religious aspects of the aliens’ culture may require family discussion. Moderate combat violence and a suicide. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

"Star Trek" (Paramount/Spyglass) Exhilarating prequel to the “Star Trek” franchise as the youthful rabble-rousing James Tiberius Kirk (Chris Pine) forges his delinquent ways to join the crew of the Starship Enterprise, including Leonard “Bones” McCoy (Karl Urban), Uhura (Zoe Saldana), Sulu (James Cho) and Chekov (Anton Yelchin) when he’s befriended by one of the peace-loving locals. Director J.J. Abrams breathes new life into the series by skilfully balancing the well-executed action sequences with an absorbing human story, leavened with humor and optimism, and likable characters you care about, though some brief gratuitous sexuality and the use of several expletives restrict this to mature teens and up. Intense but not graphic action violence, a short but frisky bedroom scene with skimpy attire, and some crude language and a single suicide. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"The Boys: The Sherman Brothers Story" (Disney) Poignant biography of Walt Disney Studios’ most famous songwriting team — Richard Sherman and Robert Sherman — whose cheery songs for such films as “Mary Poppins” and “The Jungle Book” belied a fractious personal relationship. Directed by their sons, Jeffrey C. Sherman and Gregory V. Sherman, the well-crafted documentary — which includes interviews with Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke, Angela Lansbury and others, as well as friends and family members — attempts to trace the roots of the conflict between these two disparate personalities, and also illuminates the mutual respect and love beneath the strained surface. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, PO Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: thogan@fw.diocecesfwb.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.

FUNDRAISERS

Spaghetti dinners help Shaw family
Fort Wayne — St. Henry Community Center will host a spaghetti dinner on Friday, May 22, from 6-10 p.m. to benefit the surviving members of the Barry Shaw family. He left behind three sons and a wife when he died of cancer in April. There will be a silent auction, raffles and a band all evening. Tickets are $5 per person. Donations can be made at any Wells Fargo Bank and the Barry Shaw Fund.

Goulash dinner sponsored by youth group
South Bend — The Our Lady of Hungary youth group will have a goulash dinner Saturday, May 23, from 5-8 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets are $8 and children 6 and under are free. Presale tickets are $7.50 presale and available at the rectory or school. Carry-out available.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be Wednesday, May 27, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis Convent. The theme for the day is “We are Called, We are Chosen (con’t).” Bring your Bible. The cost is $15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, May 22, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Open house at St. Vincent de Paul
Elkhart — St. Vincent de Paul School will host an open house on Thursday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit classrooms, tour the school and meet the staff. Join the children at the school Mass at 8:15 a.m. in the church. For more information call (574) 293-8451.

Father Ken Grabner to be at Holy Cross Village with new book
Notre Dame — Holy Cross Father Ken Grabner will discuss and sign his newest book “Gazing Into God’s Open Heart: 101 Pathways to Joy” on Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m. in the Andre Place great room, 54515 St. Rd. 933 North. Lucinda Strecker-Schmidt, who grew up in the Amish church and eventually left, will also discuss her book, “A Separate God.” No admission charge but reservations are required. Books available for purchase by calling (574) 251-2235.

St. Christopher Parish, Speedway, Indiana
seeks a full-time Pastoral Associate. The successful candidate will be primarily responsible for Women’s Spirituality programs and Parish Outreach ministries, and Pastoral care.

A Master's degree in Catholic theology, sacramental theology, and Pastoral Care, or another related discipline is also required. The successful candidate must have a minimum of five to seven years of ministerial experience and demonstrate the ability to participate with the Pastoral staff to provide a comprehensive spiritual mission for the parish.

St. Christopher is an established parish with approximately 2,000 families located in the Speedway community on the westside of Indianapolis.

Interested candidates should submit their resumes and letters of reference to:

Search Committee • St. Christopher Parish
5301 West 16th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46224
or via email to
info@stchristopherparish.org

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Join a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi and Florence under the spiritual direction of Father Thom Lombardi

October 3 - 11, 2009

Visit the holy places of Rome including St. Peter’s basilica, the Vatican museums and the catacombs. Pray at the tomb of St. Peter on a special tour of the archeological excavations under St. Peter’s basilica. Receive the papal blessing during an audience with Pope Benedict XVI (depending on pope’s schedule). Walk in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare. Visit the incorrupt body of St. Rita of Cascia. Tour Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, and see its beautiful art and architecture.

Mass will be celebrated daily.

$2,529.00 per person double occupancy (plus $325 departure tax) includes round trip airfare from Detroit, breakfast and supper, full-time escort, first-class accommodations, air-conditioned tour buses, and much more. For more information and reservations contact:

Angela Scharf
Regina Tours
1-800-465-9276

On Feb. 25, a crew from the Reuter Organ Company delivered the organ, backed up by a team of parish volunteers. Everything had to be reassembled on site to fit the specifications. Installation was complete March 27 and the organ has since been in use.

This high-quality, hand-made instrument is the masterpiece of craftsmen in Lawrence, Kans. The intricacies of the pipes alone are impressive. Torched to create a marbled effect, they blend in well with the church’s architecture.

“Every part of it is built from the bottom up,” director of music and liturgy Karen Hope said. Perhaps even more remarkable than the design are the dynamics and dimension of the instrument. The former electronic organ doesn’t hold a candle to the richness of the pipe organ, Hope said.

“That one instrument can (produce a variety of sounds) is impressive,” Hope said. Echoing Hope’s comments, Msgr. Suelzer called to mind the magnitude of the organs in the cathedrals of Europe. And now in modern times, the organ still serves the same purpose: “(An organ) enhances (the liturgy) and helps us to be more prayerful,” he explained.

Another benefit of the organ is its timeless, Msgr. Suelzer organized.

“The basic design of a pipe organ is the same as 50 or 100 years ago ... so it doesn’t go out of date as soon as an electronic one,” he said.

The pipes can last a lifetime with the proper cleaning and restoration, he noted.

Beauty takes work — 6,000 or more hours of it to be exact. Hope said the in-house labor, transportation and assembly well surpass this estimation.

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New pipe organ enhances liturgy at St. Charles Church

By Lauren Caggiano

The newest member of St. Charles Borromeo’s music ministry has some great pipes.

No, the choir doesn’t have a new member. The latest addition is a pipe organ.

The organ, newly installed in April, was a “labor of love,” according to Msgr. John Suelzer. The impetus for the project was a planned gift from an unnamed donor. Msgr. Suelzer was approached by an elderly couple who wanted to bequeath their estate to parish. Their sole request was that the money be put to the best use, so it was later decided that the funds would be equally devoted to scholarships and a new pipe organ. A second and third donor later stepped forth to dedicate some money toward the project.

The rest of the project was financed through SCRIP and private donations, Msgr. Suelzer noted.

“(The donations) all came together, and we had the money to purchase the pipe organ,” Msgr. Suelzer explained. A committee formed in May 2007 to oversee the large-scale project. The committee sought the advice of organ consultant Paul Skevington. Upon his recommendation, the Reuter Organ Company was the manufacturer of choice.

“The King of all instruments,” according to Suelzer, the Reuter Opus 2237 boasts 23,000 pipes.

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