WASHINGTON — The U.S. Bishops’ Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has set up a Web site to mark the Year for Priests, to be celebrated June 19, 2009-June 19, 2010, throughout the world.

Pope Benedict XVI has designated the year-long celebration to begin on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a day of prayer for the sanctification of all priests. The pope also has designated St. John Vianney as the universal patron of all priests on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the saint’s death. The saint, who also is known as the Cure of Ars, is the patron of parish priests.

The Year for Priests Web site can be found at www.usccb.org/yearforpriests.

Elements of the site include Pope Benedict’s message for the occasion and the announcement of the plenary indulgence in both English and Spanish in conjunction with the celebration. Additional elements include prayers that have been commissioned for both priests and laity. PDF documents of these prayers (English/Spanish) can be downloaded and printed for diocesan and parochial use.

During the year, the secretariat will provide monthly articles by prominent Catholic women who will write about their faith and trust in the priesthood.

Other activities for the Year for Priests will include a gathering of priests in Rome.
Fundraiser strengthens the work of protecting little babies

A night to remember

A few years ago, a note from Ann Murphy Mannion, president of Women’s Care Center, indicated to me that the Women’s Care Center in Fort Wayne was growing so fast, and so many young women and their babies were being helped, that there was need of a major fundraiser. What to do? I thought of my dear friend, Lou Holtz. Many years ago, he helped us with a fundraiser for Catholic Charities and also for Vincent House. I wrote to him and asked if he could come sometime between the next 12-18 months; and through his office, we settled on June 2, 2009.

So many highlights

The crowd was about 400, at $250 a plate.

Surely, a highlight was to see Lou with several of his old players all at a table made possible by Ruth Beier, herself a Notre Dame graduate. It included the great Jeff Burris, who played so many years in the NFL, and played both ways at Notre Dame; Reggie Brooks, who became a Catholic during his time at Notre Dame or perhaps shortly after, and is now a member of Holy Cross Parish, South Bend, with his family; much talk about his game-winning catch against Penn State — our own Brian Baker — a walk-on, and now both a CPA and an attorney in Indianapolis, and a legendary running back at the division championship teams at Bishop Dwenger. It is said that he scored 30 touchdowns as a senior at Dwenger; another lineman, named Josh Hamilton. Seeing Lou greet them was special.

We did an auction similar to what we do in the high schools, and realized $66,000 for Women’s Care Center. When the full amount raised is, I will share it with you.

There was a superb presentation by Anne Koehl, director of the Fort Wayne program, and the presence of a woman soon to be married with her little baby and her husband-to-be, the father of the baby, and the story of how she had driven around Fort Wayne and nearby towns to get help. In the high school, and as a way of reaching the community, we settled on June 2, 2009.

And the presence of the foundress

You have to pause and reflect about Janet Smith, Ph.D. She was a professor at Notre Dame, of the department of liberal studies, with an emphasis, very profoundly, hundreds of young Catholics and others. Seeing so many students at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s and other colleges, as well as non-students, becoming pregnant and coming to us for help, makes one see the small blue house near the campus, and thus began the Women’s Care Center.

Janet has been a warrior for the church’s teaching on life, and chastity and marital love.

Her tape on contraception, so reasonable and beautiful, has been given to millions of young people preparing for marriage and those already married — a clear presentation in support of always being open to life.

She speaks at colleges, universities, everywhere; and in more recent years at state colleges.

Almost alone, she and Lisa Everett and a few others picketed the famous speech years ago of Gov. Mario Cuomo at Notre Dame. She was present at the pro-life rally on the day of graduation at Notre Dame and at this event with Lou Holtz. Not surprisingly, there was a young woman with her who has founded a pro-life pregnancy center in Michigan.

Dr. Janet is now a professor at the Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. She meets with young men prepared for the priesthood. You made it all possible, Janet, because you decided not to just let things happen — but to do something.

Feast of the Holy Trinity

A beautiful Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Trinity Sunday with confirmation for 48 adults.

A special joy that there were five Burmese confirmed. I am grateful to Father Philip Aung Nge, who is living at our cathedral for several weeks to give spiritual care to the Burmeses. At the end of the month, he will join in marriage nine couples at the cathedral in one ceremony.

He prepared these five for confirmation, and has been hearing confessions and giving instructions.

It reminded me about the early days when a pioneer priest would come and stay awhile, and regularize marriages, and see that people’s spiritual needs are taken care of.

Father Philip is studying theology at Saint Joseph’s Seminary in New York with two other priests.

With all that pastoral and sacramental work, he was still able to play some tennis. He called it “ground tennis” to distinguish it, he said, from table tennis.

Also, many Hispanic Catholics from St. Patrick Parish.

Speaking of universality

With Father Philip Aung Nge at the cathedral, we now have a priest from Uganda, Nigeria, and Burma. All are exemplary. In addition, we have Father Jim Stoyle and Father Bob Schulte — the rectors. But as you probably notice in reading the newspaper this week, this will all soon change.

North to Kalamazoo

With the help of the excellent navigator, Deacon Jake Runyon, who was most helpful, we went to the installation of a new bishop at St. Augustine’s Cathedral in Kalamazoo. This diocese, started in 1971, is much younger than ours; but it was a joy to be with other priests at this local church just north of South Bend, and greet the new diocesan pastor Bishop Paul Bradley — a native of Pittsburgh.

The feast of Corpus Christi

This splendid feast, like Trinity Sunday, developed later in the church, but it points out something supremely Catholic; namely, the presence of Jesus Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, as the Council of Trent proclaimed the holy Eucharist reserved in the tabernacle for a dual purpose; namely, Communion to the sick, and the prayer and adoration of the faithful.

This does not mean that faith in the real presence is new. St. Augustine said, “Before you receive the Host, you should adore it; and if you do not adore it, you have sinned.” The presence of Christ reserved in the tabernacle is important; for what has made our Catholic churches unique and holy over the years. This week, among many other things, I am preparing a letter to be dated on Corpus Christi and sent out soon to our priests, and also printed in this newspaper. It will accompany a document concerning the proper placement of the tabernacle in our churches. It has been prepared after wide consultation with our priests and our Environment and Art Committee.

Let this feast of Corpus Christi be a moment of grace for us all; and let it strengthen our belief in the presence of Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist when we receive him in holy Communion; and when we adore him and pray to him in church. I will be in St. Patrick, Walkerton, for this feast.

See you all next week.
HOLTZ
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He spoke at length about life’s core values, which include trustworthiness, commitment to excellence and concern for others. Not only do they hold a family together, they unite a nation as well. He concluded by encouraging his listeners to believe in themselves in order to succeed. In addition, Holtz sprinkled Notre Dame football references throughout his remarks and included comments designed to delight his audience when he predicted an 11-1 season for the Irish.

Nearly 400 guests enjoyed the evening hosted by Bishop John M. D’Arcy, an ardent supporter of the Women’s Care Center. In introducing his emcee Bobby Williams commended his respect introducing him, emcee Bobby

PRIEST
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for the culmination of the Year for Priests, as well as retreat on the national level. Information on the retreat will be provided through the Web site.

Dioceses and organizations may link the Year for Priests Web site. Instructions under the tab for “Promotional Materials” www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/promo mate.shtml indicate how to link to the site.

Today’s Catholic will be featuring a look into the lives of the priests through the year under the heading of “The Years of Our Priests.” The series begins June 21.

Former Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz receives a portrait created by a local artist from Ruth Beier at a fund-raising dinner held for the Women’s Care Center.

Priest assignments announced

Bishop D’Arcy has announced the following assignments of priests:

- **Deacon Fernando Jimenez**, having completed his studies for the priesthood at the Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary, has been assigned to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. He has also been assigned for weekend ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Shrine, Warsaw. The effective date is June 15, 2009.

- **Deacon Jacob Runyon** having completed his studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary has been assigned to St. Mary of the Lake Parish, South Bend. He will also assist high school ministry in the South Bend-Mishawaka area. Effective date June 15, 2009.

- **Deacon Andrew Budzinski** has more than 100 items, a verbal auction familiar to those attending diocesan high school fundraising events such as the bishop’s auction, also produced an enthusiastic response. A number of anonymous donors made substantial contributions as well to make the evening an unqualified success. Early estimates indicate that approximately $400,000 was raised for the care center. General chairman of the event were Don McArdle and John Tippmann. They said, “The Women’s Care Center mission is so important that we eagerly undertook this task.”

- **Rev. Bruce Piochocki**, J.C.L., has been reassigned from pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne. Father Piochocki will continue as judicial vicar. The effective date of the change of parishes is July 1, 2009.

- **Rev. Mark Gurtner**, J.C.L., is reassigned from pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, to pastor of St. Anthony Parish, South Bend. The effective date of this assignment is July 21, 2009.

- **Rev. Deryl Rybicki** has been reassigned from pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, to pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, South Bend. Effective date July 21, 2009.

- **Rev. Cyril Fernandez** has been reassigned from pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn, to chaplain to the sisters and the residents at Sacred Heart Home, Avilla, effective July 21, 2009.


- **Rev. Glenn Kohrman** is reassigned from pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Culver, and chaplain at Culver Academy, to pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart. Effective Aug. 4, 2009.

- **Rev. Dale Bauman** has been reassigned from pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton, to pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Pierconet, and associate pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. Both assignments are effective Aug. 4, 2009.


- **Rev. Lourdino Fernandez** has been reassigned from pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville, to pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion. Effective Oct. 6, 2009. Father Lourdino will reside temporarily at St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier.

- **Rev. Francis Chukwuma**, J.C.L., has been assigned as associate pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Culver, and chaplain at Culver Academy. Effective date is Aug. 4, 2009.

- **Rev. James Styley** has accepted, for reasons of canonical age, the retirement of Rev. Camilo Tirabassi. The effective date of this retirement will be Aug. 4, 2009. Father Tirabassi will reside at Holy Family Parish, South Bend.

- **Rev. Lourdino Fernandez** has been reassigned, for reasons of canonical age, the retirement of Rev. Daniel Leon. Effective date July 1, 2009.

Bishop D’Arcy has accepted the recommendation of Rev. David Tyson, CSC, provincial of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and has made the following assignments:

- **Rev. John P. Riley**, CSC, as associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish, South Bend. This assignment will be effective July 1, 2009.

- **Rev. Mr. Kevin Grove**, CSC, as deacon at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend. This assignment will be effective Aug. 30, 2009.
Hudson River survivor tells faith story at ND Medjugorje conference

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The coalition of advocates for comprehensive immigration reform is gearing up for a summer-long push to get moving on legislation this year, with kickoff events around the country the first week of June and a summit meeting at Notre Dame scheduled for June 16. While it apparently will be some time before the latest version of a comprehensive reform bill is ready to advance in Congress, several individual bills already have been introduced to address other immigration issues.

Off-shelf efforts have been revived to pass broadly supported bills dealing with agricultural workers and students without legal status who came to the country with their parents. Known respectively as the Agricultural Jobs, Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act, or AgJOBS, and the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or the DREAM Act, both bills may advance through Congress before a comprehensive bill is drafted.

But another type of new legislation that would make it possible for same-sex couples to sponsor each other’s applications to immigrate could alienate some of the usual advocates for eased immigration restrictions, notably the Catholic Church.

At a June 10 Washington press conference sponsored by the new coalition called Reform Immigration for America, a roster of regular and some new supporters of comprehensive reform laid out the agenda for the coming months. Most of the goals are the same as they have been for the last several legislative attempts at comprehensive reform, but with a few new points of focus.

The goals for comprehensive reform have long included:

- A legalization plan for undocumented immigrants to pay fines, learn English and become legal residents after a backlog of applications through existing channels are addressed.
- Reform of the legal immigration system, making it easier for families to be reunited, than the current system of sometimes decades-long waiting lines allows.
- Enforcement targeted at employers.
- Administration of due process rights for immigrants.

One new component for discussion among those who hope to influence how legislation is written is the possibility of creating an immigration commission to study why and how people come to the United States, said Msgr. Dan Mohler.

One of those hearings, held by the Senate Judiciary Committee June 3, focused on legislation introduced by Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., on family-based immigration.

At that hearing, Leahy said his introduction of the American Family Act intends to enable U.S. citizens to apply for immigration status for their nonmarital domestic partners. Currently only heterosexual married couples may apply for such visas for their spouses. Same-sex marriages, which are recognized by some states and in some countries, or unmarried domestic partnerships are not recognized under federal law as conferring rights to immigrate.

“Obviously the Holy See and L’Osservatore Romano have been, are and will be fully at the side of the U.S. bishops in their commitment in favor of the inviolability of human life in whatever stage of its existence,” it said.

The commentary said it would be wrong to interpret the newspaper’s articles as a sign that it viewed the U.S. bishops’ anti-abortion campaign as an exercise in partisan politics. Nor was the Vatican following a “different strategy” than that used by U.S. bishops when it came to the inheritance of abortion, it said.

The newspaper said Obama has shown himself to be open to dialogue and that U.S. bishops have worked for the possibility of a positive manner. But in doing so, it said, “they have reaffirmed, and quite rightly, that in dialogue no one can ever pose the fundamental question of the right to life.”

In May, a similar statement came from L’Osservatore Romano’s editor Giovanna Maria Vian, who said: “It should be understood that L’Osservatore shares the same position as the American bishops who consider abortion a disaster. It is always a necessary and decisive task, in fact, to promote a culture of life at every level.”

At the same time, Vian has said that, despite obvious differences with the new administration on pro-life issues, he does not consider Obama an abortion president, and his newspaper has emphasized Obama’s declared commitment to reducing the number of abortions.

Pope Benedict XVI and the president are expected to meet in July.

Imigration advocates to use summer to push legislation

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper has again emphasized that when it comes to the Obama administration and pro-life issues, the Vatican and the U.S. bishops are in full agreement and that no compromise is possible on the right to life.

The newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, said it was a mistake to view its press coverage of Obama — which has been positive on many issues — as evidence that the Vatican is following a “different strategy” than the U.S. bishops in dealing with the new administration.

The comments came in the newspaper’s June 10 edition, in an article criticizing the Obama administration’s restoration of federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research.

The newspaper appeared to be defending itself against accusations by some U.S. Catholic commentators that a pro-life editorial was too soft on Obama.

In one of the latest critiques, Michael Novak, director of social and political studies at the American Enterprise Institute, wrote in National Review Online May 26 that L’Osservatore had “published glowing, star-struck, youth-pleasing praise of President Barack Obama” and “seems not to grasp the fundamental realities of abortion politics in America.”

The Vatican newspaper said it wanted to underline that “in reporting on recent statements and initiatives of the president of the United States, L’Osservatore Romano has certainly not intended to express appreciation for his positions on questions of ethical choice.”

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Pope Benedict XVI and the president are expected to meet in July.
By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. President Barack Obama’s speech in Cairo, Egypt, was welcomed by Vatican media as a step toward peace and a new beginning in American relations with Muslims.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said the June 4 speech was important not only for relations between the United States and Muslim countries but also for international peace. It brought “an element of hope” to the world horizon, he said in a commentary June 6.

“arated political weight of the United States is being employed with clarity toward objectives that are certainly crucial for peace in the world,” the spokesman said.

He cited several concerns touched upon in the speech by the U.S. president, including an Israeli-Palestinian agreement, nuclear disarmament, religious freedom, democratic values, development and women’s rights.

“These are openings toward directions in which very many people of good will want to cooperate in order to find the right way for humanity, and which we hope can be a meeting ground for believers in God, creator and lover of peace,” Father Lombardi said.

The Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, ran a front-page story June 4 on Obama’s speech earlier that day. The newspaper called it an effort to open “a new beginning in relations between the United States and the Arab world.”

It said the president “went beyond political formulas, evoking concrete common interests in the name of a common humanity,” including peace, security, education, work, family life and religious values.

On the question of Iraq, the newspaper said, Obama “marked a break with the past” by citing the need for the United States to use diplomacy and international consensus to solve problems. Vatican Radio also reported on the speech, saying that it “went beyond expectations” as a reconciliation effort with Muslim countries.

“The words pronounced at the University of Cairo are much more than an extended hand, but the foundation of a real common platform for launching what (Obama) defines as a new beginning in relations between the United States and the Middle East,” it said.

In an interview with Vatican Radio, Mario Scialoja, an official of the Islamic Cultural Center of Italy, said Obama’s speech signaled a change from the approach of former President George W. Bush. He said it was especially important that Obama recognized Muslims as a part of American society and called Islam a religion of peace, citing verses from the Quran.

“It seems to me that Obama has touched the right chords in the hearts of Muslims and the entire world and that he has opened an era of more receptive and more frank dialogue between the United States and the Islamic world,” Scialoja said.

Several Christian leaders in the Middle East said they were generally impressed with Obama’s speech but wanted action to follow the president’s words.

“It’s a speech that has been needed for a long time, and the U.S. president had the courage to make it,” Chaldean Bishop Yousef Sarraf of Cairo told the Italian Catholic agency SIR. He expressed the hope that “Islam and the Arab world will know how to receive this extended hand.”

“It’s the beginning of a new process, a new era. Obama really wants to change things, and the image of the United States will benefit from it,” Bishop Sarraf said.

Archbishop Paul Daballah, apostolic vicar of Beirut, Lebanon, said he hoped the speech would spur real initiatives aimed at resolving the “root of all problems in the region,” the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. “If that does not happen, the extended hand will not lead to any result,” he said.

Franciscan Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, head of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, said Obama was sincere, determined and very balanced in his speech, confirming the U.S. relationship with Israel but signaling a change in strategy with the Arab world.

“This should give an impetus to the search for a solution to the main problem, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” he said.

He said it was important that Obama had recognized the potential role of the militant group Hamas in a future peace settlement, asking at the same time that Hamas recognize Israel.

— Vatican News
Pro-life leaders concerned Tiller’s murder may hurt their efforts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There is growing concern that the May 31 murder of a Kansas abortion doctor in his church may tarnish the image of the pro-life movement, at a time when it appears a slight majority of Americans have embraced the cause. Leaders in several pro-life organizations also said public proclamations that the doctor who performed late-term abortions “got what he deserved” and “reaped what he sowed” by people who “claim to be pro-life” advocates don’t help the movement. “Statements like that hurt the cause,” said Shaun Kenney, executive director of the American Life League. “When we cheapen our own principles, we do ourselves a tremendous disservice.”

Dr. George Tiller, 67, of Wichita, Kan., was fatally shot while serving as an usher at the city’s Reformation Lutheran Church during Sunday morning services, according to The Associated Press. Pro-life groups and the U.S. Catholic bishops quickly denounced the murder, saying that such violence is contrary to their respect for all life, from conception to natural death.

Fight secular trends, base ministry on love, health care leaders urged

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — A Franciscan physician and ethicist warned Catholic health care leaders June 7 not to let their ministry become an entirely secular operation that sees patients as customers and leaves out the vital component of love. Brother Daniel Sulmasy recounted his experiences with an unfeeling bureaucracy one evening at his own hospital, St. Vincent’s in New York. He contrasted it with the approach of a nurse at a local secular hospital whose care of patients mirrors more closely the love that saints, heroes and patients mirror more closely the love that saints, heroes and patients mirrors more closely the love that saints, heroes and patients mirrors more closely the love that saints, heroes and patients mirrors more closely the love that saints, heroes and patients mirrors more closely the love that saints, heroes and patients mirrors.

Relatives and friends attend a Mass for the passengers of Air France Flight 447 at the Nossa Senhora do Carmo Church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 5. People prayed during the Mass for the 228 Air France Flight 447 passengers who lost their lives in the Atlantic Ocean after the plane disappeared en route from Brazil to Paris June 1.

Congregation granted power to more easily laicize some priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has granted the Congregation for Clergy new powers to dismiss from the priesthood and release from the obligation of celibacy priests who are living with women, who have abandoned their ministry for more than five years or who have engaged in seriously scandalous behavior. The new powers do not apply to cases involving the sexual abuse of minors by a priest; those cases continue to be subject to special rules and procedures overseen by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The new faculties were announced by Cardinal Claudio Hummes, prefect of the clergy congregation, in an April 18 letter to the world’s bishops. Catholic News Service obtained a copy of the letter in early June. Cardinal Hummes told CNS June 3 that the new, quicker administrative procedure for dismissing priests was prompted by “many situations where canon law did not seem adequate for meeting new problems.” As an example, the cardinal said the 1983 Code of Canon Law made no provision for a bishop to initiate a process to laicize a priest who had abandoned his ministry.

God’s presence evident in all creation, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said God’s presence as an orientation toward love is evident in all things, from the farthest galaxies to the human identity or “genome.” The pope spoke about the relationship between God and man at his noon blessing June 7, the feast of the Most Holy Trinity. “God is totally and only love, love that is pure, infinite and eternal. He does not live in splendid solitude, but instead is an inexhaustible source of life that unceasingly gives itself and communicates itself,” he said. The pope said God’s identity can be grasped when looking at the “macro-universe” of planets, stars and galaxies, and also at the “micro-universe” of cells, atoms and particles.

Archbishop Curtis of Omaha retires; Illinois bishop named successor

WASHINGTON (CNS) Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Elen F. Curtis of Omaha, Neb., 76, and has named as his successor Bishop George J. Lucas, 59, of Springfield, Ill. The changes were announced June 5 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Lucas will be installed July 22 at St. Cecilia’s Cathedral in Omaha. Archbishop Curtis has been appointed to serve as a pro-life administrator until the installation. “It is humbling to be given such responsibility by the vicar of Christ, and I think of the Holy Father for this privilege,” the new archbishop said during a press conference in Omaha. “I look forward to learning about all of the ways in which the Gospel is preached and lived in the Archdiocese of Omaha.”

Diocese warns excommunication looms for leFebri priests

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Officials in the Diocese of Regensburg, Germany, have raised plans by the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X to ordain new priests without Vatican consent at a local seminary, said Diocese spokesman Jakub Schotz. “Our bishop is waiting for Rome to advise on how to respond. But it will almost certainly result in the excommunication of the priests and the bishop who ordains them,” Schotz said. The spokesman was reacting to an announcement by the society that it would ordain three priests and three deacons in its seminary at Zaitzkofen in Bavaria June 27, along with another 18 at its headquarters in Econe, Switzerland, and at Winona, Minn. In a statement, the Zaitzkofen seminary rector, Father Stefan Frey, said the society now had “provisional legal status” in the Catholic Church pending a “definitive canonical ruling” on its future. “We will not be bound to ‘put a stop to ordinations.’”

Pope names Philadelphia vicar for dergy as an auxiliary bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Msgr. Timothy C. Senior, vicar for clergy in the Philadelphia Archdiocese since 2004, to be an auxiliary bishop there. The appointment was announced June 8 in Washington by Msgr. Alexander Cifuentes Castano, charge d’affaires at the apostolic nunciature. Bishop-designate Senior’s installation will be July 31 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. “My heart is filled with gratitude first to almighty God for the gift of life and for the gift of my Roman Catholic faith. I treasure the gift of faith and the priceless gift of lifelong friendship with Jesus Christ who has called me to share in his sacred priesthood,” Bishop-designate Senior said at a June 8 press conference in Philadelphia. Bishop-designate Senior was born in Philadelphia May 22, 1960. He attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook, Pa., and earned a bachelor’s degree in 1981. He was ordained a priest for the Philadelphia Archdiocese in 1985.
Sister Brames celebrates 60th jubilee

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Sixty-six U.S. School Sisters of St. Francis will also celebrate 25 year jubilees. Sister Theresa Ann Brames (Irita) celebrates 60 years as a School Sister of St. Francis. She was born in New Haven and has lived her religious ministry as homemaker and driver in several areas. Sister resides in Campbellsport, Wis.

Ancilla, Calumet College to co-host open house

DONALDSON — Ancilla College and Calumet College of Saint Joseph (CCSJ) will be co-hosting an open house on Wednesday, June 24, at Ancilla to present two new bachelor’s degrees that will be offered in the fall at the Donaldson-based campus.

According to Dr. Joanna Blount, dean of academic and student services at Ancilla College, "This is truly a wonderful opportunity for the community and for Ancilla College graduates to continue their higher education through Calumet College of Saint Joseph, while remaining in the community."

The two degrees — business management with a concentration in human resources management and criminal justice with a minor in paralegal — will be presented to former Ancilla graduates and those interested in pursuing either one of the degrees.

CCSJ Vice President Dr. Dan Lowery will be on hand to answer questions, along with representatives from both the business and criminal justice departments at CCSJ.

Desilia Bosetti, business professor, will be available to talk with students about the business program.

The faculty for these programs will have their offices at Ancilla College, but will also be considered part of the faculty at CCSJ.

"It is not often that two colleges agree to a joint faculty appointment," said Blount. "This is a sign of our commitment to bringing higher education home to our community."

The open house will be held from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and attendance is by RSVP by calling (574) 936-8898 ext. 322.

Lindenwood holds retreat on the letters of St. Paul

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being accepted for the conference retreat “The Letters of Paul.” In the year of St. Paul the Apostle, this retreat will focus on the saint’s letters to understand the good news that he preached. During the retreat, key insights that Paul has into Jesus will be investigated and the opportunity to appreciate the great depths of his spirituality and commitment to Jesus and his church will be presented.

The retreat facilitator Michael Fonseca holds degrees in counseling psychology, theology, English literature and philosophy and is currently director of spiritual formation and facilitator for diaconate formation programs in Michigan and Texas. For over 20 years Fonseca has had a spiritual direction practice and has conducted many retreats for parishes, religious communities and diocesan clergy. He has also written “Living in God’s Embrace and Loving in the Master’s Footsteps.”

The liturgy and Mass celebrant Father John Scott currently serves St. Thomas Aquinas in Knox, and has been a personal friend of Fonseca’s for most of his life.

The retreat fee of $350 includes the retreat fee of $350 includes meals and a private room. The program begins Sunday evening, July 12, at 5 p.m., with a light supper and ends Friday, July 17, at 1 p.m.

Registration deadline is Monday, July 6. For information on the retreat, call (574) 935-1763 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR CELEBRATED AT ST. PIUS

St. Pius X School in Granger completed its inaugural year with a school assembly on June 5 that included a time capsule of items from each grade level and other school memorabilia. Fourth-grade students Chandler Edwards, Michael Wuszke and Connor Christ gave Principal Elaine Holmes a scrapbook of memories from their six field trips this year, with the bulk of the trips related to Indiana history. The time capsule will be kept in a secure location and will be opened in 10 years.

Area Catholic students win Holocaust essay and poetry contest

FORT WAYNE — An annual memorial observance, sponsored by the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation, for the 6 million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust during World War II, titled Yom Hashoah, was held on April 21 at Congregation Achdath Vesholom. Three students from St. John the Baptist were recognized for winning the annual essay contest this year, each receiving a certificate and a savings bond from Star Financial Bank. Eighth-grader Sam Stronczek won first place, seventh-grader Jibri Bramley took second and seventh-grader Nick Steffen won third place.

The students studied the Holocaust in Michele Voigt’s language arts class at St. John’s, who said, “They are amazing students ... motivated ... diligent. They have a good understanding of the Holocaust.” Their essays were printed for those in attendance, including Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry and Holocaust survivor Doris Fogel.

The contest challenged both public and parochial middle and high school students to write essays or poetry on the subject and was judged by a panel from the community.

Poetry winners from St. Mary of the Assumption in Avilla were Nichole Rorick, who won first place and Bret Sible who won third.

Our Sunday Visitor acquires Harcourt Religion Publishers

HUNTINGTON — Our Sunday Visitor announced June 3 its acquisition of Harcourt Religion Publishers (a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. This brings together two of the nation’s leading Catholic publishing groups. Terms of the transaction were undisclosed.

The strategic combination of the two companies’ product lines, services and innovations represents an unprecedented, one-source solution for lifelong faith development within Catholic parishes and schools. Joining together, they provide a dynamic approach to systematic and intentional catechesis for all members of the faith community.

Through the transaction, Our Sunday Visitor solidifies its ability to help millions of Catholics of every age bring their faith to life, while Harcourt Religion Publishers substantially extends the reach of its curriculum base.

“As we are thrilled to welcome Harcourt Religion Publishers into the Our Sunday Visitor family,” said Greg Erlandson, president and publisher, Our Sunday Visitor. “They have long stood out for their curricula and forward-looking support tools. The joining of our product lines not only reinforces both missions, but it leverages similar corporate cultures that value innovation, hybrid solutions and sharing what the church teaches and why to Catholics of all ages.”

President of Harcourt Religion Publishers, Diane Lampitt, added, “Our Sunday Visitor’s people, products and mission complement our vision and commitment to provide solid, age-appropriate catechism. Together, we’ll be able to respond to parish and school needs like never before – with exceptional speed, creativity and new formats.”

Our Sunday Visitor will retain Harcourt Religion Publishers’ existing management team, support staff, field representatives and product line. Harcourt Religion Publishers’ customers will continue to work through their established local sales representatives and gain immediate access to a wider array of products and programs. Over the next several months, customers can expect to see expanded service support, expedited fulfillment services and new hybrid products and services.

“Our focus is to co-host open house for the community and for Ancilla College graduates to continue their higher education through Calumet College of Saint Joseph, while remaining in the community.”

The retreat fee of $350 includes meals and a private room. The program begins Sunday evening, July 12, at 5 p.m., with a light supper and ends Friday, July 17, at 1 p.m.

Registration deadline is Monday, July 6. For information on the retreat, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1763 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A Mariam music concert, presented by parishioners and friends of the parish, will be held in the church at 3 p.m. The choir, soloists and musicians will sing traditional and contemporary hymns of the Blessed Mother. The concert includes congregational singing.

St. Aloysius to host sesquicentennial events

YODER — St. Aloysius Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary on June 20-21 with several events.

On Saturday, a polka and square dance, featuring the music of Die Freundemacher German band, will be held from 7-10 p.m. in the activity center. Families are invited. A freewill donation will be accepted.

After the dance, the parish will sponsor a bonfire and a bonfire and a bonfire and a bonfire and a bonfire and a bonfire and a bonfire. Some cookies are available from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

On Sunday, the 11 a.m. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy. After Mass, children’s games, a petting zoo and barbecued chicken will be available from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

A Marian music concert, presented by parishioners and friends of the parish, will be held in the church at 3 p.m. The choir, soloists and musicians will sing traditional and contemporary hymns of the Blessed Mother. The concert includes congregational singing. The event is free and open to all. St. Aloysius is located on State Road 1, just south of Interstate 469, exit 6.
Construction projects enhance USF campus

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis (USF) has come along way from a few acres of land to the impressive campus it is today. Five construction projects are now underway and university officials are looking forward with an ambitious master plan.

The university is catering to the growing residential population. At a total cost of $6.2 million, a facility, Claire Hall, will provide suite-style accommodations for 146 students in 42,000 square feet and will be open for resident students in August. Bonzel Hall is being renovated to provide additional lobby space as well as handicap accessibility.

Demolition has begun on Bosco Hall to make way for access drives and parking for Clare Hall. Stacy Adkinson, USF’s executive vice president, said the investment in residential life is an attempt to make campus life “more full-bodied,” as an integration of personal, professional and spiritual aspects of the Catholic college experience. Currently all halls are filled, which was an impetus to start this project, she noted.

Work has begun on the $245,000-renovation of the Achatz Hall of Science. The project area, with a work table and a core group of volunteers from various parishes, the workshop was well underway.

Last year, with a successful model on their belts, the volunteers undertook the production of bunk beds. Today, seven volunteers, Ray Mata, John Becker, Pat Doyle, Ed Wene, Cletus Rumschlag, Bill Machocker and Jim Zehner, come every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for about four hours. Retired teacher John Becker is among the loyal group of retirees who pledges his time to this cause.

St. Vincent de Paul store manager Steve App and John Becker stand next to a hand-crafted dresser.

Volunteer John Becker shows an example of one of the bunkbeds made for needy families at the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s store on Calhoun Street.

which helps cater to their low-income clientele. Dressers retail for $75 and beds sell for $95, or $230 with a mattress. Needy families are referred to St. Vincent by participating parishes. In turn, St. Vincent’s is reimbursed by the parish for a majority of the cost of the bed.

Ultimately, the program underlines the store’s mission. “The work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is to help the poor,” he said. “No one is turned down who needs a dresser or bed.”

App said the challenge is creating awareness, especially in this weak economy.

“We have to get the word out,” he said.

He also reminds community members that the store is always accepting donations of clothes, furniture, appliances and other household items. For more information, contact App at (260) 456-3561.

Several hundred gathered at the University of Notre Dame Grotto last Friday to pray the rosary. Father Daryl Rybicki, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne, led the candlelight procession across campus as the people prayed the sorrowful and glorious mysteries. The rosary procession kicked off the 2009 National Medjugorje Conference, held at the University of Notre Dame May 29-31. Father Rybicki also led the eucharistic adoration and Benediction Saturday night, and celebrated the closing Mass Sunday afternoon in the Joyce Center.
INDIANAPOLIS — Nine-year-old Mia Poindexter, a fourth grader at Holy Angels Catholic School in Indianapolis, got a chance of a lifetime — the opportunity to receive a Catholic education. Lack of financial resources, the typical roadblock for most parents in choosing their children’s education, was removed. The financial void was filled by a private scholarship granting organization (SGO) called the Educational CHOICE Charitable Trust in Indianapolis.

Mia’s story of opportunity featured in the organization’s publication Families with a Choice, Children with a Future: School Choice in Indiana is only one of countless others. The success stories are inspirational, yet the CHOICE program only serves children in Central Indiana — and there are many more Hoosier families in need of this opportunity.

Children statewide are going to have that same opportunity of the Poindexter family if Gov. Mitch Daniels has his way. Daniels included an expansion of school choice options for lower income families through a scholarship tax credit as part of his budget package. Now it’s up to lawmakers to approve it when they return to the statehouse June 11, for a special session, to pass a new state budget.

The Indiana Catholic Conference and Catholics across the state during the past several months urged lawmakers to adopt the scholarship tax credit. The scholarship tax credit passed the Senate twice this spring, but died when the House and Senate could not agree on other controversial aspects of the state’s budget bill.

When the special session begins, lawmakers will be working from the governor’s budget plan, which contains the scholarship tax credit, and if passed, would provide a 50 percent state tax credit for charitable contributions to qualified scholarship programs. Lower income children in grades K-12 could qualify for scholarships to help attend the public or private school of their choice. The contributions could be made by individuals or corporations.

Msgr. Joseph Schaedel, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, who testified in support of the scholarship tax credit earlier this year and who has seen the benefits to families and communities, said, “The CHOICE Charitable Trust Scholarships have been ‘heaven sent’ for so many families who wanted the best education for their children. Without these scholarships, it is simply not possible,” said Msgr. Schaedel.

Mary Pat Sharpe, principal at St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis said, “CHOICE Charitable Trust provided about $55,600 this year in tuition assistance. Our need was over $75,000,” said Sharpe. “This upcoming year will be even tougher as many families who do not qualify for CHOICE, have lost jobs and found themselves struggling financially. Therefore, there is another group of families needing assistance.”

Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director, said the ICC and the Indiana Catholic Action Network (I-CAN) have played and will play a vital role in getting this scholarship tax credit passed. So I encourage everyone to keep contacting your state legislator and ask them to support the scholarship tax credit.

School Choice Tax Credit part of governor’s budget package

Michigan and Indiana, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Florida, Arizona and Indiana. She currently is parish life coordinator at Victory Noll, was missioned in Indiana, California, Michigan, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and Indiana. She is a native of Kendall, Wis., and currently is president of OLM from 1971-77.

Sister Dolores Tringl, a native of St. Louis, has spent her mission work in Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Missouri, Indiana and Arizona. She serves as a chaplain for the University Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona.

One OLVM sister celebrated her 50th jubilee. Sister Sharon Rose Eshleman, from Piper City, Ill., has been missioned in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Utah and New Mexico. She currently serves as librarian at Victory Noll.

Victory Noll Sisters celebrate jubilees

Huntington — Fourteen members of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters (OLVM) celebrated jubilees May 24 at Victory Noll on the anniversaries of their entrances into the congregation.

Sister Carlota Baca, who turned 100 years old in January, celebrated 80 years with OLVM in 1934.

Sister Margaret Gutierrez is a native of Duarte, Calif., and was missioned in California, Texas, and Bolivia before returning to Victory Noll.

Sister Rose Elizabeth Hohner, born in Wheatfield, was missioned in Gary, Indiana Harbor and Fort Wayne in Indiana, and also spent time in Texas and New Mexico.

Sister Dorothy Anne Lengerich is a native of Decatur. Her mission work took her to California, Texas, Wyoming, Michigan, Indiana, Nevada, Massachusetts, Utah, Ohio, Iowa, Colorado and New Jersey.

Iowa, Colorado and New Jersey. She currently is parish life coordinator in Villanueva, N.M. Three other sisters are also celebrating 60 years.

Sister Karen DeMeeleware, born in Victor, Iowa, was missioned to Nevada, California, New Mexico, Wyoming, Arizona and Indiana. She is now a personal needs assistant at Victory Noll.

Sister Gertrude Sullivan, a native of Kendall, Wis., was missioned to Michigan, Florida, Nevada, Indiana and Arizona. She served as president of the congregation at OLM from 1971-77.

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The Catholic history of the New Haven area can be traced back to the early 1600s. It was at that time that French priests of the Franciscan and Jesuit orders worked among the Miami Indians. Kekionga was the first name given to what is now known as Fort Wayne and was first visited by priests as early as 1669.

On Dec. 17, 1823, Allen County was named after Colonel John Allen of Kentucky. Allen County and Wayne Township were synonymous in 1824. Adams Township in the city of New Haven was created in 1826 to honor President John Q. Adams.

Msgr. Julian Benoit arrived in Fort Wayne in 1840 to found mission churches as well as care for the sick at the time when the building of the Erie Canal took place. His missionary work included New Haven, Besancon, Lagrange County and Avilla with care for the sick as far away as Decatur, Lagro, Huntington, Co. 

Although New Haven was not settled until July 7, 1866, the area was cared for by priests from Fort Wayne. Father Alexius Botti held services in the home of Nicholas Schuck, dry goods store owned by Beute Schelker. He came once a month to a congregation of 10 families.

A brick church was soon erected of $4,000 and used until 1876. Henry Luers laid the cornerstone in 1860. The parish had grown to 25 families.

The first recorded baptism in what was called the "old church" was that of Adelaide Schnelker, the daughter of Henry and Louise Trentman Schnelker. She was born on Oct. 27, 1877 and by hers was the last funeral from that church.

Other surnames of those families include Schlink, Goleke, Sarra and Klassen.

The second church was built of $16,000 and seated 450 members and was dedicated on Nov. 11, 1877. The structure measured 56 x 136 feet and was at the corner of Powers and Ann where the current gymnasium is located. In 1907, this parish had 114 families with a total of 508 souls.

The building was struck by fire on Palm Sunday in 1954 and was actually rebuilt as the church parish in today.

In the first 100 years, there were 9 pastors at St. John the Baptist in New Haven. Father Wolfgang Giedel was the resident pastor. His appointment in 1861 and he died May 2 contracting pneumonia while on his rounds.

His successor in 1873 was Father.
AND FIFTY YEARS

New Haven celebrates rich history

Sen Cassel, a native of Columbia City,Indiana, made calls to Fort Wayne,St. Joseph and Muncie.
The incorporation of Catholics in New Haven was even in late 1850s.
Archbishop Bernard Wiedau, who fed the parish spiritually for almost 50 years. He built the second church and the old school, which provided a quality Catholic education for almost 75 years. When Father Wiedau retired to St. Vincent Villas for retired priests in 1921, St. John’s Parish was free of debt. He died in 1932 at the age of 91.
The parish today owes much to the religious who served years ago influencing the young people who then answered the call to become a religious sister, brother or priest. Over 40 women who were baptized or were registered at St. John’s have committed to the consecrated life. Many answered the call to join the Sisters of St. Agnes who taught them for so many years. Others entered neighboring religious communities such as the Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Providence, Sisters of St. Francis and the School Sisters of Notre Dame.
Several priests have their roots at St. John, New Haven, including Fathers Donald Isenbarger and David Voors. Current parishioner Jeremy Egri is a seminarian in Thornwood, N.Y.
St. John the Baptist in New Haven has grown in many ways since its early beginnings. A third church and parish community center was built to serve the over 1,200 families currently registered. These families come from New Haven, Fort Wayne, Leo, Woodburn, Monroeville, Harlan, Hoagland and Payne, Ohio.
While some of the older traditions such as ringing of the bells at the consecration, the use of only male altar servers and the encouragement of head coverings for the women exist, organizations such as the Home and School Association, Holy Name Society, Altar and Rosary Society, SCRIP, Knights of Columbus and Harvest House for those over 55 years of age, have also been formed to meet the diverse needs of the entire parish community.

St. John offers variety of ministries for all ages

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — St. John the Baptist in New Haven has a variety of ministries beyond the traditional prayer group.
The 150-year-old parish caters to the young and the young at heart and everyone in between — with its broad base of ministerial programs.
Jim Kelly, director of religious education and RCIA at St. John’s highlighted a few of the established programs.

Senior Life
Senior citizens meet the second Monday of the month to attend Mass then enjoy lunch, fellowship, cards, a talk or program. A group of retirees also meet regularly for Bible studies.

World Apostolate of Fatima
Also known as the “Blue Army,” the group has been active at the parish for more than 45 years. As part of a worldwide organization, the group works to live the message of the Virgin Mary at Fatima, to bring it to others and to pray for peace in the world. Kelly noted the ladies are “quite active in the parish and the area.”

Other Groups
From noon to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, the faithful are invited to exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with holy hour from 7 to 8 p.m. “It is through prayer that the parish will continue to flourish,” Kelly said.

The men’s Holy Name Society host fish fries throughout the year. Kelly said it is not unusual to have a standing line waiting to get into the Friday night fish fries. The proceeds from the events fund parish improvement projects. The society also donates many man hours of labor to projects around the parish, Kelly noted. Likewise, the Knights of Columbus host regular breakfasts and help wherever possible.

Father Kelly, who has been the director of religious education since 2001, said the face of the parish is changing. St. John’s serves about 1,000 families, many of whom have young children. The 11:30 a.m. Mass is known for its family-oriented atmosphere.

“The little ones have their own choir,” Kelly noted.

And the impressive number of baptisms each year is an indication of the bright future of the parish. “It is a joy to see the young people,” he said. “My hope is that (the parish) will continue to grow and become more vibrant.”

And in a time of parish mergers and closures, St. John’s has stood the test of time. According to Kelly, the parish’s welcoming and prayerful atmosphere is the impetus for sustenance.

“What makes us unique is community,” he said. “A lot of our people know one another.”
St. John’s School celebrates nearly a century and a half of education

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

NEW HAVEN — One of the oldest Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, St. John the Baptist School in New Haven, is alive and well with 339 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. It is also the largest Catholic elementary school in East Allen County.

Shortly after St. John’s Parish was established 150 years ago, a school was started as well. That early school was a one-story, 22 x 34 square foot frame building constructed on Powers Street in the village, at a cost of $500. It opened in 1864 with one male teacher and served the community’s needs for almost a decade. It was later converted into a residence.

Then a brick school, a 40 x 50 square foot structure costing $8,000, was constructed.

According to early records, “these two buildings, adjoining, give four rooms, three of which are in use. They are . . . well ventilated, cheerful and furnished with all school necessities.” They provided additional space for the expanding student population and a dwelling for the three Sisters of St. Agnes, who had traveled from their mother house in Fond du Lac, Wis., to “take over from seculars” and begin a teaching mission here in 1871.

It is noted that the annual expenditure for the school, including teachers’ salaries, was $750. Of that amount, half was paid by the congregation and half by school fees and monthly tuition ranging from 25 to 75 cents per pupil according to need. The average annual per-pupil expense was $5.50. That school served the parish for approximately 75 years.

A story in The Harmonizer on Sept. 23, 1894, quoted Sebastian Ehinger, then a 98-year-old, who described his elementary school education at St. John’s by saying, “We didn’t pass from grade to grade, but from reader to reader.” That was the primary measure of one’s level of achievement in those very early days, he recalled.

Student enrollment continued to increase and ground was broken for the present school on May 19, 1949, which opened for classes in September of 1950. That one-story structure costing $165,000 was expanded to two stories just seven years later. The Sisters of St. Agnes were a mainstay of the school for 120 years, until 1990, and many students recall Sister Joellen Flynn, who served as principal for many years.

In 1997, then-principal Rob Sordelet remarked on the warm family atmosphere at St. John’s by noting that if there were a ribbon connecting students, faculty and parents, it would be called a “family tie.”

Janice Comito, who is currently heading up the school in her eighth year as principal, is especially proud of the unique “Catholic identity” of the school. When asked to step back and assess its virtues, that quality comes to mind, she says. Catholicism permeates the entire educational process at St. John’s as it has for more than a century.

With 25 faculty members and two classrooms serving most grades the future is rosy, says Comito. She happily boasts of an “excellent computer program” and notes that fully 90 percent of students pass the ISTEP test by eighth grade. An active Home and School Association (HASA) sponsors social events, provides outside speakers and handles fundraising activities.

Though the current school building is now 60 years old, it has been supplemented by the more recently constructed community center, cafeteria and gym, which provide updated facilities for St. John’s students. In addition, a two-year-old fully equipped playground completes the school campus.

This year 40 eighth graders will graduate from St. John’s with a “good, well-rounded education” and go on to area high schools, says Principal Comito. She feels confident that they will leave St. John’s loving, caring atmosphere with a “good feeling of community.”

Celebrating 150 years!

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NOTRE DAME — The Brothers of Holy Cross will honor 17 brothers who are celebrating a jubilee of religious vows on June 20. The group includes two past provincials, a new provincial and past and present district superior of Ghana. Brothers being honored include a farmer, archivist, founder of Senior Friendship Centers and founder of Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, maintenance men, artist, teacher, novice master, treasurer, academy headmaster, director of spiritual life ministries, seminary staff member and missionary.

Joining the 17 jubilarians will be Holy Cross Brothers from around the province and world along with relatives and friends of the brothers being honored. The Mass of thanksgiving will be held in Sacred Heart Basilica on the campus of the University of Notre Dame at 2 p.m. Following the Mass there will be a dinner for invited guests at the North Dining Hall.

The following 11 brothers will be Holy Cross Brothers from the Eastern Province and a member and missionary.

Brother William Geenen, Joseph Columba Hall, Notre Dame; 10-year retired resident of Eastern Province and a member and missionary.

Brother Fillmore Burger, September 1967 and took his first vows on June 16, 1968. Brother Burger earned both his undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Notre Dame in government and international studies.

His first assignment was Saint Joseph’s High School. Brother Burger has been living in the Chicago area for the past 34 years.

Brother Fillmore Burger entered the community at Basil Hall, Notre Dame, in September 1967 and took his first vows on June 16, 1968. Brother Burger earned both his undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Notre Dame in government and international studies.

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Tax credit could help Catholic schools

We applaud Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels’ recent budget proposal for a new state tax credit as part of his budget package to encourage charitable donations to fund scholarships for lower-income children. The budget proposal was to be taken up by state legislators when they convened Thursday, June 11, in a special session.

This proposal could be helpful to our Catholic schools. The scholarship tax credit plan could help thousands of families send their children to our Catholic schools, or other private schools and public school of their choice.

With the current financial difficulties many families are facing, some are opting to pull their children from Catholic schools.

“We must not let that happen,” Bishop John M. D’Arcy said at this year’s Light of Learning recognition luncheon hosted by Quality Dining, Inc., in January.

He said for high school students, “we’re going to try to make new funds available for scholarships, from grants.” And he encouraged parishes with schools to do the same: “We must not lose children because of this (economic) downturn.”

It’s always been the position of the Catholic Church to care for those in need. Pope Benedict XVI said in his encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God Is Love”), that the church can no more forget the ministry of charity, than it can forget the ministry of the word and the sacraments.

This may be a form of assistance that could help keep the desks filled at our Catholic schools.

And this scholarship tax credit may be another device to help lower-income families afford a Catholic education for their children.

A press release from the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), which supports the tax credit, noted that the Indiana School Scholarship Tax Credit plan would create a 50 percent state tax credit for charitable contributions to qualified scholarship programs serving lower-income families. Children in grades kindergarten through 12 could qualify for scholarships to help attend the public or private school of their choice.

Today’s Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today’s Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

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

Church cornerstone of Notre Dame

After reading the plethora of articles and commentaries on the Notre Dame/Obama debate, a thought comes to mind. At the end of the recent article by Father Robert Barron, “Obama and Notre Dame,” the statement was made that if Notre Dame becomes a secular university “that would be a terrible loss to the church.” I would like to suggest a rewording of that statement. If Notre Dame were to have it’s Catholic identity revoked “that would be a terrible loss to Notre Dame.” It’s the Catholic Church that is the cornerstone of Notre Dame, not Notre Dame the cornerstone of the Catholic Church.

L. Fairchild

New Haven

What should we do with frozen embryos?

When I give talks on stem-cell research or in vitro fertilization, people invariably ask, “What should be done with frozen embryos?” It is usually asked with a sense of urgency, even desperation, as they reflect on the fate of the hundreds of thousands of human embryos cryopreserved in liquid nitrogen at fertility clinics. The simple answer is that ethically there is very little we can do with the frozen embryos except to keep them frozen for the foreseeable future. No other morally acceptable options seem to exist.

The question of what to do with the frozen embryos, I sometimes remind my audiences, is not in fact the most pressing question we face. A much more urgent issue is how to stop the relentless manufacturing and freezing of new embryos, which is occurring each day, with clockwork-like regularity, in every major city in the United States. The infertility industry has become an embryo mass-production line with virtually no legal oversight or national regulation. Catering to omerta-governed desires, it is a multibillion dollar business aptly described as the “wild west of infertility.” To start bringing this into check, strong laws and regulations like those found in Germany and Italy are urgently needed. In those countries, no more than three embryos may be produced for each infertility treatment, and all three must be implanted into their mother. Extra embryos may not be produced or frozen; as a result, there are essentially no frozen embryos stored in German and Italian fertility clinics.

For those embryos that do end up abandoned in liquid nitrogen, the question often arises: would it be morally permissible to give them up for “embryo adoption,” whereby other couples could implant, gestate and raise them as if they were their own children? There is a growing debate among reputable Catholic theologians about this matter, and technically it remains an open question.

A recent Vatican document called “Dignitas Personae” expressed serious moral reservations about the approach, without, however, explicitly condemning it as immoral. But we can easily see reasons why the promotion of embryo adoption would be inappropriate. If embryo adoption were to become standard practice in the current, largely unregulated climate of the fertility industry, would it not be a social imperative to undertake a similar approach in the foreseeable future. No other morally acceptable options seem to exist.

In my opinion, parents have morally good reasons to donate their embryos, should they wish to do so. This is part of the normal process of ordinary biological death. We cannot be responsible for all the hard choices about being born that arise in our society today. But we can and should do our part in helping to save a child’s life, whether they are our own, and they could finally be thawed and given a decent burial.

This approach would not involve us in the direct moral agency of ending their lives by withdrawing their life-sustaining agency of ending their lives by withdrawing their life-sustaining promotes the heroic and even expand their current immoral practices.

Some have suggested that a morally acceptable solution to the frozen embryo problem might come through applying the principles that “extraordinary” means do not have to be undertaken to prolong human life. They argue that to sustain an embryo’s life in a cryotic state is to use extraordinary means and this is not required.

In fact, however, the decision to continue cryopreserving an embryo in liquid nitrogen is probably not an instance of using extraordinary means, since the burden and costs involved in taking care of embryonic children in this way are actually minimal. When we have children, we have a duty to clothe, feed, care for, and educate them, all of which costs plenty of money. When our children are frozen, we don’t need to clothe, feed, or educate them; our care for them can only be expressed by paying the bill each month to replenish the liquid nitrogen in their cryogenic tanks. This way of caring for our children is obviously unusual, but it does not seem morally extraordinary in terms of achieving the desired end of safeguarding their physical integrity.

In my opinion, parents have an obligation to care for their children in this way until some other option becomes available in the future (maybe a sophisticated “embryo incubator” or “artificial womb” of some kind), or until there is a reasonable certainty that they have died on their own.

I completely agree with the statement that “we really don’t need to worry about producing extra embryos, because there will always be somebody willing to adopt any that are left over.” It could offer the clinics an excuse to continue and even expand their current immoral practices.

Making sense of bioethics

By Father Tad Pacholczyk

President of the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.
God-dreams at my time of life

“...Put your ear to your heart and listen.”
— Blackwolf

Does God have a dream for me now? Absolutely! Forever! Sounds strange that I say “forever,” but St. Therese said that she would spend her heaven doing good on earth. That’s a dynamic God-dream.

“Without the mountain, you cannot climb. Without the climb, there is no transcendence. Without the transcendence, there is no point in life,” says Blackwolf. He knew God-dreams.

What is a God-dream? It’s a vision of what we want our life to be so the world is a better place for our having lived. It takes many forms, but exerts a strong pull within us to search for and follow the Divine energy within us, and to express it in some way for good. Like magnetic energy, Divine energy is only visible by the power it radiates. Divine energy is only visible by the power it radiates.

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“For good. Like magnetic energy, Divine energy is only visible by the power it radiates.

God created a dream for each of us. All we have to do is to discover it. God made everything in us and about us just right for this dream to be realized: our personal talents, life’s circumstances, experiences, family, parish, etc. God knew what we needed long before we did in order to help this dream become a reality. All we have to do is to find and live it. Only about 5 or 10 percent of people even try to discover the God-dream, placed within our soul at conception. We can’t be one of those statistics. The world will be more poor and sad because we did not discover our dream. God gave it to no one else.

Remember the parable of the talents? We may not bury a God-dream. When we stand before God, I doubt that he’ll accept: “I was too afraid. I wasn’t smart, talented enough to do it.” That’s what the prophet Jeremiah said to God. God’s reply was: “I know the plans I have for you ... plans for good ... to give you a future full of hope.”

How do we know what God’s dream is? When we were small, people would ask: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” We’d give various responses, but usually there was one we’d come back to, in spite of what others told us we “ought to do.” That’s the beginning of how to recognize God’s dream for us. He puts a desire in our spirit. Our youthful heart anticipated “growing up” in order to follow that dream. But, somewhere along the line, it got covered up by put-downs, fear, enticement of “more money if you’d do something else,” lack of encouragement, which is really lack of affirmation for our vision;

Wanting to be... and then have... and then have...took forever.

Jesus’ life is part of us

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN E. CAMPION

Corpus Christi
Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

The Book of Exodus is the source of this feast day’s first reading. They were at an event that occurred as the Hebrews were making their way across the Sinai Peninsula, in flight from Egypt and slavery.

To modern ears, the story may sound gruesome; giving the details as it does of the ritual sacrifice of a young bull. It is necessary to recall that these instructions were given long ago, and long ago they passed out of Jewish religious ceremonies.

However, the meaning of these ancient sacrifices still has a message. For example, the ceremony in this case required that the blood would be sprinkled on the people. The idea was that life in a special way resided in the blood of a creature. It is not impossible to understand how this notion originally arose. The ancients had a very limited knowledge of physiology, but they knew if the blood stopped flowing, the creature died; if enough blood escaped from the body due to injury, then death followed.

Offering the bull to God made the bull holy. Its blood therefore was holy, and that meant the blood somehow was touched by God’s own life. By sprinkling this blood on the people, they in turn were touched by God in a special way.

Beyond these circumstances, the lesson is that from the earliest stages of revelation, God provided for the people to touch eternal life and strength through processes and materials they could understand and access.

The Epistle to the Hebrews is one of the New Testament’s most eloquent sources for knowledge about the person, and the mission, of the Lord. This feast’s selection is no exception.

As does this epistle so often, this particular reading stresses the Jesus is the perfect victim of sacrifice as well as the great high priest. The sacrifice of bulls is no longer necessary. In its place is the sublime offering of the innocent Lamb of God, Jesus the Lord.

The three synoptic Gospels report the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist by giving the actual words used by Jesus, “This is my body,” “This is my blood.”

In this feast day’s case, the reading is from Mark’s Gospel. Before the mention of the meal itself, the Gospel says that Jesus sent two disciples into the city. He told them that they would see a man carrying a water jar. They should follow this man. The man will go to a house, whose owner the disciples should encounter and ask for a room in which the Lord and the disciples could gather to eat the Passover meal.

It is an interesting passage. It reveals that the Last Supper, and all that happened at the Last Supper, were utterly within the providence of God. It was no ordinary meal. God planned that it would provide the means for salvation, for uniting with Jesus.

Reflection

Biblical scholars long have looked at the words, “This is my body,” “This is my blood.” They often view it from a denominational perspective. In other words, many Protestant scholars see them as symbolic. Catholic scholars see them as literal. However, strictly from the standpoint of the language, the words are brief, direct and clear. Look at them without any predispositions. Read them as they appear. The message is straightforward and unambiguous. The bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus. This holy body and blood actually become part of the person who consumes them. It is a staggering thought. Jesus, the son of God, becomes part of us, individually. He is with us. His life, eternal now in the Resurrection, is part of us.

This was the cherished belief of the first Christians, and of the saints.

READINGS


ANSWERS

1b, 2a, 3c, 4b, 5b, 6a, 7a, 8c, 9b, 10b, 11c, 12a, 13a, 14c, 15b
A recent newspaper article said the Blessed Virgin Mary had four boys and two girls after the birth of Jesus. Saint Matthew calls Mary’s firstborn son, How do I respond to this? A.N., Goshen

St. Matthew’s Gospel says that St. Joseph had no relations with the Blessed Virgin Mary at any time before she bore a son, whom he named Jesus. Some translations call Jesus the “firstborn” son, but this does not mean that Mary necessarily had other sons. In the ancient culture of the Middle East where the Gospel was written, the term “firstborn” simply means that Jesus was the first son that Mary had. This term is used for all firstborn sons, even if this firstborn son was the only son of a particular mother.

The New American Bible says that when St. Matthew says St. Joseph had no relations with Mary at any time, he is emphasizing the virginal maternity imposed on him by the divine will. Moreover the New Testament makes no mention anywhere of children of Joseph and Mary. Elsewhere in the Gospel, St. Matthew does mention brother and sisters of Jesus. “Where did Jesus get such wisdom and miraculous powers? Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t Mary known to be his mother and James, Joseph, Simon and Judas his brothers? Aren’t his sisters our neighbors?” The New American Bible says that the question about possible brothers and sisters of Jesus mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark cannot easily be decided here on linguistic grounds. The Greek-speaking Semitic people of the ancient Middle East used the terms “brother” (“adelphos” in Greek) and “sister” (“adelphe” in Greek), not only in the ordinary sense of blood brother and sister, but also for nephew, niece, half-brother, half-sister and cousin.

Father McKenzie also points out the varied use of the term “brother” in both the Old Testament and New Testaments. Of course, the primary sense of the term “brother” is the son of the same parents, either father and mother, or of the same father and a different mother, namely a half-brother. In a wider sense, the term “brother” signifies a person of common ancestry and relationship, in particular a member of the same tribe, namely a kinsman. Remember that the people of the Bible were very conscious of their tribal roots, thus we speak of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. The term “brother” is even extended to members of the same race or nation. Thus the Book of Deuteronomy calls any Hebrew man or woman your “brother.”

Father McKenzie continues that, of the four “brothers” mentioned in name of the Gospels, it is clear that James and Joses (or Joseph) are sons neither of St. Joseph nor of Mary. A different Matthew is the mother of them both; she was among the group at the foot of the cross. The early church’s insistence on the virginal maternity of Mary would be hard to explain, if the contemporaries of Jesus actually considered the “brothers” of Jesus to be blood brothers, rather than relatives.

Father Richard Hire, pastor of St. Mary’s Parish, Syracuse, answered this question.

Let us now praise the Little Professor

In another summer of baseball’s steroid-driven discontent — A-Rod scandals, Manny’s suspension, Clemens’s denials, etc. — it’s worth remembering a different era in the past-time, the virtues of which were embodied by the other DiMaggio: Dom, the Little Professor, kid brother of Joltin’ Joe, the Yankee Clipper.

Dominic Paul DiMaggio died on May 8 at age 95. He was not in Cooperstown, but the man who patrolled left field in Fenway while Dom DiMaggio was in center — Ted Williams — Leon Kass once aptly called “our Achilles” — was so convinced that his teammate belonged with the immortals that he had booklets entitled, “Why Dom DiMaggio Belongs in the Hall of Fame,” available at the Ted Williams Museum in Florida.

Dom DiMaggio made The Show in 1940. Like Joltin’ Joe and the Splendid Splinter, Williams, he lost years off his major league life spanned but 10 full seasons. He was a career 298 hitter with a lifetime .383 on-base percentage who, as Sports Illustrated pointed out in a memorial essay, was a serious bat: “No one — not Joe, not Ted Williams — had more hits than Dom’s 1,679 from 1940 through 1952.” (the missing years see 1943-45).

Yet it was his fielding that truly set Dom DiMaggio apart. In those 10 American League seasons, he had 147 assists from the outfield — meaning that 147 times, someone was dumb enough to test his rifle-like arm.

Most outfielders would be happy with one season in which they had double-digits in assists. Dom DiMaggio had nine such campaigns, and in both 1942 and 1947 he threw out an amazing 19 runners.

His reputation was such that it changed the course of baseball history. It was 1946 and the Sawks might have broken the Curse of the Bambino, had they not been forced to take Dom out of the seventh game of the World Series when he turned an ankle after driving in the tying runs in the top of the eighth. Every Red Sox baseball fan knows what happened next: The Cardinal’s Enos Slaughter raced from first to home on Harry “The Hat” Walker’s single to center, winning for the St. Louis. But as Slaughter said afterwards, “If they hadn’t taken DiMaggio out of the game, I wouldn’t have tried it.”

Williams insisted that the Little Professor — so-called for his studious appearance and glasses — was the best center fielder he’d ever seen. Yet he didn’t look like a baseball player. In that less-muscle-bound era, Dom was on the small side, at 5 foot 9 inches and 168 pounds, and he didn’t have the DiMaggio glide.

Dom had the longest hitting streak in American League between 1949 and 1987, at 34 consecutive games; but Joe had his epic 56-game Bible in 1941. Dom played amidst the crazies of Red Sox Nation in one of America’s two most beloved ballparks; but Joe played on center stage in the House That Ruth Built. Dom married Emily, and had three children and several grandchil-

DOMINIC P AUL D I M A G G I O N

Looking for a new God-dream? Think again: Caleb was 80; Abraham, in his 90s; Sarah, 100; Moses, 120. When we rely on the force of our comfort zone. Then, and only then, will our God-dream for a fresh God-dream be revealed.

Self-doubt and obstacles took over. Sometimes, a unique God-dream gets covered up for a life-time from lack of courage, and the world suffers.

Many people think that one’s vocation or job is the only God-dream. This is only part of it. Our vocation is one way to live our God-dream, but there’s more. God has a dream for each of us, and it’s on the previous one. One dream does not negate the next; the new one builds on and expands the first. Some people tell themselves that a dream is too big for them. That’s true. Most of the prophets thought this. Even Christ asked his Father to remove the cup, but was quick to add that he would do as his Father wanted. The fulfillment of the dream his Father had given him. He could have said no, but kept discovering it at each new time of life. That’s why he spent so many times alone in prayer.

Our God-dream: that “certain something” that gives real meaning to our life, can’t be killed, but can be suffocated through lack of attention. When we don’t strive to discover a newly sprouting God-dream, we’ll lose heart; when we take the first step, we come alive. At our first step, increase will happen. Discovering a newly-developing application of our God-dream rests with Christ’s example. He went out to pray. He talked to his Father about obstacles and possibilities. He did what Chief Blackhawk advised, he put his ear to his heart and listened.

For a fresh God-dream: Think again: Caleb was 80; Abraham, in his 90s; Sarah, 100; Moses, 120. When we rely on the force of our comfort zone. Then, and only then, will our God-dream for a fresh God-dream be revealed.

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New York Catholic college signs one-handed basketball player

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Kevin Laue, a 6-foot-11, 18-year-old basketball player from California, became what is believed to be the first one-handed basketball player to sign a letter of intent to play with a NCAA Division I basketball team.

To the folks at La Sallian-run Manhattan College — including the Christian Brother who is the school’s president — it was a slam dunk.

“Kevin is getting a scholarship for all the right reasons,” said head coach Barry Rohrssen during a June 4 telephone interview with Catholic News Service from the Yankee Stadium, where he and Brother Thomas Scanlan, Manhattan’s president, were taking in a game between the New York Yankees and the Texas Rangers.

“When you look at any roster in any sport, there are players on that roster who have been given chances. Those players have had poor academic histories, they haven’t been easy to coach on the court, they’ve had off-the-court problems, whereas Kevin has done everything right,” he added.

Laue’s left arm was amputated at the elbow shortly after birth. While in his mother’s womb, the umbilical cord was wrapped twice around his neck, with his left arm wedged in between. Circulation to the arm was cut off, severely stunting its growth, but doctors said its position had allowed blood to reach his brain.

“For the first time in three years, he told me who to recruit,” Rohrssen said, referring to Brother Scanlan, who had read a profile of Laue in The New York Times. “I only read the (New York) Post and the (New York Daily) News,” the coach said, laughing.

Rohrssen compared Laue to Tim Abbot, a pitcher born without a right hand who went straight from college baseball to the majors without playing in the minor leagues and who picked up 10 seasons in the majors, including a no-hitter for the Yankees in 1993 — a game seen live by Rohrssen.

“I would try to catch every fifth day when Jim Abbott pitched, because he was someone who I admired and he inspired me watching him perform at the level he did,” Rohrssen said. “Somehow gave him a chance, someone provided him with the opportunity.

Bishop Dwenger, Marian students selected for all-state rugby team

The following students from Bishop Dwenger and Marian high schools have been selected for the all-state rugby Division I and II teams.

- From Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, those selected for first team Division I were Isaac Hall, Matt Weber, Brian Porter and Tyler Gallaway.
- On the second team Division I were J. Patrick Porter, Tom Morken, Mike Udoh and Jon Mitchell-Adams.
- Receiving honorable mention Division I were Mike Fisher, Steven Brown, Max Tippmann and Peter Waikel.

Dwenger students on the first team Division II were Chris Ashe and Jim Fox. On the second team Division II were Dylan McCann and Conner McCann. Receiving honorable mention on Division II were Tom Leteffers and Matt Goheen.

Students selected for the all-state Division I rugby team from Marian High School, Mishawaka, were Collin Rahrig, Killian Probst, Brett Hennessey and David Halter.

St. John, New Haven scholar athletes honored

NEW HAVEN — St. John, New Haven School held its annual Athletic Sports Banquet on Sunday, May 17, to honor all student athletes and especially their eighth-grade scholar athletes. Scholar athletes were chosen based on both their academic and athletic performance during their sixth, seventh- and eighth-grade years. Several of the students participated in multiple sports requiring a commendable balance between classroom time and extracurricular activities. The graduates were expected to maintain an A- or higher GPA during their careers truly demonstrating the term “student athlete.” Kelly Mouch, St. John athletic director summarized, “We were very proud of each of our students who were able to reach this high standard.”
Living a devout life in an un-devout world

BY JENNIFER KOHRMAN

Who is St. Francis de Sales?

Most people are familiar with St. Francis of Assisi. However, there is another St. Francis who made important contributions to our faith. St. Francis de Sales, a doctor of the church, was a French bishop during the early 17th century, as well as a revolutionary, because he believed that God calls everyone to holiness — not just clergy and religious.

St. Francis de Sales served as a spiritual advisor. His book, “Introduction to the Devout Life,” originated as a series of letters advising a “truly devout soul,” whom he called Philothea, on ways of enriching her prayer experience. He provided her — and us — with a prayer method that focuses on God in the midst of daily tasks. Even though “Introduction to the Devout Life” was written 400 years ago, his message is still relevant for us today.

A brief biography

St. Francis de Sales studied law and theology. He was appointed bishop of the diocese of Geneva in 1602 in the midst of the Protestant Reformation. Even though he endured persecutions, his tremendous zeal for the Catholic faith brought many back to the Catholic Church. He wrote numerous letters to those who lived in the region. At a friend’s urging, St. Francis published “Introduction to the Devout Life,” which focused on living as a Christian within the secular world.

True devotion

St. Francis believes that true devotion is living out one’s vocation with knowledge of God’s love and realizing that all people are called to holiness — not just those who are in the clergy or religious life. It is God’s infinite, unconditional love that motivates an individual to desire holiness. The process of the devout life includes five steps: confronting temptation and sin, praying daily, frequently receiving the sacraments — especially reconciliation and Eucharist, practicing virtue through charitable acts, and constantly renewing one’s commitment for true devotion.

The first step towards holiness is purging oneself of sin. It is important to realize how much sin impedes one’s relationship with God and how necessary it is to go to the sacrament of reconciliation and make an honest confession. It is through reconciliation that one realizes God’s mercy and receives graces to refrain from future sin. Receiving the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist frequently encourages a person to become more devout.

It is equally important to make a regular examination of conscience. This helps one reflect on which virtues are utilized, as well as to consider areas where he or she might have failed. An examination of conscience facilitates growing in holiness and having a deeper devotion for God.

In addition to receiving the sacraments, it is also necessary to have a specific time and place devoted to personal prayer each day. St. Francis believes that praying daily is a key step towards holiness. He suggests that one begin prayer time with prayers such as the Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory Be. He also encourages people to use imagination during prayer. For example, as one recites the Hail Mary, perhaps one imagines the scene of the Annunciation. St. Francis advises that, as long as the focus remains on God, it is permissible to reflect on a word within a prayer rather than reciting the entire prayer. During prayer time, a person may experience sincere affections within the soul and appreciation for God and his love. These “movements” during prayer inspire us to embrace little virtues — another step in the process of becoming more devout.

St. Francis defines “little virtues” as making an effort to cultivate virtues or acts of kindness. “Each person must practice in a special manner the virtues needed by the kind of life he is called to.” These virtues help to form a gentle attitude and unite the individual with God in the midst of daily activities. Learning to see God in all things, helps maintain a focus on God.

Relevance for current times

St. Francis de Sales’ “Introduction to the Devout Life” provides a helpful guide for Christians who face the challenges and temptations of a secular society that tries to divert our focus away from God. As we enter ordinary time, this Sharing Faith series will focus on the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. Our desire is to create awareness of how a devout life can be integrated within our “every-days” and draw us closer to Christ.

In the words of St. Francis de Sales: “Live Jesus! to whom, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and throughout the endless ages of eternity. Amen.”

Poor Handmaid jubilarians celebrate religious life

BY RUTH WATIFIELD

DONALDSON — This year, 12 Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ celebrate special anniversaries as women religious at a community celebration planned for June 27, at the PHJC Ministry Center.

75-year jubilarians

Sister Maria Krimmel has ministered in the fields of education and healthcare in Illinois and Indiana as well as a nuclear medical technician at St. Anne Hospital in Chicago and as a medical librarian at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne. After serving several years as a volunteer at Ancilla College, Sister Maria retired to the Catherine Kasper Home, in 2007.

70-year jubilarians

Sister Lucile Ardelean minis-tered in Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota in the areas of education, social services, pastoral care and volunteer work.

Having recently retired to the Catherine Kasper Home, Sister Lucille still volun-unteers her time as a “Thank You Sister,” personally sending thank you notes for the PHJC Development Office.

Sister Mary Dolores Greifer has been a teacher and organist at various schools in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and Mississippi. She was a professor at Ancilla College and served as the director of alumni and volunteer coordinator of alumni affairs. She retired to the Catherine Kasper Home in 2004.

Sister Maxine Peppenhorst has been a director and sacristan in schools in Illinois and Indiana, and retired to the Catherine Kasper Home in 2000. She continues to volunteer her time as a “Thank You Sister” for the Development Office whenever possible.

60-year jubilarians

Sister Agnes Muehlenfeld served as a homemaker in Gary, and in dietary services in Milwaukee, Wis., before returning home to Convent Ancilla Domini and the Catherine Kasper Home to continue her ministry in community service. Sister Agnes remains an active resident at Convent Ancilla Domini in Donaldson.

Sister Bertram Boening has ministered in healthcare, hospital administration, pastoral care and community service in settings across Illinois and Indiana, and served the Poor Handmaid community as local leader. She lives at the Catherine Kasper Home where she retired in 2002.

Sister Wilma Boening served in child care, dietary services and pastoral care in Illinois and Indiana. She has also been involved in healthcare administration and was the director of development for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. Now retired, Sister Wilma is a resident of the Catherine Kasper Home.

Sister Kathleen Quinn has served at two hospitals and as a volunteer for two hospitals, and as a provincial and associate provincial of the Poor Handmaid congregation. She has ministered at hospitals in Illinois and Indiana, as well as at Ancilla Systems Incorporated, formerly the PHJC healthcare system, and is currently the medical coordinator at Sojourner Truth House in Gary.

50-year jubilarians

Sister Helen Watkins has ministered in healthcare administration, education and as a volunteer. She currently serves as a wellness nurse at the PHJC Ministry Center in Donaldson.

Sister Damian McNamara has ministered in child care, physical therapy and transportation, as well as providing volunteer service for her community. She currently serves as a volunteer driver with the Transportation Department at the PHJC Ministry Center.

Sister Pauline Bridegroom provides pastoral care and Sister Services for the Sisters of Mercy in Michigan. She has ministered in Illinois and Indiana in the areas of education, transportation, librarian, clerical, pastoral care, chaplain and mission integration.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

FUNDRAISERS
St. Hedwig Polish Festival
South Bend — St. Hedwig will have a Polish festival Sunday, July 5, from noon to 5 p.m. in the Hedwig Memorial Center, 331 S. Scott St. The Polish festival begins with a Polka Mass at 1 p.m. Polish fare includes: chicken, sausage, noodles, cabbage, pierogi, golabki and various desserts. Music will be provided by Soundstations.

Boppin’ at Besancon
New Haven — St. Louis Academy will have a ‘50s weekend fundraiser June 26-27 to benefit the school. Friday night will feature a drive-in dinner for $5 with hot dog or cheeseburger, fries and a root beer 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, includes drink ticket and snacks. Beer and wine will be available. Call (260) 623-5561 or the school. Tickets will be $5 more at the door. All events will be in the parish hall.

Rummage sale
Garrett — St. Joseph School, 301 W. Houston St., will have a “best ever” rummage sale June 18-19 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 20, from 7 a.m. to noon. Breakfast and lunch available.

Father’s Day brunch planned
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 601 will have a Father’s Day brunch Sunday, June 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the hall, 601 Reed Rd. Adults $7 and children under 12 $3.

Victory Noll Center to host 5K run, 1K fun walk June 20
Huntington — Victory Noll, located at 1900 W. Park Dr., will host a 5K run and a 1K fun walk on Saturday, June 20. The run will begin at 10 a.m., with the fun walk starting at 10:15 a.m. There is no registration fee for the race or the walk, but free-will donations will be accepted. Runners and walkers may pre-register for the event by calling (260) 356-0628, ext. 128. There will also be registration on the day of the race beginning at 9 a.m. The event is sponsored by the Victory Noll Center Women’s Auxiliary. Refreshments will be available.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, June 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Port-a-pit chicken help CRHP
South Bend — The St. Adalbert CRHP continuation committee will have a Nelson’s port-a-pit fundraiser Saturday, July 11, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Safety-Kleen, 2217 Western Ave. Tickets are $5 in advance available at the parish office or $6 day of event. Call (260) 457-3761 for information.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
Natural family planning classes
Warsaw — The Couple to Couple League will offer a course in natural family planning beginning Sunday, June 14, at 6 p.m. at St. Bernard’s in Zahn Hall. The PowerPoint-based course is composed of three monthly classes that teach a simplified version of the “symptothermal” method of NFP. For information or to register, phone Pat or Monica Klein at (765) 668-8034, or e-mail wisdomsfool@bpsinet.com

Old flags to be destroyed
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Assembly 239 will be sponsoring a flag destruction ceremony on Flag Day, June 14, at 4 p.m. The ceremony will be held at K of C Council 451, 601 Reed Rd. This is a very moving ceremony for the entire family.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Glenn Kohrman will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, June 16, at 7:15 p.m. to pray for vocations. Father Glenn is the pastor of St. Mary of the Lake in Culver.

All-class reunion planned
South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary School plans 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: OLH Alumni Assoc., 331 Parkovash Ave., South Bend, IN 46617. You may also register and pay online at: www.ourladyofhungary.com/alumni.htm.

Vacation Bible School announced
Roanoke — Rome: Paul and the Underground Church Vacation Bible School Program will be hosted by St. Joseph Parish this summer, June 22-25 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. All are welcome and there is no cost to participate. Contact Sarah Maloy at (260) 437-7761 for information.

Corpus Christi procession
Elkhart — A Corpus Christi procession will be Sunday, June 14, at 3:30 p.m. starting at the St. Thomas parking lot. The procession will walk to St. Vincent de Paul Parish via Main Street. Benediction will follow at St. Vincent.

Central Catholic alumni celebration
Fort Wayne — Central Catholic High School Alumni Association will have a celebration Saturday, June 27. Mass by Bishop Felipe Estevez. 94, will be at 5 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Dinner, music and fellowship follow at the Grand Wayne Center. Reservations are $40 per person and should be sent to Carol Venderley, 8224 Becketts Ridge, Fort Wayne, 46825. For information call Leanne at (260) 485-0290.

Support MacDougal Chapel
Fort Wayne — Support the renovation of MacDougal Chapel by purchasing a brick engraved with the name of your family or loved one. Bricks can be reserved for a $100 donation. For information call (260) 424-1485.

Volunteers needed
Fort Wayne — The Franciscan Center Clothes Closet is in need of volunteers. Call Doris Bermes at (260) 744-3977 for information.

Centering prayer
South Bend — Centering prayer is held every Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m. at Little Flower Chapel, 54191 N. Ironwood.

Auburn
James L. Gallagher, 61, Immaculate Conception
Bremen
Marianne Wentland, 65, St. Dominic
Donaldson
Sister Lorine Hubelikamp, PHC, 86, Ancilla Domini Chapel
Elkhart
Barbara Ann Cataldo, 81, St. Vincent de Paul
Fort Wayne
Arlene J. Higginbotham-White, 62, St. John the Baptist
Thomas Edward Kerwin, 74,
St. Charles Borromeo
Rosann M. Curby, 69, St. Vincent de Paul
Dorothy Adams, 92,
St. Charles Borromeo

Auburn
Philip L. Kienlen, 60,
St. Jude
Robert J. Korn, 86,
St. Jude
Huntington
Sister Pauline Wapiennik, OLVM, 88,
Victory Noll
Kendalville
Dorothy Olive Maxwell, 97,
Immaculate Conception
Mishawaka
Thomas A. VandeWalle, 65,
St. Bavo
Craig Anthony Norkus, 44,
Queen of Peace
New Carlisle
Mary A. Rozwarski, 84,
St. Stanislaus Kostka
New Haven
Mary K. Fanders, 99,
St. John the Baptist
Notre Dame
Herman J. Krizmanich, 87,
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Otto A. Bird, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Sister Marian Joseph Cain, CSC, 103,
Our Lady of Loretto
Mary Emily Papandria, 83,
Our Lady of Loretto
South Bend
Andrea M. Pilger, 41,
St. Joseph
Sylvester E. Niedbalski, St. Adalbert
Pamela A. Held, 55,
Holy Family
Eloise G. Glentzer, 89,
St. Jude
Clara J. Bilinski, 79,
Holy Family

REST IN PEACE

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
GRANGER — “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” — Mt 6:28-29.

When Jesus compares the beauty of flowers to Solomon’s gardens, he could have been standing in the vast gardens of St. Pius X parishioners Tom and Carol Miranda in Granger. But this biblical reference has additional meaning for Carol, who in 1999 chose to trust in God’s love, rather than dwell in anxiety following her diagnosis of spinal cancer.

Carol’s passion for gardening began while attending a Catholic high school in Belmont, Calif. On Saturday mornings, Carol would take a Greyhound bus from her home to within a mile of the school. After walking the rest of the way to the school, she would meet Sister Anna, who was a gardener there. Carol remembers a long oblong piece of land where a statue of the Blessed Virgin stood. The area was damp from a small stream of water close by and it was there that Carol and Sister Anna planted some flowers. “We planted blue lobelia because it is Our Lady’s color,” Carol recalls.

After Tom and Carol were married, Tom decided to use the G.I. Bill from his service in the Army to attend graduate school at the University of Notre Dame. In September of 1955, Tom, Carol, and their two children moved to South Bend with the family extending to seven in the ensuing years.

On May 29, 1959, the Mirandas officially moved into their current home in Granger. Located on four acres, Tom and Carol began the process of changing the surrounding outside landscape into gardens. But in January of 1999, Carol’s gardening efforts were put on hold when she was diagnosed with spinal cancer. The cancer wrapped around Carol’s spinal cord and immobilized her from the waist down. Carol recalls her doctor’s dire predictions. “(They) told me that I was going to be in a wheelchair the rest of my life. I had different ideas, because I prayed to Jesus very fervently.”

During the first six months of 1999 Carol had three surgeries. The first was to remove a tumor on her eighth vertebrae, the second was a thyroidectomy and the final surgery resulted in the removal of the eighth vertebrae. Despite these challenges Carol was determined not to give up hope of walking again. Through prayer and working with her therapist, she was able to regain mobility with the use of a walker.

A turning point in her recovery was July 11, 1999 when Carol heard a homily at church about a man in Belgium who had his legs crushed in an accident. He went to the village priest and told him that he wanted to go to Lourdes to be healed. The village priest told the man that he didn’t have to go to Lourdes, since the Lord is everywhere. After the Mass was concluded, Carol thought about the homily and decided to give Tom her walker and walk to the car by holding his hand. When they got home she walked to the neighbor’s outside landscape into gardens. But in January of 1999, Carol’s gardening efforts were put on hold when she was diagnosed with spinal cancer. The cancer wrapped around Carol’s spinal cord and immobilized her from the waist down. Carol recalls her doctor’s dire predictions. “(They) told me that I was going to be in a wheelchair the rest of my life. I had different ideas, because I prayed to Jesus very fervently.”

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Carol and Tom Miranda care for the daylily gardens at their home that offer over 500 different varieties.