WARSAW — From a hill just west of the main north-south road in Warsaw rises a mission-style homage to the apparition of the Virgin Mary that is inexorably lodged in the hearts of Mexican Catholics.

The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe took shape in 2000 at the initiative of Bishop John M. D’Arcy and the people and staff of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Milford, who were in need of a larger worship space.

The diocese took on the building of a church for the parish as a project commemorating the millennium, according to Sister Joan Hastreiter, who credits Bishop D’Arcy with elevating the project to the construction of a diocesan shrine dedicated to the Milford parish’s patron saint.

“His concern was about the danger of pilgrims going home to visit her basilica,” in Mexico City, said Sister Joan. So it was decided that a shrine to her would be built locally, on land donated to the diocese in nearby Warsaw.

The shrine is a powerful pilgrimage destination. An abundance of large windows on the main level of the church floods the pews and the sanctuary with warmth on most days, and the sunlight reflects off of a reproduction of the tilma on which Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to the Indian Juan Diego that is prominently displayed next to the sanctuary.

In the rear of the church an octagonal baptismal font invites pilgrims to take home a sample of holy water for special blessings. For those who bring symbols of needs or thanks, a Mexican tradition, areas near a statue of Juan Diego and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe are prepared for those symbols to be hung.

Warsaw parish, shrine ready for pilgrims

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just as the human body is threatened by breathing polluted air, the human soul is threatened by images and ideas that glorify violence or the exploitation of others, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“The metaphor of the ‘impetuous wind’ of Pentecost makes one think of how precious it is to breathe clean air both with the lungs — the physical — as well as with the heart — the spiritual,” the pope said May 31 during Mass for the feast of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit, which was poured out on the disciples at Pentecost and available to every follower of Jesus for all time, is the “healthy air” of love, the pope said.

In his homily during the Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope focused on the use of wind or breath and of fire to describe the movement of the Holy Spirit in the Bible.

The pope said the image of wind “makes us think of the air, which distinguishes our planet from the other heavenly bodies and allows us to live on it. What air is for biological life, the spirit is for spiritual life.”

“And just as there exists atmospheric pollution, which poisons the environment and living beings, so there exists a pollution of the heart and of the spirit, which mortifies and poisons spiritual existence,” he said.

Pope Benedict said it is right that protecting the environment has become a priority today, but it is
Hannah’s House assists single mothers with spiritual care

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

A visit to Hannah’s House

About 16 years ago, I had the privilege of blessing Hannah’s House. On a warm Sunday afternoon, I was there for another blessing. This is a residence on a side street in Mishawaka. It is blessed in many of the single-family homes built there by the veterans who returned from the Second World War, the greatest generation, as Tom Brokaw called them.

But Hannah’s House is different from the other religious enterprises here. It is a shelter for women. I was greeted by Karen DeLucaney, who is the director of the home. It is a place where young women who have become pregnant may reside. They receive counseling, guidance and spiritual care. There are seminars on parenting and on living, on how to get and keep a job, and on other practical matters. Also, there are visitors from the medical community: doctors, nurses and mothers, on how to care for a child before and after birth.

The capacity is seven. They would like to double that and more. Karen told me that there is only one woman who is living in a truck. They do not have room at this time, but they are trying to make arrangements. The young women live in very suitable rooms, and they receive training in cooking. They prepare their meals and receive all kinds of assistance.

After the blessing, I walked the few blocks in the warm Sunday sun to a famous Mishawaka institution. I refer to Maury’s Pat’s Pub. I am told that there are a group of priests who can be found there in prayer and meditation on an occasional Saturday evening. After the prayer, they often have dinner.

I met Father Paul Doyle, CSI, who is a member of the board. He reminded me that I had appointed him, or at least recommended him, to this board many years ago. Father Paul is a man you meet on many occasions in the South Bend area — all of them pastoral. Whether it is individual spiritual direction, a team. I think he is the chaplain for the home.

Thank you for the service you provide to the community.

Comment on murder of Kansas physician

With all those who love and reverence the gift of human life, I wish to express my horror and sadness at the terrible murder of a physician, Dr. George Tiller, yesterday in Wichita, Kansas. We pray that the lost soul’s actions will be more and more rejected.

The pro-life situation has confronted us in recent weeks in ways painful and sad, but the eventual goal is to have a larger home, so please pray for this effort.

Hannah’s House stands before us in a visible and positive way of caring for mother and child, providing a home, allowing some to continue at school or work, teaching them necessary skills, and giving them what we all need — love and concern, and above all, seeing that the child is born safe and healthy.

The best catechesis I have ever seen was in the warm Sunday sun to a very famous Mishawaka institution. I refer to Maury’s Pat’s Pub. I am told that there are a group of priests who can be found there in prayer and meditation on an occasional Saturday evening. After the prayer, they often have dinner.

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Thank you for the service you provide to the community.
Catholic theologian Miguel Diaz nominated for Vatican ambassador

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Barack Obama has nominated prominent Catholic theologian Miguel Diaz to become ambassador to the Vatican.

In a statement issued late May 27, the White House announced Diaz’s nomination, along with nominees for ambassadors to the United Kingdom, France, Taiwan, India and several other countries.

Diaz, 45, is a professor of theology at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University, both in Collegeville, Minn. He is a board member of the Catholic Theological Society of America and former president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States.

Diaz served as a member of Obama’s Catholic advisory team during the campaign and was a regular campaign spokesman on Obama’s behalf, particularly in the Spanish-language press.

“I am very honored, grateful, and humbled that President Obama has nominated me to serve as ambassador to the Holy See,” said Diaz in a statement forwarded to Catholic News Service by the university. “If confirmed by the U.S. Senate I will continue the work of my predecessors and build upon 25 years of formal diplomatic relations with the Holy See. I wish to be a bridge between our nation and the Holy See.”

A native of Havana, Diaz was praised as “a leading Hispanic theologian in the United States,” by Benedictine Abbot John Klassen, chancellor of St. John’s University.

In a comment e-mailed to CNS, Abbot Klassen said Diaz “is a skilled Trinitarian theologian who is passionate both as a teacher and a scholar. He is a strong proponent of the necessity of the church to become deeply and broadly multi-cultural, to recognize and appreciate the role that culture plays in a living faith.”

Diaz would fill the vacancy created by the departure of Harvard law professor Mary Ann Glendon, who was named ambassador in 2007 and left the post in January.

The statement from St John’s University noted that Diaz earned his bachelor’s degree from St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, Fla., and his master’s and doctorate from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He previously taught at Barry University in Miami, Florida; St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Fla.; the University of Dayton in Ohio; and Notre Dame. The statement said he is fluent in Italian, Spanish and French.

The St. John’s statement said Diaz’s academic interests — besides his focus on the Trinity — also include theological anthropology and Latin American theologies.

His published materials include the book “On Being Human: U.S. Hispanic and Rahnerian Perspectives” (Orbis Books, 2002), for which he received the Hispanic Theological Initiative’s 2002 Book of the Year award from Princeton Theological Seminary. He also is co-editor of this book, “From the Heart of Our People: Latino/a Explorations in Catholic Systematic Theology” (Orbis Books, 1999).

The announcement of the nomination capped months of speculation about who Obama would select to represent him at the Vatican. In early April the Vatican press spokesman took the unusual step of shooting down persistent rumors that the Vatican had rejected several potential nominees, including Caroline Kennedy, supposedly because they support legal abortion.

“No comment,” said spokesman Fr. Federico Lombardi. The announcement also may not close the door on the possibility of other nominations. Obama has two vacancies to fill — the ambassador for the Holy See at the Vatican, and the ambassador for the United States to the Holy See. Together the ambassador and the apostolic nuncio to the United States, called Diaz “an excellent choice because he knows very well the United States and because of his background.”

Latin Americans “should be very proud,” he told CNS during a symposium May 28 at The Catholic University of America that the archbishop was attending. Coincidentally, the topic of the daylong event was the history of U.S.-Vatican diplomatic relations.

In an interview with CNS during inaugural festivities in January, Diaz said he thought “the presidency of Barack Obama represents a new opportunity for all of us” for healing.

Diaz said Obama was “committed to working” with people who defend “life in the womb” and deeply respects people who hold positions he does not agree with.

The announcement of this ministry. “Our goal is to raise $150,000 over three years and to get a larger house.”

She added, “While the vision for Hannah’s House has not changed, donations are down. We are working with the board members with a three-year plan that could help us in our work at Hannah’s House. There is good work being done, and we are hoping this plan will help us continue helping young women who choose life for their babies. Many of these young women come to us with nowhere to go and no hope. We walk side by side with them on their journey and do what we can to help each one of them.”

Currently the house has raised $26,000 toward its goal.

President of the board of Hannah’s House Kevin Anthony said of their efforts, “We are just representatives of the community who are willing to do whatever we can to help make life better for the young women that come to Hannah’s House. This is a great community, and I know we make this community better.”

Guests at the fundraiser enjoyed dinner at the restaurant along with Bishop D’Arcy and Father Paul Doyle, who is the chaplain for the House for years.

“I’m very big on right to life and all the good work they are doing,” said Coccuygi. “It’s a wonderful organization that my mother supported and believed in, so it’s important for me to do my part to help.”

To learn more about the three-year plan or to donate contact Karen DeLucenay at Hannah’s House (574) 254-5309.

Fundraiser secures future of Hannah’s House

SOUTH BEND — “Love comes first,” said Jack Mirand of Mishawaka. “Money will help, but love has got to come first.”

That was Mirand’s impression after his recent tour of Hannah’s House, which provides a haven for unmarried pregnant women.

“The five young women we met were healthy and were happy to see us,” he said. “They are doing well because of the help they get from Hannah’s House.”

A fundraiser event for Hannah’s House was held May 31 at Maury’s Pat’s Pub, which Bishop John M. D’Arcy opened with a blessing. The theme for the evening was “Blessing From Heaven. An Evening of Hope to Support Women Who Choose Life.”

Hannah’s House is founded on belief in the sanctity of life and the innate value of each person. Its goal is to provide shelter, programming and staff support for the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of pregnant young women. Karen DeLucenay is director there.

Bishop D’Arcy said of the important service Hannah’s House provides, “Karen was just telling me a story about a young woman living in a truck. She will be coming to Hannah’s House, where she can get what she needs both for her and her unborn baby.”

Board members, business owners and other members of the community gathered to learn about a three-year sustained giving plan that would help keep the House open and support its budget.

Donors would pledge amounts to be collected over the next three years.

DeLucenay spoke of the future.
On the front lines to support life
Speaker says Women’s Care Center provided encouragement

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — Lacy Dodd, a 1999 University of Notre Dame graduate, says the controversy at her alma mater is personal. A single mother who experienced an unplanned pregnancy while at Notre Dame, Dodd opposed the University of Notre Dame’s invitation to President Barack Obama as the May 17 commencement speaker and recipient of an honorary doctorate degree.

As she spoke with those gathered on the south quad on May 17, Dodd referred to a question she recently asked Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame: “Who draws support from your decision to honor President Obama?”

The pregnant Notre Dame woman — who may be sitting in this year’s graduating class — who wants desperately to understand more about her faith? Or those who, like my boyfriend at the time, tell her that the Catholic teaching on the intrinsic evil of abortion is just ‘dining room’ talk?”

Dodd continued, “I am still waiting for a response, but I think we all know what the answer is. At best, Notre Dame’s decision to honor the most pro-choice president of America is a distortion of our history, our mission, and our future.”

Dodd said she and her daughter wish to share another message with the Notre Dame administration. She said women need to know they deserve better than abortion.

“Notre Dame should be on the front lines in the fight to uphold the dignity of unborn life,” said Dodd. “Our message is that the protection of the unborn is the defining social justice issue of our day. For what is so-called justice if it does not include protection for the innocent and defenseless unborn? Our message is life!”

In addition to raising her daughter, Dodd also works with a North Carolina-area pro-life organization, Room at the Inn. “This time I was with my 9-year-old daughter. And together we thanked Our Lady for teaching us to be open to God’s will … to never be afraid of God’s will … and to recognize that there may be sacrifices and suffering … but God’s will also brings great peace and joy,” Dodd added.

Lacy Dodd and her nine-year-old daughter Mary Logan applaud a speech at the ND Response rally held on the University of Notre Dame’s campus on May 17.
Speaker tells clergy, don’t be intimidated to preach on sexual morality, abortion

Clergy, religious attend May 5 third annual prayer dinner BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — Sally Williams had a vision of the child she had aborted. She was a pretty girl, in a darling dress, about 11 months old. Williams had gone through a healing program but could not bring herself to name her baby as was suggested. Then one day she was in the grocery store and heard a mother calling out, looking for her daughter, “Genesis! Genesis!”

She never saw either one, just heard the voice, but she heard the sound of the name. So she named her lost child Genesis. Something else confirmed that. Once she was scheduled to give a talk the Lord spoke to her in her heart and said “Speak on Eve;” because although she fell, she got up again. Genesis also reminded her of how “In the beginning, God created...” which tied in to her abortion experience.

Williams was the keynote speaker May 5 in South Bend at the Third Annual Prayer Dinner, sponsored by Saint Joseph County Right to Life. Clergy and religious were especially invited and came free of charge. Seventy-two persons were in attendance including three Brothers of the Holy Cross, eight Sisters of St. Francis and several Protestant pastors.

As she continued her talk, Williams mentioned Genesis many times. After she finished and sat down, master of ceremonies Jay Dunlap took the microphone.

He said that as he heard Williams repeat the name Genesis he became “all tingly” inside. He explained that he has benefited from the other side of unwanted pregnancies.

“My wife and I are blessed with five adopted children. Our fifth child came to us when she was 10 weeks old. And that baby’s name is Genesis,” Williams exclaimed. “Oh, my goodness, it seemed a moment prepared by God to specially touch Williams with healing.

She grew up in a Christian home, one of 13 children. At the time of her abortion she was 28 years old, serving as her church’s youth director and was a much respected member of the church.

She recounted how her feelings of love for a young man turned to lust and led her into fornication. She had a friend who said, “I had an abortion, and I’m okay.”

There was another friend who said “I’m here for you Sally whatever you choose.” So she decided to go ahead with the abortion.

Williams said she knew abortion was wrong, but “I didn’t know enough to say ‘no.’”

She didn’t know about fetal development, what Scripture says or that her decision would hurt others. She was unaware that Planned Parenthood targets minorities and that 14 million black babies had been killed by abortion, a greater per capita percentage than whites.

She later found forgiveness and mercy. Williams eventually was able to confide in her mother who reacted with love and compassion. She went on to become executive secretary and then urban outreach director for Indiana Right to Life.

Williams urged pastors to not be intimidated and to preach on sexual morality and abortion.

Sister Claire Reuelle of the Sisters of St. Francis offered the opening prayer. Three young women from the Washington High School Gospel Choir sang with their strong and beautifully harmonious voices.

Elder Carl Evans, minister Charles Diggins and his wife Denise and Sally Williams concluded the evening with spontaneous prayer. Diggins prayed that he would have the courage to announce the truth and educate the people in his role as minister.

St. Joseph County Right to Life president Tom Gill said we need to look up to God in prayer instead of always looking straight ahead at the obstacles.

It was through the tragedy and brokenness of her abortion that Williams’ personal relationship with Jesus Christ was forged and she found forgiveness and mercy.

Williams urged pastors to not be intimidated and to preach on sexual morality and abortion.
Pro-life leaders, groups condemn murder of Kansas abortion doctor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pro-life advocates universally condemned the May 31 murder of a Kansas abortion doctor, with officials from several U.S. right-to-life groups saying such extreme acts only hurt the pro-life cause. “We condemn this lawless act of violence,” said Charnaine Yoest, president of the Americans United for Life. “The foundational right to life that our work is dedicated to extends to everyone. Whoever is responsible for this reprehensible violence must be brought to justice under the law.”

George Tiller, 67, of Wichita, Kan., was fatally shot while serving as an usher at the city’s Formation Lutheran Church during morning services, according to The Associated Press. A suspect in the shooting, identified as Scott Roeder, 51, was being held without bail on one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree assault, the AP reported June 1. Tiller’s clinic is one of just a few in the nation where abortions are performed after the 21st week of pregnancy. Speaking on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, expressed profound regret upon learning of Tiller’s shooting death. “Our bishops’ conference and all its members have repeatedly and publicly denounced all forms of violence in our society, including abortion as the misguided resort to violence by anyone opposed to abortion,” Cardinal Rigali said in a June 1 statement.

Bishops praise court for affirming voters’ right to define marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The California Supreme Court “respected the essentially reasonable decision of the California electorate” in its May 26 ruling affirming marriage as the union of a man and a woman, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage. But Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., speaking on behalf of the full U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressed disappointment and concern that the court failed to apply this definition to the estimated 18,000 same-sex marriages that took place between May and November 2008 in California. The high court’s decision upheld the constitutionality of the ballot Proposition 8 & declaring that “only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.” But it said the vote on Proposition 8 could not be applied retroactively to those who married before the initiative was passed. Archbishop Kurtz said the ruling “is not in keeping with the marital relationship and its service to the common good by respecting the value of procreation and the good of children as well as the unique complementarity of man and woman.” But he said “attempts to change the legal definition of marriage or to create simulations of marriage, often under the guise of ‘equality,’ ‘civil rights’ and ‘anti-discrimination’ … undermine the very nature of marriage and overlook the essential place of marriage and family life in society.”

Peter John Paul’s beatification delayed, Italian newspapers say

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The beatification of Pope John Paul II may be delayed as the Vatican seems more documentation regarding his almost 27 years as pope, Italian newspapers reported in late May. According to the newspaper La Stampa, the chief jubilus regards hundreds of letters he wrote before and after his election to Wanda Poltawska, a longtime friend and adviser to the pope. Meanwhile, the newspaper Il Giornale, reported that a commission of theologians meeting in mid-May decided the information contained in the official “positio,” or position paper, was not complete enough. In particular, the newspaper cited the fact that Cardinal Angelo Sodano, secretary of state under Pope John Paul, and Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, his deputy at the time, had not given testimony in the case. Neither newspaper quoted any of the commission members by name nor included comments from current officials of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes. Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, vice director of the Vatican press office, said June 1 there would be no official comment from the Vatican while the process was under way. La Stampa published an interview with Poltawska June 1 in which she said she met Father Karol Wojtyla, the future pope, in 1950 when she was looking for a confessor and spiritual director to guide her in the long process of recovering from her internment as a political prisoner in the Nazis’ Ravensbruck concentration camp, where medical experiments were performed on prisoners.

Meeting children, pope shares early memories, says being pope is hard

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI offered a rare glimpse into his private feelings, telling a group of children that as a boy he never dreamed of becoming pope and that he still sometimes worries he is not up to the job. The pope answered questions and described growing up in a small German village during an audience May 30 at the Vatican with 7,000 children from the Holy Childhood Association, a group affiliated with the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The meeting with the enthusiastic young audience gave the pope an opportunity to speak more openly than usual about himself, prompted by the children’s more personal questions. When asked whether as a boy he had ever thought he might one day be pope, he admitted that it had not been one of his youthful plans. “To tell the truth, I never would have thought I might become pope. ... I was a pretty ingenuous boy in a small village far from the city,” he said. “We were happy to be in the country and didn’t think much about much else. Even today, I’d say, it’s difficult for me to understand how the Lord could have thought of me, to choose me for this ministry. But I accept it from his hands, even if it is very surprising and seems very much beyond my means. But the Lord helps me.”

Florida’s Father Cutie gives first sermon in Episcopal Church

MIAMI (CNS) — Father Alberto Cutie of Miami delivered his first sermon in an Episcopal church May 31, three days after the sus- pended Catholic priest announced he was joining the Episcopal Church. In a video of the sermon at Church of the Resurrection in Biscayne Park, Fla., posted on the Web site of The Miami Herald daily newspaper, Father Cutie opened his sermon by telling congregants: “I am honored by your presence here.” Archbishop John C. Favalora of Miami expressed disappointment at May 28 at a ceremony at Miami’s Trinity Cathedral. The woman, identified as Rahanna Buni Canellis, 35, also became an Episcopalian in the same ceremony. The priest has admitted to having a sexual relationship with Canellis and has referred to her as his fiancée.

Vatican condemns North Korean nuclear test, missile launches

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has condemned the latest round of nuclear testing and missile launching by North Korea, warning that these acts of aggression “undermine the very survival” of the country’s own people by exacerbating its isolation. The Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, published an editorial titled “International isolation as a regime’s choice.” North Korea drew swift and angry international condemnation after announcing May 25 that it had successfully performed a nuclear explosion. Seismic equipment registered a small blast in the eastern portion of the country. Three short-range missiles were then launched into the Sea of Japan. The following day, May 26, two more missiles were launched off the country’s eastern coast. In its commentary, L’Osservatore said, “Pyongyang’s nuclear test, labeling it a threat to international security and peace. But even before being a threat, the nuclear experiment constitutes a threat to the very survival of the North Korean people who will pay the consequences of the isolation the regime has chosen.”"Pyongyang is North Korea’s capital. Theidget is just a"
FORT WAYNE — St. Charles will host a conference for parents and children from grades 5-12, titled “The Call to Holiness: The Sacraments of Mission” on June 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the church.

Father Glenn Kohrman will talk on the Christian vocation to holiness as well as particular vocations that are lived out in the world; equipping parents with practical tools to help their children.

There will be breakout sessions for parents, children and teens led by Sister Patricia Ann Murray and several seminarians. Jason Garrett will conclude the night by speaking on the sacrament of marriage.

Sister Wilma Boeving, PHJC, celebrates jubilee

DONALDSON — Sister Wilma Boeving, a Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ sister, celebrated her 60th jubilee on May 16 at the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Ministry Center in Donaldson.

Sister Boeving took her first vows on June 25, 1949 in Donaldson and began working as a director of diocesan/dieterian at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne in 1952. In 1980 she began serving as the vice-president of hospitals in Indiana and Illinois for Ancilla Domini Health Services.

Sister Boeving began a term as the director of development for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in the late 1980s. Sister has retired to the Catherine Kasper Home in Donaldson where she currently resides.

Sister Boeving will continue her jubilee celebration during a community celebration in June.

Father Ralph B. Rogawski celebrates 50 years

FORT WAYNE — Dominican Father Ralph B. Rogawski, a native of Fort Wayne, will commemorate his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood with the celebration of the Eucharist at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 14, at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

A former member of St. Hycinth Parish and a 1950 graduate of Central Catholic High School, Father Rogawski entered the Dominican order in 1952 after studies in pre-med at Indiana University in Fort Wayne and Saint Mary’s College in Winona, Minn.

He was ordained May 23, 1959 and celebrated his first Mass at St. Hycinth. His first 15 years of ministry were spent as a missionary in Bolivia where he taught theology in the national seminary, sociology in the national nursing school and was a consultant for Bolivian labor unions.

Currently residing in Austin, Texas, Father Rogawski is also the promoter of over 50 lay Dominicans who meet in three communities in Texas. He has published numerous articles on the value of small faith communities as well as a history of the community’s missionary experiences in evangelization.

Saint Mary’s College announces 2009 Distinguished Alumna Award Winner

NOTRE DAME — The Distinguished Alumna Award, awarded annually by the Alumnae Association, honors a woman who exemplifies the standards, ideals and mission of Saint Mary’s College and who has given outstanding service to the college through ongoing work for the Alumnae Association. The 2009 recipient is Kathy Malone Beeler of South Bend.

After graduating from Saint Mary’s College in 1969 with a bachelor’s degree in English literature, Beeler earned her master’s degree in English from the University of Chicago. She served children as a mother of five and as an English and language arts educator in Illinois, Wisconsin and South Bend at John Adams High School, St. Joseph Grade School and Corpus Christi School. She is also a successful businesswoman and the current chair of the board of Becker Industries in Elkhart.

Beeler has served South Bend area education, church, arts, health-care and civic organizations in various ways over the years. She served as president of the board of directors of Logan Center in South Bend and oversaw the “Opening New Doors” capital campaign to build the new facility on East Jefferson Boulevard. She currently sits on the board of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center and served on the cabinet to raise the funds for the new hospital in Mishawaka, which is scheduled to open in the fall. She also sits on the board of the Women’s Care Center and has been a member of the South Bend Symphony Board of Directors and the Marian High School and Saint Joseph’s High School boards of directors. In 2002 Beeler was the first female chairwoman of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for which she helped raise over $5 million.

Beeler plunges into philanthropic pursuits with the same passion she holds for her service activities and provides leadership in her commitment of time, talent and treasure to Saint Mary’s. She has actively worked in leadership positions for the college since 1994 when she accepted the role as Michiana Regional co-chair for the $30 million Sesquicentennial Campaign. She initiated the Saint Mary’s College “Down the Avenue” event, which honors an outstanding woman in the South Bend community who has demonstrated a commitment to voluntarism in her community. She was the honoree in 2005.

Beeler is generous in her gifts to the college, contributing annually since 1978, and has helped raise significant donations for Saint Mary’s as a member of the Madeleva Society Steering Committee. The Madeleva Society is named for Holy Cross Sister M. Madeleva Wolff, who served as college president from 1934 to 1961. Beeler is also an active member of the South Bend Alumnae Club.

Beeler will receive the award at the Reunion Banquet on Saturday, June 6, as part of Reunion Weekend, June 4-7.

Notre Dame Center for Liturgy to host conference on St. Paul

NOTRE DAME — The Notre Dame Center for Liturgy will host its 36th annual conference, Paul as Liturgical Theologian, from June 15-17 at the University of Notre Dame.

The presentations will consider Paul’s teaching on Christian worship and liturgy, and how the church community’s worship serves as matrix for his theology.

Jason Father Robert Taft, from the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, will be the keynote speaker.

Cost is $240 for three days or $120 for one day. For more information, visit the Web site http://liturgy.nd.edu/conference/.

The Notre Dame Center for Liturgy provided the monthly series on St. Paul in Today’s Catholic for the past year.

Ancilla announces Savina Kralis Nursing Scholarship

DONALDSON — Representatives from Ancilla College and the Kosciusko County Community Foundation have announced the creation of a new scholarship fund designated for Ancilla nursing students — The Savina Kralis Nursing Scholarship Fund.

Nearly 60 years ago, Kralis received her nursing training from the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC) in Gary. Her education benefitted her during the time she served as a nurse, and also as she worked as a nurse in the United States and in Haiti.

Kralis recently established The Savina Kralis Nursing Scholarship Fund to benefit Ancilla College at the Kosciusko County Community Foundation. By establishing this scholarship, Kralis wanted to share the blessings she has received with others pursuing a career in nursing.

The fund will enable the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ to provide scholarships to deserving nursing students at Ancilla College. As an endowment fund at the Community Foundation, the principal will be invested and only earnings will be used for scholarship purposes.

Due to the nature of endowments, the fund will be managed and invested with the growth and perpetuity of the fund as a goal, allowing scholarships to be made from the fund forever. "Back in the 1900s, the Poor Handmaids prepared nurses in the hospitals they operated," said Dr. Ron May, president of Ancilla College. "Today, the PHJC continues to provide nurses training through the nursing program at Ancilla College."
MARIAN MEDALS DISTRIBUTED

The seventh-grade Girl Scout Troop from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School has recently received their Marian Medal. They are, from left, pictured with Father Tim Wrozek, the pastor at St. Joseph Church, Maddie Brown, Rachel Seals, Samantha Allen, Megan Leman, Nicole Keesling, Rachel Hentz and Allison Partee.

BISHOP D’ARCY CELEBRATES SAINT MARY’S BACCALAUREATE MASS

Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated the baccalaureate Mass for Saint Mary’s College on May 15.

Restored piano ready to serve St. Vincent, Elkhart, for another century

BY LAUREN ZEUGNER

ELKHART — Members of St. Vincent de Paul’s Catholic Church in Elkhart gathered Sunday, May 31, for a dedication ceremony and piano recital featuring the parish’s newly restored 1910 Bush and Lane baby grand piano.

“What’s really neat about this is a lot of people donated (money) so it was a parish-wide project,” said Vincent Minichillo, parish music director.

Since the piano returned to the church on Thursday, May 14, it sits in the front of the church and parishioners’ children, who are taking piano lessons have been allowed to play it after Mass.

“You have seen the new piano?” asked Becky Spataro as she climbed the stairs to the church nave from the basement. “It’s way cool.” She dashed through the empty church to the piano to play a tune on it.

In 1910 the Knights of Columbus purchased the piano and donated it to St. Vincent Schol. It was housed on the third floor meeting room, which also served as the school gym.

“At the time it was the largest of its type of room in the city,” said Minichillo, explaining it was used for gym class, dances and other types of meetings.

“We can’t find out how much it cost. It’s had nothing but tuning done to it since then,” said Minichillo about the piano. “It’s very well made and has high-quality materials.” At the time the piano was purchased Bush and Lane was a rival of Steinway.

The company was originally in Chicago, Ill., and then moved to Holland, Mich. Bush was the businessman while Lane was the craftsman. The company eventually went under during the Great Depression because Lane wouldn’t compromise on the quality of materials used in the manufacture of his pianos.

Minichillo said a lot of thought went into restoring the piano rather than purchasing a new piano. “We recognized it was a good piano and we wanted a good piano for the church. We thought it was good stewardship to use what we had. We liked the history of it,” she explained.

James Reeder of Lansing, Mich., a specialist in piano restoration, was hired to restore the piano. In November 2008, he disassembled the piano and removed it from the school’s third floor.

“It was pretty scary moving it down two flights of steps,” Minichillo explained.

To restore the piano, Reeder completely disassembled it. The piano needed a new sound board.

Wayne Paseka, left, and James Reeder, who restored St. Vincent de Paul’s baby grand Bush and Lane piano have their picture taken with it after delivering it to the church.

Wayne Paseka, left, and James Reeder, who restored St. Vincent de Paul’s baby grand Bush and Lane piano have their picture taken with it after delivering it to the church.

“Just right.”

The strings are made of steel. Lower pitch strings are wrapped so they are lower in pitch without being longer in length. “Length and thickness determine pitch,” Minichillo explained.
Marian students win science awards

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

MISHAWAKA — Hollow fiber membranes. Water quality index ratings. X-ray fluorescence. Tuberculosis. Antibiotics. Not necessarily subjects the average, everyday high school student would spend time studying. But perhaps the students studying these are not average, everyday high school students. Especially when their science projects competed with others from across the nation and the world.

Six Marian High School students recently competed in national and international science competitions with their projects.


The other three students Lauren Jessup, 18, Caitlyn Koscielski, 18, and Caroline Trippel, 18, competed with their projects in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Reno, Nev. May 10-16.

From left are Colin Leader, Aaron Bulger and Claire Sieradzki, students at Marian High School in Mishawaka, who competed in the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, sponsored by the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force, in Colorado Springs, Colo., April 29-May 3.

At a regional competition to qualify for the symposium, Sieradzki, who attended as a delegate, also won a $1,000 scholarship for placing second in the regional competition for her project, which studied the detection of lead paint and other toxic substances in toys manufactured in China and the United States.

Jessup, Koscielski and Trippel also won all-expenses paid trips to the International Science and Engineering Fair for their work. Jessup won overall in the regional competition, which ensured her inclusion in the fair, for her project that studied synthesized compounds that could be used as antibiotics in the future.

Jessup, who is considering becoming an infectious disease doctor, won a special award at the fair from the American Society for Microbiology.

Secureing first place in the state competition, Koscielski and Trippel teamed up, winning a $1,500 scholarship and a small planet named in their honor, for their project to detect structural differences in the lipsids surrounding tuberculosis using a new imaging technique.

None of them expected to win. Koscielski and Trippel said they didn’t see the application for tuberculosis detection early on.

“We didn’t see how big a deal it was and see how important the results were,” said Trippel. “So it was really exciting.”

And with so many great projects and “smart people,” at the fair, said Jessup, she wasn’t thinking that she’d win anything for her efforts.

All of the students are involved in a scientific research class at Marian High School, in which students are required to study subjects that interest them, apply for grants for their work and enter their projects in competitions.

Ken Andrzejewski, who teaches one of the research classes, said 27 students from Marian have competed in significant national and international science fairs and symposia for their research projects since 1990.

 Volunteer retires after 40 years on noon watch

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Generations of students at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School have played safely on the playground off of Old U.S. 27 South in large parts due to the enduring and lovingly vigilant eye of one volunteer. Carole Sorg has volunteered on noon watch for 40 years and will retire at the end of this school year.

What began at the school as a parental requirement 40 years ago turned into a loving ministry for this mother of five. “As long as I’ve been married,” she says, adding proudly that she was assigned a day to do noon watch, “she recalls, always enjoying her turn at playground duty. Eventually many of those stay-at-home moms returned to the work-force and Sorg became a substitute for those who could not fulfill their obligation.

Sorg, a Fort Wayne native, has been a member of St. Joseph-Hessen-Cassel Church for over 47 years. “As long as I’ve been married,” she says, adding proudly that she has volunteered her time with me on my side of the playground. “I make sure they don’t get hurt. I fix up their scraps and boo-boos as well as safety supervision.”

The students and staff at the school are family, says Sorg. They learn, play, serve and pray together. One shining example of the supportive character of the school came two years ago when Sorg’s beloved grandson died in an accident. During her first day back from mourning she had graduated from St. Joseph, Sorg remained on noon watch one day a week. Soon she was supervising two days and finally three days each week. “I love those kids. They’re like my own grandkids,” says the watch. She adds with heartfelt enthusiasm. “It’s worth going out in the cold and rainy weather because they are so special.”

Her watch begins around 11:30 a.m. shortly after the students finish lunch. She watches over students in kindergarten through third grade and offers band-aids and hugs as well as safety supervision. “I make sure they don’t get hurt. I fix up their scraps and boo-boos and give hugs when needed,” she says.

St. Joseph Principal Louise Schultheis says, “I think it’s amazing that she’s been here that long, and she’s come in year after year to help us out.”

Second-grader Jack Sweeney says the kids will miss their noon watch. “She always looks out for us, so you don’t fall. She’s really nice!” he says.

The students hold a special place in her heart. Sorg says as the years go by, she can look at a child on her playground and see their parents’ face in theirs. Each year as the students move on to the upper grades, Sorg says the older ones still come back to say hi. “Two girls asked for permission to spend time with me on my side of the playground. I like to hear about their lives,” she says.

Sorg has endeared herself to the entire student population year after year by presenting a handmade personalized rosary to each incoming kindergartner as well.

The students and staff at the school are family, says Sorg. They learn, play, serve and pray together. One shining example of the supportive character of the school came two years ago when Sorg’s beloved grandson died in an accident. During her first day back from mourning and putting her arms around me. One love. The outpouring of the students’ grief, Sorg was overwhelmed by the love of the students’ love. The students and staff presented Sorg with a special book in memory of her grandson with promises of prayer handwritten on each of the pages.

Sorg feels blessed to know that when she asks for prayers for any intention, the students begin in earnest to pray. “You can see the bond there. It’s not just physical but spiritual too,” she says.

As for the school that boasts three alumni as teachers, Sorg is proud to join in the 140th anniversary of this long-running school. “I think it’s fantastic,” she says, how “we’ve had this school for so long with such excellent guidance and leadership. There is a deep spirituality in it and it couldn’t last.”

Downsizing this year, Sorg will remain in her beloved church choir, but will step down from 25 years of service in the parish food bank, and 15 years of leading the Thursday afternoon rosary. Sorg enjoys quilting with friends as they stitch tapestries for fund-raisers or just for fun.

Retiring from the noon watch will not be easy for Sorg, who says she has already told the students she will return next school year to visit. “This is a special place. I’m going to miss the kids. They give me so much pleasure.”

An all-school assembly was called to honor Sorg on May 28, where her 93-year-old mother and husband were among those in attendance. The students and staff presented Sorg with flowers, cake, an all-school picture replete with student signatures and a binder laden with thank yous and memories written for their beloved noon watcher.
St. Patrick Church, South Bend. This statue was sculpted by Holy Cross Father Anthony Lauck.

St. Andrew Parish, Fort Wayne.

St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville. The gazebo became a reality through the efforts of Father Raymond Balzer.

Immaculate Conception, Auburn

St. Joseph, Garrett.

St. Mary, Huntington. This grotto was built and maintained by his grandsons, Leo and Richard.

Sacred Heart, Warsaw.
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion. This Fatima shrine is a work in progress in memory of Steve Hopkins.

The Grotto at the University of Notre Dame.

Children from Holy Cross School participate in a Marian procession to the grotto located at St. Stanislaus Church in South Bend where Holy Cross Father Michael Mathews, pastor of both parishes, leads the rosary.

St. Francis Convent, Mishawaka. Masses were offered here by Bishop John F. Noll.

St. Hedwig, South Bend. This grotto was installed in the Marian Year 1954 from societies, parishioners and friends of St. Hedwig Parish. The statue of Our Lady is in memory of Karl and Mary Gorniewicz. The statue of St. Bernadette is in memory of Hyacinth and Maryanna Niezgodski.
A Pauline pilgrimage, indulgence good through June 29

I

in the March 15, 2009 issue of Today’s Catholic, Bishop John M. D’Arcy issued a Decree for the Pauline Year indulgence. As the Year of St. Paul closes this month on June 29, the feast of the Pauline Year indulgence.

What is the special Pauline indulgence?

A special indulgence has been decreed by the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1471) as “… a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain conditions through the action of the church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.”

What conditions apply for the indulgence?

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

1) Being truly repentant, one receives sacramental absolution in the sacrament of penance within 20 days either before or after the sacrament of penance within 20 days of the action of the church, which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.”

When is the last date to make the indulgence?

This indulgence may be gained in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the following churches:

- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- St. Peter and Paul Church, Huntington
- Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame
- St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, Warsaw
- St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse
- St. Paul Catholic Chapel, Clear Lake

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

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

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

Author of the document: Benjamin Francis Musser OFM.

For complete details call 1-800-440-FAME or visit: www COLLEGEFOOTBALL.COM

Shrine continued from page 1

Candles, which can be lit in prayer and vases for anyone bringing a gift of flowers, as well as offering boxes and special envelopes, are available at the front of the church as well and can be arranged to a person’s liking.

Visitors to the shrine would be remiss to not experience the lower level of the church, which offers a bookstore with rosaries, crucifixes, Bibles, novena booklets, devotionals, and religious books in English and Spanish, statues and books on the history of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Anyone wishing to spend a day in prayer and reflection in the shrine is welcome anytime after 10 a.m., weekdays, when the doors open during the summer. Groups or individuals who wish to celebrate the sacrament of confession, be given a guided tour of the shrine or utilize the building’s kitchen and large gathering area in the lower level should call ahead to (574) 267-5324 and schedule their visit.

But individuals and smaller groups are welcome to stop in unannounced and pilgrims are welcome to participate in scheduled parish activities, which are scarce during the weekday but plentiful in the evenings and on weekends.

Spanish-language Masses are celebrated at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays take place at 11 a.m. followed by fellowship and a meal. Saturdays often feature Masses of baptism or quinceaneras at noon or 2 p.m., and pilgrims are welcome to participate. The shrine carries bi-lingual Mass missalleys so that English-speaking pilgrims speak may follow along with the readings of the Mass during these celebrations.

To provide for visitors, catering may be arranged by contacting Sister Joan or shrine administrator Father J. Steele before a visit. Additionally, there are several fast food restaurants just a short distance from the shrine’s 225 Gilliam Dr. location.

The parish invites visitors for two special summer dates: a bilingual retreat to be offered by diocesan seminarians from 1 to 4 p.m. June 21, and a day of pilgrimage and celebration on Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption, that will include sacred music, prayer and children’s activities on the grounds of the shrine.
Pro-life America

Several years ago, the abortion advocacy organization, NARAL, decided to drop the word “abortion” from its name. Originally founded in 1969 as the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws, NARAL changed its name in 1973 to the National Abortion Rights Action League when Roe v. Wade legalized abortion nationwide. In 2003, the “A-word” has become too distasteful or ineffective in promoting “reproductive rights.” NARAL dropped mention of abortion altogether and replaced the acronym, calling itself “NARAL Pro-Choice America.” Now “NARAL” presumably doesn’t stand for anything.

It seems increasingly clear that “Pro-Choice America” doesn’t stand for anything either. According to recent nationwide opinion polls, support for abortion is waning, and America is trending decidedly pro-life. The trend started in the early ‘90s during the public debate over “partial-birth abortion” — in which the Catholic community was highly visible. Support for Roe peaked in 1991 and has been falling ever since.

The Gallup Poll’s Values and Beliefs survey released May 15 shows that Americans are taking a dramatic stand toward greater opposition to abortion. For the first time, a 51 percent majority of adults identified themselves as pro-life — an 8-point increase over the previous year. Only 42 percent called themselves pro-choice. Women have embraced the pro-life position more, and this is the first time in nine years that significantly more men and women are pro-life than pro-choice. A total of 75 percent think that abortion should be either illegal under all circumstances (22 percent) or legal only under certain circumstances (53 percent). Only 23 percent think abortion should be legal under any circumstances. Thus fewer than one in four agrees with the current status of abortion law under Roe v. Wade, which allows abortion on demand throughout the nine months of pregnancy.

Pro-Life America has mobilized in three recent major campaigns thanks to the hard work of a small crew at the bishops’ partner organization, National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCHLA). Over 34 million postcards to Congress were distributed during the campaign against the introduction of the so-called “Freedom of Choice Act” (FOCA) or similar legislation. Millions spoke up to defend the hard-won pro-life laws that have saved countless lives since Roe — laws like public funding bans and parental involvement requirements.

Pro-Life America got to...
Msgr. Owen F. Campion

Holy Trinity
Mt 28:16-20

The Book of Deuteronomy is the source of this feast’s first reading. Deuteronomy is the fifth book now in sequence in the Old Testament. It is one of the five books that form for Jews the basic tradition and in the Christian tradition, beginning to form, was accepted.

The marvel in Paul’s message is that Christians share the divine life. They are more than creatures of God. They are God’s children. God is the father. Indeed, disciples are encouraged to address God as “Father,” indeed as “Abba,” an ancient term for fathers that was a particular gentle and loving endearment.

Paul continues. As children of God, the faithful are heirs to the eternal life of God. All this, of course, is accomplished in and through the individual Christian’s bond with the Lord Jesus.

St. Matthew’s Gospel supplies the last reading.

It is a Resurrection Narrative, clear and compelling. The risen Lord appears before the 11 surviving apostles on a mountain. He spoke to them in human words. They understood. He conferred upon them all authority on earth and in heaven. He then commissioned them to go into the entire world, bringing all whom they would meet into the one body, “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Then, Jesus promised to be with them until the end of the world.

Reflection

Overall, the teaching in these lessons is that God lives, and that God unites with us. He communicates with us. He meets us in our world. He speaks our language.

We belong to God, because we are God’s children. We are much, much more than creatures or possessions. We are God’s children, heirs to God’s eternal life, and one with Jesus, the son of God and savior.

The church makes these reassuring points. It tells us about God. It tells us about ourselves. It tells us that God loves us. How? By giving us the Lord Jesus as our Redeemer. God loves us by giving us bearers of the divine word, such as Moses and Paul.

God loves us by giving us the apostles. They were more than humans who simply had the opportunity to meet Jesus and to learn from Jesus. Jesus sent them into the world, to us, to give us the words of salvation, the words by which to live.

Their tradition, indeed their presence, endures among us. It continues in their successors, the bishops, and in the church guided by the bishops.

In these lessons, the church is frank. God is everything. He alone gives life and peace. Nothing else is lasting, secure or real. God loves us. He reveals the most intimate detail of divinity to us, the Trinity, that we might truly know God. He reaches to us in Jesus. Through Jesus, God reaches to us and meets us.

READINGS


Monday: 2 Cor 1:1-7 Ps 34:2-9

Tuesday: 2 Cor 1:18-22 Ps 119:129-133 Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday: 2 Cor 3:4-11 Ps 99:5-9 Mt 5:17-19


Friday: 2 Cor 4:7-15 Ps 116:10-11:18 Mt 5:27-32

Saturday: 2 Cor 5:14-21 Ps 103:1-48:9,11-12 Mt 5:33-37

ANSWERS:

1. No one obvious, but Jesus allowed grapes to grow before Miriam’s wedding
2. Jesus initiated his ministry at a wedding, changing water to wine
3. Jesus himself drank the cup of friendship at Paul’s wedding

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominick Campion

We don’t know if brides in the Bible preferred to get married in June, but marriage was an important element of life for both Jews and Christians. This quiz looks at weddings and marriage in Scripture.

1. Marriage was often used by prophets such as Hosea as an analogy for:
   a. the relationship of Judah with Rome
   b. the relationship between a master and a slave
   c. the relationship between Israel and JHWH

2. Occasionally in the Old Testament we hear about this, which is not a feature of Jewish or Christian marriages in the New Testament:
   a. Weddings between believers and pagans
   b. Polygamy
   c. Marriage of gods and goddesses

3. We know this because Deuteronomy 21 actually gives regulations for how to:
   a. harmonize the pagan teachings with the Torah
   b. regulate the treatment of sons by two wives
   c. know that the participants are divine

4. Deuteronomy also tells us some technicalities that would no longer apply. For one, if a man marries a captive he must:
   a. pay off her master with $100 gold pieces
   b. set her free if he later tires of her, instead of selling her
   c. shave her head and cut her nails

5. The Old Testament suggests that endogamy was common. One example of this occurred when Abraham sent for a wife from back in Mesopotamia. What is it?
   a. marriage from within one’s clan or kinship group
   b. marriage outside of the group
   c. marriage between first generation Mesopotamians

6. And yet these men practice the reverse, exogamy.
   a. Shiloh, Tabitha and Hn
   b. Paul, Jesus and Pilate
   c. Esau, David and Joseph (of the fancy coat, not husband of Mary)

7. Marriages began of course with a wedding. Few are described in detail, and many historians think this simple reason is why:
   a. marriage was secret because the Egyptians might kill the first born.
   b. Everyone knew what was done at a wedding so it would seem redundant to be detailed.
   c. Marriage was shameful so never spoken of or commemorated.

8. Psalm 45:7-14 suggests that brides dressed like this at a wedding:
   a. In the finest garments they could
   b. All in black as they were never coming home
   c. In bandages, as they might later become mummies

9. The description of a bride in Rev. 19 hints at this custom, still often followed today:
   a. Brides often wore white
   b. Bridesgrooms always got drunk at their wedding
   c. Bad singers showed up to every wedding

10. Hints at in Gen. 2A, brides generally wore one of these:
   a. A menora on their head
   b. A veil
   c. A feather headdress not unlike Plains Indians

11. Another tradition still followed, mentioned in both Old and New Testaments is the important role of this man:
   a. The bride
   b. The father of the bridegroom
   c. The best man

12. It is very clear from Matthew’s Gospel that it was considered a great insult to:
   a. reject a wedding invitation
   b. run off with the bride
   c. tie tin cans onto the back of the wedding chariot

14. One thing we know was served at weddings was wine. What was the Jesus’ connection with that?

JUNE 7, 2009
Passing the torch of Catholic faith

Many families will hold family reunions in the approaching weeks of summer. We owe a debt of thanks to our families, the sisters, brothers and priests and laypeople who taught and guided our Catholic schools for so many years. Their efforts have led to prosperity of my generation. And this has made our Catholic community an environment in which we desire to raise our children.

This has become especially apparent to me at my parish, St. Aloysius, as we prepare for our upcoming 150th anniversary on June 21, which is the feast of St. Aloysius.

St. Aloysius is a parish rich in multi-generations, but also growing with new families. Those of us with many generations in the parish plan to share family trees at the sesquicentennial celebration.

In the historical research collected by parishioner Connor Loesch, we discovered an old map that will be used in the history book. The map details the landowners of Pleasant Township, where St. Aloysius is located, in the late 1800s. I was able to trace down where my Grandma Hoffman’s family, the Landstoffers, resided in the St. Aloysius community.

We all have a family faith history. On my mother’s side of the family that history includes parishers like St. Aloysius, Yoder, and St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, where my Grandpa Hoffman grew up. On the Johnson side, places like St. Mary and SS. Peter and Paul in Huntington nurtured my dad’s and grandparents’ faith.

Most of us who are cradle Catholics, tend to take our faith history for granted; but think of the sacrifices my mom and dad made to give us a Catholic education. I think about my Hoffman grandparents who raised their children through the Great Depression and insisted on a Catholic education despite the costs and sacrifice.

Reflection of God

You wait for months and you labor for hours. You skip coffee and wine and fatty snacks for his benefit. Finally, you receive this baby, who, in a blink of an eye or rather a single final push, changes your world forever, this baby whose every move you chart, feel, assess, watch and hover over. You spend nights rocking him through goodness-knows-what-kind of colic or fussiness. You sleep lightly and check on him 100 times a night, just to make sure he’s breathing because after you give birth, life is the breath of life itself to you.

You give up sleep, hobbies, time and peace of mind for him. You pray, worry, plead with God for only the best for him. You sit up nights to figure out how to afford the best education for him and how to teach him all he needs to know to love God and do his will. You wonder, ponder and strain your brain to figure out if vaccinating is the right thing or not. You question whether you feed him too much or not enough, discipline him too much or not enough, spend time with him too much or not enough. You want to buy him all the cutest outfits you see and dress him up, you make. You cannot, and it’s a good thing, because you would. There are not enough hours in a day to love this child.

He stretches towards his independent and you depend on it to try and be patient. It is painful for him because he can’t stretch far enough for his tastes. It’s painful for you because he stretches too far for yours. He extends. He comes back, and you no sooner relax then he stretches forward again, each time pressing a little bit further away from you. Both of your elasticity grows. When he gets his driver’s license you keep one eye on the clock, figure out how much time it should take him to each destination, and worry and pray when his return is a minute too long. When he gets his first job you are so proud that your heart swells to almost bursting. He is growing into a responsible human being, and Mozart’s mother couldn’t have felt more satisfaction at hearing her son’s first concert. When he leaves for college you feel your heart will break with loneliness.

He hurries in and out, not meaning to rush past you to his dizzying scheduled events. He doesn’t know why you stop your work and sit at the stool when he comes in and don’t resume until he is up and out the door again. He doesn’t see your struggle to hold your tongue in offering advice or direction unless asked, knowing he is capable now and not wanting to annoy. He doesn’t know you worry he’ll move far away forever and you’ll be his first love. 20-year-old worn, nursery teddy bear as consolation. He doesn’t realize that when he stops momentarily for a quick hug before rushing out the door, that you treasure that gesture and recall it again and again.

No, he doesn’t know these things, and won’t know until another 20 years. He will dawn on him in the dusk of an evening perhaps after his own child leaves for a movie with his friend with a promise to be home “some time later.” He will suddenly understand. It will become clear like grey, parting clouds revealing an eternal blue sky in a high but gentle wind that comes seemingly out of nowhere but has been imminent all along.

In this swift revelation of the obvious he will call his mother and he will say, “I love you and thank you for everything you have done. I never realized.” And he won’t have, at least not until then. Paradoxically, he will not ever be able to repay that love to the one who loved first and most, but can only honor it truly and fittingly by bestowing it devotedly upon another unsuspecting progeny.

A parent’s love is mostly paid forward, not backward, and the recipient is unaware for years of the tenderness and care and severe, deep devotion his parent has had for him. Upon discovering this simple fact, when the light has finally been shone on the steadfast love, the secret circle will be completely apparent and yet unknown and unfelt and unloved for another generation.

In that one defining moment, he, the son, discovers personally and profoundly how sacrifice and love fit together so completely that they cannot be separated, like a rose with its thorns or a sunset with the darkness that envelops it. He learns Truth. He learns about real love, and in doing so he learns about God.

Theresa Thomas, the mother of nine children and wife of David. Theresa Thomas may be contacted at: theresthomaseverydaycatholic@gmail.com.

Many hats

By Tim Johnson

A few years ago, after my dad passed away, we were going through his momentos. I came across a cigar box full of old rosaries, religious medals, etc. It gave me a sense of my Johnson grandparents’ faith and how it was passed to me.

So as we celebrate our parish histories and family reunions this summer, let’s all appreciate the challenges generations before us faced to pass along the torch of faith. And let us pray for our loved ones and their eternal rest.

Tim Johnson is the editor of Today’s Catholic.

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

THERESA A. THOMAS

LETTER

Continued from Page 14

tion bin for paper alongside its regular trash receptacles.

“I take the paper out personally,” said Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, vice director of the press office.

Leftover copies of the daily press bulletin, newspapers and the daily press clipping service online, the priest gets plenty of exercise. However, he said, the press office is making a concerted effort to reduce its waste paper by getting Vatican officials to read the daily press clipping service online instead of in printed form.

Printing on all that paper also means the press office uses a significant amount of toner and ink, and those cartridges are picked up on a regular basis by a cooperative that recycles them, Father Benedettini said.

The priest said introducing the recycling measures was not much of a challenge: “there is great sensitivity here,” he said.

While the press office produces an impressive pile of recyclable paper, it’s nothing compared to the mountain of paper discarded each day by the Vatican printing press, which is responsible for printing the daily Vatican newspaper, its weekly editions in six languages as well as books, calendars, papal Mass programs, greeting cards and postcards.

Getting rid of all that paper costs very little sometimes, depending on the market value of paper, even earns the Vatican money; the Vatican newspaper reported that sales of the waste paper often generates more money than it costs to hire a truck to take it away.

But paper and garden waste are not the only garbage the Vatican produces on an industrial scale, said Cortellessa.

The Vatican has separate contracts with companies that haul away and treat with environmental sensitivity the byproducts of the popular butcher’s counter in the Vatican supermarket, expired medications from the Vatican pharmacy and biomedical waste from the Vatican health service, Cortellessa said.

Even though the Vatican is set in a garden and has fewer than 500 residents, he said there was a house-by-house and office-by-office effort to break the practice, common in Rome, of setting garbage bags and broken household appliances on the street corners in the hopes that a garbage collector would pick them up. Now, he said, Vatican residents and employees call a number, and a truck arrives to collect and properly dispose of broken appliances, discarded furniture, old car batteries and tires, large packaging materials and fluorescent light bulbs — none of which go into the regular recycling containers.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for June 7, 2009

Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 8:14-17

Following is a word search based on the Gospel and the First Reading for the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, Cycles A. The words you find are found in all directions in the puzzle.

SLAVERY

FEAR

ADPTION

WE CRY

HEIRS

CHRI EST

CHILDREN

GLODORD

SUFFER

JESUS

ELEVEN

ISHAW

DON

WORSHIPPED

HEAVEN

NATIONS

GIVEN

THE END

THE AGE

GIVEN TO US

F S L A V E R Y C R E W

H A D O P T I O N H L O

C A D O R I S T I C

H O R B K W L H D D I E R

R T Y B N E L G L V S

I H T R A E S I D E H

S E P V T F R O V R N I

T E E L I A G E E S P

H N J R O L E T N N F E

E D O N E F J H P O D

A L F N S N A A E W D

G H P O S U F F R E X

E M I H W A S G B C P X

Commentary June 7, 2009

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All Diocese Team

Today’s Catholic joins the Serra Club in sponsoring the All-Diocese Team, highlighting athletes from Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. These student-athletes are recognized in character, sportsmanship, leadership, athletics and Catholic values. The athletes are selected by their coaches. The All Diocese Teams will be featured three times during the year: for fall, winter and spring sports.

SAINT JOSEPH’S

Softball

Lexie Czarnecki, senior, infield, Corpus Christi

Sydney Hofferth, junior, infield, St. Joseph, South Bend

Amanda Chamblee, junior, infield, Little Flower

Tennis

Bridget Veldman, sophomore, Christ the King

Elle Harding, sophomore, Christ the King

Golf

Tyler Bliha, junior, Christ the King

Sean Flanagan, junior, Christ the King

Baseball

David Osowski, senior, pitcher, Corpus Christi

Andrew Vasquez, senior, pitcher, Corpus Christi

Erick Mentock, senior, infield, St. Joseph, South Bend

Meghan Czarnecki, junior, Corpus Christi

Tayler Turner, junior, St. Pius X, Granger

Taylor Turner, junior, St. Pius X, Granger

Molly Moskwnski, senior, Christ the King

Jordan Niespodziany, senior, pitcher, St. Jude

Mikaila Chamblee, junior, Little Flower

Chase Parker, sophomore, outfiled, St. Matthew Cathedral

Boys Track and Field

Mike Bradley, junior, St. Matthew Cathedral

Connor Method, freshman, St. Pius X, Granger

Brendan Favo, junior, Corpus Christi

Luke O’Connor, junior, Christ the King

Girls Track and Field

Santana Bozman, senior, first base

Chris Paluf, senior, No. 4 position

Boys Golf

Adam Sumrall, senior, No. 1 position

Boys Track and Field

Patrick Julien, senior, middle distance, St. Joseph, South Bend

Tyrus Kozinski, senior, thrower, St. Pius X, Granger

Boys Golf

Cody Miller, senior, No. 1 golfer, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Boys Golf

Ryan Eifrid, senior, No. 2 golfer, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne
**TODAY'S CATHOLIC**

**Girls Tennis**

Katy Konzem, senior, No. 1 singles, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

Rachel Anspach, senior, No. 1 doubles, St. Joseph, Fort Wayne

**Softball**

Amy Morrison, junior, pitcher, St. Charles

Lauren Oberley, senior, second base, St. Rose, Monroeville

Kelsey Wyss, senior, shortstop, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

**Boys Track and Field**

Billy McManus, sophomore, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

Caleb Shutt, sophomore, St. Therese

Courtney Mitchell, junior, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Nate Romine, senior, shotput, St. Therese

**Girls Track and Field**

3,200-meter relay team

Lauren Oberley, senior, 800-meter, St. Joseph, Fort Wayne

**Softball**

Andrea Filler, sophomore, pitcher/shortstop, St. Vincent

Rachel Crouch, freshman, St. Joseph, Fort Wayne

Nicolle Wellman, senior

Morgan Carroll, sophomore

Jennifer Byrd, senior, shot, discus, St. Aloysius, Yoder

Kara Baumgartner, senior, sprints, relays, St. John the Baptist

Heather Thelen, senior, sprints, relays, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Amy Swygart, senior, pole vault, St. Rose, Monroeville

**Bishop Dwenger**

Bryan Weisman, senior, St. John the Baptist

**Baseball**

Corey Marchant, senior, shortstop, St. Charles

Scott Scheumann, senior, pitcher, St. Charles

Ryan Fenker, senior, catcher, St. Charles

**Girls Tennis**

Ashlyn Rang, sophomore, singles, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Danielle Messman, freshman, St. Charles

**Boys Golf**

Danny Schenkel, junior, St. Vincent

Tim Burns, junior, St. Vincent

**Girls Tennis**

Ashlyn Rang, sophomore, singles, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Danielle Messman, freshman, St. Charles

**Girls Track and Field**

3,200-meter relay team

Julia Lee, sophomore, distance, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Mary Beier, freshman, St. Charles

Julie Andrews, senior, 800-meter, St. Joseph, Fort Wayne

Anna Seton

Christina Widner, freshman, shotput and discus, St. Vincent de Paul

Yvonne Rush, senior, high jump and long jump, St. John the Baptist, New Haven
South Bend — The Kings (12-0-1) of Christ the King Parish took the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) crown May 27 with a 6-1 victory over the St. Matthew Blazers (6-5-1) at Kennedy Field in front of a capacity crowd.

The game was far from decided until the late innings. The Kings struck first with two runs in the first on base hits by Tom Mackey, Matt Monserez and Giotto Irons followed by an RBI double by Ben Getz.

The Blazers were held in check by Tom Mackey until the fourth when Matt Roscyki singled up the middle, stole second and third. Luke Gaboury drove in the run on a sacrifice fly. Gaboury kept the game close until the Kings rallied with four runs in the sixth inning on base hits by Getz, Ryan Jamieson and Jimmy Nonquist.

The Blazers were shut down for the final three innings by the Kings’ catcher Giotto Irons caught one runner stealing second and Tom Mackey picked one off second base to stop Blazer rallies in the second and third innings.

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The Kings third baseman Ryan Jamieson made four great plays on hard hits by the Blazers. Kings catcher Giotto Irons caught one runner stealing second and Tom Mackey picked one off second base to stop Blazer rallies in the second and third innings.

The win capped off a terrific season for the undefeated John Bosco Division champs. The Kings plowed through the tournament with wins against St. Monica, St. Jude (Martin De Porres division champ) and St. Joseph, South Bend, before meeting St. Matthew in the final.

The Christ the King season was highlighted with great pitching efforts by Tom Mackey (seven wins, 33 innings, 1.48 ERA, 52 strikeouts) and Brad Hartman (three wins, 21 innings, 39 strikeouts). Hartman finished the season with an astounding 0.00 earned run average. The Kings’ pitchers and catchers accounted for seven defensive plays by both teams.

The championship game featured defensive plays by both teams. Right fielders Cole Mead (St. Matthew) made a diving catch and Bailey Sexton (Christ the King) made a running catch going into the gap in right center.

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles’ Jordan Schneider led her team on the mound and at the plate in the 2009 Catholic Youth League (CYO) tournament championship on May 8.

The seventh grader had 13 strikeouts and two RBIs in the sixth inning to push the Cardinals past St. Vincent, 3-1.

“We were down 1-0 going into the sixth. We scored all three runs in that inning,” explained Coach Scott Burkhardt.

Bishop Dwenger-bound Erica Miller also played a key role in the Cardinals’ championship season, while Demitra Burns pitched an impressive game for the Panthers giving up very few hits and striking out several batters in the loss. The Panthers beat St. Jude 8 and Decatur on their road to the final game.

With several rain-outs, the Cardinals entered the blind-draw tournament with a 2-0 record. First round action saw St. Charles beat St. Jude 7. In the semifinals, St. Charles scored the first three runs starting out 3-0 against a tough St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth/St. Therese/St. John, Fort Wayne group. Their opponents answered back and took the lead, 5-3, as the time limit was approaching. As the final minutes expired, St. Charles scored three to go ahead, 6-5, for the win before facing St. Vincent in the final battle. The champions finished the season with a perfect 5-0 record. Six-year veteran, Burkhardt added, “There was a good crowd on hand to watch the championship at St. Charles field.”

St. Charles Cardinals take CYO tournament championship

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

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St. Charles 8 girls Cardinal softball team, shown above, claimed the CYO tournament championship on May 8.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

St. Aloysius to hold sesquicentennial events
Yoder — St. Aloysius Parish will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a dance that will feature Die Freudentaler Band with German music, polkas and square dances on Saturday, June 20, from 7-10 p.m. in the activity center. Freewill donation. Snacks and drinks available for purchase. On Sunday, June 21, Bishop D’Arcy will celebrate the 11 a.m. Mass and dedicate the new altar. Barbecue, snacks and children’s games will follow. At 3 p.m. a Marian music concert, featuring the parish choir and musicians will be held in the church. The concert is free.

Retreat offered for grieving parents
Huntington — Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home will host a free retreat for grieving parents on Saturday, June 6, at the Victory Noll Center, 1900 W. Park Dr. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the retreat from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The retreat will reflect on the writings of James E. Miller’s, “When Mourning Dawns: Living Your Way Fully Through the Seasons of Your Grief.” Breakfast and lunch will be served. Participants are asked to bring a picture of their child.
Contact Lili Carroll at lilicarroll1@vnnh.org or Bonnie Knuth at bonnieknuth@vnnh.org or call (260) 435-322 or (800) 288-4111 for reservations.

All-class reunion planned
South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary School is planning an all-class reunion on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. If you attended Our Lady of Hungary School and would like to attend this reunion (21 and over only), please mail your name (and/or maiden name), address, phone, e-mail and class year, along with $15 registration fee to: OLY Alumni Assoc., 331 Parkovash Ave., South Bend, IN 46617. You may also register and pay online at: www.ourlady-ofhungary.com/alumni.htm.

German Mass and dinner
Fort Wayne — St. Peter Church, 500 E. DeWalt St. will celebrate a German Mass Sunday, June 7, at 11 a.m. Father Charles Herman will be the celebrant. German hymns will be sung by the Fort Wayne Mannerchor and Dammenchor under the direction of Greg Vey. Following Mass a German Mass and dinner will be available. Call (260) 623-5002 or the school. Tickets will be available. Call (260) 623-5002 or the school. Tickets will be available.

Catholic Networking offered
Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network will meet Friday, June 5, at the Chamber of Commerce, 826 Ewing St. Mass will be at 7:30 a.m. with Father Chau Phan from St. Patrick. Breakfast and meeting will follow. Keynote speaker will be Dave Steffen from The DeHayes Group. Tickets must be purchased online at www.catholicbusinessnetwork.com by June 3. Cost is $15, members are free. No walk-ins allowed.

FUNDRAISERS

Spathegi dinner supports seminarian program
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570 together with the Serra Club will have a spaghetti dinner, Thursday, June 11, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. for the Serra Club’s seminarian program. Adults $7, children 5 to 12 $2.50. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, beverages and dessert. Council is located at 5202 Linden Ave., one block east of Mayflower Road.

Boppin’ at Besancon
New Haven — St. Louis Academy will have a 50s weekend fundraiser to benefit the school. Friday night will feature a drive-in dinner for $5 with hot dog or cheeseburger, fries and a rootbeer float from 5-7 p.m. Saturday night will feature a sock hop from 8-11 p.m. with music by Biff and the Cruisers. Tickets in advance are $20 couple, $10 single, include drink ticket and snacks. Beer and wine will be available. Call (260) 623-3561 or the school. Tickets will be $5 more at the door. All events will be in the parish hall.

St. Jude Eaglemania
Fort Wayne — St. Jude Parish will have Eaglemania Friday, June 5, from 5-11 p.m. Children’s games, food tent, talent show and beer garden.

THE CATHOLIC BUSINESS HOUR

Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.
Do business faith first.
Dick Lyles hosts this live call-in program designed to help change the culture by conducting business from a Catholic perspective.
(260) 436-1450
www.redeemerradio.com

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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

Visit www.diocesefwsb.org for a complete calendar of events in the diocese.
And desires. Moreover, three levels of the heart — surface, heart, Beckman describes the heart as thoughts, feelings, prayer. Concluding that all prayer must take place with the heart, the author offers a look into the inner dynamics of prayer explained on page 60. With committed use of “acknowledge, relate, receive and respond,” prayer can become full and rich with practice.

Part three offers Scripture and stories to illuminate the idea of using imagination in prayer and how to approach making prayer a habit. The destination of this life is heaven, Beckman concedes, and the church and the sacraments become our vehicle by which to gain that new life. And our receptivity of that new life comes through prayer.

The book closes with real life, inspirational testimonies from the saint to the student. Five appendixes offer scholarly writings on specific notions Beckman integrates into his writing, with appendix four offering suggestions for dedicated prayer, with its fresh insights and appendix two offering suggestions for group prayer and appendix five providing ways to pray with Scripture. The 168-page tome can be an eye opener for even the most dedicated prayer, with its fresh insights and church-based foundational information. The anecdotes bring to life the meaning of Beckman’s words, “God doesn’t want you to live the Christian life ... He wants Jesus to live the Christian life in you!”

Questions for discussion
• Beckman discusses several excuses as to why prayer is not a common practice on pages 13-18. Can you relate to any/all of these? Explain.
• Have you ever experienced “desolation” as described on page 43? How did it impact your prayer life?
• How do you think the dynamics of prayer — acknowledge, relate, receive and respond — could impact your prayer life?

Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated a memorial Mass for Father Robert Dombrowski at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on May 14. Father Dombrowski, who was a retired priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, died in April in Eureka, Ark. He was 74. Father Dombrowski served for many years as the chaplain in the U.S. Army, but also pastored at St. Mary of the Assumption in Decatur and St. Dominic Parish in Bremen. Eleven priests from all over the diocese who were friends of Father Dombrowski, concelebrated the Mass.

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB
This month’s featured selection: “God, Help Me: How to Grow in Prayer” by Jim Beckman
Reviewed by Kay Cozad

Today’s Catholic book-of-the-month selection for June is Jim Beckman’s “God, Help Me: How to Grow in Prayer,” published by Servant Books, St. Anthony Messenger Press. ISBN: 978-0-86716-890-7. Open “God, Help Me: How to Grow in Prayer,” and see how author Jim Beckman jumps feet first into this complex subject beginning with the introduction where he writes, “Through prayer ... we come to a full understanding of who we are and why we are here.” Quenching the longing to find that understanding resides, he says, in forming a deep relationship with God through prayer. And not just random moments in prayer but a journey of consistently showing up with the disposition of the heart when you are there.

He writes with a passion that is forthcoming, adding anecdotes of honest prayer life development from his own life as well as from the lives of his children and others he has worked with.

The thought-provoking first chapter explores common excuses why a prayer life may be inconsistent or shallow with powerful direction toward prayer. Beckman uses inspirational quotes from authors and saints to drive home with powerful direction toward prayer. Beckman uses early writings on specific notions Beckman integrates into his writing, with appendix four offering suggestions for family or group prayer and appendix five providing ways to pray with Scripture. The 168-page tome can be an eye opener for even the most dedicated prayer, with its fresh insights and church-based foundational information. The anecdotes bring to life the meaning of Beckman’s words, “God doesn’t want you to live the Christian life ... He wants Jesus to live the Christian life in you!”

Questions for discussion
• Beckman discusses several excuses as to why prayer is not a common practice on pages 13-18. Can you relate to any/all of these? Explain.
• Have you ever experienced “desolation” as described on page 43? How did it impact your prayer life?
• How do you think the dynamics of prayer — acknowledge, relate, receive and respond — could impact your prayer life?

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