FORT WAYNE — Celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy, the annual Red Mass was held Sunday in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne, followed by brunch at the nearby Grand Wayne Center.

Bishop D’Arcy said, “The purpose of the Red Mass is to ask the Lord to send his Holy Spirit on lawyers, judges and public servants that they may have that same spirit of integrity and goodness as they serve the law and their fellow citizens.” Its name is derived from the red color of the vestments of the celebrant, which is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. The Red Mass is currently celebrated on the first Sunday in October in cities around the nation.

Bishop D’Arcy reminded his audience of St. Thomas More, who was executed in 1535 for refusing to sign an oath accepting the King of England as his religious authority. More said, “I die the king’s good servant, but God’s first.”

Red Mass recognizes attorneys, judges and public officials

October 11, 2009
Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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‘The bishop is not the name of an honor, but of a work’

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

St. Augustine and the bishop

St. Augustine said, “The bishop is not the name of an honor, but of a work.” The Second Vatican Council was, among other things, a council for the reform and renewal of the Episcopal Office. The council saw the office as a service, a spiritual work, and in fact, quotes St. Augustine.

Augustine is right. It is a work, but also a joyful and blessed work, especially if one takes to heart St. Augustine’s words, “Assist me by your prayerful support, so that my joy will be in serving you, rather than in being over you.”

With our priests

For many years now, we have a study week in each October. We go to Camp Potawatomi for three days. The first presen- ter was Professor John Clabaux, of the Josephinum Seminary, where our theolo- gians study. He gave two excellent presentations on St. Paul. I missed these two talks because of the pressure of activities, but the priests were very enthused and grateful.

Then came Father Brian Bransfield, a priest of the Diocese of Philadelphia. His focus was on the teaching of the church on marriage, with special emphasis on some of the moral problems. He discussed “Veritatis Splendor” ("The Splendor of Truth"). Many say this will be the Pope John Paul II’s most important teaching. An encyclical letter on moral theology or ethics. At the Second Vatican Council, the church developed a new moral theology. Pope John Paul II, who taught philosophy for many years, was truly an ethicist. This document has unquestionably changed the way moral theology is taught and perceived. I had the good fortune of being in Rome at the "ad limina" visit when the encyclical came out. Father Bransfield took us through this and other church documents, presented the teaching of the church on marriage and on the pressing ethical issues of the day, such as homosexuality and artificial contracep- tion. I recalled in one of his discussions the words Pope John Paul II gave to us at his second pastoral visit. We met in one of the old California missions, and in his response to a presentation of an archbishop, he told us that he would, “so teach the difficult moral issues, such as the church’s teaching on marriage, in such a way that people will be drawn to it.” I asked him at the “ad limina” visit, “How do we do this?” He became very philosophical and quiet.

We were at lunch with him. He said, “It is necessary to understand the soul of the woman. All these things that were supposed to liberate her: abortion, premarital sex, contraception — have they liberated her or have they enslaved her?”

Father Bransfield presented, in a beauti- ful way, the liberating Catholic teaching on great moral issues. With a touch of humor and a wide smile, he whipped us all with his learning and his pastoral insight, fully in support of church teaching.

Our high schools

Off then, to South Bend, where the next two days I had brief visits to our high schools. I have now had a short visit to each of our four high schools, meeting with the principals, the director of campus min- istry, and the head of the religion depart- ment. The one purpose is for a deeper inte- gration of priests into each campus. We are unable to have a full-time priest at our high schools, but we will be able to place the priests in the classroom, in addition to administering sacraments and preaching. We have lined it up in a way that we think will be possible for the priests given their other responsibilities, and also effective.

Consecration of a chapel

I think second only to ordination, the consecration of an altar or a church is a most beautiful ritual in the church. So it was a joy to be at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel in a brand new building at Notre Dame. It is the second such chapel I have been able to consecrate in recent weeks. The ritual includes the Litany of Saints and the anointing of the altar. A real sense of the importance of the centrality of the altar is conveyed. In Catholic teaching, we find the following expression: “altar Christus est” — the altar is Christ. We consecrate the altar so that people will be con- scious of this in the church. The living stones, as Augustine said, “The bishop is not the name of an honor, but of a work.” The altar is Christ. We consecrate the altar so that people will be conscious of this in the church. The living stones, as Augustine said, “The bishop is not the name of an honor, but of a work.”

I was pleased to meet Tom and Mary Cabot, two exceptional peo- ple who made this beautiful chapel possible by their generosity. The altar in a Catholic church or chapel is both the table of the Lord’s Supper and the sacrificial stone on which is presented, for our participation, the dying and rising of Christ.

Back to LaGrange

Down Route 20 the next day to St. Joseph, LaGrange. The second time in two weeks, I told them one more, and I expect- ed to be on the payroll. Moving thoughts of the beautiful visit of my dear sister, Sister Anne D’Arcy, two weeks previously. This was for the 75th anniversary of St. Joseph Parish in a small Indiana town. As part of their anniversary, I blessed an exhibition on missions, the Franciscans, and the Eucharist throughout the world over the centuries. It was a special joy to be with Father Mark Weaver, OFM, Conv., a wonderful Franciscan friar. He is a blessing because of his exemplary priestly life and also because he is fluent in Spanish and English and has brought many Hispanic Catholics closer to Christ and to the church and made them a full part of parish life.

Off then, through the dark and rainy night, down Routes 9, 6 and 3 to Fort Wayne and home. And a chance to stay up late and prepare, what I hope, was a worthy talk for the Red Mass.

On Sunday, we had the Annual Red Mass for the judges and lawyers and politi- cal leaders at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Our speaker after- wards was Bishop Joseph H. Mullen, who played in three Rose Bowls with the University of Michigan, and also the Super Bowl with the New York Giants. He spoke about the importance of a spiritual life for profession- al people, especially attorneys, and drew examples from prayer concerning his own decisions about life. He is the founder of Athletes for Life, which provides an inspir- ing curriculum for young people.

The teachers’ council

I have pledged to attend two meetings annually of our Council of Teachers. This is a representative group, half chosen and half appointed by me after being nominated by a school office. I am always deeply impressed by the teachers in this group. I had a chance to answer their questions and understand their concerns, and they come to know, also, the concerns of the diocese and the bishop. A special pleasure at this meet- ing was that it was the first meeting of the Council of Teachers attended by our new Superintendent of Catholic Schools Dr. Mark Myers.

Doing things twice

So you see there is plenty of diversity. Also, in this diocese, you do most things twice. This on coming Sunday, we will have our Red Mass for lawyers and judges and political leaders at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Having two major cities brings money to the fuel companies, and the fuel companies bring money to the bishop — and yet offers a beautiful and diverse ministry. I think celebrating Mass for the people, especially in one of our two cathedrals, in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, but also in the smaller parishes, brings me more joy now than ever. I don’t fully understand that, but I think it is part of God’s grace.

How about the Irish?

I have not seen any games yet, just bits and pieces because every Saturday after- noon I have had a Mass, usually a Mass for the installation of a new pastor. But after the events at LaGrange, I watched the end of a game with the Washington Huskies, including overtime, cheering along with the pastor. Another narrow escape, but so excit- ing, so much like the famed Notre Dame victories over the years. The quarterback is linked to the Holy Eucharist throughout the world over the centuries. And there will be more lovely autumn Saturdays. I personally plan to go to both the USC game and the game against BC. We have to beat BC. It has been too many years.

I will be in North Manchester Saturday for a retreat with all the eighth graders preparing for confirmation — about 900 of them. I look forward to it; and I look for- ward to seeing you next week.

Go Red Sox!
USCCB sees mixed results on health reform in Senate committee

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Senate Finance Committee made some progress toward a more affordable healthcare reform plan but failed to address concerns about abortion, conscience rights and the health of immigrants, officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said after the committee finished its work on its proposal Oct. 2.

The committee rejected amendments that would have written into the bill the long-stalled effort on federal subsides for benefits packages that cover abortions, with rare exceptions, and would have forbidden federal agencies, state and local governments receiving federal funds under the bill, to discriminate against healthcare providers that decline to perform, refer for or pay for abortions.

“The bill remains deeply flawed on these issues and must be corrected,” said Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. “These problems must be corrected on the House and Senate floor.”

On the inclusion of immigrants, the committee defeated amendments opposed by the USCCB that would have placed legal and restrictions on legal immigrants and their families in accessing health care, but failed to improve the access immigrants currently have.

“Legal immigrants, who work hard and pay taxes, should be treated equally with U.S. citizens,” said Kevin Appleby, director of migration policy and public affairs for the USCCB. “It is counterproductive to the general public health to leave them outside of the system, unable to access preventive treatment and dependent on emergency care.”

Kathy Saile, USCCB director of domestic social development, said the bill took some steps toward improved access, but leaves “many families still vulnerable to higher healthcare costs.”

“As Congress continues to debate healthcare reform, it should take further steps to help all poor and low-income families,” she said, urging, for example, the “expansion of access to programs such as Medicaid.”

In a Sept. 30 letter, bishops representing three USCCB committees called on senators to insist that any final health reform bill exclude mandated coverage of abortion, protect conscience rights, safeguard the health of family members and protect “the life, dignity and health of all.” They also said affordability should be a major consideration, so that health care will be fairly universal and genuinely affordable.

The letter was signed by Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; and Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the Committee on Doctrine.

Although the final committee vote was not expected until the week of Oct. 5, the Senate Finance Committee completed its markup of the health reform plan proposed by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the committee chairman, in the early mornings hours of Sept. 30.

In their letter, the bishops said none of the health reform proposals considered in committee, including the Baucus bill, has “met President (Barack) Obama’s challenge of barring use of federal dollars for abortion and maintaining current conscience laws.”

“These deficiencies must be corrected,” they added.

In his Sept. 9 address to a joint session of Congress on healthcare reform, Obama said, “Under our plan, no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions, and federal conscience laws will remain in place.

On immigrants, the bishops’ letter suggested several “effective ways to safeguard the health of immigrants, their children and all of society,” including:

• “An adequate safety net for those who remain uncovered.”

• “Elimination of the five-year waiting period before legal immigrants can enroll in Medicaid.”

• An end to barriers, such as waiting periods to obtain subsidies, when immigrants seek to obtain private health insurance.

• “Health coverage of pregnant women giving birth to U.S. citizen children, no matter what the women’s legal status.”

On the issue of affordability, the USCCB letter said the debate over healthcare reforms “must begin with the principle that decent health care is not a privilege, but a right and a requirement to protect the life and dignity of every person.”

“Health care should not be dependent on an individual’s ‘stage of life, where or whether they or their parents work, how much they earn, where they live or where they were born,’” the bishops said.

But for lower-income families, “significant premiums and cost-sharing charges can serve as barriers to obtaining coverage or seeing a doctor,” they added.

The Baucus bill received specific criticism from the bishops, who said it could require families living just above the federal poverty line to pay up to 25 percent of their income on out-of-pocket health care costs.

“We urge Congress to limit premiums or cost-sharing to less than 20 percent of the federal poverty level from monthly premiums,” the bishops said. “We also recommend limiting copayments and other costs which could discourage needed care. ... We support the increase in eligibility levels in Medicaid to no less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level for all citizens and immigrants residing lawfully in the United States.”

In 2009, the federal poverty level for a family of four in the continental United States was $22,950.

In their letter, the bishops reminded senators that “health care choices are not just political, technical or economic, but also moral.”

“This legislation is about life and death, which can take their children to the doctor and who cannot, who can afford decent health care coverage and who are left to fend for themselves,” they added.

“Healthcare reform especially needs to protect those at the beginning of life and at its end, the most vulnerable and the voiceless.”

Bishop D’Arcy announces pastoral assignments

Bishop John M. D’Arcy has announced the following assignments:

Rev. Thomas Kokassery, O.SB, has been reassigned from associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, to pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, North Manchester. The effective date of this assignment is Oct. 7, 2009.

Rev. Paul Chukwu, has been reassigned from associate pastor at Holy Family Parish, South Bend, to associate pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. The effective date of this assignment is Oct. 4, 2009.

Statement from Bishop John M. D’Arcy

Statement on healthcare reform

Oct. 5, 2009

As the debate over health care reform intensifies, it is important to make clear the position advocated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and various Catholic medical associations.

With that in mind, I present the following principles.

1. Healthcare reform is both a moral imperative and a national priority. It is the teaching of the Catholic Church that basic health care is a right and not a privilege. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops supports universal health care coverage, which protects the life and dignity of all, especially of those who are most vulnerable — the poor, the elderly, those with mental or physical disabilities, the unborn or the immigrant. In fact, while there is a widespread effort to deny immigrants their right to basic health care, the church cannot and does not support this. Instead, the church supports effective, but not intrusive, measures to expand basic health care affordability and accessibility for every human being from conception to natural death.

2. Genuine healthcare reform preserves and protects human life and dignity. The church opposes any efforts to expand abortion funding, mandate abortion coverage or endanger the conscience rights of healthcare providers and religious institutions. Since 1976, the Hyde amendment has severely restricted the use of federal funds for abortion. While originally limiting federal funding to cases where the life of the mother was endangered, in 1993 it was expanded to include the cases of rape and incest. Such cases as these, however, constitute only about 1 percent of abortions. As Catholics, we should urge all members of the House and Senate to oppose further expanding the use of federal funds for abortion or the weakening of conscience rights. Health care is on behalf of life, not for the destruction of life.

Catholics pray for victims, help with disasters in Asia, South Pacific

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — In a week of natural disasters in Asia and the South Pacific, Catholics gathered to pray for the victims and Catholic aid agencies helped to survive.

In Indonesia, where two earthquakes hit within two days, Catholics in Padang attended Mass outside the damaged cathedral. Staffers of the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Relief Services visited villages about three hours from Padang and discovered that at least 80 percent of homes were damaged and uninhabitable.

In the South Pacific, where more than 170 people died after an earthquake triggered tsunamis Sept. 29, Christians gathered to pray for victims and give thanks for their own survival. At Immaculate Conception of Mary Cathedral in Apia, Samoa, Msgr. Joane Vito told the congregation: “Don’t dwell on it, but (let us) rebuild our lives together as a community,” the BBC reported.

In the Philippines, where nearly 300 people died in and around Manila from Typhoon Ketsana, Typhoon Parma left at least 16 people dead. Weather officials predicted Parma would linger, as another typhoon, Melor, churned east of the Philippines, acting as a magnet.

And in southern India, church workers joined rescue and relief efforts after torrential rains caused floods and mudslides, claiming more than 200 lives and displacing nearly 750,000 people, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

Much of the aid in all these countries was being coordinated by Caritas, the Catholic Church’s network of charitable aid agencies, although religious orders, lay communities and organizations, and Catholics at the parish level were doing what they could to help the victims.

On Oct. 5, the Indonesian government announced that more than 1,000 people had died in the earthquake and, in Padang, they abandoned the search for the remaining 1,000 missing. The same day, UNICEF announced it was erecting classroom tents, and more than 70,000 children in Padang returned to class that day.
Catholic, Lutheran leaders mark 10th anniversary of historic document

CHICAGO (CNS) — National leaders of the Catholic Church and Lutheran World Federation gathered in Chicago Oct. 1 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.

It was an evening to honor a historic moment and took place in a historic church, Old St. Patrick Church, the oldest church and oldest public building in the city.

Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, co-organized the vespers service with Bishop Mark Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The USCCB and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America co-sponsored the event.

Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore, also attended.

The declaration said the Catholic and Lutheran churches’ consensus on basic truths means that the doctrine of justification — how people are made just in the eyes of God and saved by Jesus Christ — is not a church-dividing issue for Catholics and Lutherans.

Even though differences remain in language, theology and emphasis surrounding those basic truths, the World Methodist Council affirmed the declaration in 2006.

Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, delivered the evening’s homily, saying that it was a night to celebrate the Catholic-Lutheran fellowship that “is real and grounded in a common profession of faith in Christ.”

“Jesus Christ is the gift that unites us. He is the power that sustains us on the ecumenical journey,” Archbishop Gregory told the congregation.

He went on to describe the baptismal garment worn by all baptized Christians and asked that the leaders of the ecumenical movement who have gone before — such as Martin Luther, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Pope John XXIII — be remembered for their witness to Christ.

“The garment belongs to all who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb,” he said. It is not possible to separate the garment from Christ, he added.

While much progress has been made in the name of ecumenism, people of faith must look forward, the archbishop said.

“Honesty requires that we acknowledge how much more work needs to be done by both our communities for the declaration to take root in the Catholic and Lutheran communities,” the archbishop said.

He cited the churches’ different views on human sexuality and ecclesial decision-making as two areas where dialogue must continue.

Archbishop Gregory also offered those gathered two recommendations for going forward: to foster what he called a “reconciliation” similar to the mid-20th century period “that made possible a whole range of ecumenical projects and dialogues,” and pray, pray and pray.

“Prayer is the soul of ecumenism,” he said.

The Rev. Ishmael Noko, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, echoed Archbishop Gregory’s sentiments that dialogue must continue and move forward.

He thanked the theologians who “labored with diligence” to form the joint declaration and those who continue to work in ecumenism today.

Rev. Noko said he was grateful that the declaration, despite being rooted in the past, did not look behind, but forward.

“The joint declaration is a complete testimony to what and how much can be achieved when we faithfully bear witness to the Gospel together,” Rev. Noko said.
Synod opens with call on Africans to be forces for justice, peace

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Reconciled with one another and committed to justice, African Catholics must become active forces for justice and peace on the continent, said Cardinal Peter Turkson of Cape Coast, Ghana.

“On a continent, parts of which live under the shadow of conflict and death, the church must sow seeds of life, itself a metaphor for Christian participation in the world view of Africa,” he said.

While some problems continue, the cardinal said, the church in Africa has grown numerically; the number of armed conflicts on the continent has decreased; more Africans are being elected or appointed to positions in international religious orders; and the number of Catholic universities has grown along with the number of Catholics professionally prepared for work in the church, in politics and business.

Still, he said, the Catholic Church has a long way to go in much of North Africa; some priests and religious have difficulty remaining faithful to their vows; sects continue to attract large numbers of Catholics; and young people who travel to Europe or North America for study come home non-Catholic “because they felt less at home in the Catholic churches there.”

Asked afterward about the challenge of celibacy for African priests and religious, Cardinal Turkson said, “It is not anything to hide or be ashamed of” because celibacy is a challenge for modern men and women all over the world, but church leaders must find new ways to respond to the challenge.

In his presentation to the synod, the cardinal said ethnic tensions and government corruption continue, and that the African people face new challenges because of the import of foreign cultural values and practices, including economic policies focused only on profit rather than the common good, and the acceptance of homosexuality and homosexual unions and of divorce and abortion.

Cardinal Turkson also spoke to the synod about drug trafficking and drug use increasing in Africa; arms trafficking escalating the violence of local conflicts; and pollution and climate change having a devastating impact on a continent where extreme weather already leads to drought, famine and desertification.

Before the cardinal spoke to the synod assembly, Pope Benedict XVI opened the meeting with a spiritual reflection, calling the synod members to listen to the Holy Spirit and to recognize that every blessing and every challenge is a result of human beings’ relationship with God.

“If this is not correct, we cannot arrive at the truth, and this is the source of all the vices that destroy social relationships and peace in the world,” he said.

“Things are going wrong in the world because our relationship with God is not in order.”

Pope Benedict asked the synod members to work to ensure that the love of God, which is offered to all men and women, is able to cross boundaries of ethnicity, tribe and social class in Africa.

RED MASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mass, local attorney Thomas Blee introduced former NFL player Chris Godfrey as keynote speaker.

The affable former New York Giants lineman, now an attorney in South Bend, outlined his journey from pro athlete to the practice of law.

After retiring from football at the age of 30 Godfrey says he was discouraged and unsure which path to follow. “I gave up,” he admitted. But knowing that “faith tells us where we’re going,” he asked God to point him in the right direction. Citing additional inspiration from Mother Teresa and encouragement from former Giants teammate Mark Bavaro, he decided to study law and subsequently earned a law degree from the University of Notre Dame.

But Godfrey drew on his football background when he challenged his audience. “As Christian lawyers, are you water boys or players?” he asked. It’s easy to enjoy the fruits of your profession without really making a personal commitment to let faith into the practice of law, he pointed out. He spoke eloquently of allowing faith to guide reason. “Relativism can be deadly,” he said. Informed choices must be based not on relative truth but on absolute truth.

Godfrey also spoke of his work as founder and president of Life Athletes, a coalition of 200 professional and Olympic athletes who teach and inspire young people to live lives of virtue and abstinence. The commitment of Life Athletes — try to do what’s right, be faithful to your life partner, respect the rights of others and persevere when meeting obstacles — bears testimony to his life’s journey and his personal philosophy.

Bishop John D’Arcy had summed up the solemnity of the occasion earlier when he invoked a prayer of blessing for all the judges and attorneys present at the Red Mass. He asked God to assist them with his spirit of counsel and fortitude and let the light of his divine wisdom shine forth in all of their proceedings, decisions and deliberations.

Godfrey concluded with a simpler sentiment. “A good relationship with God and others is the key to happiness,” he said.
Ethicist says ‘mistaken’ reproductive choices bring ‘surreal’ results

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The case of an Ohio woman who recently gave birth to another couple's child because she was implanted with the wrong embryo at a fertility clinic shows how "potentially surreal" the situation can become when reproduction is separated from the intimacy of marriage, said a leading Catholic ethicist. Father Tadeusz Pucholczew, director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, said the situation faced by Carolyn and Sean Savage of Sylvania, Ohio, "reminds us how the exclusivity that is written right into marriage and the marital act is disrupted" through in vitro fertilization and other artificial reproductive technologies. "You have the possibility now of receiving the wrong child altogether," he told Catholic News Service in a Sept. 29 telephone interview. "That's physically impossible the normal way. Once you step outside the normal elements of exclusivity, it becomes potentially surreal." Carolyn Savage gave birth Sept. 24 at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio, to a boy whose biological parents were Paul and Shannon Morely of Troy, Mich. In a statement, the Savages offered "our heartfelt congratulations to the Morely family on the birth of their son." The Savages, who have three children, also asked for privacy, saying, "Our family is going through a very difficult time."

Colombian-born priest ordained as auxiliary bishop for Atlanta

ATLANTA (CNS) — A Colombian-born priest's Sept. 29 episcopal ordination as an auxiliary bishop for the Atlanta Archdiocese made history. Now-Bishop Luis R. Zarama is the first U.S. bishop ordained from Colombia and the first auxiliary bishop named for Atlanta since 2006. He was ordained a priest in Atlanta in 1993. "Today ... one of our own has been selected to serve us in the episcopacy and he will begin that service here in our midst." When he was named a bishop by Pope Benedict XVI in July, then-Msgr. Zarama was once a graduate student in physics at Columbia University. He had the privilege of serving as the university’s board of trustees chairman and every opportunity to save us." Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl and Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston leave the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle with U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts and his wife, Jane, following the 56th annual Red Mass in Washington Oct. 4. Sponsored by the John Carroll Society the Mass includes blessings and prayers for those who work in law and public office.

Murdered Yale student recalled as young woman full of life, promise

EL DORADO HILLS, Calif. (CNS) — Murdered Yale University graduate student Annie Marie Le will always be "in our hearts and in our prayers," Dan Nguyen told the congregation gathered at a California Catholic church for her funeral Mass Sept. 26. "I think that we speak on behalf of all of us gathered here when I say I will never fully understand why this has happened ... but since those questions are beyond our understanding, I think it is best to consign ourselves to the will of God and put faith in providence," Nguyen, a cousin of Le's, said in a eulogy at Holy Trinity Church in El Dorado Hills. The body of Le, who was a graduate pharmacology student at the Connecticut university, was found behind a wall in a Yale building that houses the lab where she worked. Her body was discovered five days after she was reported missing Sept. 8. A lab technician named Raymond Clark has been charged with her murder. The Connecticut medical examiners determined that Le died of asphyxiation. The day her body was discovered was the day she was to have married Jonathan Waidwasy, a graduate student in physics at Columbia University. The two had known each other since college.

Supreme Court declines to stop order on release of diocesan documents

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court declined Oct. 5 to intervene in orders by Connecticut courts requiring the Diocese of Bridgeport to release thousands of pages of material from 23 lawsuits settled against six priests who were sued in sexual abuse cases. With no comment, the court declined to take the appeal from the diocese, filed after the state Supreme Court upheld a Waterbury Superior Court's order in 2006 that the diocese release documents to four newspapers that sought access to them. The diocese had sought to keep sealed more than 12,000 pages of depositions, exhibits and legal arguments in the lawsuits, most of which were filed in the mid-1990s. The cases were settled by the diocese in 2001 for undisclosed amounts of money, with the agreement that the documents would remain sealed. The following year, "The New York Times," later joined by the Hartford Courant, the Boston Globe and The Washington Post, filed suit to see the documents. The newspapers described them as a key part of the church's record of how charges of clergy sexual abuse were handled. A statement from the Bridgeport Diocese did not address when it would release the documents.

Pope welcomes new US ambassador, prides on right to life issues

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Welcoming the new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI outlined wide areas of potential cooperation with the administration of President Barack Obama but refused a show of support in the issues of abortion and the rights of conscience. The pope called for "a clear discernment with regard to issues touching the dignity and respect for the inalienable right to life from the moment of conception to natural death, and the protection of the right to conscientious objection on the part of health care workers, and indeed all citizens." He made the remarks at a ceremony on Oct. 2 to acclam the credentials of Miguel Diaz, named in May by Obama as the ninth U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. After the presentation of the papal diploma, Diaz told the Vatican's state of work "I feel a profound sense of gratitude for what we are and have become and what we do — thanks to the dedication, commitment and hard work of so many people here — and for the many lives we have touched in so many ways over the years."

Retired Nova Scotia bishop turns himself in to face child porn charges

OTTAWA (CNS) — Retired Bishop Raymond J. Lahey of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, turned himself in to Ottawa police on Oct. 1 to face charges of possession of and importing child pornography. He appeared in court later that day and was released on CAN$9,000 ($8,317) bail with strict conditions that include staying away from the Internet. His next court date for a plea of guilty or not guilty is Nov. 4. In the meantime, he must stay in Rogersville, New Brunswick. Bishop Lahey, 69, who abruptly resigned as bishop for "personal reasons" on Sept. 26, was detained Sept. 15 at the Ottawa airport by the Canada Border Services Agency, after officers conducted a preliminary search of his computer and discovered "images of concern." Border agents seized the bishop's computer and other "media devices" for forensic investigation, then released the bishop. On Sept. 25, Ottawa police formalized the charges and issued an arrest warrant. Pope Benedict XVI accepted Bishop Lahey's resignation Sept. 26 and appointed Halifax Archbishop Anthony Mancini as Antigonish's apostolic administrator.
Around the Diocese

Catholic Charities Disperses Funds for Needy

Through the Brief Services Program, Catholic Charities worked with parish referrals to assist clients with up to $200 per family for rent, mortgage, utility bills, food and other concrete needs. Approximately 200 families were served in parishes located in areas of the diocese where unemployment has been especially high. Funds were distributed Sept. 11 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen. In the photo are Catholic Charities' Courteney Presson, left, who works with Immigration Services in South Bend, and Kathy Denice, board member. Catholic Charities passed a motion to take $40,000 of interest from their Legacy of Faith endowment to make the funds available. Catholic Charities also received $10,000 from the Saint Mary’s Heritage fund to assist 50 families.

For additional information, contact Angie Springer at (260) 99-8066 or aspringer@sf.edu.

National Merit Student Recognition

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger senior Christina Hooper has been named a 2010 National Merit semifinalist. Hooper scored in the top 1 percent of the 1.5 million students nationwide who took the PSAT test in October of 2008. She will now apply for finalist status and National Merit Scholarship consideration, which will be announced in February 2010.

The five additional seniors were named Commended Students by the National Merit Program are Samantha Baus, Isaac Green, Robert Skora and Jordan Venderley. These students scored in the top 5 percent of all students nationwide on the PSAT test.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program, which identifies outstanding Hispanic/Latino high school students for their performance on the PSAT, has also recognized Isaac Evans and Christina Hooper for their efforts.

St. Pius X School enrollment increases, principal recognized with award

GRANGER — St. Pius X Catholic School, which opened in the fall of 2008, has grown to 540 students in pre-school through eighth grade. 125 more students than the previous year. Father Bill Schoeler, pastor of St. Pius, points to Principal Elaine Holmes’ leadership as the reason for the school’s success. The parish’s Knights of Columbus recently honored Holmes with its Outstanding Catholic Layperson Award, also known as the Parishioner of the Year Award at the conclusion of the annual outdoor Mass celebrating the solemnity of St. Pius X on Aug. 23.

“I was surprised and humbled when I received this award,” Holmes said. “Father Bill and the entire parish staff welcomed and supported me in my first year and the entire parish staff welcomed and supported me in my first year and the entire parish staff welcomed and supported me in my first year. I have been blessed to have Father Bill and your entire staff throughout the year, and I just want to thank them for their support.”

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Granger St. Pius X principal recognized with award

ELAINE HOLMES

St. Pius X Catholic School serves 3,000 families. For more information on the church and school, visit www.stpius.net.
LaGrange parish celebrates 75th anniversary

Bishop opens eucharistic exhibition from the Vatican

BY TIM JOHNSON

LaGRANGE — The ministering of the sacraments — marriages, baptisms — provide some of the fondest memories of St. Joseph Church, LaGrange, parishioners. Parishioners and their families gathered with Bishop John M. D’Arcy and their pastor, Conventual Franciscan Friar Mark Weaver, on Oct. 3 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the parish. Bishop D’Arcy also cut the ribbon that opened The Vatican International Exhibition of the Eucharistic Miracles of the World, a display of 126 eucharistic miracles through the ages, and blessed the exhibit. The exhibition runs through Oct. 10.

Betty Beiser, 82, who proudly fills a job that her husband Ed did to the community, Betty, whose first husband died, was married twice at St. Joseph’s. Her nine children were baptized in the parish as well.

Betty’s sister, Marilyn Miller, said that “it’s such a part of my life, it’s always been here” and the home feeling is what draws her and her husband Richard to the parish. After living in Michigan, the Millers returned to Marilyn’s home parish. All three of the Millers’ children were married at St. Joseph. Richard, who converted to the faith but grew up with the sisters, says his fondest memory of the parish is his wife Marilyn and their marriage.

“Our mother and father had such a soul (at St. Joseph’s) in building and establishing the church,” Marilyn commented. Marilyn, Betty and parishioner Phil Bir are considered the parish pioneers. The church began with just eight families. Beginning in 1933, Masses were held in a hotel, filling station and empty buildings. Betty and Marilyn’s father, Michael Brady, along with Henry Bir, requested that a church building to be built in 1936. Dedication of the parish church took place with Bishop John F. Noll on March 19, 1937. Franciscans from Angola served the parish and lived in a house on the weekends. In 1957, Franciscan Father Raymond Oosdyke was assigned to the parish as the first full-time pastor.

By 1977, the parish had outgrown the old church and construction plans emerged for a new church to be located on the east side of LaGrange. Again, the Brady family donated the land at the corner of U.S. 20 and County Road 100 East on which the present-day church stands. On Christmas Eve 1979, Mass was first celebrated in the new church, which was dedicated by Bishop William McManus on April 26, 1980.

Today the parish has a rich and diverse population of Anglo and Hispanic families. Masses are offered in both English and Spanish. Bishop D’Arcy noted in his homily that Father Weaver “welcomes everyone. He welcomes all people, whatever their background, and that’s how Jesus Christ is.”

Family life remains central to the parish and Bishop D’Arcy was quick to use the readings of the weekend to discuss the value of family and marriage. He discussed the permanence of marriage. In Mosiac law, divorce was allowed, “but in the kingdom of Jesus Christ, this will not be so,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

The Genesis readings discussed how God made man in his own image. Male and female he created them. Bishop D’Arcy related how Adam expressed joy when the woman was placed in the garden to be his companion. “In other words, from the beginning, it was the will of God that two beings who are different become one,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

“In their love for one another and in their unselfishness, and their self-giving — giving of themselves — that is an image of the way God loves us,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “The very creation of man and woman and the world is God giving of himself. It is the nature of God to give and to love. ... That’s part of the reason why God created marriage, the family.”

He added, “When the child sees that self-giving between mother and father, he learns that God is love, not just from the catechism, (but) from witness, from example.”

Bishop D’Arcy mentioned St. Paul’s words that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church. Christ was willing to give his life for the church. That is how a husband is called to love his wife.

Bishop D’Arcy said “That is why the love in marriage, their physical union, must always be open to life. Because when there is prevention there through birth control, through human means, the complete giving between God and man is prevented.”

Bishop said marriage is the image of God and God’s love for us and that is why men and women must remain faithful.

The parish has been described by Pope John Paul II as a family of families, Bishop D’Arcy said. “And that is why the church opposes, against the culture, the claim that you can have marriage between two people of the same sex,” he said. “It is against nature. God created nature. It is against the Bible. It is not possible from that union to make a child. And children are from God.”

Bishop D’Arcy related the meaning that Jesus’ words about the children at the end of the Gospel, “Bring them to me.”

“We all must welcome and love the child,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “The child is from God, the child is the future. In fact, Jesus says we are all to become like a child. We can’t do that in every way. But what Jesus means is that in my heart I must be open to God as a child is open to God, humble, spontaneous, trusting God, relying on God.”

“When I reach the end of my life," he said, "I want to have the same trust in God which I had at my first Communion.”

During the preparation of gifts, parishioners processed with historical treasures. After the Mass and ribbon cutting, a dinner was served and historical slideshows and memorabilia was available.

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC OCTOBER 11, 2009

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
Holy Innocents remembered

By Mark Weber

FORT WAYNE — Chilling winds and threatening skies prevailed, but so did a crowd of 300 pro-life supporters who gathered at the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne to honor victims of abortion in Fort Wayne and to pray for their survivors as well as those who brought about their tragic destiny.

Musicians, singers and speakers representing various Christian denominations participated in a somber but positive ceremony reaffirming the sacredness of life. “No one can, under any circumstance, claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being... neither church nor state, neither medicine nor law, is capable of passing judgment upon who is to live and who is to die. God gave us life, a higher life,” said Msgr. John Suelzer, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne.

As names of infant victims were read, single white balloons were released and lofted by the stiff winds sweeping across the cemetery.

The program was planned by Allen County Right To Life. An honor of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of the Anthony Wayne Assembly was present. Singers Annette and Aaron Mann and guitarist James Didier of Assembly was present.

Singers Annette and Aaron Mann and guitarist James Didier of Most Precious Blood Parish sang to introduce and close the ceremony with “Taps” by Tony Koehl.

Our Lady of Good Hope special needs youth ministry offers invitation

FORT WAYNE — The Amazing Apostles, the youth ministry program geared for students with special needs at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, is expanding. Currently the program serves nine students from various parishes in the Fort Wayne area, in its grade school-age and teen group, which meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30-8 p.m. — the same evening the regular religious education (RE) youth groups meet. Amazing Apostles students are grouped by age.

The program is led by Molly Daugherty, who coordinates student, parent and grandparent volunteers who assist with the group. Daugherty says the group has room for expansion and is ready to add a middle school group to its ranks.

The Amazing Apostles follows its own schedule, with special events and gender specific retreats, but joins the regular RE groups in guided integration meetings.

The Amazing Apostles’ catechesis is focused on church teaching, personal growth in Christ and stewardship, all mixed with fun. This season their theme is “Where is God? Finding God in all parts of life.”

All Fort Wayne and surrounding area special needs students from any parish are welcome to join. Parents are welcome to attend with their children. For more information on the Amazing Apostles contact Molly Daugherty at (260) 416-0094 or e-mail daugherty_molly@yahoo.com.

Pilgrim Virgin statue to tour diocese

FORT WAYNE — Bishop John M. D’Arcy has granted permission to the World Apostolate of the USA National Pilgrim Virgin to tour with its custodian Bill Sockey throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Oct. 17-30.

The National Pilgrim Statue of the USA was blessed by Pope Paul VI in 1967 and was personally brought to the United States by Bishop Venancio of Fatima to serve as the official presence of Our Lady of Fatima for the U.S. The image of Our Lady is traveling throughout the United States. Thousands have turned out to honor the queen and to learn her critical message of hope for the nation and world and the offering of many graces.

Sockey is a longtime member of The World Apostolate of Fatima, formerly the Blue Army, and comes with church approval to speak in the name of this Public Association of the Catholic Church on the Message of Fatima.

The statue will be at St. Jude Parish, 2130 Pemberton Dr., Fort Wayne, on Sunday, Oct. 18, from 2-3 p.m.

All Fort Wayne and surrounding area special needs students from any parish are welcome to join. Parents are welcome to attend with their children. For more information on the Amazing Apostles contact Molly Daugherty at (260) 416-0094 or e-mail daugherty_molly@yahoo.com.

For information or questions call Emma at (260) 625-3281 or Betty at (260) 749-9396.

Ancilla College to begin online courses

DONALDSON — As Ancilla College prepares to begin offering online courses, Erin Alonzo, director of admissions, is reminding the public that there is still time to register.

“There is still time to go through the admissions and registration processes,” said Alonzo. “It’s not too late to get started on your college degree.”

Through a partnership with LearningHouse, Ancilla will be beginning offering two online courses — General Psychology (PS 115) and Intro to Sociology (SC 140) — starting Oct. 19.

The intent, according to Dr. Joanna Blount, dean of Academic and Student Services, is to offer an associate of arts in general studies completely online.

“This is an excellent way to provide access and enhanced offerings to our students and the community,” said Blount. “Not everyone can come to class regularly due to other commitments or conflicting schedules.”

Students enrolled in these courses will have the flexibility to access the course through a link on Ancilla’s Web page at any time and complete homework, take a quiz, or even read supplemental materials.

Interested parties are encouraged to apply for admission online at www.ancilla.edu.

Lutheran Home, Concord Village & Shepherd of the Hill have a new name.

What’s in a name? Everything.

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The new name? Lutheran Life Villages.

Promoting a truly better way of living.
Honors and tributes to the new saint — St. Damien of Molokai

BY ANN THALLEMER

A s Blessed Damien de Veuster of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary is elevated to sainthood on Oct. 11, it represents a significant event in Hawaii’s modern religious history. Only eight who served on American soil have been so honored by the Catholic Church.

Bishop Larry Silva of the Honolulu Diocese said, “It is upon us, thanks be to God,” a few minutes after hearing the news in Rome from Pope Benedict XVI himself. The event set into motion celebrations and ceremonies of thanksgiving across the Hawaiian Islands and a scramble to arrange pilgrimages to Rome and Belgium where Damien was born on Jan. 3, 1840.

When Bishop Silva returns from the canonization ceremony in Rome he will bring a relic — St. Damien’s right heel. The relic, along with a lock of his hair, will eventually be enshrined at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in downtown Honolulu.

Joseph de Veuster was the son of Frans and Anne-Catherine, who raised their eight children in an atmosphere of simplicity and spirituality. It was presumed that young Joseph would someday take over the family farm. But after four of the de Veuster siblings chose to devote their lives to their church Joseph followed his brother Pample into the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Damien was the name he chose.

Though not yet ordained Damien was assigned, at his request, to fill his brother Pample’s assignment as missionary on the Hawaiian Islands after he became ill. Two months after arriving in Hawaii in 1864, the young seminarian was ordained at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace, in Honolulu, and was assigned to Puna, Hawaii. He served almost nine years there when on May 4, 1873, he accompanied Bishop Maigret to Wailuku, Maui to witness the consecration of a new church.

It was there that Father Damien learned of the plight of the inhabitants at the settlement of Kalaupapa, on the island of Molokai. He knew the people there suffered from leprosy, later named Hansen’s disease. These people had been taken from their homes and families and sent to a peninsula on the island of Molokai that was separated by steep cliffs.

Father Damien volunteered to work at the settlement with the understanding that others would relieve him in a few months. The young priest faced lawlessness and hopelessness, and lack of decent housing or care facilities. Though the living conditions were deplorable, he took the sacraments to the ill and anointed the dying.

Father Damien was a headstrong priest with a quick smile and a kind and tender heart. These qualities, as well as his practical nature and fluent command of the Hawaiian language enabled him to earn a position of respect within the community on the island.

For his first rectory, Father Damien used the shelter of a pan-danus tree, beside the little church. He organized the lepers into the Christian Burial Association to provide a decent burial in the cemetery beside the church for each of the deceased.

After only eight days at the settlement, Father Damien requested that his bishop allow him to stay among the lepers. Living with the ravaged bodies of the people did not deter him from his primary concern of restoring dignity.

He taught the people to care for themselves, to farm, and play musical instruments and sing. He organized choirs, athletic games and constantly sought help from the Hawaiian government to assist with food, medical needs and building supplies. When he celebrated Mass, the breviary and disfigured gathered joyfully around him at the altar in St. Philomena’s Church.

After Father Damien became infected with leprosy, he continued to work relentlessly knowing his time to serve was limited. Father Louis-Lambert Connolly arrived to assist the ailing Father Damien. By that time, the Franciscan Sisters had come to Molokai to help care for the people.

Father Damien spent 16 years on Molokai until his death on April 15, 1889. Two months after his death, the Prince of Wales proposed the erection of a monument at the cemetery by St. Philomena’s Church where Father Damien was buried. In 1893, a large granite cross with a sculptured image of Father Damien was dedicated with the inscription, “Greater love hath no man than this, That a man lay down his life for his friends.”

In 1936, at the request of the Belgian government, Father Damien’s body was exhumed and returned to Belgium where it lies in a crypt at St. Joseph Chapel in Louvain, a national shrine operated by the Sacred Hearts Fathers.

For many years, a group of islanders dreamed of establishing the Damien Museum and Archives to acknowledge the heroic sanctity and holiness of Father Damien. In 1977, shortly after Father Damien was declared venerable, a committee was formed to bring this dream to reality. Memorabilia and artifacts were collected not only in Hawaii but also from Father Damien’s native Belgium and the Archives at the Sacred Hearts Monastery in Kairnaki, Hawaii. The museum was located on St. Augustine by-the-sea Church grounds in Waikiki.

The peninsula of Kalaupapa is now a National Park, established by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, preserving the settlement for the education and inspiration for present and future generations.

In 1994, a new shrine dedicated to Blessed Damien. The bronze statue of Damien is in St. Augustine’s Church, Waikiki. The production of an icon by Robert Lentz of Father Damien was blessed in 1994 and is displayed at the church as well.

Father Damien’s legacy influences diocesan pastor

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — As the Catholic Church celebrates the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster this Sunday, a priest from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Father Dale A. Bauman, will be especially interested.

A trip to Hawaii for a wedding several years ago, his study of the Sandwich Islands and Hawaii, and then meeting and building a friendship with Sacred Hearts Missionary priest Father Joseph, who ministered at the Kalaupapa community before his death, gave Father Dale insights that few have been afforded. Father Joseph was also a native of Belgium, where Father Damien was born Joseph De Veuster in 1840.

The Kalaupapa community still serves about handful of patients with leprosy, now called Hansen’s disease. As a community for Hansen’s disease patients, its designation for more than 140 years, Kalaupapa will close when the last patient dies.

On his visits to Hawaii and Molokai, where the Kalaupapa community is located, Father Dale, who is the pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Pierceton and associate pastor at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, noticed the widespread devotion to Father Damien.

“As people have Blessed Mother statues here in the mainland in their front yards and so forth, several have statues honoring Damien,” Father Dale noted. “Kamiano” is Hawaiian for Damien.

He said that the inhabitants of the Kalaupapa community are descendants of former lepers and some are leper themselves.

The whole island of Molokai is secluded, especially Kalaupapa. “They want to preserve the authenticity of the Hawaiian life,” Father Dale told Today’s Catholic.

Although Hansen’s disease is treatable today, many patients of the community have deformities, and that part of Molokai remains private, although as a priest, Father Dale gained easier access to the community.

As a priest, Father Dale is inspired by Father Damien as a jack-of-all-trades. “Father Damien was their carpenter, their doctor, their coffin builder, their teacher and their priest. He was somebody to them a friend. He was there when everybody else abandoned them,” Father Dale said.

“Even though it was very deplorable, he took the sacraments to the ill and anointed the dying.”

Father Damien wanted the religious sisters to assist at the colony. The Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, N.Y., sent sisters who arrived near the end of Father Damien’s life; before he died of complications from leprosy on Good Friday of 1889. The sisters continued Father Damien’s work under the direction of Mother Marianne Cope. Mother Marianne now has one miracle attributed to her intercession.

Inspired by the Book of James, Father Damien showed the colony residents how to build a fresh water irrigation system from the hills above the colony. “He never told them what to do, He always showed them what to do,” Father Dale noted. “I think that is very important as a priest. Don’t tell them what to do, show them what to do.”

Father Damien also planted trees for windbreaks and brought flowers to the island community.

“He was always out to convert the non-Catholic, and he never pushed it. He was always very kind about it,” Father Dale added.

Father Dale met with the people who lived in the Kalaupapa community, in their homes, which are described as huts with two or three rooms built-up off the ground, with porches. “They are very well maintained and very inviting,” he said.

The residents, Father Dale said, make trinkets that are sold on the other islands of Hawaii. Father Dale also celebrated Mass at St. Philomena Church, the church restored in Kalaupapa community by Father Damien.

On his trip to be saint, Father Dale said, “I think Father Damien could teach us (all) how to be more sensitive. The lepers are very sensitive people — and especially the Hawaiian lepers. They want to be appreciated. They are very easily hurt so far as their feelings, their heart, their soul. Damien always took care of that. He was always very sensitive as well towards them and they could tell that.”

Father Bauman is shown at St. Philomena Church in the Kalaupapa community on Molokai, Hawaii. St. Philomena was the church from which St. Damien of Molokai ministered.

PROVIDED BY FATHER DALE BAUMAN
Called to respect all life

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC

When most Catholics hear about Respect Life Month or Sunday, they usually think of abortion and the sanctity of a child’s life in its mother’s womb. Our call, however, is to respect all life. Our faith tells us that all human life, from the womb to the tomb, is precious and loved by God. Too often we concentrate on eradicating abortion, which is a noble and important cause, but we often neglect to speak out against the other ways human life is also disrespected.

One way that comes to mind is the death penalty. Jesus often spoke of the respect life is how we treat or think about the frail elderly and the mentally and physically handicapped. These groups in our society are often neglected or frowned upon. Little is done to increase their quality of life.

Something we don’t usually think about when examining how well or not so well we respect life is our treatment of one another — those with whom we live and work, or go to school. If we hurt others, no matter who they are, by our words or other poor behavior, we are certainly not respecting the fact that they are loved by God and must be treated with reverence. If each of us truly loves and respects all of life, especially human life, I believe there would probably be fewer wars and less violence in our world. More families would be reconciled and the divorce rate would drop. There would be fewer prisons and the poor and elderly would be taken care of lovingly.

So when we pray and work for an end to the evil of abortion, let us not forget all the other people whose lives are also precious to our God and who also need to be treated with respect.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

Reminding each other what God can do

Oprah imagined the comeback long before Whitney Houston stepped on her stage and delivered it.

She sang, “Oprah said, ‘Girl, do you know you’re loved?’ Now I know my own strength.” Oprah blinked away a tear and the audience screamed, and in that moment, Whitney’s triumph over addictive drugs became Oprah’s triumph over sagging ratings. It was a classic Harpo exchange, one that managed to feel both commercial and spiritual. As the two women hugged, I thought about the transformations we cheer into being, clapping and thought about the transformations al. As the two women hugged, I feel both commercial and spiritual moment, Whitney’s triumph over one way that comes to mind is the death penalty. Jesus often spoke of the respect life is how we treat or think about the frail elderly and the mentally and physically handicapped. These groups in our society are often neglected or frowned upon. Little is done to increase their quality of life.

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Notre Law professors discuss blessings of the Red Mass

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — When prayers and blessings for the legal profession are offered by the Catholic Church at the Red Mass each year, many of those present take pause to reflect how these gifts can be incorporated in their lives. St. Pius X parishioners Tricia and A.J. Bellia, both professors of law at the University of Notre Dame, reflect on the blessings of the Red Mass and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their profession, church stewardship and parenting.

To understand the impact of the Red Mass, a brief history of its origins and current role in the United States is examined. According to the George Mason University’s History News Network, it is believed that the first Red Mass was held around 1200, although it was not until 1245, in Paris, that the Mass was actually documented. The Mass became an annual tradition in England in 1310 to commemorate the beginning of each new court term. The tradition of a yearly Red Mass spread throughout Europe and was adopted in the United States in the early 20th century.

The term “Red Mass” is in recognition of the red vestments worn by Royal Judges participating in the pope’s tribunal. Additionally, during the Mass the clergy wear red garments as a representation of the Holy Spirit. Among the special focuses of the Mass are prayers and blessings for those in leadership roles in the legal profession: “Guidance from the Holy Spirit is asked to be bestowed on the congregants. Other blessings that are commonly requested to prevail in the minds, offices and court rooms are Divine strength, wisdom, truth and justice. Peace and friendship are exchanged among the congregation, the sacraments are given and the Mass is commenced,” notes the History News Network.

At the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington D.C., the Red Mass marks the beginning of the United States Supreme Court’s term. Supreme Court Justices from all faith backgrounds often are in attendance for this ceremony.

Tricia and A.J. both worked as law clerks for U.S. Supreme Court justices in the mid to late 1990s. Tricia was a law clerk for Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, while A.J. served as a law clerk for Justice Antonin Scalia.

A.J. recalls a Red Mass in Washington D.C. in 1997. “It was deeply moving to witness four justices of the Supreme Court — Catholic and non-Catholic alike — join hundreds of other members of the bench and bar to invoke the Lord’s guidance and wisdom upon the profession.”

A more current Red Mass stands out in Tricia’s memory. “I remember attending the Red Mass at the basilica shortly after we began teaching at the University of Notre Dame, as we joined with our new colleagues in the legal academy in praying for students aspiring to join the profession.”

Divine strength, wisdom, truth and justice are among the blessings often requested at the Red Mass. A.J. notes the impact of these blessings on the legal field. “Wisdom is not merely the gift of competence and integrity; it is awareness of one’s shortcomings in competence and integrity. For the wise lawyer, legal education and character formation are lifelong endeavors. Truth is the gift that defines integrity and guides the exercise of competence. The law aspires to resolve disputes on the basis of true understandings of what happened according to rules that serve true human goods.”

He continues, “When lawyers and judges act according to such truth, the result is justice for those whom the law exists to serve. Lawyers face many temptations to resist these gifts: to neglect wisdom in favor of busyness or esteem, or to circumvent truth through shortcuts or deception — and thereby to deserve justice, the fruit of wisdom and truth. Strength is the gift that fortifies lawyers ever to pursue the gifts of wisdom, truth and justice.”

The Bellias emphasize the guidance from the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon those in attendance at the Red Mass, influences all aspects of their lives. “I mostly see the guidance of the Holy Spirit at work in others. As a law professor, I see the Holy Spirit at work in those students who do not earn the highest grades but achieve the greatest education,” A.J. stresses. “As a St. Pius X parishioner, I am humbled at nearly every parish activity by the selfless giving of my fellow parishioners. They make the Holy Spirit present to me.”

The guidance of the Holy Spirit also helps define their role as parents. Tricia explains, “Perhaps none, however, makes the Holy Spirit as present to a parent as a child does. When a child sees the simple truth in a complex situation, displays faith no matter what the social context, or rightly identifies a parent’s moral error, the Holy Spirit is at work. Who else could it be?”
The addition also includes the 76-administrative space, and 13 new Eck Hall of Law, an extensive Notre Dame Law School has major changes the University of offer, becoming the law school’s She asked herself, “Wouldn’t it be almost like a calling,” she said. universities.

However, Notre Dame’s Catholic tradition enticed Newton, a Catholic who had served all three of her prior deanships at secular universities.

“I finally realized that it was almost like a calling,” she said. She asked herself, “Wouldn’t it be great to live a more integrated life?”

In March, Newton accepted the offer, becoming the law school’s 10th dean on July 1.

A new dean is one of several major changes the University of Notre Dame Law School has undergone in the past year. The Eck Hall of Law, an extensive addition housing faculty offices, administrative space, and 13 new classrooms, was dedicated May 1. The addition also includes the 76-seat St. Thomas More Chapel. The chapel, which is named for the patron saint of politicians and lawyers, replaced the building’s original chapel, which seated only 18. The bright chapel, which is easily accessible from the school’s new archway, features three large stained glass windows depicting Mary, the Eucharist and St. Thomas More.

“It’s just absolutely gorgeous,” said Dean Newton.

Mass is offered daily in the new chapel. Weekend Mass attendance ranges from 15 to 40, and the chapel often fills to the point of overflow on Sundays.

“Our new chapel affords a sacred space where ND law students can pray either at Mass and other communal liturgical prayers as well as in private prayer or meditation,” said Franciscan Father John J. Coughlin, in an e-mail. Father Coughlin serves the weekday Mass in the chapel and is a professor of law at Notre Dame.

The beautiful new worship space is only a physical manifestation of the deep underlying Catholic tradition that makes a Notre Dame Law School education unique.

“We say we educate a different kind of lawyer, and I really think we do,” said Newton. The law school requires students to take courses in ethics, and encourages moral and religious discussion in the classroom.

“For students who live a faith-filled life, this is a very good place to be, since we can ask the really difficult questions,” explained Newton. At many law schools, “students who want to ask moral questions in class are often told ‘that is not your profession.’

“We welcome talking about the moral questions in class,” she said. Dean Newton added that Notre Dame Law School is also “really great for the kids who have not lived a faith-filled life. It provides great potential for them to open up to thinking about religion.”

A dedication Mass for the St. Thomas More Chapel was celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy on Sept. 9. Over 150 attended, and despite the incense setting off a smoke alarm mid-Mass, Dean Newton said, “It was a very beautiful event.”

“Bishop D’Arcy was completely unfazed by (the smoke alarm),” she added. “He was just great. He is a lovely guy.”

The bishop will return to the Notre Dame campus on Sunday, Oct. 11, to celebrate a Red Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Red Masses are celebrated for public officials and those in the legal profession.

Dean Newton said she is looking forward to her first Red Mass at Notre Dame. She loves the Red Mass tradition recognizing and praying for all lawyers, not only those who are Catholic. “One great thing about our faith is we love everyone, we pray for everyone,” she said.

The Notre Dame Law School strives to live up to its Catholic mission. It boasts the unique Center for Civil and Human Rights, which was founded in 1973 by Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, former university president and longtime member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The yearlong program brings together young lawyers from around the world to study international human rights. Students return home equipped with the knowledge and ability to teach and promote human rights in their own countries. The majority of students enrolled in the program are international, often coming from Africa and Central and South America.

“It trains people from all over the world who want to do good work in the world in the human rights area,” said Newton.

Although Dean Newton is new to Notre Dame, her connection to the school began long before the July commencement of her deanship. Her older brother attended the school as an undergrad, and she said Notre Dame “meant the world to him.” She flew to South Bend once, for his 1965 graduation ceremony, and happened to meet Father Hesburgh on the plane.

“He was so kind and really wonderful,” she remembered.

“To a Catholic kid from the Midwest, Notre Dame is a special place,” she explained. “I always had very fond feelings for it.”

Newton’s feelings about the university have not changed.

“There is something very wonderful about being at a school where you can be openly Catholic,” she said. “We pray before faculty meetings. We care about everyone, we love our students... It is a wonderful community, a faith-based community.”

“I can’t imagine any situation that would pull me away from here.”
Planned Parenthood pushes ‘Abstinence Plus’ sex education

Planned Parenthood of Indiana has launched a campaign called Get Real, Indiana! to promote sexuality education in the public schools which includes information about various forms of contraception. Advocates of so-called “Abstinence Plus” education claim that providing information about contraception to teens will reduce the rate of unintended pregnancy.

But Planned Parenthood has known for decades that teens who learn about contraception in school are significantly more likely to become sexually active.

According to Michael Schwartz, then director of the Child and Family Policy Division of the Free Congress Research and Education Foundation, a 1986 survey conducted for Planned Parenthood by Louis Harris found that the rate of sexual activity among teens who took a “comprehensive” sexuality education course was more than one-third higher than among teens who either had no sex education in school, or who had taken a course that taught about reproduction but left out the promotion of contraception.

What this shows is that, even if abstinence is encouraged, teaching teens how to use contraception is like speaking out of both sides of one’s mouth. Simply put, teens who are taught in school how to use contraception believe that they are being given permission to have sex as long as they use “protection.”

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More teens having sex inevitably leads to higher rates of teen pregnancy, abortion and STDs because, to be highly effective, contraceptives have to be used correctly and consistently.

According to the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, the “typical” use rate for teens using condoms to prevent pregnancy is more than 18 percent. A 2006 review by Kirby and Rollieri of 50 well-designed evaluation studies of “comprehensive” sex education programs in the United States going back to 1990 found that none of the programs increased the prevalence of condom use among adolescents for a period greater than one year. Recent studies in England have also reaffirmed that increased access to contraception for teens leads to higher pregnancy and abortion rates, as well as a dramatic increase in STD rates among 16 to 19-year-old girls.

But the most significant problem with promoting contraception among teens is that it ignores the emotional and spiritual dimensions of sex. Recent research in the field of biochemistry has shown clearly that chemicals released during sexual activity, such as oxytocin and vasopressin, permanently alter body chemistry and promote strong emotional bonding between sexual partners. Once these bonds are established, disrupting them can cause terrible distress. Surely we want to protect our teens from the kind of heartbreak that even many adults find devastating.

What is even more important, according to Dr. Bradford Wilcox, a professor of sociology at the University of Virginia, his. ..

The Violence begets violence movement — certainly no one desires to be killed for speaking out against the horror of abortion. The photo on his placard is gruesome because abortion is gruesome, but his brutally honest witness is no cause for such fatal hostility.

The image on his sign is one of violence — a most extreme form of violence against vulnerable, defenseless, innocent children in the womb. That the violent act of abortion — and not accidental. Indeed, in their Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities (2001), the bishops of the United States note that legalized abortion has made ours “a society increasingly coarsened by toleration and acceptance of acts that purposely destroy human life.” They note the interdependence of all life issues, saying: “a society which destroys human life by abortion under the mantle of law unavoidably undermines respect for life in all its forms: texts.” With less respect for human life, and a greater coarseness toward killing, the road is paved for more violence.

But the violence of abortion is not necessary. It can be stopped. Hundreds of pregnancy care centers and parish networks are now assisting families who are tempted to resort to abortion. Those who perform or promote abortions can that reality. In his letter to the Romans (12:1) St. Paul pleads with us “to present our bodies as a sacrifice living, holy and pleasing to God.”

Commenting on these words, St. Augustine in “The City of God” writes, “This is the sacrifice of Christians, the many who are one body in Christ. This is the sacrifice which the church celebrates in the sacrament of the altar, that sacrament known to the faithful; in that sacrament it is made clear to the church, who is able to offer the sacrifice, that she herself is offered.”

Sanctuaries today are crowded. Many consider their baptismal vocation as a priestly people as a call to ceremonial activity only. Whereas, the priestly aspect of our lives is better fulfilled in obeying the words of Our Divine Lord, “take up your cross and follow me.”

St. Bede describes our obligation: “We must offer to God the sacrifice of a blameless life.”

Msgr. Arthur MacDonald

Glenwood, NE

Lest last month, James Pouillon was shot multiple times and killed while protesting abortion outside a high school in Oswosso, Mich. According to reports, the suspect in custody, Harlan James Drake, admitted to police that he had also killed Mike Fuoss earlier that morning and that he had intended to murder a third man against whom he held a grudge, but was arrested before he reached his last victim.

The violence does not end with his arrest. The Associated Press reports that Drake was hospitalized after an attempt on his own life in the county jail. Nor is that the end of it. Some angry people are already calling for the death penalty, yet another act of violence. Pro-life demonstrators are no strangers to verbal and physical harassment and even death threats, but this is the first publicized case of one’s murder. Police who took the suspect into custody reported that Drake targeted Pouillon because he didn’t like his sign showing the disturbing reality of abortion. On one side, the placard read: “LIFE” accompanied by the lovely image of a smiling baby, while the other had “ABORTION” written above a gruesome photo of the bloody remains of an aborted child.

James Pouillon’s murder is repulsive. What chemicalization of sexuality is among the principal factors which have led to contempt for new life. Only a true love that chemicals released during sexual activity, such as oxytocin and vasopressin, permanently alter body chemistry and promote strong emotional bonding between sexual partners. Once these bonds are established, disrupting them can cause terrible distress. Surely we want to protect our teens from the kind of heartbreak that even many adults find devastating.

What is even more important, according to Dr. Bradford Wilcox, a professor of sociology at the University of Virginia, his February 2008 analysis, “A Scientific Review of Abstinence and Abstinence Programs,” “provides clear and compelling research that abstinence is not merely about avoiding pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, but more significantly it is about helping teens prepare for a future marriage and family. Abstinence before marriage is linked to stronger and more satisfying families, according to a growing body of research. Specifically, adolescents and adults who abstain from sex before marriage are more likely to enjoy better family relationships, and are also more likely to provide a good family life to any children that they may have.”

Abstinence-only advocates are often criticized as not living in the “real world.” But in the real world, teens tend to live up to our expectations if we raise the bar high, and they tend to live down to our expectations if we lower that bar.

Pope John Paul II challenged us to hold the bar high: “It is an illusion to think that we can build a true culture of human life if we do not help the young to accept and experience sexuality and love and the whole of life according to their true meaning and in their close interconnection. Only when personal satisfaction is among the principal factors which have led to contempt for new life. Only a true love is able to protect love. There can be no avoiding the duty to offer, especially to adolescents and young adults, an authentic education in sexuality and in love, an education which involves training in chastity as a virtue which fosters personal maturity and makes one capable of respecting the ’spousal’ meaning of the body.”

— “Evangelium Vitae,” 97

Deirdre A. McQuade is assistant director of policy and communications, Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
After spousal loss: Getting back in the game

Dating may sound like a formidable challenge and a bit surreal for those of you who have recently lost a spouse, as youguard most of your energy for simple survival. But for those who are out a few years from the death of their spouse, getting back in the game can be a real turning point in theirrediscovery of life.

As with most challenges in grief, considering the possibility of a new relationship fosters fears driven by current circumstances, such as interests, location and children, also play important roles in how one faces the dating game. It is important to take the time needed to mourn well and really get to know who you are without your spouse. In that way you will more likely attract a relationship that will be suitable to your needs. Many women who have lost their spouse, myself included, needed to mourn well and really.

Discipleship an invitation to all

**THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

**MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION**

**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mk 10:7-30

The Book of Wisdom is the source of the first reading. This book came to be centuries ago as devout Jews, distant from theirhomeland and from their religious and cultural roots, attempted to confront the great pressure put upon them by the overwhelmingly pagan societies in which they lived.

Jewish parents worried about their children. It is easy to imagine Jewish youth of this time, rebellious and questioning as are adolescents in any time or place, finding the strict rules of their parents’ religion very binding. Whereas, the pagans, who lived all around them, followed quite different codes of behavior, and the pagans flourished.

This book is part of a series of books that together compose the Wisdom Literature of the Bible. These writings concentrate upon human reasoning wisdom. But, they insist, living according to God’s revelation through Moses and the prophets is showing true wisdom.

Often in these writings, as is the case in this selection, wisdom is mentioned as if wisdom were a person. It is a literary technique. The reading this week maintains that true wisdom is a greater possession than the finest silver or gold.

As the second reading, the church this weekend offers us the Epistle to the Hebrews. Profound Jewish theological themes run throughout this epistle. God is wise. He is the Creator. In God alone is order. To God therefore, all persons must render an account.

St. Mark’s Gospel provides the last reading. It is a familiar story. A man asks Jesus what is needed for salvation. Jesus tells him to obey the Commandments. The man says that he observes the Commandments. Then, Jesus tells the man to sell his possessions, give the proceeds to the poor, and follow the Lord. Sad, the man walks away from Jesus.

Jesus sees in the man a determined effort to find, and to be with, God. So, Jesus offered the man the key to salvation, calling this man to the most radical of obediences to God. The man should not just make contributions, as Jewish custom would have required of him since he was wealthy, but he should give everything in his possession to the poor.

As the story closes, Peter speaks. This is one of the 111 references to Peter in the Gospels. He speaks for the Twelve. He insists that he and he other apostles have put aside everything to follow the Lord. Jesus accepts this statement and blesses them.

**Reflection**

The readings this weekend are fundamental, intense, wide-ranging and radical. The story of the rich man is crucial to the lesson of this weekend’s Liturgy of the Word. This rich man already obeys God’s Commandments. He wants to be with God.

Jesus calls him to absolute commitment. It is more than lip service. Indeed it is more than obeying the Commandments. It is the total imitation of Christ’s own sacrifice, an expression of total commitment to, and trust in, God. The man cannot accept this blunt suggestion. He cannot forsake what he has of this world’s things. Sadly, he walks away.

In the first reading, true wisdom was seen as being in divine revelation, not in limited human judgment. All things of earth, including human judgment, are subject to flaw.

The story has wider application if the “rich young man” becomes the “rich man,” or “the man.” Discipleship is limited to no particular age. It is not limited to any class of people. It is an invitation to all and a decision for all.

The Gospel again reaffirms the place of Peter himself as spokesman for the community of apostles and also reaffirms the Twelve. As the rich man was asked, they had been asked to leave everything and follow Christ. They chose to follow the Lord.

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**HOPE IN THE MOURNING**

**KAY COZAD**

and current circumstances, such as interests, location and children, also play important roles in how one faces the dating game. It is important to take the time needed to mourn well and really get to know who you are without your spouse. In that way you will more likely attract a relationship that will be suitable to your needs. Many women who have lost their spouse, myself included, needed to mourn well and really.

**THE CATEQUIZEM**

by Dominic Campilloss

In October the church remembers St. Theresa. Many of the facts of her life are unusual for a saint and doctor of the church. This quiz focuses on the unlikely facts of her life.

1. This saint goes by other names. Such as
   a. St. T of the Child  
   b. St. Therese of Lisieux  
   c. La duexieme Therese (after Avila)

2. To many she is known by this humble moniker:
   a. The Grand Empress of Sanctity  
   b. Her Holiness  
   c. The Little Flower

3. Many saints live long lives of service and prayer. Theresa however died when she was
   a. 24
   b. 34
   c. 44

4. Also, unlike many saints who are at the center of things in the church and world, Theresa lived for most of all her adult life as
   a. a fish seller in Marseilles  
   b. a parish administrator  
   c. a cloistered nun

5. Her missionary journeys consisted of
   a. just two stints in the Congo  
   b. one trip to French North Africa  
   c. nothing

6. Yet within 30 years of her death she was
   a. forgotten  
   b. canonized  
   c. declared a hidden imam

7. According to tradition, her father never wanted to marry, hoping instead to be
   a. a bishop  
   b. a soldier  
   c. a monk

8. And just as unusual, her mother was said to have had the ardent desire to be
   a. a saint  
   b. a wife and mother  
   c. 100 years old

9. The couple had nine children. They were all
   a. girls  
   b. boys  
   c. monks

10. Theresa was always sickly, but was cured of fever by a
    a. special onion soup  
    b. vision of Pope John Paul I  
    c. vision of Mary

11. When she asked to join the Carmelite order, the convent strongly
    a. refused to accept her  
    b. made her wash the hearth and take the name Theresa of the Cinders  
    c. welcomed her and offered her the abbess’s role

12. Her response was to
    a. appeal to the bishop  
    b. join the rival Dominican Order  
    c. threaten to expose the convent’s possession of luxuries like soap and talc

13. Not one to be deterred, Theresa next went to see the
    a. Pope  
    b. abbesses of the Carmelite Orders in France  
    c. cardinal of Provence

14. Things went badly after she left home; her father went into
    a. the poor house  
    b. an asylum as he was presumed insane because he was playing with firearms  
    c. a decline and died of potato blight the next year

15. Theresa died as a cloistered nun; she is famous for her
    a. writings  
    b. miracles performed in the convent  
    c. political savvy in the French Sixth Republic

**ANSWERS**

1.b, 2.c, 3.a, 4.c, 5.c, 6.b, 7.c, 8.a, 9.a, 10.c, 11.a, 12.a, 13.a, 14.b, 15.a
Not the practice in this diocese
to grant outdoor exceptions

I am going to get married next sum-
mer, but I had wanted to do the cere-
mony outdoors. Is it possible, as a
Catholic, to get married outdoors? At
first I was told it depended on whether
the bishop in your diocese allowed it
but now I’m told it’s not allowed by
the church. Do you think you could help
me find out what is allowed? If it is
allowed, I would like to be married like
that. Anonymous

That’s a fairly common question, es-
specially considering the pictur-
esque outdoor weddings often
depicted in movies and on tele-
vision. The answer is that Catholic
weddings should take place
indoors, in a church.

Canon Law states the norm:
“A marriage between Catholics or
between a Catholic party and a
non-Catholic baptized party is to
be celebrated in a parish church.”
It is not the practice in this
diocese to grant outdoor excep-
tions. This rule exists for both
practical and theological reasons.

Practically speaking, the partici-
pants in the wedding ceremony
do not have to make last minute
provisions for unpredictable
weather, which can easily spoil an
door event.

And theoretically, wedding
vows are ideally exchanged
in the holy Mass as celebrated
before the community in a
church, the house of God.

Marriage, like all the sacraments,
flows from the Eucharist. Holy
Communion is the ultimate sign
and reality that lends context to
the nuptial union of a man and a
woman, emphasizing that matri-
mony is a profound sharing in
Christ’s marriage with the church.

“Communion,” after all, speaks of unity, and of the free
gift of Christ’s humanity and
divinity for us — a total gift
reflected in the sacrament of mar-
rimony. This is also why “unity can-
dles” are strongly discouraged as
inappropriate for wedding Masses
— they draw the connection and
focus away from the true source
and symbol of unity, the
Eucharist.

Brian MacMichael, the diocesan
director of the Office of Worship,
answered this week’s question.

Scripture search

Formula for a vocation

I attended a freshman prayer
breakfast yesterday with my
daughter at the local diocesan
Catholic high school. It allowed
me a chance to catch up with
Rita, an old friend whose daugh-
ter is also a freshman. In conver-
sing with her over poppy seed
muffins and scrambled eggs, I
came to find that her son just
entered the seminary and seems
thrilled, as well she should be.

I think she is already sewing vest-
ments.

So now, two of my friends
have sons in the seminary. It’s a
beautiful thing to see vocations
blossom, and while God certainly
in the one calling, the family is
the fertile ground that prepares
and allows a young man to say
“yes.”

It is said that a particular
priest once visited a convict in
prison. In talking with him he
discovered a scrathing on the
wall: “Mothers are the Fate of Men.” When asked about it, the
prisoner replied that in prison one
has a lot of time to think about
many things, and the result of this
particular prisoner’s reflection
was this saying. “You see,” he
continued, undoubtedly speak-
ing from experience, “a good
mother is a blessing for the chil-
dren; a bad mother, however, is
a terrible curse.”

I am writing this column on
the feast of St. Therese, who lost
her mother when she was very
young, Yet, in her autobiography,
“Story of a Soul,” she writes of
the strong influence of her moth-
er on her life. At one point she
writes, “God was pleased all
through my life to surround me
with love, and the first memories
I have are stamped with smiles
and the most tender caresses. I
loved Mamma... very much.”

And later in the book she
writes, “Ah! How delicate a
mother’s heart really is, and how
it shows its tenderness in a thou-
sand little cares that no one
thinks about!” It’s amazing to
realize that St. Therese was merely
4 years old when her mother
passed, yet she recalls with great
clearly many instances that
formed her involving her mother.
She sums up with a profound and
sobering thought: “Having noth-
ning but good example around me,
I naturally wanted to follow it.”

 Undoubtedly, a mother’s influ-
ence is important in the awaken-
ning and nurturing of religious
 vocations.

While a mother’s impact is
important in the blossoming of a
religious vocation, I think a
father has a particularly sig-
ificant role in vocation-discovery
for young men. He is the leader
and head of the Catholic family,
and if a man is good, holy,
pious and adhering to various
religious devotions, a father can
unduly unravel this goodness
with a simple scoff or sarcastic
look, or a pattern of bad example.

For a young man to truly con-
sider the vocation of priesthood,
I believe that the father has to pres-
ent it as a viable option. For
despite the devoted love and con-
cern of a doting mother, it is a
father who teaches his son to
become a man, and demonstrates
through word and action how this
manhood can and should be played out. Specifically, a
father’s example of principled
living and devotion to God influ-
ences a young man in ways no
mother, sibling, friend or book
can. Additionally, a father may
suggest the vocation of priest-
hood as a possibility to his son
legitimizes the option as an
accepted and viable one, and
allows the son to consider freely
whether God might be calling
him to this beautiful and sacrifi-
cial way of life.

My father, grandfather
for almost 50 children, has a beauti-
ful, ornate golden chalice that he
purchased while on a pilgrimage
to the shrine of Our Lady of
Czestochowa in Poland. He gath-
ered the grandsons upon his
return and told them that this
chalice was going to be a gift to the
first priest in the family. He
spoke of the specialness of the
vocation and explained that with-
out priests we would have no
Mass and no holy Eucharist.
A way to ensure priests in the future
is to value and revere the voca-
tion, and respect those who have
been called to service in this way.

Pope Benedict XVI has
declared 2009 a Year for Priests
beginning with the solemnity of
the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June
19 and ending with an interna-
tional gathering in Rome June 9-
11, 2010. This is a perfect time
to reflect on how we can support
and encourage the priests we
know, as well as ask ourselves
what God may want for us in our
families. We should be asking
our sons if God might be calling
them to a religious vocation. If
one is not asked, it might be dif-
ficult for one to say “yes.”

Theresa Thomas, is the mother of
nine children and wife of David.
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Hope

take a considerable amount of
time to grieve. I have found that
a small percentage choose never
to seek companionship again. But
the majority of women I’ve
worked with, who have done the
work of grief, have reconciled
their loss and found new life
again. And companionship is part
of that new life.

I have also found that men,
who are generally more pragmat-
ic thinkers, are sometimes more
prone to seek companionship
earlier than women. John said, “I
have said from the beginning that
I knew sometime down the road I
would like to meet someone. I
liked being married and want
someone to share my life with.”

In contrast, at the beginning
of Mary’s grief journey she was
firm in her conviction that she
would never love again. Now
several years later she has recon-
ciled to the notion that life goes
on. She said, “I never thought I
would ever say this, but I’m loney-
ly. I would like male companions-
ship.” Her heart is ready to love
again.

In the two decades that I have
lived since my own husband’s
death, I have dated a few good
men. It wasn’t easy to want to
“get out there.” But I too missed
male interaction and learned to
face my fears.

I recently deeply loved and
lost a man because of life cir-
cumstances. His loss left a hole
in my life that until he loved me
I did not know existed. It is anoth-
er loss that I face with all the
usual grief and sadness. But I
will be forever grateful for his
gift of love. He opened my heart
to it again.

So when you are ready,
whether you are anticipating
marriage or simply seeking compan-
ionship, give yourself permission
to step out even with the fear and
receive the beauty and abundance
that love has to offer. Mourning
well allows you to open your
heart to love again. And that’s
what life is all about.

Kay Cozad is a certified grief edu-
cator and news editor of Today’s
Catholic newspaper. She is the
author of “Prayer Book for
Widows,” Our Sunday Visitor,
2004. She can be reached at
kcозad@fw.diocesefwsb.org.
Sports

CYO regular football season wraps up

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth League (CYO) gridiron wrapped up regular season play at St. Francis on Sunday, Oct. 4.

In the first matchup of the day, the mighty St. Vincent Panthers finished a perfect 7-0 blanking rival St. Charles, 32-0. The unbeaten Panthers were led by quarterback Michael Flaccable who factored in all four scores throwing three touchdown passes and scoring on a kickoff return. The Panthers’ talented Ryan Watercutter caught all three scoring passes. Stephen Colligan was once again a weapon for St. Vincent as he converted on all four of his PAT attempts.

A proud Coach Corey Kitchen summarized, “To finish the regular season undefeated in this league is an outstanding accomplishment. Now the important season starts. Our kids fully realize that our overall goals are far from accomplished and they must be ready to prove themselves all over again in the tournament.”

According to Coach Pat Henline, St. Jude defeated Queen of Angels/Most Precious Blood (QA/PB) in a hard-fought battle improving their record to 4-3 thanks to touchdowns from Lake Palmer, Jon Poore (2) and Gus Vincent as he converted on all four of his PAT attempts.

“Love one another – John 3:34

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October 11, 2009

USF Softball Team earns NFCA All-Academic Honor

The University of Saint Francis softball team is one of 30 named to the 2008-09 National Fastpitch Coaches Association “Girls Got Game” All-Academic Teams based on GPAs. Through this program, the NFCA honors high school and collegiate softball teams for their success in the classroom. This is the first such award for the Lady Cougars program according to head coach Ryan Bolyn. USF ranked No. 20 with a 3.238 GPA. “What an outstanding accomplishment for our team,” Bolyn said about the award.

ICCL Saints, Panthers win Sunday games

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — It was a perfect fall Sunday; light wind, brisk chill in the air, the general rustling of the changing leaves and of course, Inter-City Catholic League football.

Four teams would take Otoshki Field; some were searching for their first win, some were playing for second place in the standings, but all were laying it on the line trying to find the absolute right combinations for the upcoming playoffs.

The first game of the day slated the upset West Side Catholic (Holy Family, St. Adalbert, Corpus Christi and St. John the Baptist) Cougars against defending ICCL Champion Mishawaka Catholic (St. Monica, St. Joseph, St. Bavo, Queen of Peace and St. Thomas) Saints.

The Cougars started the game with a very impressive drive, starting at their own 39, they drove the ball with the help of two fourth down and long conversions by quarterback Adam Gonzalez, but the luck would run out as the Saints’ defense stymied a quarterback sneak at the line of scrimmage taking over on downs. The West Side Catholic drive took off the clock all but one play of the quarter.

The second quarter would be another story, the Saints were initially stopped by the formidable Cougars on downs, but the first turnover would be costly. The Saints’ Jackson Powell would step in between a Gonzalez pitch and crape the ball down to the Cougar 34-yard line. On the second play from scrimmage Joe Kavanagh would find the end zone on a 30-yard jaunt. The points after kick was no good giving the Saints the lead 6-0 with 2:19 to go in the half.

Mishawaka Catholic would resort to some trickery as Charles Fletcher pounced on an onside’s kick giving the Saints the ball back at the Cougar 49. Fletcher again would come up big as he took a handoff on a reverse for a 40-yard touchdown. The points after kick by Alex Schlemmer would find marking the score, 14-0, with 44 seconds left in the half.

The West Side Catholic team tried to put the ball in the air a number on the scoreboard but handed the Saints the ball back with time on the clock. This would prove costly as Joe Molner took a pitch and then threw a halfback pass into the waiting arms of Dominic Ravotto for a 27-yard quick strike touchdown. The kick missed but the damage was done as the Saints went to the locker room up, 20-0.

The Saints would take little time to get started in the third quarter as Joe Kavanagh took the kickoff and raced 70 yards down the sideline for another Mishawaka Catholic Score making it a 26-0 game.

The Saints would again add points on the board in the fourth quarter when Nick Appleman, Will Glasco and C.J. Marazita, came off the bench prepared and did a fine job.

“This is really Coach Sandol’s team, the kids are playing for him, and the staff is coaching for him,” commented Carmola. “Some of our younger kids, like Billy Miller, Mitch Nyers and Brock Holman, came on as key players for the (St. Anthony, St. Joe, St. Pius) Panthers as he underwent open heart surgery. He is not only a great coach but a good man.”

“Our goal has been to improve every week and we are accomplishing that,” stressed West Side Catholic Coach Todd Lukens. “We really are emphasizing confidence in execution and the kids are starting to get it.”

Blazers vs. Panthers

The second game of the day between St. Matthew (St. Jude/Our Lady of Hungary) Blazers and the Panthers would be simply put as a shootout. The Panthers would go on to win, 46-34.

“We had a great offensive effort, big kudos to our offensive line play,” quipped interim Panther Coach Mike Carmola. “We have a great offensive line player, which goes to our offensive line play, quintupled interim Panther Coach Mike Carmola. “We have a great offensive line player, which goes to our offensive line play, quintupled interim Panther Coach Mike Carmola.”

“Now we need to put it all together for the upcoming playoffs.”

“Ottbridge, Sanders and Crockett all had a big day for us and did a good job of keeping us in the game,” exclaimed Ernst. “The tackling has got to get better for us to be successful.”

Fall Festival

St. Joseph Parish

Blakeslee, Ohio

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Sunday, October 18, 2009

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The following recent releases that have been sent to Today’s Catholic were taken from press releases and include publisher and ISBN number.

OCTOBER BOOKS


Covenants and Communion: The Biblical Theology of Pope Benedict XVI

New books for reading

By Kay Cozad


“Be Holy: A Catholic’s Guide to the Spiritual Life,” by Father Thomas G. Morrow is a manual for living a successful spiritual life. Elements from the Catholic faith including heaven, hell, prayer, penance, confessional and spiritual works of mercy, the fruits of the spirit and much more are investigated and enhanced with Scripture verses and quotes from holy men and women. This book can be a guide to achieve holiness in everyday life. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-878-5

“Resurrection: The Miracle that Saved Notre Dame,” by Jim Dent offers the reader an intriguing look at one turnaround season that changed the history of Notre Dame football. After several years of losses by a young Armenian-American man, Ara Parseghian, took over the head coach position and molded the team into champions. Read “Resurrection” to discover his secret to success. Thomas Dunn Books, ISBN: 978-0-312-56721-7

“The Book of Mychal: The Surprising Life and Heroic Death of Father Mychal Judge,” by Daily News columnist Michael Daly recounts the story of this devout and sometimes controversial man, who stood beside his beloved fire fighters at the Twin Towers on 9/11. The book explores the early years in Brooklyn through Judge’s call to the priesthood. His tireless ministry to the homeless and needy are documented as well as his life as fire chaplain to the FDNY. St. Martin’s Press, ISBN: 978-0-312-58744-4

Covenant and Communion: The Biblical Theology of Pope Benedict XVI

Diocesan history book review places the church in context of northern Indiana history

The following book review is a reprint from the Catholic Historical Review, 95, no. 3 published in July 2009.


Many times, a diocesan history recounts the history of the bishops, the ecclesiastical superiors, the diocesan building development, and the major issues of the clergy and the important historical figures. Unfortunately, this is not the type of history given to us here. Joseph White, noted historian and author of many works regarding American Catholic history, has written the story of the Catholic Church in northern Indiana from the 17th century to the beginning of the 21st century. Between 1830 to 2007, we have the foundation of the Diocese of Fort Wayne in 1857 and the redesignation of the see to Fort Wayne-South Bend in 1960. White has placed the church in the broad context of northern Indiana history: its people, its culture, its social relations, and its economic and political structures.

The historical account begins with the evangelization of the Native Americans, particularly the Potowamami Indians through the efforts of Louis Desetille, Benjamin Petit, and the lay woman catechist Angélique Campeau. The beginning of the church began with the tragedy of the Native American people and their forcible removal from their homes. People are the center in White’s panoramic view of the church, men and women, laypersons and missionaries, saints and the less saintly, among them St. Mother Theodore Guérin and the Sisters of Providence, and Célestin de la Hailandière, the irascible bishop of Vincennes. The church of northern Indiana began with the migration of various Europeans into that area, especially after Indiana became a state in 1816. At first came the Germans and then the Irish, followed by the Poles, the Slovaks, the Italians, and the Hungarians at the beginning of the last century. The author weaves together the diversity of the church, the culture of the peoples, and the economic situation of the dioceses and of the ordinary people in the sections “Building a Catholic Culture, 1872-1900” and “Dimensions of Catholic Culture, 1900-1924.”

White avoids restricting the history to the bishops, but his portrait of John Luers, the first bishop of Fort Wayne — 1857-71 — is one of the best sections of the book. His portrait of Archbishop John Noll reveals the man with his achievements and his mistakes. Noll’s support of Father Charles E. Coughlin, his support of the America First Committee, his naïve sympathy for Hitler in the early 30s, and his opposition to labor movements are treated objectively in the section that also recounts the bishop’s remarkable life at work. In his preface, White points out that “recent Catholic historical scholarship” now seeks “an honesty that makes inevitable the disclosure of the negative along with the positive aspects of the past.” White has done so without bias or judgment.

At the very beginning of this work, the author reveals the paucity of archival resources. It seems that the archival records from the time of Brute to the administration of Noll have disappeared or have not been processed. Despite this, however, White “launched (into) the ... task of reading Catholic newspapers for articles that reveal the range of issues in diocesan life.”

The sheer size of this study is daunting, but the details are handled very well. The number of ethnic groups in an area where so many Catholics from diverse countries are represented could not be exhaustive. For instance, details regarding the establishment of black parishes in South Bend and Gary during the Noll administration are not passed over. Nevertheless, it would have been interesting to point out more clearly the determination and faith of black Catholics who fought for a parish of their own. St. Augustine in South Bend was founded by African-Americans who were barely welcomed in the white parish church. Finally, this panoramic view of Catholicity in the northern part of Indiana should have been aided with a few maps and a bibliography besides the notes. No matter the suggestions, the historical work that White has given us is truly a work “worthy of the Gospel of Christ.”

Reviewed by Father Cyprian Davis, O.S.B., from the St. Meinrad School of Theology. Reprinted with permission from the Catholic Historical Review.
FOOD

Saint Francis. Light refreshments will be served. For information, contact Angie Springer at (260) 399-8066 or aspringer@sf.edu.

FUNDraisers

Bewitching Halloween “Spookghetti” dinner and party South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary Parish, 735 W. Calvert, will have a spaghetti dinner catered by Fazolzi’s, Friday, Oct. 23, from 5-7:30 p.m. Party then continues until the bewitching hour. The gym will be transformed into a haunted dungeon for all you can devour spaghetti, fettuccine Alfredo, salad, breadsticks and beverages. Tickets are $8 or at the door $10. Children are presale $5 or at the door $7. Children 4 and under are free. Tickets are encouraged to be purchased by Oct. 15. Call (574) 289-3272 or go to www.ourladyofhungary.org for a printable order form. Costume contest for all, treats for the little goblins and music and dancing.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Oct. 16, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Rummage and bake sale New Haven — St. Louis Besanon Parish will have a rummage and bake sale Friday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Spaghetti dinner benefits Women’s Care Center South Bend — The Our Lady of Good Hope K of C will have a spaghetti and meatball dinner Saturday, Oct. 24, from 5-8 p.m. in the church hall. Choice of spaghetti and meatballs for $7 or marinara for $5. Children 5-12 $3. Seconds of marinara included in prices above. Carry-out available.

Banquet for life planned Fort Wayne — A banquet for life will be held Monday, Oct. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Wayne Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd. Keynote speakers will be Jill Stanek and U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. Tickets are $40 by calling (260) 471-8499 or visit ichoosealife.org.

Octoberfest party Granger — St. Pius X, 52553 Fir Rd., will have an Octoberfest Saturday, Oct. 10, from 7:30 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.

Octoberfest 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.

Pumpkin festival welcomes fall Garrett — St. Joseph School will have a pumpkin festival Saturday, Oct. 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Carnival games, bake sale and raffles will be offered. A beef-and-noodle dinner will be $5.50 for adults and $3.50 for children with carry-out available. For information call the school at (260) 357-5137.

St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen fundraiser Fort Wayne — St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen, 1101 S. Lafayette St., will host music, dancing, 50/50, silent auction, karaoke, door prizes, food and beer and wine or pop for $10 per person Saturday, Oct. 10, from 6-11 p.m. All proceeds benefit the soup kitchen.

Parish revival at St. Augustine South Bend — St. Augustine Parish, 1501 W. Washington St., will hold a parish revival Friday-Sunday, Oct. 9-11 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 10-noon Sunday. The revival theme is “Call to Forgiveness.” The revival, free and open to the public, will feature the St. Augustine African Drum and Dance group, the St. Augustine Gospel Choir and a guest appearance from the University of Notre Dame Voices of Faith Gospel Choir. There will be opportunities for confession on Saturday. For information, call (574) 234-7082 or (574) 707-1231 or visit www.saint-augustines.org.

Fish fry Fort Wayne — St. Therese Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Oct. 16, from 4:30-7 p.m. Tickets are adults $8, children (5-12) $4.50 and children under 5 eat free.
Respect Life Sunday marked by Life Chain, Mid-way rally

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA — Combining prayer and a visual witness, over 100 people lined South Bend’s Ironwood Road Sunday, participating in the annual Life Chain sponsored by St. Joseph County Right to Life.

Men, women and children held signs promoting the culture of life. Many of those people clutched their rosaries as well, recognizing the power of prayer when it comes to converting people’s hearts.

“The one thing we can offer these babies is prayer,” explained Pat Sweeney, a parishioner from Mishawaka’s St. Bavo Parish, taking part in her first Life Chain.

“When we’re faced with life challenges, follow the example of Mary. She said ‘yes’ and it wasn’t easy, but it was worth it all.”

Tom Gill, president of St. Joe County Right to Life and parishioner at Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend, said the Life Chain is not only a chance for people to talk with other pro-lifers, but to pray together about the issue. He says the Life Chain ties in well with another prayerful event, the 40 Days for Life vigil, currently underway.

“At St. Joseph County Right to Life, prayer has always been the most important thing we do,” said Gill. “We do advocacy work and prayer. It’s a combination of everything, but without prayer, nothing happens.”

Many Life Chain participants headed to Marian High School for the 40 Days for Life Mid-Way Rally. Organized by Serra Club President Dick Dorhous and moderated by WHME-TV’s Chuck Freeby, the rally featured a video and music from Marian High School students. Those were followed by a variety of talks that covered everything from the early feminist movement being inherently pro-life to the very real show-down we have with Satan.

“Scripture says there is nothing new under the sun,” reminded Father Bob Lengerich, associate pastor at St. Pius X Parish in Granger. “The battle we are fighting in these 40 Days for Life is the same battle that has been raging ever since Satan was expelled from heaven.”

Father Lengerich reminded the crowd our Catholic faith gives us hope. He said despite the devil trying to take as many souls with him to hell, Jesus has a plan.

“Most of all, Satan envisions Mary and all women,” continued Father Lengerich. “Because God gave these blessed creatures something Satan will never have… First, a spirit of humility. Second, the power of love. And if you combine different needs.

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Today's Catholic
October 11, 2009

BLESSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

or tornadoes, as a source of comfort to victims, and to aid in communication with victims. The statewide organization has a certification procedure and works with police and other first responders. But most of the pets and their owners were there to socialize and be blessed. It was the first time for Solow, a 10-year-old Dachshund and his owner, Mary Mac Donald.

“Maybe this will help his behavior,” she joked.

Barbara Bronson, a member of St. Monica Church in Mishawaka, brought Cookie, her 4-year-old Shih Tzu, after reading about the upcoming event in Today’s Catholic. She showed everyone how the dog “prays” by standing on his hind legs and putting his forelegs together. “He’s God’s little creature,” said Bronson.

In a mass blessing to all the creatures, great and small, Father Kendziereski prayed that they would always be kept happy and healthy.

Father Jim Kendziereski blesses the entire crowd gathered for the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Rob fox and his wife Debbie, not pictured, are the parents of six children, including two with special needs. They were horrified when a doctor advised them to abort their youngest child because she was expected to be born with severe health problems, if she was born at all. After much prayer and intercession, the Fox’s were blessed with a healthy daughter. The doctor had no explanation as to how the baby survived the difficult pregnancy.

“Scripture says there is nothing new under the sun,” Father Rob Lengerich, associate pastor at St. Pius X Parish in Granger, reminded the crowd. “The battle we are fighting in these 40 Days for Life is the same battle that has been raging ever since Satan was expelled from heaven.”

Father Lengerich reminded the crowd our Catholic faith gives us hope. He said despite the devil trying to take as many souls with him to hell, Jesus has a plan.

“Most of all, Satan envisions Mary and all women,” Father Lengerich continued. “Because God gave these blessed creatures something Satan will never have… First, a spirit of humility. Second, the power of love. And if you combine those, the ability to bring new life into the world. The devil can never do that. And so in his envy, he vowed, ‘If I can’t have these gifts, no one can have these gifts!’ And he’s been attacking life ever since.

Toiletries

Financial donations

Information on our website...