Bishop bestows blessing on St. Thomas School additions

BY JODI MAGALLANES

ELKHART — St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart celebrated the completion of $3.9 million in additions and renovations to the parish’s school Sunday with a blessing and rededication by Bishop John M. D’Arcy.

During a prayer offered at the school’s new main entrance, Bishop D’Arcy asked that “those within would find the image of Christ — that they, in turn, may be able to assist others.”

Bishop D’Arcy also recognized the magnitude of the parish’s accomplishment in light of being located in a county hard hit by the current recession.

“You did this in the midst of the greatest economic difficulty since the Great Depression. ... What a beautiful thing you have done. Your mayor and I thank you for your generosity,” he told parishioners.

The parish was able to raise more than three-fourths of the funds needed for the project through gifts, pledges and parish savings, with the diocese currently holding the note on the remaining $500,000. St. Thomas will reimburse the diocese for that amount as well, which was incurred after the project started when two empty lots came up for sale directly across the street from the school and parish. Both were purchased and will be paved for additional parking.

Elkhart Mayor Dick Moore spoke at the rededication service and took the opportunity to laud faith-based education.

“It has been our pleasure to assist you, but to

BY KAY COZAD

LaGRANGE — St. Joseph Parish’s newly constructed activity center was put to good use on Saturday, Sept. 19, when over 200 enthusiastic women crowded the hall for the second annual Women’s Day of Prayer. The program, offered to all women of the diocese, was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization.

The sun lit morning began with introductions over a continental breakfast, prayer and hymns. The keynote speaker, Sister of St. Joseph Sister Anne D’Arcy, sister of Bishop John M. D’Arcy, spoke with humor and passion about answering the call to be in relationship with God. And prayer, she said, is a “conscious relationship with God.”

Sister Anne, who is the associate director of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life in Boston, shared her own personal experiences of prayer, relating the blessings she received in nature as well as when she sat with her sister Mary as she lay dying.

“We can encounter him anywhere,” she said of meeting God. And she added that “we come as we are” with concerns, questions and life.

Scripture, she said, is the place to begin to know God better. “It gives us power to have those words that touch our minds and hearts.” But, she added, prayer doesn’t
A visitor from the East

My earliest recollection of my sister, Anne, is walking to school with Robert Howard, my best friend, and Anne just a half-step behind us. She was the third oldest in the family and gifted with great sensitivity towards others, a loving person. Only a few months after graduating from Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Brighton, our home town, a school you could walk from to our home, she entered the Sisters of Saint Joseph. In those days, even though that was a diocesan community with an extraordinary record, mostly in education, there was a certain degree of strictness. You did not come home after that very much, if at all. So I remember distinctly the tears of my dear parents, who had now seen three of us enter religious life in the course of a few years. So I remember them, but a sacrifice they accepted with their great souls.

A true evangelizer

The Spiritual Development Office, unknown to me, and Anna has been giving retreats and Days of Recollection for many years, invited Anne (Sister Anne D’Arcy, CSJ), to give a day of prayer for women at St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange.

Anne had taught school for many years, and would give Evenings of Prayer on the side. Twenty-four years ago, she became a full-time staff person in the Office of Spiritual Pastor Placement, and obtained a master’s degree in Catholic spirituality from Creighton University.

It was a joy to greet her at the airport on Friday night and prepare and enjoy a delightful meal of fish and vegetables on my back porch. How wonderful are such events and how increasingly important as the years go on.

She was off early from Fort Wayne the next morning to St. Joseph’s, LaGrange. Remarkably, there were 230 people present in the small country parish. They came from Elkhart, Mishawaka, South Bend, Ligonier, and many other places.

Anne gave four talks on prayer. The reaction of the women was extraordinary. It just shows the great hunger there is today among our people for spiritual enrichment and for help in forming a habit of prayer.

I arrived in mid-afternoon and had some fun with the group and Anne. Later, I heard confessions, along with the wonderful and devoted Father Mark Weaver, OFM Conv. The small, but modern, country church was full. So many confessions, that I volunteered to return to the confessional after Mass.

It was wonderful to talk to these women individually. Anne was impressed with the wide age span and the seriousness of the group. It gave me great joy to see their enthusiasm for my dear sister and for her very substantive and enriching talks. Guided by Father Mark to a nearby restaurant on Route 9, we enjoyed dinner together. It was a privilege later to introduce Sister Anne to the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, and have breakfast with them on Sunday morning.

St. Thomas, Elkhart

This is a great parish; and I drove with Anne down the Route 20 Bypass past St. Vincent’s, the mother church of Elkhart, to St. Thomas Parish, where I celebrated the 11:15 a.m. Mass. The church was full, and many of the women had been present at the Day of Prayer the previous day and later thanked Sister Anne for her talks.

You know that Elkhart has the second highest unemployment in the country. The leader of the city, Mayor Moore, told me that it had been about 20 percent. Elkhart is a great manufacturing town, and many from South Bend are employed there. Despite the worst unemployment that that city and county had seen since the Great Depression, the people banded together and built what amounts to a practically new school. Six new classrooms. A brand new library. A computer lab. A stage. And a committee under Sgt. Thad Naquin and so many others. The cost was $3 million and they have raised pledges of $2.5 million, and the school is now operating.

My cousin John D’Arcy, from Philadelphia and a professor at the Notre Dame Business School, was present for Mass and the dedication of the church. Hats off to Father Bill Sullivan for his leadership in making this possible. Anne and I drove back to Fort Wayne and had a nice supper at JK O’Donnell’s.

I have been away from my family for 24½ years, so a few days like this was something special. But the best part was to see Gil, Thad Naquin and so many others. It is an unsung, but beautiful chapter in our diocese, and it was a joy to celebrate Mass with them and join them then for dinner.

Now come the jubilarians

Among the many joys this week, will be the celebration of the Mass for our jubilarians. We have 20 jubilarians, including diocesan priests and religious. Altogether, they have served a total of 95 years. You know this is the Year for Priests, and everyone is invited to join us on Thursday, Sept. 24, for the 12:05 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

There are special inducements for priests on this day and for all who attend. I will speak of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests; and by recent decree, of all priests. We used to be told in the seminary that he had such serious academic difficulties. No wonder. Until the age of 18, he was illiterate. France was rationalist, affected by the enlightenment. Yet people came all over from France to go to confession to him. An unbeliever, an agnostic, went to Ars, and when asked what he saw, replied, “I saw God in a man.”

When I think of these jubilarians, I think of the words of Christ to his apostles, “You are the ones who have stood by me in my trials.” It will be a privilege to offer this Mass and have lunch with the priests after Mass.

Our Bishop’s Appeal is well underway. I have already raised over $1 million and have raised it over last year. I try to raise it every year. I hope you will do the same, because the needs are greater than ever.

A visitor from Africa

Holy Cross priests of the Indiana Province remember with gratitude and reverence Bishop Vincent Joseph McCauley, CSC. He served in Africa, especially Uganda. His cause for canonization was introduced in 2007, and so he is now known as Vincent McCauley, Servant of God. He was an effective evangelizer, beloved and a father of many churches in Uganda. The present bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Father Robert Muhirwa, who is his successor, visited me this week. We were able to assist him from the Zeiger Mission Fund. This is a couple from the little parish of St. Dominic’s, Bremen, who left $270,000 under the direction of the bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, with the stipulation that the money must go to missions overseas. With substantial donations from this fund, we have been able to help Bishop Muhirwa, who studied at Notre Dame, and Duquesne University, and served in St. Jude’s, Fort Wayne; St. Jude’s, South Bend; and St. Matthew’s, South Bend. We helped him put a roof on the cathedral built by Bishop McCauley, CSC, who, by the way, is buried at Notre Dame. Bishop Muhirwa also preached recently at all the Masses at St. Michael’s, Plymouth, and received a collection earlier in the year from St. Mary Parish, Decatur. We have a serious obligation to help the missions, especially in Africa, and it was a great joy to have the bishop at my home for Mass and lunch. So we had Archbishop Michael Blume, CSC, who is also a missionary. The bishop of Fort Portal, Robert Muhirwa, and Sister Anne D’Arcy from Boston, Mass. Three missionaries in one week. That is a good week.
WOMEN
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI is traveling to the Czech Republic at the end of September, making a three-day visit to a nation that is widely viewed as Europe’s least-religious country.

The Sept. 26-28 trip was scheduled to coincide with the feast of St. Wenceslas — a 10th-century prince who is credited with bringing Christianity to the Czech people.

It will be a religious pilgrimage for the pope, who will make stops in the capital to see the Infant of Prague at the Church of Our Lady of Victory and in Stara Boleslav to celebrate the feast of St. Wenceslas, patron saint of Czechs.

Pope Benedict also will speak to political and cultural leaders in Prague and meet with President Vaclav Klaus. It will be his first papal visit to the Czech Republic and his 13th trip outside Italy.

He will reach out to the country’s Catholics with Masses in Brno and Stara Boleslav, hold meetings with bishops and celebrate vespers with religious and lay groups. He also will address ecumenical representatives, young people and families.

These occasions will offer the pope numerous opportunities to draw on many recurring themes of his pontificate: the importance of reviving Europe’s Christian roots, the relevance of a millennium-old faith for addressing today’s current ills, and the need to promote a political and social culture based on love, hope and solidarity.

The 82-year-old pope has made it a custom to visit a Marian pilgrimage site in Europe every September. This year he will visit Stara Boleslav — a town 15 miles northeast of Prague and home to the Shrine of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

The highlight of the trip will be the Sept. 28 Mass and feast day celebration of St. Wenceslas. That gathering coincides with the country’s national pilgrimage to Stara Boleslav, which attracts the attention and interest of the whole nation, including political and cultural leaders.

Sept. 28 is a day when patriotic sentiment and religious devotion merge as the country celebrates Czech statehood. The national pilgrimage to Stara Boleslav — the town where St. Wenceslas was murdered by his brother — has become an extremely popular event over the past decade and has turned into “a manifestation of unity in a common Christian spiritual tradition,” according to the Czech bishops’ Web site.

Like the church in other former communist nations, the church in the Czech Republic suffered under Soviet control after World War II. Church properties were seized, and the problem of restoring or compensating for the seizures still has not been wholly resolved.

For example, Prague’s historic St. Vitus Cathedral, where the pope will celebrate vespers Sept. 26, still belongs to the state despite a long legal battle between the church and the country’s courts.

In 1946, about 80 percent of the Czechs identified themselves as Catholic, and 50 percent of them went to Mass regularly, according to local church statistics. In 1990, after the country’s peaceful struggle for independence and democracy with the Velvet Revolution, 38-40 percent of Czechs described themselves as Catholic. That trend continued to spiral downward to 26-30 percent today, with only 5 percent saying they regularly attend Mass.

When the pope’s trip to the Czech Republic was announced in 2006, Martin Horálek, a spokesman for the Czech bishops, said the pontifical visit would be a great opportunity to rebuild the Catholic faith “at a time when our church’s position has suffered, leaving it weak in numbers.”

The drastic decline in church attendance has often been blamed on the decades of communist repression and its efforts to blot out religious faith. But some say the crisis of Catholicism includes the church’s failure to seize new opportunities ushered in by the wave of democracy.

The Czech ambassador to the Vatican, Pavel V osalik, said the pope was looking forward to the fall of communism in the Czech Republic that an overwhelming majority of citizens did not want to experience.

But as the country got caught up in building a free and democratic nation, those common ideals got lost in the shuffle, and society quickly became secularized, he told Vatican Radio Sept. 14.

V osalik said he believed the country still holds a deep belief in God and religion, but that it has lost its connection to the Catholic Church.

Starting in the 1990s, “the church missed the opportunity, missed the momentum when the nation was very open and was willing to communicate” with the Catholic Church, he said.

The church especially failed to reach out to young people, who never experienced communist oppression, in a language they could understand and with a message they wanted to hear, he said.

He said he spoke with Pope Benedict about these issues and told him how church leaders needed to look at “how they could improve their communication with the population” and find new ways of getting their message across that would resonate with the modern age.

“I see the visit as a very important step toward building and reopening channels for communication between society and the Catholic Church,” the ambassador said.

The pope is optimistic about the Czech Republic’s resolve in overcoming obstacles. In an address to V osalik when he presented his credentials as the new ambassador to the Vatican last year, the pope praised the Czech people’s strong sense of solidarity, which enabled them to overcome totalitarianism and build a democratic nation.

But the pope said true progress can only come about with prayer, and he said that the church offers every generation — a message he is likely to repeat to the Czech people in person.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy stands with his sister from Boston, Sister of St. Joseph Sister Anne D’Arcy, who was the keynote speaker at the Women’s Day of Prayer held at St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange, on Sept. 19.
Recension boosts Catholic Charities clients by 10 percent

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WOODBRIDGE, Va. (CNS) — In a time of recession, Sondra knows she and her 4-year-old daughter Hope could be on the street.

Forced to flee an abusive relationship with her husband, Sondra, 45, who asked that her last name not be used, had nowhere to turn. Her time at the emergency shelter was limited. While Sondra had a job as a custodian at a local church, there was no way she could afford an apartment. There was no chance of moving back home, even if she and her husband could reconcile; their home had gone into foreclosure.

Enter St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Residences in Woodbridge, Va. It’s where Sondra and Hope now have a home.

“It’s a peaceful, cozy and, most importantly, safe place where they can enjoy dinner every evening. It’s where they can read and play and learn together.

For Sondra, the new home is a godsend, far better than her old life — the one that revolved around smoking crack and binge drinking mixed with beatings by her husband.

“I love it here,” she said.

A program of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Va., the residence brings stability to nine single mothers and their children, most of whom have escaped domestic violence.

The only transitional housing setting of its kind in Arlington Diocese, the program helps women build self-sufficient lives.

Services such as financial education classes, employment counseling and help with transportation and child care are some of the advantages for residents.

Sondra and Hope are among thousands of people who have turned to local Catholic Charities agencies for housing services when they had nowhere else to go during the current recession.

The need for housing services like the St. Margaret of Cortona program as well as emergency shelter and permanent housing jumped 12.4 percent in 2008 as the economic recession gained momentum, reported Catholic Charities USA in its 2008 annual survey of services.

Released Sept. 15 during a nationwide teleconference from the agency’s Alexandria headquarters, the report shows that Catholic Charities agencies served nearly 600,000 people in need of some type of housing assistance in 2008.

Overall, the 142 Catholic Charities agencies responding to the survey — about 85 percent of the nationwide Catholic Charities network — reported serving more than 8.5 million people in 2008, a 10 percent increase from 2007.

Without being able to offer specifics, Father Larry Snyder, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, said the demand for housing and other social services continued to climb as the recession deepened during 2009.

“We can only conjecture that when we get the figures for 2009 it’s going to be much, much greater,” he said.

Father Snyder also said the recession is causing local Catholic Charities agencies to struggle with “many of the same challenges as our clients.” Cuts in government funding for social services coupled with significant losses in donations of cash and goods are causing local agencies to scale back services, reduce hours of operation, lay off staff, freeze wages and implement workdays without pay, he said.

“It is going to continue to put a great stress on our local agencies to continue to provide services,” he added.

Overall, Catholic Charities agencies had revenues of more than $3.9 billion in 2008. Two-thirds of the revenue came from local, state and federal government sources.

Despite the challenges posed by the recession, Father Snyder expressed optimism that the agency will be able to make strides in its nearly 3-year-old campaign to reduce poverty by 50 percent by 2020.

“I actually think (the recession) gives us a greater opportunity to do that because when you look at the challenges that we have right now, one thing that should be very clear is that we can’t just meet those challenges with what we were doing before,” Father Snyder explained.

“Things have gotten so desperate it gives us the opportunity to really look at a solution that doesn’t depend on . . . the social structures we had before, but to really redefine how we do it,” he said.

A breakdown of the 8.5 million clients showed nearly half — 48 percent — were adults 18 to 64 years old, 29 percent were children and 13 percent were seniors. Ten percent were unknown.

Prepared by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, the survey revealed:

• Nearly 6.3 million people sought food services, a 3.8 percent decline from 2007.

• More than 3.6 million people — a 4.7 percent increase — received social services such as education, day care, programs aimed at at-risk populations, health care, and socialization and neighborhood services.

• More than 1.7 million people — an 11 percent jump — received assistance with basic needs, such as clothing, utility payments, emergency financial needs and prescriptions.

• Slightly more than 1 million people — a 7.3 percent decline — received various services that fall under what Catholic Charities USA calls strengthening families, including counseling and mental health, addiction, pregnancy, adoption, immigration and refugee services.

• More than 330,000 people received disaster services, a decrease of 21 percent from 2007, but still nearly 60 percent more than in 2005.

• More than 67,000 people — a 35 percent spike — received emergency financial services.

Overall, the statistics reflected the nationwide growth in poverty in 2008 reported Sept. 10 by the U.S. Census Bureau. Census data show that 39.8 million people — 13.2 percent of the population — lived in poverty last year, up from 37.3 million people, or 12.5 percent, in 2007.


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Source: Catholic Charities USA
Notre Dame leader forms pro-life panel, vows to lead Mass for life

BY CHAZ MUTH

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With President Barack Obama’s controversial May commencement speech at the University of Notre Dame several months past, the president of the Indiana school has forged ahead with plans for a national discussion on abortion.

Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins has announced the formation of a task force “on supporting the choice for life,” and he has pledged to lead a Mass for life in Washington this coming Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion nationwide.

Father Jenkins’ decision to invite Obama to deliver the commencement speech and present him with an honorary law degree set off a firestorm of criticism by at least 70 U.S. bishops, and ignited a national debate on the university’s obligation to complete 24 hours of service time required before their confirmation this fall.

Of their 24 hours of service time needed to complete the walk.

Refreshments will be served.

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Students help lay commemorative bricks in new playground

By Ida Chipman

PLYMOUTH — On Saturday afternoon when most kids were playing football, several eighth-grade students from St. Michael School were busy laying bricks in the commemorative walks in the new playground to be dedicated on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The students worked as part of their 24 hours of service time required before their confirmation in the church later this fall.

The 270 signed bricks were donated by supporters of the new playground, which will be open not only to the St. Michael’s students but to the children in the neighborhood.

The task force on Supporting the Choice for Life was formed to recommend ways that the university can support the sanctity of life, he said.

So far the panel has started looking at how to foster discussion about a reasonable conscience clause, the most effective ways to support pregnant women, and the best policies for facilitating adoptions, Father Jenkins said.

“Such initiatives are in addition to the dedication, hard work and leadership shown by so many in the Notre Dame family, both on the campus and beyond,” he said.

“The task force may also be able to recommend ways we can support some of this work.”

Father Jenkins acknowledged that Obama’s presence on campus last spring generated divisions among Catholics and in the Notre Dame community.

“I hope that we can overcome some of this work,” he said.

Father Herman’s experience in Germany goes beyond the Elkhart classroom. In 1971, he studied in Bavaria, Germany, for six months working on his master’s degree in German and has directed a student-exchange program for Americans in Germany, and in September, 2010, will host a trip to Germany for the “Passionspiel,” the Oberammergau Passion Play.

An improvement in landscaping takes place at every parish where Father Herman serves. He loves flowers, gardening and getting his hands on a shovel or in the dirt.

His other main interest is reading a wide variety of books and taking his dog, Kali, on walks through the neighborhood.

Regarding the source for vocations, Father Herman is in agreement with other priests who see prayer as the instrument for this need, combined with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
Bishops talk health care, immigration with members of Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Though they believe the church is largely on the same page as Congress when it comes to other aspects of health care and immigration reform, a delegation of Hispanic bishops came away from meetings with several groups of House and Senate leaders Sept. 17 concerned that immigrants might be left out of health reform. At a briefing for reporters after their morning of meetings with senators and then with the groups representing congressional Hispanics, two of the bishops said they were optimistic that looming health care legislation will not fund abortions and will include conscience protections for health care workers. Those have been two major areas of concern for the Catholic Church as the legislation is being shaped. San Antonio Archbishop Jose H. Gomez said the group of half a dozen Hispanic bishops told the members of Congress that in addition to not funding abortions and including a conscience clause, their concern is that health care reform offers a universal plan in which everyone is able to participate and that would provide care from conception to natural death.

Parents of disabled children speak out on health reform proposals

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Seventeen parents of children with disabilities gathered on Capitol Hill Sept. 15 to speak out against proposed government health care reform plans that they said could mean the difference between life and death for their children by limiting access to doctors and rationing health care. The parents, many with their children by their side, holding large photos of their loved ones, joined together as the Healthcare for Gunner Coalition to let Congress know that it will be their children and their families who could suffer and be denied critical care under current proposed legislation. Joined by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., the mother of a child with Down syndrome and Trent Frauts, R-Ariz., who was born with a cleft palate, coalition members presented a horrific picture of a future where the weak, vulnerable and elderly could be denied critical care. “We have to make sure that health care legislation doesn’t leave this important group behind,” said McMorris Rodgers. “We have to make sure that health care reform does three things: improve the health care in America, lower the costs and help vulnerable persons.” Frauts, whose late brother had Down syndrome, warned of the dangers presented by the current health reform proposals. “It’s like they want to devastate people, he said. “We run into one reality: the rationing of care because you have to decrease the costs,” said Franks. “There is always, always rationing and restrictions, which fall on the most weak.”

Project Rachel marks 25 years of healing hearts about abortion

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Project Rachel, the post-abortion reconciliation ministry of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, has been healing hearts of those affected by abortion since 1984. The 25th anniversary has been an “awesome experience of looking back and seeing how an idea that was really only Spirit-inspired back and seeing how an idea that was really only Spirit-inspired changed the face of the abortion debate in the U.S. and, not only in the U.S., but also in other countries,” said Vicki Thorn, Project Rachel founder and executive director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing since 1990. “Never did I suspect I would be in mainland China and Australia and New Zealand and a number of European countries … talking about this issue,” she added. Some of Thorn’s favorite work beyond the one-on-one with women is the speaking and training she does with priests and caregivers. Father Ralph Gross, pastor of St. Bruno Parish in Dousman and a Project Rachel priest since shortly after it began, was among priests at the first training workshop. “Project Rachel has done a wonderful job educating priests over the years to be able to be more sensitive and more understanding of the circumstances and to have a better insight into the crisis of abortion and the aftermath,” he said, adding that even those who aren’t directly associated with Project Rachel but have attended workshops have gained great insight into Thorn’s work.

Looking 800 years back, religious order also sets sights on future

PHOENIX (CNS) — If the Cisters have shown anything over the past 800 years, it is an ability to reconstitute itself and adapt to the needs of the times. Nowhere is that more clear than in Phoenix, where the Cisters moved their provincial headquarters in 2007. As they kicked off a year of celebration with their patronal feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Sept. 14, they were afforded some time for both retrospective and looking toward the future. Cister Father Tom Caufield, provincial in the United States, professed with the order in 1969, a turbulent time for the Cisters, as it was for the whole church. In 1967, the order revised its constitutions and when Father Caufield became a member, they were figuring out how to apply their charism to the modern world. “At that time we were really focused on going out — community life was important, but the response to the needs of the time and the service aspect, I would say, were much more important than the common life together,” he said. “I don’t say that in a pejorative way, but the pendulum was really bouncing around.” Father Caufield said that in recent years the order has found “a much better balance and appreciation” for the communal life. Each morning, the Cisters gather for prayer and Mass before going out to do their various ministries. These include working at parishes, leading retreats, working with immigrants and working in jails.

Mexican bishops look to Colombians for help fighting drug violence

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — At a press conference earlier this year, Archbishop Hector Gonzalez Martinez of Durango had planned to denounce extortion attempts against priests in his archdiocese. He instead stunned reporters and the whole country — by announcing that cartel kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, Mexico’s most-wanted man, was residing in a remote corner of Durango state. Even more stunning, he insisted, “Everyone knows it, except the authorities.” He later generated nationwide headlines and earning from presumed associates of Guzman, who dumped two bodies along with a note that advised, “No government official or priest can stand against El Chapo.” Archbishop Gonzalez, the subject of intense media scrutiny, would later respond to reporters questions with the words, “I’m deaf and dumb.” The archbishop’s latter words describe the posture of many Mexicans and church leaders over the past six months denouncing organized crime and addressing a wave of violence that has claimed more than 13,500 lives since President Felipe Calderon took office in December 2006 and sent the army to suppress Mexico’s drug cartels. But that posture may be changing for Mexican Catholics. The social ministry secretariat of the Mexican bishops conference is preparing a comprehensive report on violence in Mexico that is expected to provide both a diagnosis and an action plan for addressing the situation. None of the report’s authors wished to comment on their findings before its November publication, but the issue of organized crime has been a delicate one for the church. Equally delicate is the peril of wading into the public policy arena in a country with a history of contentious church-state relations and the risks of denouncing powerful drug cartels that act as benefactors and de facto authorities in many isolated parts of Mexico.

Pope greets Rome’s Jewish community, plans to visit synagogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has told the Jewish community of Rome the pope plans to visit its synagogue in the near future, the Vatican has confirmed. In a good will telegram to Chief Rabbi Riccardo di Segni during the upcoming Jewish holidays, the pope said he would visit “with joy” the Rome synagogue sometime in October, after the end of the High Holy Days. The telegram was made public by the Jewish Community of Rome and confirmed by Father Cesare Sforza, vice director of the Vatican press office. Father Benedettini said that while no date had been set, the visit would likely take place sometime in the fall. In the telegram, the pope offered his “heartfelt best wishes” for the holidays offered by Rabbi Hashamdi, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. “I renew my cordial friendship while I wait to make, with joy, the visit to your community and synagogue at the end of your holidays,” the pope said in the telegram. Such a visit, he said, “is animated by a real desire to show you that I and the whole Catholic Church are close to you.”
Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit comes to St. Joseph Parish

LaGRANGE — A Host fell onto a cloth below the communicant’s mouth during Easter Mass in 1331 in the French town of Blanot. When the priest attempted to pick it up, he found that it had transformed into blood, making a stain the same size as the Host.

At the Basilica of San Fresco in Siena, Italy, 223 consecrated Hosts have remained intact for 276 years. These are but two of 126 eucharistic miracles through the ages that are part of a unique exhibition — The Vatican International Exhibition of the Eucharistic Miracles of the World. The exhibition is traveling to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and will be on display at St. Joseph Catholic Church in LaGrange. The exhibition will open Oct. 3 following the 5 p.m. Mass with Bishop John M. D’Arcy, and will run through Oct. 12.

The exhibit features 140 panels to describe the 126 miracles presented from around the world with maps, photos and text about each miracle and has visited more than a thousand parishes in Italy and recently began to travel through the United States. This is the exhibition’s first appearance in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The exhibition will be open until 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday through Saturday, Oct. 10. Groups are encouraged to visit the exhibition, but are requested to contact the parish office to set a day and time to avoid congestion in the exhibit space. School groups are also invited to attend the exhibit during the week.

The exhibition is free, though donations to the Real Presence Eucharistic Education and Adoration Association, which is promoting the exhibition in the U.S., will be accepted.

For more information about the exhibition, contact St. Joseph Parish at (260) 463-3472. The church is located one mile east of LaGrange on U.S. 20. Information on the exhibit and the miracles included can be found at www.therealpresence.org.

Allen County Right to Life holds memorial

FORT WAYNE — The 17th annual memorial service commemorating the deaths of the 532 babies killed this year in Fort Wayne by abortion will be held on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 2 p.m. at the Catholic Cemetery located at 3500 Lake Ave.

Service remembers the little boys and girls aborted in Fort Wayne at the Women’s Health Organization between Sept. 1, 2008 and Aug. 31, 2009.

This non-denominational service gives all a chance to pause and reflect on the tragedies caused by abortion in this country. All are invited to attend.

Around the Diocese

JESUS CARVING INSPIRES MANY

Father Tom Shoemaker of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, blessed a carving of Jesus in the tree on Sept. 14, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The carving stands in St. Jude parishioners Tom and Barb Federspiel’s yard and was crafted from a tree that had perished in the ice storm in only two days by Chris Trotter from Indianapolis, whom the Federspiels commissioned. John 3:16 is carved at Jesus’ feet as a witness to all people of faith and the Federspiels welcome visitors to the inspiring carving at 2429 Lynn St., one block from Parkview Hospital and St. Jude Parish. Chris Trotter can be reached at woodwonders@att.net.

Special events planned to celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis announces three special events to celebrate the patron saint of the university, St. Francis of Assisi. Sponsored by the Center for Franciscan Spirit and Life and USF Campus Ministry, all events are open to the public at no charge.

Transitus Celebrate the Transitus on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in the St. Francis Chapel, Trinity Hall. St. Francis died on Oct. 3, 1226, and this uniquely Franciscan service incorporates readings, song and symbolic ritual to recall St. Francis’ passing into heaven. Fellowship will follow in the Trinity Hall South Dining Room. Contact Sister Anita at aholzmer@sf.edu or (260) 399-7700, ext. 6705 for reservations.

All are welcome to attend an inspiring Mass on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 5 p.m. in the St. Francis Chapel, Trinity Hall. The students of the USF Music Ministry will animate the singing and enhance the worship. Readings from sacred Scripture and a faith-filled commentary on the saint’s life and reverence for the present day will be part of the service.

Blessing of pets All pets and their owners are invited to receive a special blessing from the university chaplain, Father John Stecher on Sunday, Oct. 4, at approximately 6:15 p.m. in front of the St. Francis statue, near the Bass Mansion.

Twenty-first Century Scholars program offered

The Twenty-first Century Scholars Program is Indiana’s college tuition scholarship program. To be eligible for the program a student must:
• Be a resident of Indiana as an applicant and award recipient; be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade at a school accredited or seeking accreditation by the Indiana Department of Education; meet income requirements or be in foster care;
• For the application to be considered, the student must agree to the following pledge:
  • I agree to graduate from an eligible Indiana college, university, vocational or proprietary school as a high school senior;
  • I will apply for time on state and federal student financial aid;
  • Scholars, who fulfill their pledge and are admitted to a post-secondary school, are guaranteed the cost of four years of tuition at any public college, university, vocational or proprietary school in Indiana. If the student attends a private college or university, the scholarship awarded will be comparable to tuition at a public school;
• The scholars program began in 1990 as Indiana’s way of raising the educational aspirations of low to moderate income families. The program aims to ensure that all Indiana families can afford a post-secondary education for their children.

For more information contact USF hosts campus visit day

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will host Fall Campus Visit Day on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. to noon at North Campus, 2702 S. Anthony Blvd.

High school students and their parents, graduate students and adult returning students will have the opportunity to hear about the many academic programs offered, speak with faculty, learn about financial aid, talk with admissions and student services, find out about student activities, and take a campus tour.

For more information contact the Office of Admissions at (260) 399-8000, (800) 729-4732 or www.sf.edu/sf/admissions.

Knights of Columbus award scholarships

GRANGER — The Knights of Columbus, Father Steven T. Badin Council No. 4263 have awarded academic scholarships for the 2009-2010 school year. Recipients are Joann Herbsiezen, Megan Garry, Amanda Lira, Michael Barch, Judi Crespo and Cameron Provost. These scholarship awards were based on essays, quality of course work in high school, outside involvement in extracurricular activities and volunteer work. Over $29,000 in scholarships have been awarded to exemplary students by the Knights in the past five years.

Victory Noll Center looks at the Gospel of John

HUNTINGTON — One of the most intriguing writers in the Bible will be the subject of the program “Reflections on the Spirituality of John’s Gospel,” a five-week course beginning Oct. 1 at Victory Noll Center.

Looking through the eyes of faith to ponder Jesus as the Living Word, the reader enters a different world. John shows how a deep interior life can be accompanied by a very acute awareness of what is going on around us. The simplicity of the fourth Gospel does not render it impersonal, but living and vibrant.

Leading the program is Sister Ruth Ellert of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. Sister Ruth received her masters in religious education from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, and has trained catechists, directed RCIA programs and conducted retreats. She studied the Gospel of John with Father Raymond Brown.

The program will be held Thursdays in October from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Victory Noll Center, located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington. Dates for the program are Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

The cost for the entire course is $75 with a registration deadline of Sept. 25.

For more information on the program or about Victory Noll Center, contact Victory Noll Center Director Sue Wilhelm at (260) 356-0628, ext. 128 or by e-mail at suewilhelm@olvm.org.

Correction

Pops cakes baker Karen Robertson’s e-mail is eight-gkids@aol.com. She was featured in the Sept. 20 issue of Today's Catholic.
FATHER LEONARD COLLINS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — Father Leonard Collins says his ministry as a Holy Cross priest has come full circle. In serving the church and its people for more than 40 years, he has many ministries under his belt. And now he is returning to St. Augustine Catholic Church as parish priest, where he served as deacon in 1968.

Father Collins grew up an Irish Catholic in Boston. His journey to the priesthood began at a parish of 40,000 and Montery, Mexico, where he worked at the City of St. Jude; to Notre Dame.

His journey to the priesthood began as a Holy Cross priest has come out of over 1,900 companies! And now he is returning to St. Augustine Catholic Church as parish priest, where he served as deacon in 1968.

He has enjoyed his life of daily prayer, reading of Scriptures, and love for God’s people.

“Instead of most of the week studying the daily Scriptures,” he said, adding that it helps him in relating the church to people’s lives.

“I want to explain the situation in the Scriptures and apply them to our daily lives,” he said. “I try to remind the congregation that we are all human beings and people will be people. We are all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.”

Father Collins enjoys reading in his spare time. Some of his favorite foods include, from Boston, fried clams; from New York, steak and potatoes.

“Be comfortable here,” he said.

“I see returning to St. Augustine as returning to my roots,” he said. “I started in the inner city and I’m back.”

FATHER LEONARD COLLINS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — The Second Annual Forgiveness Breakfast hosted by Dismas House will be held on Friday, Oct. 9, at 7:15 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. The center is located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. The special event is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the center’s parking lot. The parking lot entrance is off Douglas Road.

The program will feature Dr. Carolyn Woo. She will be speaking on “Forgiveness: What does it mean in business and organizations?” Dr. Woo is the dean of Mendoza College of Business at Notre Dame. Father David Link will perform a forgiveness ceremony. Father Link is the director for religious and community activities for the Indiana Department of Correction and the former dean of Notre Dame Jesuit School.

A graduate of the Dismas House program will share her personal journey of incarceration, restoration and forgiveness. Dismas House is a prisoner reentry program for men and women. The Dismas House program provides housing, programs and services to returning offenders, so they can successfully reenter society as productive citizens.

To attend the event, please RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 6, by calling the Dismas House Office (574) 233-8522 or e-mail: dismasouth bend@sbchnetglobal.net.

Little Flower inaugurates Sunday evening Mass

SOUTH BEND — Little Flower Catholic Church will inaugurate an 8 p.m. Sunday Mass beginning Sept. 27 to better serve the increasing number of student living nearby.

A number of apartment complexes catering to Notre Dame students have opened in the last year adjacent to or within walking distance of the church, which is at 54191 N. Ironwood Dr. They include Legacy Village, Irish Row and Irish Crossing, which join near-by Clover Ridge, Clover Village and Stadium Club in housing several hundred students.

Holy Cross Father Neil Ryan, pastor of Little Flower, hosted a barbecue for off-campus students on Sept. 7 and determined there was considerable interest.

“Off-campus students living east of the campus are actually closer to Little Flower than to the basilica or their former dorms,” Ryan said. “The parish staff and parishioners are looking forward to caring for the spiritual needs of these neighbors.”

Sunday night dorm Masses are a tradition on the Notre Dame campus, attracting approximately 80 percent of hall residents. Little Flower hopes to encourage a continuation of that practice among off-campus students. The 8 p.m. Little Flower Mass would also give students a chance between that time and the dorm masses, which begin later in the evening.

Little Flower Catholic Church was founded in 1937 when Notre Dame seminarians, Ted Hesburgh and Rev. Mary-Pat Allyn were living in the cow pasture. They wanted to have a Mass on campus.
COLUMBUS, Ohio — A whirlwind of festivities initiated the Pontifical College Josephinum’s 127th year of educating future priests for the Catholic Church. Under the leadership of its new rector-president, Father James A. Wehner, STD, the 2009-2010 year of formation began with more than 120 seminarians representing 24 national and international dioceses, including six seminarians from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend: Deacon Andrew Budzinski, Matthew Cooman, Terrence Coonan, Royce Gregerson, Jacob Meyer and Benjamin Muhlenkamp.

A Mass of the Holy Spirit was held on Sunday, Aug. 30 — the first community Mass celebrated by Father Wehner, who was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend: Deacon Andrew Budzinski, Matthew Cooman, Terrence Coonan, Royce Gregerson, Jacob Meyer and Benjamin Muhlenkamp.

Father Wehner was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Pittsburgh in 1995. He earned the STB, STL and STD degrees from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. During his service in the diocese, Father Wehner served as rector of Saint Paul Seminary and held many other administrative positions. His appointment to the Josephinum as rector was announced on May 14, 2009; Father Wehner assumed leadership of the Josephinum on July 1.

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COLUMBUS CITY — The Cochran family of Columbia City are the recipients of the 2008-2009 Academic Year in America’s Host Family of the Year award.

The Joe and Dot Cochran family hosted a Korean exchange student, Minjung, for 10 months. After the exchange, Minjung wrote an essay praising the family for their excellent experience. Her essay was among 2,000 nominations in the country by the organization Academic Year in America.

Being a host family, however, was not always at the forefront of their minds. It was through the initiative of their daughter Betsy, who submitted their name to the organization, that this came to fruition.

A chain of events escalated when Bishop Dwenger Assistant Principal Jason Schiffl called to ask the family if they would host a student. After some discussion, the family decided to pursue it.

“We did it for the (children),” Joe said.

The family was chosen in particular because of their size. With eight children, there is never a dull moment in the Cochran household.

Minjung, coming from a small family, wanted to experience a different lifestyle, so she was drawn to the Cochran family. The family welcomed her with open arms.

Minjung, a Korean exchange student, is shown in the front row, center, with the Joe and Dot Cochran family. The Cochran family of Columbia City are the recipients of the 2008-2009 Academic Year in America’s Host Family of the Year award.

Minjung, 15, easily assimilated into American culture through the help of the family. She made the most of her experience at Bishop Dwenger as a stellar student and show choir member.

American high school was “an entirely new world to her,” Joe noted, but the Dwenger community welcomed her with open arms.

“Her home life was no different,” Joe said. “She was really nothing different than an (ordinary) 15-year-old girl,” he said.

In hindsight Joe and Dot have some advice for would-be host families:

“You have to have a lot of patience,” Dot cautioned.

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For more information about Academic Year in America, go to www.ayabroad.org.
Cathy Williams — grandmother and parent to her grandchildren

MISHAWAKA — Terri Ann, the fifth of five children and only girl, was affectionately known as “the brat” in the Williams family. Known for her mischievous ways as a youth, she often tested her mother Cathy Williams’ patience. But later as a young adult, Terri Ann would carry a new label, the child who never gave up her faith in her battle with cancer. And Williams’ status would later change from grandmother to “parent” of her grandchildren Issabella and Brandon.

Terri Ann first went to the doctor because she had hurt her knee. She underwent an MRI and discovered that she had cancerous tumors. “I put my life in God’s hands. If I had my faith, I wouldn’t have got past day one,” she stresses.

The oncologist told Terri Ann it was metastasized in many areas of her body. During the next two and half years Williams remembers that the nurses and other patients were always amazed with Terri Ann’s ability to remain positive through her pain and trials. “They called her sunshine, because she always smiled,” says Williams. A later MRI discovered six brain tumors. Although radiation removed 80 percent of the tumors, the doctors could not remove the tumor in the frontal lobe. At this point Terri chose hospice care at home and died on Aug. 28, 2007 at age 38.

Williams remembers the initial loss of her daughter and the responsibility of raising her grandchildren leaving her overwhelmed. “I put my life in God’s hands. If I hadn’t had my faith, I wouldn’t have got past day one,” she stresses.

The clergy at Queen of Peace Parish were a vital part of Williams, Issabella, and Brandon’s emotional recovery. Father Richard Hire baptized Issabella during the period when Terri was fighting cancer.

“It was the most beautiful day, even though it was snowy outside. Terri Ann struggled to stand up to be a part of the ceremony,” says Williams. “Issabella was a little frightened when she got to the font, but Terri reassured her and Father Hire proceeded,” she adds.

Shortly before Terri Ann died, Father Dan Scheidt was appointed as the new pastor of Queen of Peace and later officiated at her funeral. Williams, Brandon and Issabella remember a Sunday homily where Father Scheidt talked about the importance of community in strengthening the church and its parishioners. “I think of Father Dan as an uncle,” says Brandon.

During the past two years following Terri Ann’s death, Williams has kept her memory alive through activities with Issabella and Brandon. In preparation for Issabella’s first Communion the child was asked to make a banner. “Grandma and I decided we should put mom on there, so others could see how much I loved my mom. We put a sun on there so that we could have sunshine (her mother’s nickname from the nurses),” Williams adds. “It was a beautiful banner. In addition to the sun, the banner had a picture of a girl and her mother with angel wings.”

Terri Ann’s fearless spirit was kept alive in Brandon’s sixth-grade science project at Osolo Elementary School in Elkhart. Brandon tested a large and small sled on a snow covered hill using a small and large person on both sleds. His hypothesis was that the larger person would go down the hill the fastest. Williams used a stop watch to keep track of how many seconds it took Brandon and Issabella to go down the hills on each sled.

“Now mind you, it was 10 degrees below zero outside and the wind was blowing, but we were having the time of our lives!” she laughs.

Brandon reishes the memory of getting his grandmother down the ice covered hill to do the sled time trials. “The ice was so bad that I had to have Grandma ride down the hill with me to get her to the bottom. And she was holding on for dear life!”

In the end, Brandon’s original hypothesis proved wrong, the smaller person on the large sled went the fastest down the hill. But all of their efforts paid off as Brandon won first place in the school science fair.

Williams’ advice to someone going through a challenging life experience is to find someone to love your heart and know you are not alone. “Smile more and take a few minutes out of your day and ask for God’s help.”

All Souls Day Mass

In the Resurrection Mausoleum Chapel of the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne 3500 Lake Avenue Monday, November 2 - Noon Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Celebrant

Ugandan cathedral roof funded in part by overseas mission endowment

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Robert Mihirwa of Fort Portal, Uganda, may shepherd his diocese half a world away, but he is very familiar with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

As Father Mihirwa, he has made the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend his mission and served at St. Jude, Fort Wayne, St. Jude, South Bend, and St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend when he was a graduate student at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. As Bishop Mihirwa, he continues to send mission priests to serve in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

On Sept. 15, Bishop Mihirwa met with Bishop John M. D’Arcy, who presented to the Ugandan bishop a final check to cover a portion of construction costs of the Fort Portal Virika Cathedral roof. A large portion of the $34,000 total donation came from the Zeiger endowment fund, established by a St. Dominic, Bremen, couple who left some money in their estate for the bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to distribute to foreign mission overseas.

“Of course, we’re the mission now, and he’s the missionary,” Bishop D’Arcy noted. “Things have changed. He’s sending us priests.”

Bishop Mihirwa has sent Father Benedict Kakwezi, who currently serves at St. Mary of the Assumption in Decatur and Father Thadeus Balinda who is the pastor at St. Mary of the Lake, Culver, and the chaplain at Culver Academy.

The Zeiger endowment committee that awards the money consists of the St. Dominic pastor, Father Polycarp Fernando; Bremen attorney Mark Wagner; Joe Ryan, the diocesan chief financial officer; and Bishop D’Arcy. The committee scrutinizes any monetary requests for over $1,000. From the Zeiger fund, a sum was also recently given to Archbishop Michael Bane, papal nuncio of Benin and Togo and a native of Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend.

This cathedral in Fort Portal has its origins with Holy Cross Father Vincent Joseph McCauley, who became the first bishop of the diocese. Father McCauley is from the Indiana Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross and his case for canonization has been introduced making him a Servant of God. He is “very revered in Uganda,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

Bishop Mihirwa noted Father McCauley served as bishop and as the general secretary for the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) for 10 years. “He was the first Holy Cross who came to East Africa,” noted Bishop Mihirwa, “and he was the first bishop of the Fort Portal Diocese. He came in 1958 and in 1961 was appointed by the Holy Father to be the first bishop of Fort Portal.”

As the check presentation, Bishop Mihirwa presented a photo of the Virika Cathedral, which will be displayed in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center.
Fort Wayne Catholic business network provides support for business owners

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Ponzi schemes and rampant corporate corruption beg the question: what happened to business ethics?

One local organization has attempted to revive morals in the workplace. “It is the goal of the Catholic Business Network (Cathlink) to create an environment of spiritual growth and to encourage men and women to develop as business entrepreneurs, ” according to its founder Sunni Ayelle. Furthermore, the organization serves as a foundation for Catholic business owners in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne.

Ayelle founded the organization in February in response to the negative events surrounding corrupt business practices. “Whenever I turned on the news, all I heard was the corruption going on in businesses,” he said. “I really feel we can make a difference by putting our faith into what we do every day and not just leave it to something we only do on Sundays,” he reflected.

Put simply, Cathlink allows Catholics to put their faith in action. Networking events provide opportunities to connect with local business owners for the purpose of exchanging business advice, making referrals and developing genuine relationships.

CathLink events attract anywhere between 30 and 50 people. Ayelle noted that an event attended by Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry as the guest speaker drew more than 70 people. And these people come from all walks of life and industries — roof repair, print and copy, financial, quilt restoration, marketing, insurance. Ayelle likes to think of Cathlink as a “Facebook for Catholic businesses.”

“So for an example, say you needed the roof done on your house and did not want to just call a random business, ” he said. “To help support those Catholic businesses you would contact them via our Web site.”

Registration can be done through the Web site, www.cathlink.com.

The organization meets at 7:30 a.m. the first Friday of the month in the Chamber of Commerce building, 826 Ewing St. in Fort Wayne. The meetings open with a Mass, then is followed by a fresh breakfast, networking activity and faith-based message from a well-known guest speaker in the area.

Cathlink has a job search event planned from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Bishop Dwenger High School. The event is free to the public.

For more information about Cathlink, contact Sunni Ayelle, sunni@cathlink.com, or (866) 386-4129.

South Bend Innovo group helps business people integrate Catholic values

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Catholics are called to work in the secular world “from within, as a leaven” and especially through lives that are “resplendent in faith, hope and charity.”

The words of the 1964 church dogmatic constitution, “Lumen Gentium” (Light of the Nations) are beautifully crafted and can be practiced in the workplace as well as at home.

But often, business people struggle with integrating Catholic values into their work. They know the “why,” but they might not know the “how” when it comes to applying them.

To help with that, a group of Catholic businessmen from the South Bend area is forming a network to provide support and suggestions, and to bring in special speakers.

Innovo, which is Latin for “renew,” is planning monthly breakfast meetings at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Santa Maria Council, 553 E. Washington St. Although the date for the first meeting has not been set, organizers know that there will be a 6:15 a.m. Mass, followed by breakfast at 7:15 a.m. and the speaker.

“There is a universal call to holiness, and we want to provide a forum for other people who are struggling with the same goal, and provide ways to help meet it,” said Pete Cook, an Innovo organizer.

Speakers will cover a wide range of topics, such as balancing work and family life, or give practical advice on business from a Catholic perspective. There will also be personal stories, and updates on agencies that carry out Catholic teachings, such as the Women’s Care Center.

Cook, 39, works in commercial real estate. He and Trent Hillaert, who works in insurance, have been talking about forming Innovo for the past year after meeting through a formational activity for Catholic men, in South Bend.

Cook is familiar with such networking from working in Washington, D.C., where he was involved in a similar group that invited speakers like U.S. Supreme Court justices and senators who came to speak on how they bring a Catholic perspective to their jobs. The group also invited experts on Catholic theology to speak.

The South Bend group will be similar, although the speakers might not be as high-profile as they were in the nation’s capital.

“We might have a speaker who says ‘Here’s what the Holy Father is saying about the connection between morality and the economy.’ But it’s not to encourage anyone to get into hot water with their employer,” Cook said.

Ultimately, it’s about the way Catholics live out their values, and the personal viewpoint they bring to the workplace.

For example, if I have a baby or adopt a baby, there are a certain number of days that I would have off,” said Cook, who is the father of five children, three of whom are adopted. “A single guy doesn’t get that, warranted, but it’s the company recognizing the important of family time.”

The group is planning a yearly picnic event for families, and a Christmas dinner as well.

Ultimately, it’s about being the “leaven” and helping working men to sanctify their daily lives, Cook said.

“People might say ‘Gosh, why is this guy so happy all the time when he’s got all these kids?’ It’s about a personal viewpoint, and how to relate to others in the workplace.”

For additional information about Innovo, visit their Web site at www.innovamichiana.com, or call (888) 906-9898 or e-mail Pete Cook at pcook@usinspect.com.
South Bend — Small businesses in our diocese have a valuable resource available to them: business counseling by people who have a lifetime of experience in the business world. Any business with fewer than 500 employees is eligible to take advantage of this service, and it’s all free.

SCORE, Counselors to America’s Small Business, is a volunteer organization of mostly retired business people, though a few members still are actively working. SCORE members have a variety of backgrounds, from manufacturing to banking, from accounting to retail, from engineering to advertising. It is this experience and diversity that make SCORE’s services so valuable, for when an existing business, or a person who is considering starting a business, comes to SCORE for help, one or more counselors with the appropriate skills is assigned to work with that client.

John Peck has been one of those SCORE counselors for 14 years, following his retirement as a professor of economics at Indiana University at South Bend. Peck also served as director of IUSB’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research and was the university’s liaison to the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County.

“I’ve found SCORE tremendously rewarding,” Peck said of his experience with SCORE, though that was not his initial reaction. When he was invited to join SCORE by a friend he had worked with at the Bendix Corporation, he wasn’t sure he would be able to contribute. He had a master’s degree in business administration and had worked in sales and as a contracts administrator before going back to the University of Notre Dame for his doctorate in economics. But his last 27 years in the working world had been spent in academia.

However, he soon found that his knowledge of the business world, economic trends, the local community and teaching all enabled him to be a very valuable counselor.

“There’s a real teaching aspect to volunteering with SCORE,” Peck said, noting that often his assignment is to work with someone who is interested in starting a business and then determine just what kind of expertise that person needs from SCORE.

Fred Schmiedeler, the SCORE counselor who invited Peck to join the organization, said that “John’s communicative skills, both verbal and written, along with his unassuming style make his clients quite receptive to his business suggestions.”

Schmiedeler added that Peck has a gift for analyzing a company’s business situation.

Peck presently is working with a man who has 15 years experience in a profession while working for someone else, and now wants to open his own business. And he and another SCORE counselor, a retired accountant, are counseling an existing business that is struggling in the present economy. The SCORE counselors are suggesting marketing techniques to attract more customers and advising on improved bookkeeping practices that will make the financial picture clearer for the business.

In the bigger picture, Peck sees his role as helping the local community, which he knows so well through his work with IUSB’s business bureau where he studied and reported on the area economy.

Peck believes SCORE is so valuable to the community because small businesses create about 70 percent of new jobs, but a high percentage of small businesses also fail in their first five years. He sees SCORE’s mission as helping companies survive, as well as helping potential business owners discern whether or not to start or buy a business.

With about 30 counselors in the South Bend area SCORE chapter, Peck said they usually are able to help clients who call or come into the office, and SCORE is always anxious to welcome new counselors to add to this bank of expertise.

In addition to being professionally rewarding and satisfying, Peck has found his 14 years with SCORE to be personally rewarding, too.

“I think it’s important when someone retires to keep busy and keep your mind active, so volunteering with a great organization like SCORE is a great way to do that, so there’s a reward that way,” Peck said. “It’s a very selfish or personal reward, but on the other hand, you’re able to see where you’ve done good for other people, as well. There’s certainly an element of giving back, sharing what you’ve learned over the years and passing that on to others who maybe can’t afford professional services.”

SCORE is also a pleasant way to keep socializing, Peck added. The SCORE counselors enjoy each other’s company at their monthly meeting, or while working together with clients, or just running into one another at the SCORE office.

“I made great friends,” Peck added.

John Peck and his wife, Delores, are the parents of six children, 14 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. They have been active parishioners at Little Flower Parish in South Bend for 50 years.

SCORE, formerly known as the Service Corps of Retired Executives, is a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration. South Bend SCORE can be reached at (574) 282-4350, Fort Wayne SCORE at (260) 422-2861 and Elkhart SCORE at (574) 293-1531.
When George Washington was a schoolboy in Virginia, he copied, by hand, 110 “Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation,” which were based on a 16th century set of precepts compiled for young gentlemen by Jesuit instructors. The rules were expounded upon and included in a book, “Rules of Civility: The 110 Precepts That Guided Our First President in War and Peace,” written by historian Richard Brookhiser.

Most of the rules detail etiquette, but as Brookhiser was quoted by National Public Radio and in his book, “They seek to form the inner man (or boy) by shaping the outer.” So let us look at some of President Washington’s rules and see if these rules could be fine-tuned to our lives.

No. 52. In your apparel be modest and endeavor to accommodate nature, rather than to procure admiration; keep the fashion of your equals, such as are civil and orderly with respect to time and places.

Too often, modesty is an issue with the clothes worn for various occasions, especially in summer. What happened to dressing up to attend a play or dine with friends? Some can even be seen wearing shorts and a tank top to the solemn occasion of a funeral. Also, consider what was once called “Sunday best” clothes that have now been reconfigured as jeans, T-shirt, flip-flops, shorts and tank tops at Sunday Mass. If you were invited to a banquet to the White House, would that be appropriate attire? Well, how much greater is our Lord? We, as Catholics, can take back the “old fashioned” sentiment of appropriate dress and model that to secular culture.

No. 74. When another speaks, be attentive yourself and disturb the audience. If any hesitate in his words, help him not nor prompt him without desired. Interrupt him not, nor answer him till his speech be ended. That is a rule South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson probably wishes he had before he blurted out, “you lie.”

Barack Obama addressed the joint houses of Congress on Sept. 9. Rep. Wilson apologized to the president afterwards and noted on television news programs he advocates civility. But the Congressman’s interuption has called for admonishment from some of his Democratic congressional peers and raised controversy on the media airwaves.

And rap music performer and producer Kanye West interrupted and stole singer Taylor Swift’s moment of glory on the MTV Awards. He too has apologized to Swift, and Swift has responded graciously.

Shock and brashness is quickly becoming the norm, especially in front of the entire nation on the airwaves. But it’s not just the airwaves. Look at comments on e-mails, blogs, YouTube or Web sites that ask for reader feedback, and it quickly becomes obvious that good taste and those who offer a differing opinion often are marginalized or left out. The lack of respect and possible method or appropriate response. The lack of civility is astonishing.

The information age has led us to a sense of immediacy. But when with that sense of immediacy, one quickly can say things in a rough tone. The sage advice of our parents, “Watch your tone,” is most appropriate, and is “think before you speak.”

No. 108. When you speak of God or his attributes, let it be seriously and with reverence. ... The use of God’s name in vain is so prevalent that most people have become calloused.
The ethics of ‘correcting’ mitochondrial disease

Mitochondria are small, elongated structures in a cell that produce energy. These “cellular batteries” contain their own small piece of DNA, separate from the rest of the cell’s DNA found in the nucleus. When defects or mutations occur in this mitochondrial DNA it can result in a number of diseases. In severe cases, children can be born blind, epileptic, unable to crawl and may manifest severe neurological delay and die at an early age. No real therapies exist for most mitochondrial diseases beyond treating the symptoms.

Scientists in Oregon, however, recently announced a technique to “swap out” defective mitochondria in an egg cell by using healthy mitochondria from another egg. The technique loosely resembles cloning, since it involves transferring the nucleus from the defective egg into a non-defective egg that has had its own nucleus removed.

This newly “reconstructed” egg will then contain mitochondria only from the new egg cell, leaving behind any defective mitochondria from the original cell. The reconstructed egg can then be fertilized with sperm by in vitro fertilization (IVF) to create an embryo that is free of mitochondrial mutations or defects.

Mitochondrial swapping, followed by IVF, has been successfully performed in the laboratory using monkey eggs, and several disease-free monkeys have already been born. Some scientists believe that women may soon be able to use the method to avoid passing mitochondrial disorders to their children. Using the technique in humans, however, would raise at least two serious ethical objections.

The first objection is that it would encourage IVF as a means of producing new human life. Although this way of engendering a new human life has become commonplace in our society, it remains an inherently unethical approach to human reproduction. IVF not only sanctions the manipulation, freezing and destruction of human embryos, but also violates the inner meaning of human procreation by reducing it to an act of manufacture or production.

To put it simply, our children have the right to be procreated, not produced. They have the right to come into the world in the person

Grace comes after commitment to God

26th Sunday
Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
The Book of Numbers is the fourth book in the sequence of the Bible as the Bible now appears. It is therefore the fourth book in the series of five books called the “Pentateuch,” borrowing its name from the Greek word for “five.” These five books also are called in Hebrew the “Torah.”

The Pentateuch, including Numbers, concentrates upon the Hebrew people’s long and difficult trek across the Sinai Peninsula in search of the Promised Land. Moses led the people in this demanding journey.

In the incident told in this reading, God inspired not only Moses but 70 elders, or wise and experienced men among the people. Then, two other men came onto the scene. They had not been among the seventy. Yet God’s spirit also inspired them. They too began to prophesy.

How could anyone outside Moses and the 70 elders presume to speak with God’s authority? Moses refused to silence these two men.

This weekend’s second reading is from the Epistle of James. James is a relatively common name in the New Testament. Several important men involved in the foundation of Christianity had this name. One was the presumed foster brother of Jesus, a son from an earlier marriage of Joseph, or another close relative. Jesus had no blood siblings.

As is usual in the New Testament, the identity of the author is not given in any detail. The writings are not about the authors, but instead they are about Jesus.

This reading frankly reminds us of the impermanence and, in the end, the uselessness of material things.

It further reminds us that the lure of material things can become nothing less deadly than a rapidly progressing cancer if we succumb to it.

Mark’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. John, an apostle, approaches Jesus with the news that strangers are expelling demons, invoking the name of Jesus as their authority. Are they authentic? Must they not be halted?

Jesus then says that anyone who truly believes in what Jesus is preaching, and therefore believes in Jesus, must be accepted.

The Lord then continues. His disciples must give water to the thirsty because they belong to Christ. Otherwise, it is a matter of leading the innocent astray, and dreadful punishments await those who lead the innocent astray.

Reflection
Always in reading the Gospels, it is important to realize that these four great fundamental documents of Christianity’s name not from the actual time of Jesus, but from the Christian community as it existed several decades after Jesus.

When the Gospels were written, years after Jesus, this Christian community, now called the church, had formed. It hardly was as organized as it later became or as large as it was to be. But, it definitely had formed.

In other words, there was an accumulation of people of like mind and faith. However, as is inevitable in human gatherings, some people tried to assert themselves over others.

The Gospel this weekend calls us away from self-interest and struggle. God empowers people to believe, to understand, and to love, by submitting to the divine will.

Without God, we are greatly impoverished. Divine grace is our wealth. Grace comes only after our total commitment to God. If we offer ourselves completely in faith, God’s grace invisibly comes to us.

The messages about newcomers is not that God’s call, to Moses or the apostles, only was incidental, and that others speak in God’s name upon their own whim but with authority and knowledge nevertheless. Rather, it is a call to us to be humble and to trust in ourselves but instead to put all trust in God.

READINGS
Sunday: Nm 11:25-29 Ps 198, 1012-14 Is 51:6-Mk 9:38-45, 47-48
Monday: Zec 8:1-8 Ps 102, 16-23 Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday: On 7:9-10, 13-14 Ps 138:1-5 Jn 1:47-51
Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8 Ps 137:1-6 Lk 9:57-62
Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 Ps 19:8-11 Lk 10:1-12
Friday: Bar 1:15-22 Ps 79:1-5, 8-9 Mt 18:1-5, 10
Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29 Ps 69:33-37 Lk 10:17-24

ANSWERS:
1.c, 2.b, 3.a, 4.b, 5.c, 6.c, 7.b, 8.c, 9.b, 10.a, 11.b, 12.c, 13.c, 14.a, 15.b.
Golden moments on the trampoline

Up and down, up and down. Bouncing, bouncing.

My wife Rose and I have been taking for a few years about get-
ting a trampoline for our daughter, who will soon turn seven. We
thought it would be a good way for Heather to work off some ener-
gy and enhance some coordination

So when I found a bargain, we broke down and made the pur-
chase. My efforts on Labor Day weekend included assembling the
trampoline and the protective net-
ing “cage” — a task in itself con-
sidering I am pretty mechanically-challenged. It makes me thankful

that I have a 6-year-old assistant

“cage” — a task in itself con-

my 6-year-old assistant

She seemed. At the end of the con-

structure, my 6-year-old assistant

took me about six hours, so it

It makes me thankful

No one can

Thank God for the present time I

newspaper, and enhance some coordination

skills.

Up and down, up and down.

achieved. It makes me thankful

That being said, what would take

or sell

So if I had

So I’ve learned in the last few

were far more sensitive than I

thought it would be a good way for Heather to work off some ener-
gy and enhance some coordination

weeks, that jumping on a trampo-

line is one of the best work-outs

one could ask for. Trust me, it

burns not just calories, but joints,

ankles, hips, wrists, elbows and

muscles that I didn’t know even existed.

There’s no rule that prohibits

a 44-year-old dad from jumping

on the trampoline. I’ve learned to

limit my time on the trampoline to

15 minutes, or 300 jumps with rest

periods between every set of 100.

It also gives me a few minutes

each day to share with Heath and

have some fun. Time flies and

one day in the distant future she

won’t want any part of jumping on the trampoline with the “old man”

around. So, I’ll offer up those achy

bones and sore muscles now and

Thank God for the present time I

have with my daughter.

In a few weeks, weather will
dictate disassembling the trampo-

line for winter storage in the shed.

Until then, if you pass by and see

a “geazer” out in the backyard play-

ning with a kid, don’t think I lost

my marbles, rather I found some
golden moments.

Tim Johnson is the editor of Today’s

Catholic.

Opinions better left unsaid

The ability, or rather, the will-
ingness to share an opinion

when the mood strikes is either

a biological instinct or a

learned trait, or perhaps a com-
bination of both. I’m not really sure

since I grew up in a house full of

opinions that were freely aired.

And so that tendency was

passed down to me, for better or for

worse.

For worse whenever it becomes

necessary to remove my foot from

my mouth.

The spewing of opinions can be
dangerous or, at the very least,

embarrassing and undignified. I

have learned this the hard way.

It only takes one proclamation of a

movie’s worthlessness to offend

someone who thought it was the

most touching piece of cinematog-

raphy of all time. Like getting hit

over the head with a mallet, it

comes away dumber than a box of

rocks.

All the knowledge in the world

doesn’t help much without tact,
good judgment, and a nod to what

some might find offensive or inap-

propriate. That’s not to say that

we should avoid always trying to say

things to please people.

There are those in our lives,

particularly loved ones, who some-
times need things that aren’t

particularly pleasant but are

for their own good.

Usually, our interactions with

other people require a certain

amount of finesse, a look at what

that person’s perspective may be.

Our opinion often is not a mat-
ter of going over a wall, or:

edge over a lack of knowledge, but

rather, perspective. No one can

expect others to look at things

exactly the way you do, any more than

you can look at things the way

that person does.

So I find myself preacing com-

ments I make these days with “in

my opinion,” or “I can see why

you think that way.” After all,

isn’t it much better to stop and

consider someone else’s perspective

rather than immediately judg-
ing or thinking the worst of

that person?

I have an old friend who had

acquaintances within all the vari-

ous cliques in high school, and

when we go to our reunions, he

has something to talk about with
everyone that returns.

So I complimented him on

what a good listener he had always

been, and asked him how he, who

had come from a fairly affluent

background, had mixed so well

with so many different groups.

I’m paraphrasing his response,

but it went something like this:

“Because everyone has a different

perspective, and I always thought I

could learn something from them

that I didn’t understand.”

What a beautiful way to look at

other people, and what a great way

to be more accepting of others’ opinions, whether they coincide with

yours or not.

So I’m working on buttoning up

some of those opinions, although

I sometimes still bite my tongue

a split second too late.

Everyone is entitled to think what-

ever he or she wants to think ... in

my opinion, of course.

Tim Prister is a 1978 graduate of

Mariam High School and a 1982

graduate from the University of

Notre Dame.

Scripture search

Gospel for September 27, 2009

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Following is a word search based on the Gospel

reading for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle

B: A lesson about those who teach the faith truly. The

words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BIOETHICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

al, love-giving marital embrace of

their parents, not in the cold and

impersonal glass world of a test

tube or petri dish. They have the

right to be uniquely, exclusively

directly related to the mother

and father who bring them into the

world. IVF ignores all these rights

of the child.

The second objection to mito-

chondrial swapping in humans is

that it would introduce a rupture

into parenthood, by creating chil-

dren who inherit genetic material

from three parents. While the

mother and father would con-

tribute the majority of their child’s

DNA from their own egg and

sparm, a small amount would

come from a second woman

donating healthy mitochondria

from one of her eggs. In other

words, the procedure dilutes par-

enthood by introducing another

parent, another woman, into the

procreation of the child.

In the mitochondrial swapping

scheme, it is significant that not

just the mitochondria are “swapped” but all the other structures of the cell come

from the second woman’s egg as

equal (except for the nucleus and its

chromosomes). In other words, one

woman provides the DNA from

her own chromosomes, while another

woman provides everything

else that is not subcellular

machinery of the egg, including

the mitochondria. In summary,

then, we are not actually “repair-

ing” a defective egg, but construct-

ing a new, alternative, and clearly
different egg out of the contribu-
tions from two separate women.

The final egg produced really

belongs to neither woman, so that

the technological manipulations

introduce a fassure between any

child conceived from the engi-

neered egg and both “mothers.”

The child becomes “distanced” or

“ orphaned” from both women

involved in the process.

In order ethically to achieve a

cure” for mitochondrial diseases

in children of the next generation,

scientists will hopefully be able

one day to correct the mutated

gene sequences themselves in the

mitochondrial DNA, perhaps

with a gene chip still as simple

as the ovary, so that once ovulated,

the couple could achieve a concep-

tion and pregnancy through normal

maturation.

It bears repeating that our sex-
cells, both sperm and egg, uniquely

express and embody our indivi-

duality, our identity and our

parental roles. These cells clearly

should never be given over or sold
to other people to use, in whole or

in part, for the purpose of creating

children.

In particular, the exclu-

sivity that is written into a

woman’s body and her repro-

ductive rights, if completely

eviscerated by any decision of that woman to donate her eggs, or even

significant parts of her eggs, to another woman, is “swapped” but all the other structures of the cell come from the second woman’s egg as well (except for the nucleus and its chromosomes). In other words, one woman provides the DNA from her own chromosomes, while another woman provides everything else that is not subcellular machinery of the egg, including the mitochondria. In summary, then, we are not actually “repairing” a defective egg, but constructing a new, alternative, and clearly different egg out of the contributions from two separate women. The final egg produced really

delicacy of any human procreation in marriage.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.
ICCL Crusaders score a Week 3 victory

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — With a touch of fall in the air, one uptown team low on numbers would try to unseat a storied program and continue their progress from the week before. The ICCL Crusaders had a little different story to write when they clashed with the (St. Matthew, St. Jude, Our Lady of Hungary) Blazers, who had just come off a huge performance in Week 2.

The game started off with a quality kickoff off by the Blazers’ Tyran Othbridge pinning the Crusaders on their own 13-yard line. They may have started backed up against the shadow of their endzone, but the Crusaders had the ball just where they wanted it, in the hands of running back Pierre Byrne.

Byrne took seven of the next nine plays highlighted by runs of 25 yards and 35 yards and capped with a 6-yard jaunt to the endzone giving an 8-yard drive. Ryan Wobbe kicked the points after try to make it 8-0 with 5:16 ticks off the clock in the first quarter.

The Blazers would have their chance to put their high powered offense on the field. Wobbe ended a short drive as he one-handed an interception in the Blazer backfield.

It wouldn’t take long for Byrne to dart and dash the Crusaders down to the two-yard line before Matt Monzerez called his own number on a quarterback keeper for the touchdown. The PAT was wide right and the score settled in at 14-0, Crusaders.

The stubborn Crusader defense again closed the door on the potent Blazer offense and got the ball back on downs. It was once again the Byrne show, prompted by a 45-yard run and ended with an eight-yard gallop to pay dirt. Wobbe’s kick again found its mark giving the powerful Crusaders a 22-0 lead with 1:14 left in the half.

The Crusaders would put their two-minute drill in place and move the ball only to have their quarterback, Steven Knight, throw an errant pass into Crusader Sam DeTrempe’s waiting arms ending the half.

More Crusaders in the second half, the Blazers started a nice drive to open the quarter, but Anthony Ruhli plucked a pass from the air setting up another possession for the talented black-and-blue clad team.

The Crusaders moved the ball at will and found the endzone with a counter play to Quinn Imus that left him untouched for another touchdown. Wobbe’s kick made it 30-0.

The fourth quarter left the Blazers short on manpower, but as it would turn out, long on spirit. Dominique Sanders filling in for the injured quarterback raced 55 yards down the sideline to put the Blazers on the board. Sanders point after throw to Ottoman sealed the drive making the score 30-7.

After holding the Crusaders on downs, Sanders again sprinted 44 yards for another score, and with 2:22 left in the game it was 30-13, Crusaders.

The final few minutes would never relinquish the ball again making it the final margin of victory.

“That was an outstanding win for us, we came ready to play,” explained Crusader Coach, John Krzyzewski. “We were concerned about our small players, but our kids worked hard to contain them.”

“Byrne is a special back. For his size he is so strong, making him hard to bring down,” remarked Krzyzewski. “Our line — Pat Connors, Corey Kuminecz, Connor Futa and Colin O’Brien — opened holes and were our bread and butter all day.”

“We were missing some people but Holy Cross is a well-coached and disciplined team,” commented Blazer Coach Mike Ernst. “We challenged our kids in the fourth quarter not to give up and to keep fighting, the end of the game was a tribute to their effort.”

In other action, the (St. Anthony, St. Joe, St. Pius) Panthers remained undefeated as they outlasted the (Holy Family, St. John the Baptist, St. Adalbert, Corpus Christi) Cougars, 24-12.

Alex Fiacable had 18 carries and rushed for a touchdown. No. 10 also threw two more scoring strikes finishing 1-1 on the day. Ryan Watercutter had eight receptions, including both scoring tosses.

Coach Corey Kitchen was pleased with the outcome, although he admits, “It was far from a perfect game for us, but our kids gave a great effort and responded to the challenge. We will do our best to get better every week with the goal of peaking in the playoffs.”

In the victory, Michael Fiacable had 18 carries and rushed for a touchdown. No. 10 also threw two more scoring strikes finishing 1-1 on the day. Ryan Watercutter had eight receptions, including both scoring tosses. Stephen Colligan was a perfect 3-3 on his PAT attempts to help the Panthers stay unbeaten.

Next up at Bishop Dwenger Field, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth/St. Aloysius/St. Therese (JAT) bounced back to beat Queen of Angels/Most Precious Blood (QA/PB) by a score of 32-0. Nic Morken took the handoff on the second play of the game and went 66 yards for the Knights’ first touchdown. The second touchdown came when Quinton Gardner raced 57 yards off a right tackle to put the Knights up 16-0.

On the other side of the ball, Gardner tipped a QA/PB pass and linebacker Morken intercepted running 42 yards for the Knights third score. Trey Casaburo completed the scoring for the Knights with a 35-yard run on a scramble around left end thanks to a nice block from Nick Miles.

Casaburo also converted all four extra points with holds from Nate Burrows and snaps by Matt Gigli to round out the scoring. The Knights’ defensive coordinator, Andy Jackson, credits the shutout to eighth graders Braeden Thiele, Gardner and Morken who combined for four sacks and numerous monster tackles. According to offensive coordinator, Eric Downey, the improved effort by the “O-line” was led by Robert Wynn, Drew Baehl, Gigli, Cole Mulhern and Caleb Moreno, with reserves Grant Drick, Harrison Martin and Josh Yarde also contributing.

Finally, both St. Jude and St. Charles added another “W” to the win column. The Eagles are now 3-2 and the Cardinals 4-1 with just two weeks left in regular season play.

First annual ‘Tri Ancilla’ sprint triathlon deemed a success

DONALDSON — Seventy-five participants from Chicago, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Valparaiso, South Bend, Warsaw, and other neighboring cities converged on the grounds of Ancilla College and the PHIC Ministry Center for the inaugural Tri Ancilla sprint triathlon event on Sunday, Sept. 6.

Men and women, ranging in age from 15 to 74, participated in a 500-yard swim, 11-mile bike ride, and a 3.1-mile run that toured the Donaldson-based campus and its surrounding areas.

“We could not have pulled off such a successful first-time event without the assistance of a dedicated planning committee and many volunteers,” said Todd Zeltwanger, executive director of Institutional Advancement at Ancilla College. “We look forward to hosting this event on an annual basis and are excited about the opportunity to showcase Ancilla College and the PHIC Ministry Center to first-time visitors of Donaldson.”

Zeltwanger made special mention of the efforts of Plymouth residents Brad Serf and Don Allen, who Zeltwanger referred to as “key components of the planning committee.”

He also offered his thanks to the four event sponsors — The Learning House, Miller Nor-Cen Insurance, Gibson Insurance and the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Prizes were awarded to the top three male and female finishers, as well as the youngest and oldest participants.

The top three male finishers were David Hernandez, Fort Wayne, Keith Higgensbottom, Elkhart, and Ryan Taylor, St. Joseph, Mich.

On the women’s side, the top three finishers were Kathryn Touloukian, Peru, Jenna Davis, St. Joseph, Mich., and Cassandra Lemberg, Fort Wayne.

The youngest participant was 15-year-old Scott Osborne of Indianapolis, and the oldest was 74-year-old William Pauley of Valparaiso.

ICCL Crusaders scored a Week 3 victory

USF HOLDS SOLES4SOULS SHOE COLLECTION

The Green Campus Committee and Student Nurses Association at the University of Saint Francis are combining forces with Soles4Souls this fall to collect shoes for those in need. In the Franciscan spirit, USF will be collecting new and gently used shoes at the Sept. 26 and Oct. 31 football games. Participants can bring a shoe donation to the gate at the start of either game or kick your shoes off at game’s end and drive home barefoot. Collection receptacles will also be located across campus during the five-week collection event.
Saint Joseph’s OFFENSE

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Saint Joseph’s KEYS TO VICTORY

- Enjoy the rivalry’s intensity
- Limit turnovers
- No mental errors

— Head Coach Kevin Downey

MARIAN’S KEYS TO VICTORY

- Control the clock
- Play error free football
- Score more points than they do

— Head Coach Reggie Glon

SAINT JOSEPH’S STATISTICAL LEADERS

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MARIAN STATISTICAL LEADERS

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SAINT JOSEPH’S VS. MARIAN KNIGHTS

at Oltolski Field

Friday, Sept. 25     Kickoff 7 p.m.

On TV WHME, Channel 46         On radio WSBT AM 960

SAINT JOSEPH’S STATISTICAL LEADERS

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MARIAN STATISTICAL LEADERS

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SAINT JOSEPH’S KEYS TO VICTORY

- Enjoy the rivalry’s intensity
- Limit turnovers
- No mental errors

— Head Coach Kevin Downey

MARIAN’S KEYS TO VICTORY

- Control the clock
- Play error free football
- Score more points than they do

— Head Coach Reggie Glon
South Bend native, writer passionate to improve college football

BY YORK YOUNG

Passion can be a good thing. It can be the driving force that makes the difference between just sitting around complaining about something and taking action to foment change in the way things are done.

Sports followers can be an interesting mix of what we’re talking about here. We often refer to sports fans as passionate, yet outside of commenting on the current state of one’s favorite sport or team, most subscribe to the belief that they can’t do anything to change the way sports or their favorite teams are run.

Jim Stack, a Catholic, South Bend native, Notre Dame graduate, Passionate (with a capital P) to sports fans as passionate, yet those who run the college football bowl system has designated five games as part of the Bowl Championship Series, when only one game matters. Stack — and you can find many others — is calling for a playoff in his favorite sport.

Memories are often couched in a theme that proves interesting to a niche of readers, and Stack’s “Prelude to the Playoff” (Tate Publishing, $19.99) is his. Reflecting on his life, highlighted in this system.

Stack’s book is an interesting read, especially for locals in South Bend who will recognize beloved Notre Dame’s complicity in this system.

His hook is a personal prerogative, since, although he has a habit of nicknaming everything, and using quote marks to stress his favorite things. Those two quirks may annoy some readers, though he explains his reasoning early on — personal prerogative, since, after all, these are his memoirs.

With a proposed process in place — he used the real college football results from the years 2003-2007 as examples of how his system would work (for more visit www.ultimatetweaker.com) — he rightfully wrote detailed letters with his proposal to college presidents, NCAA officials and those who run the college bowl games. The hypocrisy in the responses he was offered is deafening — the current system is working for the rich haves, and the poor have nots need not apply. He even questions his beloved Notre Dame’s complicity in this system.

Stack’s, though not perfect, addresses the major issues and would be a television-viewing phenomenon that could ultimately rival the NCAA’s men’s basketball tournament. Unfortunately, the haves are not listening.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

LAUNCHES

Lasagna dinner planned
Mishawaka — A Queen of Peace Parish Lasagna Dinner will be on Friday, Sept. 25, from 5-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Adults $7, children 4 to 12 $4. Tickets available at the door. Adult carry-out available. Tickets include one serving of lasagna and all-you-can-eat salad, beverage and dessert. All proceeds benefit Queen of Peace music ministries.

Knights of Columbus host fish dinner
Plymouth — The Knights of Columbus Council 1975 will have a fish dinner on Friday, Oct. 23, in the Knights Hall at 901 E. Jefferson from 4-7 p.m. Adult tickets are $8, children 4-10 are $3.50 and children 3 and under are free. Tickets are available in advance by calling Tom Sibal at (574) 935-8442 or at the door. A drive-through service is available at the south door. Proceeds from the event will benefit local charitable organizations. The fish is prepared by Tyner Odd Fellows.

Rummage and bake sale planned
Fort Wayne — Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St., will have a Rosary Society rummage and bake sale Oct. 1-3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Mohr Hall.

Oktoberfest party
Granger — St. Pius X, 52553 Fir Rd., will have an Oktoberfest Saturday, Oct. 10, from 7-3 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are $10 per person and include dinner. Beer, wine and soft pretzels are extra. Wil Smaka’s Music Connection Polka Band will provide entertainment. Adults only with babysitting available on site with reservations by calling (574) 674-5582. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Council 4263.

Fort Wayne — St Charles Catholic Church will celebrate Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 5-11 p.m. at the Father Thomas A. Brandon Council 451 Knights of Columbus Hall, 600 Reed Rd. Special Oktoberfest menu and dancing to the music of the Freudenmacher Band. All adults over the age of 21 are welcome. Admission is free.

Bake sale and rummage sale benefit Altar and Rosary Society
South Bend — A bake and rummage sale will be held at St. John the Baptist Parish Friday, Oct. 17, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 18, from 8 a.m. to noon. Sunday will include a $1 a bag sale.

FUNDRAISERS

MISCELLANEOUS

Harvest House plans fall festival
Garrett — The Garrett/Auburn center of Harvest House will have a fall festival on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Immaculate Conception Church, 500 E. Seventh St. Doors open at 10:15 a.m., rosary at 10:40 a.m. and Mass at 11 a.m. Father Derrick Sneyd will be the celebrant. Priests from area Harvest House centers have been invited to concelebrate. Dinner and entertainment will follow in the church hall. Membership is not required to attend. Prepaid tickets are $8 and reservations need to be called to Joan at (260) 688-0104 by Oct. 5.

Alumni and faculty exhibit at USF
Fort Wayne — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis has announced the opening of the alumni and faculty exhibit on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Weatherhead Gallery in the Rolland Center. A wide variety of media will be on display. The exhibition will run through Sunday, Nov. 29. Gallery hours are M-F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Pro-life program announced
Mishawaka — The Respect Life Committee at Queen of Peace Parish will have a pro-life educational program on Monday, Oct. 12, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church. Father Daniel Scheidt, pastor, will present a discussion of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop’s document, “Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics.” This document is available at: www.usccb.org/pro-life/gospel.shtml. Free childcare will be provided from 6:15-7:30 p.m. For information, contact the parish at (574) 255-9674 or Laura McGuire at (574) 850-7336.

Community gathering to heal domestic violence planned at Madison Center
South Bend — On Saturday, Oct. 10, from 1-3 p.m. on the Madison Center campus will be the first S-O-S community gathering to heal domestic violence in a ceremony that reflects the common threads found in Michiana’s rich diversity of faith traditions. The service will include healing petitions, song and dance in an interactive experience.

Fall festival and open house at Victory Noll Center
Huntington — Victory Noll Center will have a fall festival and open house on Sunday, Oct. 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. on the grounds of Victory Noll. The festival will feature walking the labyrinth, a scavenger hunt and a hayride. Refreshments will be available with donuts, popcorn and apple cider. Victory Noll is located at 1900 W. Park Dr.

Prayer for Priests
Mishawaka — The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration will have a special day of prayer for priests Thursday, Oct. 1, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragoon Trail. Morning Prayer and Mass 7 a.m.; 5 p.m. rosary, evening prayer and benediction. Eucharistic adoration throughout the day.

All family rosary
Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be practiced on the last Sunday of the month. Sept. 27, at MacDougal Chapel from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The intention is for all families.

REST IN PEACE

Angola
Don H. Bauer, 82, Most Precious Blood
Ruth Dailey, 89, St. Anthony
Mark Allen Wilmes, 26, Immaculate Conception
Rose J. Sunday, 93, St. Vincent de Paul
Lawrence Jackowiak, 51, St. Vincent de Paul
Floyd J. Wachowiak, 83, St. Pius X
Janet C. Girardot, 86, St. Rose of Lima
Evelyn A. Trabel, 89, St. John the Baptist
Donna M. Bartos, 83, St. Pius X
Ovidio R. Contreras, 86, St. Pius X
Bonnie Marie Waddell, 91, St. Pius X

Notre Dame
Emma Elise Fernandez, 81, Basilia of the Sacred Heart
Sister M. Kathryn
Edward McDermott, CSC, 68, Our Lady of Loretto
Regina J. Pilarski, 90, St. Matthew Cathedral
Virginia L. Downey, 88, St. Matthew Cathedral
Irene G. Horvath, 87, Our Lady of Hungary
Betty Jane Schoen, 78, St. Stanislaus
Jerald Lee Andrews, 74, St. Martin De Porres
Fred Rothermel, 86, St. Bernard

St. Pius X announces senior group
Granger — St. Pius X has a senior group (55+) that meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon starting with Mass. Various speakers and activities are planned. For information call (574) 272-0732 or (574) 271-7853.

St. Adalbert School alumni plan get-together with pierogi and polka fun
South Bend — A genuine pierogi-tasting contest, while listening to music and meeting old friends will be Sunday, Sept. 27, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Heritage Center. All alumni are welcome to this free event. For reservations contact the parish office, or call Karen Sikorski at (574) 288-5708 ext. 215 so there will be enough pierogi.

Thru CHRIST does our comfort abound.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
you go all the credit — you who know the difference between a job and a calling, those of you involved in faith-based education,” Moore told parishioners, parents, children and staff who gathered after Mass for the ceremony.

After Bishop D’Arcy blessed the interior of the school in private, an open house and reception ensued in the school.

Most of the renovations in the K-8 school involved improving the aesthetics and lighting in the 59-year-old building. Many of the classrooms and hallways received new, larger windows and had exposed ductwork concealed. A spacious, welcoming atrium was carved out at a new entrance to the school. Two adjacent classrooms were vacated and combined to house the school library.

The school’s cafeteria-small gymnasium area received a facelift as well, including the removal of an old stage and the installation of new flooring, a new ceiling and larger windows. An adoration chapel that had previously been located in the school was also removed and a larger chapel built onto the church building last year.

Because some classrooms, the school office and the library were expanded, and the basement and mobile classrooms were brought to the main level, the net gain of classrooms due to the construction is only one. But the purpose of the project wasn’t to expand as much as it was to improve the facilities.

“Really, it brought us into the 21st century,” said Principal Fred Stump. “Now it beautifully accommodates a two-part school. We used to have lots of problems with the electrical too, and that’s all been upgraded. All of it is now handicapped-accessible, too.”

High school student and St. Thomas graduate Regina Mauck attended the open house with her family and was impressed by the extent of the renovations.

“We keep finding old places where the hallway used to end and now there are new classrooms there,” she said as they toured the school.

“Building for God’s Teaching” as the project was called, began in 2005. Construction started in June 2008 and wrapped up “as the kids were walking in the door” in August of this year, according to Stump.