Spirited young ‘give it UP’ at rally

BY TIM JOHNSON

NORTH MANCHESTER — “Give it UP to the Holy Spirit” was the theme for the Oct. 10 confirmation rally organized by the diocesan offices of catechesis and youth ministry at Manchester College.

Taking a theme from the recent movie, “Up,” the retreat version included a mixture of catechesis, music by Popple, prayer, sharing and sacramental time. Added dimensions of the rally included eucharistic adoration, an opportunity for reconciliation and Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy to close the day-long activities.

About 1,000 junior high students from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend took part in round-robin sessions with Popple, APeX Ministries and eucharistic adoration and reconciliation.

APeX Youth Ministries provided the keynote address at the rally and is the Baltimore-based ministry of Gene Monterastelli and Brad Farmer who define their style as Christian vaudeville and includes juggling, humor, characterization skits, storytelling, audience participation and personal testimony.

The delighted youths connected well to the duo as they discussed super heroes. “It doesn’t matter where the power came from,” Farmer told his audience, “it’s what to do with the power to help others.”

Farmer told the youths that when they receive the Holy Spirit, they activate those super powers. He encouraged the teens to recognize their gifts and allow that power to move through them.

We only have to look as far as the saints to see the miraculous before us, the teens were told. “Every one of you is created to be a saint,” Farmer said, “to be a real super hero.”

And concentrating on the day’s theme, when the spirited young ‘give it UP’ at rally...
The role of the bishop especially busy on weekends

A weekend to remember

The extraordinary ministry to which the Lord, through the church, calls a bishop, and to which this bishop feels ever more and more unworthy, plays out every day, but especially on weekends.

I went south on a lovely Saturday afternoon to the quiet town of North Manchester, with Chris Lapp acting as pilot, to Manchester College for part of a day with just under 1,000 young people. All were eighth graders in our parishes who will receive confirmation in the spring.

Led by Cindy Black and Megan Oberhausen, with Cindy claiming that Megan did the work, this was a day of retreat. Eight priests had been there earlier, coming from far distances for the sacrament of penance, and there had been talks and singing, and also silent adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All our youth days now feature a small, well-prepared chapel and a chance for silence. We find that young people are not afraid of silence.

Thirty minutes of “Ask the Bishop” followed. Questions about purgatory, and the last things, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and “when did you know you were going to be a priest?” and “how do they decide who should be bishop?”

Then I celebrated Mass. Just to show you how a well-oiled-machine is not always perfect, I had prepared a homily for the Gospel of the day, which is that extraordinary story of the rich young man in Mark’s Gospel, also found in the 19th chapter of St. Matthew. The Mass prepared was that of the Holy Spirit, quite fitting for preparation for 1,000 young people preparing for confirmation.

There is no point in my being ordained 52 years, if you can’t make an adjustment.

Chapter two — The Basilica of the Sacred Heart

The South Bend Red Mass is especially important. Many of the law school faculty were there, along with two federal judges, whom I often see at noontime Mass in downtown South Bend. Judge Dan Manion and Judge Ken Ripple, and a chance to downtown South Bend. Judge Dan Manion whom I often see at noontime Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Oct. 31, a day of gratitude and rejoicing in our diocese. The Mass for those celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage, followed by a reception and pictures with jubilee couples was held at St. Matthew’s; and grants from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal were given to those who feed the hungry and care for the homeless.

A special treat

When I walked into the dining room, I met Friar Ros and knew immediately he was from Ireland. “What county?” said I. “Wexford,” he says. “Can you sing ‘Boolavogue?’” I “can,” he said. “We will sing it before I go, and I will sing it with you,” was my reply.

After this extraordinary dinner, so gracious and so filled with grace, and stories of vocation, in his beautiful Irish tenor, young Rory — who has two brothers in the priesthood — sang this old Irish rebel song, and I did my best to sing with him. There are three boys and one girl in his family. All three boys are priests or studying to be priests. His sister, he is engaged to be married. I knew I was in a house of faith and it was a grace to leave there and drive up the hills of the sisters, before returning to Fort Wayne. A weekend like this makes one think it would be fine to be a bishop here forever. Not possible, of course. But a joyful time, nonetheless.

Alas, on a lovely Sunday in Backbay, it all ended in a rush for the Red Sox.

I did not see it, because the weekend was so busy. Maybe it is better. And maybe it is better, because I think the Yankees would be too much. Better to lose to Los Angeles, than the Yankees, whom I will now root against.

See you all next week.
Bishops call Catholics to be main agents of change in Africa

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — African Catholics must become the main forces to ending the continent’s wars, promoting reconciliation, fighting corruption, safeguarding the family and protecting Africa’s natural resources, said members of the special Synod of Bishops for Africa.

In the first week of the Oct. 4-25 synod, members of the assembly listened to almost 200 speeches on ways the church can be a force for reconciliation, justice and peace on the continent.

The need to overcome lingering ethnic tensions was a predominant theme of the assembly, followed by concern for the family, the importance of protecting the environment, a recognition of the dignity and contributions of women, and the need for dialogue with the continent’s Muslim communities.

Bishops denounced the exploitation of tribal differences by politicians and by multinational corporations seeking control of minerals and oil. But many bishops also urged an examination of conscience by Catholics, saying they have not always acted like members of one family.

“Questions like selfishness, greed for material wealth, ethnicity resulting in ethnic conflicts and others, which are the root causes of the lack of peace in many African societies, must be confronted without fear or favor and be followed up with specific pastoral directives,” Cardinal Polycarp Pendo of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, told the synod.

The cardinal said the synod “must have the courage to denounce even against ourselves things like the misuse of the role and practice of authority, tribalism and ethnocentrism,” as well as partisan political involvement by religious leaders.

Another major theme in synod speeches was the importance of the family in African culture. Bishops warned that families are threatened by wars, disease and ideas about divorce, abortion, sexuality and homosexuality imported by Western media or promoted by Western organizations promising aid in exchange for a forum for spreading their views on family life and sexuality.

Archbishop Marcel Madila Basanguka of Kananga, Congo, told the synod that the traditional family is Africa’s main force for peace and reconciliation but is under almost constant attack.

Archbishop Buti Thahgele of Johannesburg, South Africa, said that Africa’s traditional cultural values “are threatened by a new global ethic which aggressively seeks to persuade African governments and communities to accept new and different meanings of the concepts of family, marriage and human sexuality.”

On a cultural level, “Africa faces a second wave of colonizers who seek to remove any vestige at the same time,” he said.

A Tanzanian prelate also asked the bishops to reconsider their often too accepting approach to blessing the marriages of couples who do not belong to the same church.

Too often, said Bishop Almachius Kweyeongoze of Kayanga, the result is family tensions over the religious education of children or the total neglect of religious education in order to keep peace in the family.

“Mixed marriages can easily be like building faith on sand, whereby it will be hard to produce fruits of love, reconciliation, justice and peace,” the bishop said.

Another frequent topic of synod speeches was the environment and particular how environmental degradation and the thoughtless exploitation of Africa’s natural resources have increased violence and poverty on the continent and triggered flooding and desertification.

Bishop Denis Kiwanuka Lote of Tororo, Uganda, told the synod that his country in the past two years has experienced alternating flooding and drought conditions leading to crop failure as a result of recklessly cutting down forests.

“Natural laws cannot be ignored, just as one cannot ignore the directives contained in the manufacturer’s manual if one wishes his machine to function well,” the bishop said.

Cardinal Bernard Agre, the retired archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria, told the synod that his country in the past two years has experienced alternating flooding and drought conditions leading to crop failure as a result of recklessly cutting down forests.

“The cardinal urged the synod to take a food experts to conduct a serious study of which countries’ debts have actually been repaid at a fair rate, to advise African governments on avoiding loan terms that continue the cycle and to monitor the way development loans are spent.

Bishop George Nkou of Kumbo, Cameroon, asked the synod to take a cautious attitude toward genetically modified food crops because the long-term impact of such new technology on human and environmental health is still not clear.

While poverty poses “one of the great obstacles to justice, peace and reconciliation” and is “the single greatest cause of hunger” in Africa, the continent cannot be shortsighted in embracing genetically modified food, he said.

As in other parts of the world, the majority of parish members and active participants in Africa are women and their rights and needs also were repeated topics of concern at the synod.

Sister Felicia Harry, the superior general of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles, asked the bishops to imagine what the church would be like if there were no women members. The superior general from Ghana told the synod that women are happy to “teach catechism to children, decorate parish churches, clean, mend and sew vestments,” but they also want to be part of church decision-making bodies.

Sister Pauline Odia Bukasa, superior general of the Ba-Maria Sisters from Congo, echoed Sister Harry’s points when she told the synod, “We, mothers and consecrated women, ask the fathers of this church-family to promote the dignity of women and give them the space needed to develop their talents in the structures of the church and society.”

Bishops walk arm-in-arm as they talk while leaving a session of the Synod of Bishops for Africa at the Vatican Oct. 12.

Diocese suspends the administering of holy Communion through the chalice

Oct. 13, 2009

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After consulting with the regional vicars and receiving competent medical advice, I have determined in the best interest of the health of all in our communities and especially our young children, that we will suspend the administering of holy Communion through the chalice.

This will be effective the weekend of Oct. 17-18, 2009 — the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In reaching this decision, we have consulted medical authorities, especially Dr. Deborah McMahan, health commissioner of Allen County. Dr. McMahan informs us that the present situation is classified as a pandemic, meaning that individuals do not have any natural immunity to H1N1. Dr. McMahan has endorsed the suspension of drinking from the cup. This was also the advice from the majority of our regional vicars.

The H1N1 virus may have run its course in three months, or it may last longer. We will monitor the situation, but I want to make it clear that no parish may give holy Communion from the cup until the suspension is lifted. That will be done as soon as the present serious situation has eased.

This suspension applies to all parishes and at all Masses: Sundays, solemnities and weekdays. I urge that it also be followed by religious houses.

Also, for further protection of the health of all, the greeting of peace is optional or may be given verbally or by a nod of the head.

We do this not only for parishioners, but for the wider community. Protecting all, especially our dear young children, must be the concern of everyone.

Let us remember the age-old teaching of the church. The body and blood of Christ is fully present and totally received under either species.

The eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the eucharistic substance exists. Christ is present whole and entire in each of the species and whole and entire in each of their parts, in such a way that the breaking of the bread does not divide Christ. — Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1377.

I shall remove this suspension as soon as the competent authority tells us that the danger is over.

With every best wish and prayer, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

Bishop D’Arcy announces pastoral assignment

Bishop John M. D’Arcy has announced the following assignment: Rev. Thomas KodakosASY, OSB, 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.
Young adult ministry builds faith community

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

SOUTH BEND — Sean Allen, a diocesan young adult minister in the South Bend area, clarified the mission of young adult ministry. "Young adult ministry is targeted for a specific age range and builds community among this peer group. We are not about forming a group, we are about Christian formation." Allen and his young adult minister counterpart in Fort Wayne, Allison Sturm, work with young adults in their late teens, 20s and 30s. It is a community made up of single, married (with or without children), divorced or widowed young adults. This community seeks to learn more about the Catholic faith and also is strengthened by serving others, praying, worshiping and socializing together.

Both Allen and Sturm were drawn to the young adult ministry because of their faith backgrounds. Allen graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a master of divinity degree this past May. Within the three-year program Allen says, "You learn how to lead prayer, use pastoral counseling skills, and get a background for certain types of ministry within the church."

Sturm attended Catholic parochial schools and grew up with a strong love of the faith. "While my theological background may be informal, above all things I have a great love of the church, a strong desire to serve God and a lifetime of spiritual experience that have served to strengthen my faith and prompt me into my current role," she says.

Mary Glowaski, director of the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry, explains why this ministry is so important to the church. "Young adults have a great deal to teach us as church. They possess an energy and hopeful-ness that sustains us and challenges us to be more responsive and creative in how we seek ways of growing our relationship with one another and with God as we discern God's will for our lives no matter what our age.

Because of the transient nature of young adults, Glowaski notes that the diocesan Facebook site and Web page, along with the traditional communication of bulletin announcements and Today's Catholic newspaper, are essential tools in getting the word out about young adult ministry events and opportunities.

Both Sturm and Allen note the challenges of formation of this community. Sturm says while her family, friends and coworkers embraced her Catholic faith when she was a young adult, she knows that others do not always have this consistent influence and support. "I believe we must have a ministry that reaches out with faith-based groups to help young adults incorporate their faith in all aspects of their life so that they can use all of their positive energy to benefit themselves and others."

Allen stresses that his role is as much a facilitator as it is a leader of the young adults. "This is not only the church serving young adults, it is a ministry working with young adults and where young adults are running the ministry. My work as a young adult minister requires empowering and bringing together leaders of their peer community."

One of the young adult programs in South Bend and Fort Wayne this fall is the Theology on Tap series. "It started in Chicago with the idea of engaging young adults in their 20s and 30s. It has name recognition because it is in a lot of dioceses around the country. The original idea was to go where the young adults are," says Allen.

The theme for the South Bend Theology on Tap series this fall is service. Allen emphasizes that service is faith in action. "Rather than something merely to be believed, faith is something to be lived," says Allen. "Theology on Tap brings Catholic speakers in and so it involves both community and learning about your faith."

There are five consecutive Tuesday night sessions in the South Bend series. The remaining two speakers are Lisa Anderson on “Discovering your Gifts” on Oct. 20, and Father Michael Heintz on “Living the Mass” on Oct. 27. A HOLYween party will be held on Nov. 3, with trivia and treats (costumes optional). All events are held at 6:30 p.m. at the Backstage Grill, 222 S. Michigan St., in South Bend.

In Fort Wayne, the theme of the church reaching out to young adults, will be highlighted in the Theology on Tap series. The weekly series begins on Oct. 22 with Father Tim Wrozek from St. Joseph Parish in Fort Wayne. The two remaining speakers are Cindy Black, director of the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry on Nov. 5 and Father Larry Kramer from St. Paul's of the Cross, Columbia City, on Nov. 19. The events will be held at 7 p.m. at Henry’s Restaurant, 536 W. Main St., in Fort Wayne.

Glowaski underscores the importance of all who contribute to the Young Adult ministry in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "The new additions to our staff of Sean Allen and Allison Sturm working with the wisdom and experience of Maria Pirrie and Mike Gibson have provided us with a unique and very effective blend of vision and experience as we continue to grow this very important ministry."

She concludes, "Our bishop has shown a great deal of leadership and dedication to the young adult ministry. He is very clear that the Catholic Young Adult Ministry staff be equally as dedicated and responsive to the needs and the abundant gifts of the young adult Catholics throughout our diocese."

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Rachel's Vineyard Retreat... for healing after abortion

If you are suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ at a Rachel’s Vineyard weekend retreat on October 23, 24 and 25, 2009. The weekend retreat will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a memorial service and Mass of Resurrection. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God’s love, forgiveness and compassion.

For information and registration, call Susan at 765-404-3999.
refusing to recognize the king as the head of the Church of England, which was heading for a split with Rome.

Although the story has been told many times through literature and film, Bishop D’Arcy said details of More’s spiritual life are often overlooked.

“He prayed every day,” said the bishop, of More. “He kept the sacraments, and he defended the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.”

As did More, in 16th century, those in the law are asked to make decisions that might hurt their own prestige and professional position. Bishop D’Arcy told worshipers that a life of prayer and living close to the Holy Spirit is the only way to make decisions in the way of “truth, for beauty and for love.”

Michael Agrippina, a high school student from Atlanta, was visiting the university with his family and decided to attend Mass at the basilica. He was delighted that it turned out to be a Red Mass, since he is considering law as a career.

“St. Thomas More was my confirmation saint,” said Michael. “Sometimes in law, it can be hard to stay on the moral path. So (the bishop’s) words were inspiring to me.”

Biblical readings for the Mass focused on the value of wisdom, the living, breathing nature of the Word, and accountability in God’s sight.

The Gospel reading from Mark focused on Christ’s instructions to the wealthy young man to sell everything he has and give to the poor. “When the Gospel is read, it’s Jesus speaking to us as a present event and so it’s a charge not to the young man, but to us.”

Songs, led by the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir, rang out beautifully in the cavernous basilica. A reception elsewhere on campus followed the Red Mass.

Washington (CNS) — None of the major health reform bills before Congress adequately addresses the concerns raised by the U.S. bishops in the areas of abortion, conscience protection, immigrants and affordability, said the heads of three major committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Oct. 8.

“If final legislation does not meet our principles, we will have no choice but to oppose the bill,” said a letter to all members of Congress from Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y.; Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia; and Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City.

“Much-needed reform of our healthcare system must be pursued in ways that serve the life and dignity of all, never in ways that undermine or violate these fundamental values,” they added. “We will work tirelessly to remedy these central problems and help pass real reform that clearly protects the life, dignity and health of all.”

The three chair the USCCB committees on Domestic Justice and Human Development, Pro-Life Activities and Migration, respectively.

The bishops reiterated their earlier calls on Congress to ensure that any health reform plan:

- Exclude mandated coverage of abortions and incorporate long-standing federal policies against taxpayer-funded abortions and in favor of conscience rights.
- Make quality health care affordable and accessible to everyone.
- Include effective measures to safeguard the health of immigrants, their children and all of society, with legal immigrants given “comprehensive, affordable and timely access to health care coverage” and an adequate safety net provided to others.
- “We sincerely hope that the legislation will not fall short of our criteria,” the USCCB leaders said.
- But they said they “remain apprehensive” at committee votes that defeated amendments that would have protected freedom of conscience and ensured that no taxpayer money went to abortions.
- “If acceptable language in these areas cannot be found, we will have to oppose the health care bill vigorously,” the bishops said.

“We remain committed to working with the administration, congressional leadership and our allies to produce final health reform legislation that will reflect our principles,” they added.

The Senate Finance Committee, which recently completed work on more than 500 amendments to a health reform bill proposed by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the committee chairman, was expected to take a final vote on the amended legislation Oct. 13.

With only 13 years of priesthood behind him, Father Gurtner is on his second assignment as pastor of a large parish. His first was as pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne, in addition to serving as chaplain at Bishop Dwenger High School.

In 2006, he received a degree in canon law from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Currently, he is pastor of St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend.

Regarding what he sees as the greatest challenge facing the church today and what he sees as the greatest hope, Father Mark Gurtner thinks that “the greatest challenge ... is providing a consistent witness to the truth of the Gospel. Unfortunately, I think a good number of Catholics are confused about what the church teaches, especially regarding morality. So it’s especially important that priests, bishops and Catholic institutions preach and teach the same message, the message of the Gospel as given to us in the teachings of the church.”

He sees the greatest hope, “in one circumstance where I want to know the truth, who want to know Jesus, and who want to follow him in his church. Indeed, the harvest is plenty but laborers few.”
Nobel Peace Prize to Obama greeted with praise, high hopes at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — News that U.S. President Barack Obama had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize was met with high hopes from the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi told journalists Oct. 9 that the news “was greeted with appreciation at the Vatican in light of the president’s demonstrated commitment to promoting peace on an international level and, in particular, in recently promoting nuclear disarmament. It is hoped that this very important recognition would offer greater encouragement for such a difficult but fundamental dedication to the future of humanity so that it may bring about the desired results.,” he said in a written statement. The new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Miguel Diaz, told Vatican Radio that the president was being recognized for his efforts in working to build understanding between people and eliminate nuclear weapons from all parts of the world. Winning the Nobel Peace Prize is a great encouragement to keep working toward building a better world, said Diaz.

Glendon honored as ‘heroine of the Notre Dame commencement tragedy

NEW YORK (CNS) — Mary Ann Glendon was “the heroine of the Notre Dame commencement tragedy” in May, an official of the National Right to Life Committee said as the Harvard law professor and former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican received the organization’s Proudly Pro-Life Award Oct. 6. Anthony J. Launiger, vice president of the pro-life organization and the father of eight University of Notre Dame alumni, said Glendon’s “principled refusal” of the Indiana university’s 2009 Laetare Medal led the National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund to honor her at its awards dinner. The Laetare Medal, established in 1883, is presented annually to recognize a Catholic “whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity.” Glendon declined the medal because U.S. President Barack Obama, who supports legal abortion, was invited to give the commencement address and receive an honorary degree from Notre Dame.

Be unapologetically Catholic in liturgical work, cardinal says

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP, Mich. (CNS) — Embrace the richness of the faith and be unapologetically Catholic in making liturgical work a priority, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, told nearly 300 priests and liturgists from all over the country Oct. 7. Cardinal DiNardo spoke during the national meeting of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions in Plymouth Township. He cracked jokes throughout his presentation and referred to his audience as “friends” — but remained passionate about keeping Christ at the center of the liturgy. The cardinal spoke about the practicalities of liturgical formation and how it often vies with other forms of ongoing formation, and what liturgists may need to do to make their work a priority at their parish. “You have to admit, liturgists have already been accused of it — be sneaky,” he said. “Keep alive your appreciation at the Vatican in light of the president’s demonstrated commitment to promoting peace on an international level and, in particular, in recently promoting nuclear disarmament. It is hoped that this very important recognition would offer greater encouragement for such a difficult but fundamental dedication to the future of humanity so that it may bring about the desired results.,” he said in a written statement. The new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Miguel Diaz, told Vatican Radio that the president was being recognized for his efforts in working to build understanding between people and eliminate nuclear weapons from all parts of the world. Winning the Nobel Peace Prize is a great encouragement to keep working toward building a better world, said Diaz.

Bishops advise US on humanitarian, moral issues in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Long-term development and humanitarian assistance, protecting civilians and dealing with the root causes of terrorism should be among the guiding principles of how the United States deals with problems in Afghanistan and Pakistan, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace. In a letter dated Oct. 6 and released Oct. 9, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., offered the advice to retired Marine Gen. James L. Jones, the national security adviser, as the administration reviews U.S. strategy in the region. Bishop Hubbard acknowledged that the U.S. bishops are not military experts, but, in light of the implications for regional and international security, he said they wanted to offer some principles of Catholic teaching and experience that might help inform policy choices. “In the face of terror threats, we humanity that our nation must respond to indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians in ways that combine a moral vision with what is necessary to keep the restraint to ensure that we act justly and the vision to focus on broader issues of poverty and justice that are uniquely exploited by terrorists in gaining recruits,” Bishop Hubbard wrote.

Stop destroying the rain forest, say Catholic bishops of the Amazon

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — Ever since the Spanish conquistadores set off across the Andes in search of El Dorado, outsiders have sought their fortunes in the Amazon. Rubber tapping, logging, mining, oil drilling and ranching have brought riches to some and ruin to others. The region’s Catholic bishops say it is time to stop destroying the rain forest and threatening its people’s welfare in the name of progress. At a meeting in Manaus, a bustling commercial center carved out of the Brazilian rain forest, they called for policies that “take responsibility for preservation of the biological and cultural diversity of the Amazon.” The 30 bishops and 35 other church workers and experts rejected a neoliberal commercial view of the Amazon as an “inexhaustible” source of natural resources and a gene pool that might hold a cure for diseases, and the romantic concept of the region as a pristine green “lung.” In a statement issued at the end of the meeting, they noted instead to the Amazon basin’s “diversity of climates, biota, rivers and natural resources, as well as the historical, cultural, linguistic and territorial traditions of the native peoples who live there.”

A man watches as pilgrims follow an image of Our Lady of Nazareth as it is carried during the annual festival in Belem, Brazil, Oct. 11. More than 1 million Catholics, many of them from communities along the Amazon River’s tributaries, converged on Our Lady of Nazareth Basilica to participate.

PILGRIMS CARRY IMAGE OF OUR LADY IN BRAZIL

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WASHINGTON (CNS) — Long-term development and humanitarian assistance, protecting civilians and dealing with the root causes of terrorism should be among the guiding principles of how the United States deals with problems in Afghanistan and Pakistan, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace. In a letter dated Oct. 6 and released Oct. 9, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., offered the advice to retired Marine Gen. James L. Jones, the national security adviser, as the administration reviews U.S. strategy in the region. Bishop Hubbard acknowledged that the U.S. bishops are not military experts, but, in light of the implications for regional and international security, he said they wanted to offer some principles of Catholic teaching and experience that might help inform policy choices. “In the face of terror threats, we humanity that our nation must respond to indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians in ways that combine a moral vision with what is necessary to keep the restraint to ensure that we act justly and the vision to focus on broader issues of poverty and justice that are uniquely exploited by terrorists in gaining recruits,” Bishop Hubbard wrote.

Stop destroying the rain forest, say Catholic bishops of the Amazon

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — Ever since the Spanish conquistadores set off across the Andes in search of El Dorado, outsiders have sought their fortunes in the Amazon. Rubber tapping, logging, mining, oil drilling and ranching have brought riches to some and ruin to others. The region’s Catholic bishops say it is time to stop destroying the rain forest and threatening its people’s welfare in the name of progress. At a meeting in Manaus, a bustling commercial center carved out of the Brazilian rain forest, they called for policies that “take responsibility for preservation of the biological and cultural diversity of the Amazon.” The 30 bishops and 35 other church workers and experts rejected a neoliberal commercial view of the Amazon as an “inexhaustible” source of natural resources and a gene pool that might hold a cure for diseases, and the romantic concept of the region as a pristine green “lung.” In a statement issued at the end of the meeting, they noted instead to the Amazon basin’s “diversity of climates, biota, rivers and natural resources, as well as the historical, cultural, linguistic and territorial traditions of the native peoples who live there.”

A man watches as pilgrims follow an image of Our Lady of Nazareth as it is carried during the annual festival in Belem, Brazil, Oct. 11. More than 1 million Catholics, many of them from communities along the Amazon River’s tributaries, converged on Our Lady of Nazareth Basilica to participate.
AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL STUDENTS CELEBRATE PRIESTS

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School, Fort Wayne, second-graders Elizabeth Gartreaux, Zachary Baker and Amanda Weber honor priests as the Catholic Church celebrates the Year for Priests.

tracing the steps of Mother Theodore, art reflections, meeting the sculptor of the St. Mother Theodore statue, sustainability in today’s world, discussion of personal vocations, service opportunities, journaling, learning about art icons and hiking.

First, we want people of all faiths to know that they are welcome here. There will be something for everyone,” said Sister Barbara Doherty, coordinator of the Office for the Shrine of St. Mother Theodore Guérin and festival organizer.

Cost to attend the fest is $25, including the Saturday evening concert. Meals are not included, but are available at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods for a nominal fee. The fest is suitable for persons from junior high school age and older.

To register, or to obtain additional information and a detailed brochure, call Sister Barbara Doherty at (812) 535-2925 or e-mail bdoherty@spsmw.org. Detailed information about the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Fest can be found at www.SistersOfProvidence.org.

Little Flower Holy Hour returns to chapel

FORT WAYNE — The Little Flower Holy Hour returns this month with devotion for religious vocations, has returned to its original site, the newly refurbished chapel adjacent to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Cathedral Square.

The intercessory holy hour began 14 years ago at the suggestion of Msgr. William Voors at a time when there were no diocesan candidates for the priesthood.

Services are on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:15 p.m. with a rosary, benediction and remarks by a different celebrant at each service.

Redeemer Radio announces Fall Sharathon

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, will hold its Fall Sharathon on Oct. 21, 22 and 23, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. The theme of the fundraiser is “Hands that serve” in celebration of the Year for Priests.

A completely listener-supported station, Redeemer Radio holds its popular sharathon to raise funds for the daily operations. Fall Sharathon will be hosted by Jerry Usher at the Redeemer Radio studio in Fort Wayne. Usher, president of Third Millennium Media, is the former national host of “Catholic Answers Live,” heard on Redeemer Radio weekdays from 6-8, both mornings and evenings.

Dave Stevens, executive director of Redeemer Radio, explains the impact of the fundraising event.

“Sharathon is a celebration of our local Catholic community, as more than 20 of our local priests are live on Redeemer Radio, highlighting activities in parishes throughout the area. Sharathon transforms listeners into supporters with a tremendous amount of fun and fellowship during our 36-hour live event. Listeners tell us all the time that they love listening to Sharathon for all the fun and news around the area.”

Redeemer Radio, AM 1450 WLYV Fort Wayne, is a listener-supported radio station broadcasting news and of the Catholic faith.

The mission of Redeemer Radio is to evangelize, educate, and serve the Catholic community and others who are seeking more information about the Catholic faith.

Victory Noll Center hosts ‘Intergenerational Women’s Day Away’

HUNTINGTON — For the second straight year, Victory Noll Center is offering the “Intergenerational Women’s Day Away,” a program allowing women of any age to become aware of their personal gifts and perhaps discover something new about themselves.

The program will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24. Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

Women are encouraged to gather with mothers, grandmothers, daughters, nieces, aunts, sisters or just friends who are kindred spirits for a Women’s Day Away. This year’s program will explore stories of women who have made a difference and discover how individuals have made a difference in each others lives. There will be time for those attending to pray, reflect, talk, listen and hopefully grow in love and support of one another.

The facilitator for the program is Victory Noll Center Director Sue Wilhelm at (260) 356-0628, ext. 128, or e-mail suewilhelm@svlm.org.

Saint Mary’s students to host Day of the Dead celebration for Warren Primary

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College students will host a Day of the Dead celebration at Warren Primary Center, located at 55400 Quince Rd., South Bend, on Oct. 27 from 6-7 p.m. Day of the Dead, or Dia de los Muertos, is a traditional Mexican holiday that celebrates life after death and the memory of loved ones. The holiday is widely observed on Nov. 1 and 2 in connection with the Catholic holy days of All Saints Day (Nov. 1) and All Souls Day (Nov. 2).

La Fuerza, a Latina heritage club at Saint Mary’s, and the College Academy of Tutoring (CAT) program will co-host the event at Warren Primary.

“La Fuerza strives to introduce Latino culture to the Saint Mary’s campus through rich cultural events and we are happy to do the same at Warren. Dia de los Muertos has a special significance to our culture and it represents the ideas and beliefs about life and death,” said Cristina Posadas, president of La Fuerza.

The celebration will start with a brief history of the holiday. Activities will include Warren Primary Center students reading essays and there will be an educational display of a Day of the Dead altar. The event will conclude with dinner and carnival-like booths run by the volunteers.

Say it will be the third year Saint Mary’s has hosted the Day of the Dead celebration. Last year over 150 people participated in the event.
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Stan’s Pantry honors longtime servant of poor

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Stan Cukrowicz was a good man, a quiet man.

For more than 30 years, he collected food and distributed it to the poor. He recruited and organized volunteers to do the same.

His work with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, at St. Jude Catholic Church was all done without fanfare or high drama. He was a man of few words, and he died earlier this year.

It seemed fitting, then, to memorialize him. The church, now known as St. Catherine of Siena Parish, found a way to do that by naming their new pantry after him. It was dedicated on Sunday, Oct. 4, after the 10 a.m. Mass.

“Stan’s Pantry” has a door to the outside, for easy loading and unloading of vehicles. It’s located in a space that was formerly an entryway to the original church building.

It also has easy-to-use shelving—unlike the old pantry where volunteers had to descend to a basement and deal with cramped spaces.

In addition, it has a refrigerator and a freezer. Volunteers can store milk, eggs and margarine ensuring less frequent trips to the grocery store when a need for those items arises, said Tom Oesterling, president of the St. Vincent de Paul conference at the parish. “That’s really a good thing. We can get these things together in about 10 minutes now.”

When church members started talking about a new pantry space six months ago, they wanted to honor Cukrowicz in some way. They broached the subject with the district office of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which came up with the idea of naming the new pantry after Cukrowicz.

Cukrowicz was also the recipient of the 2007 Top Hat award, one of St. Vincent de Paul’s most prestigious awards for servant-hood.

The new pantry also points to recent successes in recruiting new members to the church’s St. Vincent conference.

“We’ve really grown over the past year,” said Oesterling. “We have about 47 members and 13 of them are new.

“I think it’s because there’s more of a focus on spirituality now, and people are really drawn to that,” adds Oesterling. “The Bible says that where two or more are gathered in his name, Christ is there, and I think that has a lot to do with it. We’re also attracting young people, even people in their 20s.”

A corporate communion and dedication ceremony were held outside the new pantry, and attended by seven of Cukrowicz’s family members. Father Paul Choorathottiyil, associate pastor at St. Catherine, gave the blessing.

AUCTION PLANNED FOR MENTORING PROGRAM

Bridge of Hope Chairman Mary Morgan and Vice Chairman Michael Druley announce that the organization will celebrate its first birthday by holding a silent/live auction at Waterford Estates Lodge in South Bend on Oct. 30. Bridge of Hope brings together professionals and church-based mentoring groups to empower homeless and at risk single mothers to attain permanent housing, financial self-sufficiency, friendships, growth and wellness. Make reservations to (574) 679-4238 or e-mail mary@bridgeofhopesjc.com.

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Community gathers to heal domestic violence

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — In recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, on Oct. 10, men and women concerned about, or themselves victims, of domestic violence gathered under a bright, sunny, blue sky in front of the Madison Center in South Bend to participate in a service of healing.

“This first community gathering to heal domestic violence is the brainchild of Rita Tatum, who is a lay Providence Associate,” says Stacy Davis, an S-O-S (sexual offenses services) volunteer at the Madison Center and professor of religious studies at Saint Mary’s College.

In November of 2007, she and the Sisters of Providence, based in Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, began to do research and development for the event. In March of this year, Rita, who is also an S-O-S advocate, presented the concept to the S-O-S Awareness Committee, which enthusiastically embraced the idea.

It is Tatum’s belief that domestic violence not only hurts the person who is abused, but the whole community.

“The future of humanity passes by way of the family,” Pope John Paul II said. Bishop John M. D’Arcy quoted Pope John Paul II during his homily at Sunday’s Wedding Anniversary Mass, held at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Couples celebrating 25 and 50 years of marriage, along with other landmarks, received a special nuptial blessing from Bishop D’Arcy. Christopher and Elizabeth Sikorski, pictured here with their son and his family, will celebrate 25 years of marriage Oct. 18 and were visiting from Salt Lake City. John Sikorski and his wife, Monica, work in the Office of Family Life as assistant directors for Youth and Young Adult Outreach. As Monica held their infant son, John Joseph, three generations of Sikorskis posed for a picture with Bishop D’Arcy. In his homily, Bishop D’Arcy talked about the different stages of marriage, recalling family life with babies, children, teenage children, adult children and grandchildren.

I have been a volunteer S-O-S advocate for six years. At an S-O-S in-service a couple years ago, Notre Dame Professor Carolyn Nordstrom presented the way Mozambicans approach violence, including sexual violence, as an illness that the whole community addresses in a healing ceremony. In other words, they felt that in addition to mending injuries of the mind and body, they also needed to heal the ‘collective body’ so that the violence didn’t spread and infect the whole community.”

The presentation sparked a desire to have a similar service for the South Bend area and she spent about a year looking at the healing ceremonies of Muslims, Buddhists, Amish, Christian, Jewish, Native American, etc. Taking common elements from these ceremonies she teamed up with Davis who, together with the S-O-S Awareness Committee, developed and executed the first community service.

Tatum says, ‘By approaching domestic violence as a societal illness, we recognize that women, men and children die as a result of domestic violence. We do not claim domestic violence if a man commits suicide after murdering his wife, but he is a victim of this illness.”

To emphasize the broad range of domestic violence, the S-O-S Awareness Committee worked to develop nine life-size silhouettes, representing seniors, adults, teens and children of both sexes. The Awareness Committee gave participants in the healing service ceremonial stoles of many shades and textures of the color purple (the color associated with domestic violence awareness activities) to reflect the diversity of the victims.

Davis sums up an important message: “It’s time to stop the violence that this year has caused Michiana the lives of five mothers and sisters, three fathers, four brothers and a 12-year-old boy. In Indiana this pandemic disease led to 65 deaths and more than 100,000 calls to crisis lines last year.”

Among other services, specially trained S-O-S volunteers staff a 24-hour crisis line that provides support information and referrals. Call (574) 283-1308 to learn more about S-O-S.

Pilgrim Virgin statue tour schedule announced

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

DATE PARISH ARRIVAL SERVICES
Oct. 17 Sacred Heart, Fort Wayne 12 p.m. Latin Mass, procession, talk, rosary, English Mass, talk
Oct. 18 St. Patrick, Arcola 7:30 a.m. Mass, procession, talk
Oct. 18 St. Jude, Fort Wayne 2 p.m. procession with Knights, rosary, talk
Oct. 19 St. Mary/Assumption, Decatur 8:15 a.m. Mass, talk
Oct. 19 Our Lady of Good Hope 9 a.m. veneration, talk
Oct. 20 Immac. Conception, Auburn 6:30 p.m. Mass, talk
Oct. 21 St. Rose of Lima 8:30 a.m. Mass, talk, rosary
Oct. 21 Redeemer Radio 1-2 p.m. Interview
Oct. 21 St. Vincent de Paul, FW 6:30 p.m. childrendevotions, talk
Oct. 22 St. Louis-Besancon, NH 8:10 a.m. rosary, Mass, talk
Oct. 22 St. Henry 7 p.m. Mass, talk, veneration
Oct. 23 St. John the Baptist-NH 8:05 a.m. Mass, talk, devotions/children
Oct. 23 Immac. Conception, Kville 4:40 p.m. rosary, Mass, talk
Oct. 24 St. Joseph, Roanoke 5 p.m. Mass, talk, veneration
Oct. 25 St. Patrick, Walkerton 9 a.m. Mass, Talk, Mass, talk
Oct. 25 Corpus Christi, South Bend 5 p.m. rosary, talk
Oct. 25 Corpus Christi, South Bend 7:50 a.m. children’s Mass, talk
Oct. 27 St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart 6 p.m. Mass, talk
Oct. 28 St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart 8:15 a.m. Mass, talk
Oct. 28 St. Michael, Plymouth 6:30 p.m. Mass, talk
Oct. 30 St. Mary/Assumption, Avilla 7 p.m. rosary, veneration, talk

The Voices of Faith group, directed by senior Katie Washington, sings during the healing ceremony.
ANNUAL BISHOP’S APPEAL CHECKS DISTRIBUTED TO SOUTH BEND AREA

Charitable organizations from around the South Bend were on hand to receive checks from Bishop John D’Arcy and the Annual Bishop’s Appeal following Sunday’s Mass at St. Matthew’s Cathedral in South Bend. Charitable organizations included Catholic Charities, Women’s Care Center, Center for the Homeless, Sister Maura Brannick Health Center, Hannah’s House, Christ Child Society, Little Flower Food Pantry, Center for Basic Learning Skills, St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Augustine’s Soup Kitchen, Logan Center, Life Athletes and Chiara House.

Guests announced for fall Sharathon

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, will hold its Fall Sharathon on Oct. 21, 22 and 23 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. The theme of the fundraiser is “Hands that Serve” in celebration of the Year for Priests. A listener-supported station, Redeemer Radio holds two Sharathons a year to cover daily operations expenses. National Catholic Radio personality Jerry Usher anchors the live event from the Redeemer Radio studio in Fort Wayne.

Serving as Fall 2009 Sharathon chair couple is Dr. Mike Mastrangelo and his wife, Grace. Bishop John M. D’Arcy will be a guest during the 4 p.m. hour of Sharathon on Friday, Oct. 23. Diocesan Vicar General Father Bob Schulte joins Sharathon during the 3 p.m. hour on Wednesday, Oct. 21. Priests in studio include Father Tom Shoemaker, Father Dom Carboneau, Father Joe Gaughan, Father Ken Sarrazine, Father Bruce Piechocki, Msgr. William Lester, Father Dave Voors, Father Glenn Kohrman, Father Kevin Bauman, Father Jim Shafer, Father Cyril Fernandes, Father Tony Steinacker, Father Ed Erpelding, Father Derrick Sneyd and Father Jason Freuburger.

St. Michael’s new playground dedicated

PLYMOUTH — “Pray to Play” was the slogan of the fund-raising drive to create a St. Michael School playground open to all children in the community. Randy Danielson, co-chair of the project with Tom Flynn, said that the dream was “20 years in the making.”

Flynn added, “We toured the Kings Kiddie Kollege with three different priests and could never come to terms with the owners.” And then things started to happen. In 2005, Betty Miller made it possible for the church to purchase the Wainscott home at 613 N. Michigan. Danielson said, “He would have wanted to do that for the children,” she said.

A year later Dennis Emmons bought the house for $1 and moved it to 1000 N. Center St. “That’s when we went into the planning phase,” Flynn said. “We revised the plans at least 13 times,” Danielson said, “starting with one quarter of a block.”

John J. Oliver, a non-parishioner, was talking to Father William Kummer about his dream of a playground for the children. Oliver asked what he could do to help. The Oliver family and U.S. Granules, gave a generous gift to fuel the first phase.

Next, Leonard and Joann Ishan challenged the community to raise matching funds for their magnanimous gift.

“We had six weeks to raise the money,” Danielson said. “It was a little bit scary,” Flynn said, “but we figured with help and prayers we could do it.” And we contributions from the congregation and a couple of fundraisers, they did.

Danielson made a bid “they couldn’t refuse” for the brick structure at 601 N. Michigan. The deal was closed the first week of June — one year from the first meeting of the parish committee.

“And with that,” Danielson said, “the scope of the project changed yet again.”

They went from — to a full city block and from a playground that was hard scrabble and dirt with two bent-over basketball hoops and a crooked tether ball pole to a vision of a safe and challenging playground for all children.

The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ were invited to make a donation toward the project. Sister Nora Hahn, provincial of the order, said that instead of giving a monetary donation, “we would like our gift to match our values.”

The sisters’ plan, following the principles of their Earth Charter, adopted in 2006, calls for the recycling of all usable materials. “It was a lot more work, but didn’t cost much more,” Sister Hahn said. Workers recycled the house.

Soon small social gatherings were held in parishioners’ homes and on two nights volunteers conducted a phone-a-thon, calling over 300 people to ask for their help.

“We thank God, the parish and the community,” Danielson said. We were given funds from, among others, the Marshall County Community Foundation and the City Improvement Commission.” Bricks for a memory walk were sold to families and individuals at $100 and $200 apiece. Flynn enumerated the labor, materials and gifts from members of the church and non-Catholics alike.

Will and Dixie Lawrence made it easy to switch from a cheaper surface to Pervious Concrete, making the playground safer for the children. Rick and Barb Miller’s Rickscape provided irrigation and sod for the soccer and volleyball field and Prices Nursery did the rock work and exterior landscaping on Michigan street. Several City of Plymouth departments such as water and street workers and various public utilities cooperated with the builders.

Father Kummer especially wanted to be good neighbors with the residents on Michigan street, and the planners went the extra mile to provide quality landscaping, attractive wrought iron fencing and good lighting for the entire block.

Thanks to a surprise donation of $22,000 from Betty Miller at the dedication on Tuesday, the project ended in the black.

The school children of St. Michael, Plymouth, celebrate the opening of their new playground on N. Michigan St. The dedication and opening ceremonies were on Sept. 29, St. Michael’s feast day.

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BY IDA CHIPMAN

BY IDA CHIPMAN

OCTOBER 18, 2009 TODAY'S CATHOLIC
Retired educator leads green technology educational facility

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — Lou Bonacorsi, St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, parishioner and longtime educator and principal in the Wa-Nee (Wakarusa, Nappanee) school system truly believes all of us were put on earth to serve the Lord. It is partly that belief that has him starting a new career after retiring from 37 years as educator and principal at Northwood High School.

In July, Bonacorsi was asked to take on the role of director of educational affairs and head up an educational facility being built by Wil Cashen, CEO of Electric Motors Corporation. The facility was recently named the Nikola Tesla School of Technology and will educate and train workers to work with electricity for Electric Motors Corporation (EMC) and other companies that want to use the training facility.

EMC officials have been working with Ivy Tech, Vincennes University and Purdue University to develop a curriculum to ensure that they’re not duplicating programs, but are offering a more specialized training facility doing application-based work, according to Bonacorsi.

Bonacorsi came to northern Indiana from Clinton and Indiana State College to work at Northwood High School as an industrial arts teacher right out of college in 1969 and at the time planned to stay only a year. He and his wife Toni have been married 39 years and have two children, Joe and Kristen.

Settling in Nappanee, Toni taught at the elementary school level. Aside from teaching industrial arts, Bonacorsi also coached football and wrestling. He taught for 15 years until 1984 when he had the opportunity to become assistant principal. Two years later he became principal and served until he retired in 2006.

The couple first attended the former St. Isidore Parish in Nappanee — a mission church with Father Walter Bly as the pastor, who came from Holy Cross in South Bend to offer weekly Mass. The Bonacorsis, along with several other families took care of the operation of the parish.

“St. Isidore’s truly was a parishioner’s parish. A lot of great families pitched in to help,” he said.

After St. Isidore closed, the couple moved to St. Dominic in Bremen for a couple of years before joining St. John the Evangelist in Goshen where they’ve been active for 11 years. Bonacorsi is a member of the parish council, a lector and a eucharistic minister. He’s been a member of the Knights of Columbus since his parish days at St. Isidore.

Bonacorsi said he was fortunate to work for a public school system that “fit my philosophical and belief system.”

Because of the religious influence of the area he felt free to make announcements about saying a prayer when a student was struck with tragedy or to take an opportunity to teach morals and values.

Bonacorsi said he always believed in addition to English, math and science students should also learn skills necessary to be a good worker, good person and good spouse.

“Social interaction is just as important as the intellectual. God gave you an opportunity to learn how to be a good person,” he said.

He was retired about six weeks before deciding to try his skills in the private sector in business. So he went to work for Star Fleet Transportation Company in Goshen opening a new transportation terminal in Elkhart in August 2006.

“I had the neat opportunity to work with my son and son-in-law for two years,” he said.

Ironically, it was that “different road” that led him back to education. After meeting with Wil Cashen in March about his company coming to the area, he was offered the position of director of educational affairs.

Bonacorsi said education seems to be his main mission in life and he felt he was up for this challenge. He enjoys working with people to help maximize their potential. The Nikola Tesla School of Technology is currently in final rounds of negotiations for a building. It was so named for “a brilliant scientist who developed early work on alternating currents.”

Bonacorsi said they did a lot of research and gave a lot of thought to the naming of the facility. Tesla registered 700 patents in his lifetime. “We hoped we’d have the same impact on new energy,” Bonacorsi said.

The school will have working lines, just like the factory floor. “The school will be there to provide education and training for all the different businesses that will be coming in to be a part of EMC’s consortium or green jobs in general — electric battery companies, solar panels, etc.”

He’s excited about the possibilities and said, “I really think people truly underestimate their potential and what they could do with their lives. If we spent as much time reflecting on the talents we possess we’d truly rise above who we are. Fred Jones said, ‘You’re either a part of the problem or a part of the solution.’ If the Lord gives you something you need to use it.”

For more information about Electric Motors Corporation visit www.Electricmotorsco.com.

Lou Bonacorsi, in his office at Electric Motors Corporation, has been working to secure a building for a new green technology educational facility that he will be director of and is excited about the prospect of making a difference to the unemployed in Elkhart County.

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USAf Colonel Mike Zenk lives his faith

BY KAREN CLIFFORD
GRANGER — During his first year at the United States Air Force Academy, Mike Zenk became disenchanted with the atmosphere and military training practices at the school. When he came home for a visit he expected his mother to validate his feelings, but instead her words changed his perspective about focusing on goals, even in the face of adversity and challenges.

“She said decide you are going to like it or quit,” Zenk recalls. “She subscribed to the premise that you will not be happy in life if you are not doing something you enjoy, but that you could also decide what you would actually be happy doing. I decided to be happy, refocused on my one goal of flying, and had a very good final three years.”

The St. Pius X parishioner went on to have a successful 29-year Air Force career, retiring in 2007 as colonel. His final assignment was as commander, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 225 and a professor of aerospace studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Zenk’s impressive educational background includes a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the Air Force Academy, a master’s degree in strategic and tactical sciences (operations research) from the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), and a master’s degree in pastoral ministry from Loyola University of New Orleans, through an extension program with the Diocese of Marquette, Mich.

The blessings from these educational opportunities require responsibility on his part for these gifts, Zenk acknowledges. “I was also one of the Americans at the NATO Defense College there and as such represented the United States to 70 other European classmate, mostly senior military officers from 20 different NATO countries,” Zenk remembers.

“A high ranking in this position of representing my country, it made me think very carefully about how I represent my faith. We are ambassadors of Christ, we really are our Lord’s hands and feet here on earth, and we are the only Bible some people will ever read,” he adds.

“I truly believe God is the same yesterday, today and forever and that he loves each of us the same,” he notes.

In 1987 Zenk earned a master’s degree in pastoral ministry with a focus on kingdom ministry, because he felt strongly that he would be doing most of his ministry in the work place, rather than in a church setting.

Zenk explains, “The ‘work places’ are the spaces that priests and religious very seldom have the opportunity to minister in and as such these ministry venues are left to the laity. I continue to feel I need to share my faith and am not sure I could have had the education that helps me do that well.”

Early this year Zenk was selected to participate in the Library of Congress’ Veteran’s History Project by U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly from Indiana’s 2nd Congressional District. Zenk is a member of the Air Force Academy selection committee, chaired by Congressman Donnelly and works with the congressmen’s offices on veteran issues.

As a part of the project, Zenk was videotaped with Congressman Donnelly and asked questions about his Air Force career. The video will be placed on a server in the Library of Congress for posterity, as a history lesson for generations to come.

Encyclical calls for solidarity in promoting access to education

BY ANGELA CAYE
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic educators and nonprofit groups said Pope Benedict XVI in his latest encyclical continues to inspire them to build awareness of global poverty and to address issues of access to education in vulnerable communities.

In his encyclical “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”), the pope only mentions education by name in one paragraph, but there are implications for education throughout the document.

“The whole document is related to education just because of the link between charity and truth,” said Jesuit Father Charles Currie, president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

The pope wrote that global solidarity can be seen in the promotion of greater access to education.

“This is evident in the Jesuit Commons, an international collaboration bringing online courses to Burmese refugees in Thailand. It also is evident in Magis Americas raising $50,000 to build a wing for a school in Peru and in Catholic Relief Services partner- ing with H2O for Life to provide access to water and education on good hygiene to communities in developing countries.

“It encourages what we’re already trying to do,” Father Currie said in an interview with Catholic News Service. “The encyclical emphasizes both the incredible complexity of all these issues and the great level of opportunity to make a difference. The first step is going to be to get people to read this — and it’s a difficult read.”

Solidarity is important to success, said Tom Gallagher, former director of strategic initiatives at Magis Americas, who is involved in efforts to assist the Fe y Alegria network of 2,600 schools in 16 Latin American countries. Spanish for “faith and joy”, Fe y Alegria is a Jesuit network founded in 1955. It provides 1 million students with job training, elementary and secondary education and adult religious orders.

“People meeting face to face and in person helps to break down barriers,” Gallagher said. It would cost between $7,000 and $10,000 to ship 200 computers from New York to Latin America, but if international partners put their heads together, they could build warehouses for computer repairs in the impoverished countries, he said.

Fe y Alegria inspired the creation of the Cristo Rey network of Catholic schools in U.S. cities, another example of solidarity in education. The network maintains 24 schools in 21 cities, providing work-study jobs to 6,000 students in poor areas, according to Father Ted Miles, relationship manager for religious education at CRS.

Ted Miles, relationship manager for religious education at CRS, said he hopes to use the encyclical in an upcoming tool kit to encourage young people to become leaders and to connect Catholics with the mission of serving the poor. People need to learn, Miles said, that in addition to providing opportunities to go to school, they need to help feed the impoverished children who normally earn money for their families when they are not in school.

The National Catholic Educational Association produces, in conjunction with CRS, a curriculum guide called “Engaging Faith in the World” for about 1,300 U.S. secondary schools. One of its focuses is deepening an understanding of the faults of capitalism and why systems keep people trapped in poverty, said Karen Ristau, president.

But education about social justice needs to be age-appropriate, and elementary schoolchildren cannot wrap their minds around these concepts just yet, she said.

“High school kids can start to understand economic systems, the economic crisis, that there are kids who don’t go to school like they do,” Ristau said.

The association and CRS, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency, also support taking high school teachers to sub-Saharan countries for experiential visits so they can better understand the issues upon their return.

“Anything that makes a person more human is what we want to be doing as a church,” Ristau said. “It’s going to be reaf- firming and reinforcing some things in the broader church. I’m very hopeful, and I think this encyclical adds to that hopeful- ness.”
As we work and pray to build up what Pope John Paul II referred to as the “culture of life,” it might be worth pondering for a moment why it is that so many people cannot seem to see what we see and in the way we see it. That is, it might be worth asking ourselves, just why is it that people cannot or are unwilling to see abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, torture, war and economic injustice (each of these evils — and a host of other ills — are to varying degrees and in different ways repugnant to a culture of life) precisely as problems, rather than as solutions. There are two simple reasons.

First, contemporary culture exalts doing over being. Persons are not valued because they are persons, made in the image and likeness of God and therefore singularly beautiful and intrinsically to be honored. No, in contemporary culture — and there are both remote and proximate reasons, philosophical, social and historical, for this — persons are valued based upon what they can or cannot do; what they can produce; how effective they are; how well or ill they contribute to society. Once being is subordinated to doing, utility (usefulness) becomes the basic arbiter of value.

A child is reduced to “a choice,” because it is inconvenient, unplanned or simply a bother; innocent civilians are dismissed as sad but necessary “collateral damage” in a bombing or missile strike; the elderly and terminally ill can be euthanized because their life is no longer “productive” or has become a “burden” to others, and we salve our conscience by referring to it as an act of “mercy”; refugees and immigrants — with many of whom, incidentally, by our Catholic baptism we share a closer bond than with our Protestant or secularized neighbors — are considered a “drain on our resources.”

In each of these brief scenarios, judgments are made and rendered not on the basis of the mystery, beauty and inviolable dignity of each human life before God, but rather on the basis of a kind of sliding scale of usefulness, itself a very dubious, shady and self-serving category of value.

Second, much modern moral reasoning, if it can even be characterized as rising to the level of reasoning, has forgotten or willfully ignores a simple, ancient and foundational moral principle: an end, no matter how good, noble or beneficial, can never justify an evil means. Period. End of story. No principle: an end, no matter how good, noble or beneficial, or willfully ignores a simple, ancient and foundational moral principle: an end, no matter how good, noble or beneficial, can never justify an evil means. Period. End of story. No

probably one of the most misunderstood words in the English language is the word “hierarchy.”

What do most people think of when they hear the word “hierarchy?”

Now we call the church a hierarchy, all those associations come along. Church hierarchy is thought to be a power trip by priests for priests or an elite group above everyone else. The hierarchy says “jump” and we’re supposed to ask “how high?”. It’s not that the word has these connotations in English, because they are not the intended connotations in Greek.

The word comes from the Hellenistic Greek word “hieros arche,” and this is two words mashed together. It was created, called a “neologism.” An example might be a space. The first half — “cyber” — concerns computers and what better way to name the Internet?

I’ve always thought that the person who creates the new word should get first crack at defining it. It seems only fair. The inventor of the word he created. “In my opinion a hierarchy is a sacred order, a state of understanding and an activity approximating as closely as possible to the divine.”

“The Emergency Department” in the ER in these situations would have to be utilized by the signifi- cant study groups including schools, parents, pregnant women, and there is even an evaluation link www.flu.gov/evaluation, where users can evaluate their possible symptoms. The CDC can also be reached at (800) CDC-INFO. SJRMC urges the entire community to consult primary health-care providers or the CDC at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu or at (800) H1N1 Flu hotlines immediately deciding to use emergency rooms.

The purpose of a hierarchy is simple, says Dionysius. “The goal of a hierarchy, then, is to enable beings to be as like as possible to God and to be at one with him.” What does a hierarchy do? “Hierarchy causes its members to be images of God in all respects, to be clear and spotless mirrors reflecting... God himself.”

The Year For Priests

The Notre Dame Center for Liturgy provided this second column in a series on the priesthood during the Year for Priests.

SJRMC reminds community to follow CDC guidelines for H1N1 before seeking emergency room care

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRMC) reminds the entire community that those with flu-like symptoms should stay home and avoid contact with others, except to get medical care from their primary healthcare provider.

That is one of the main messages the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is conveying on its Web site, www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu, and SJRMC asks the community to adhere to this, and other CDC guidelines, to alleviate its overcrowded emergency room, due to H1N1 Flu concerns.

The CDC and SJRMC recommend you not go to the emergency room if you are only mildly ill.

The Emergency Department should be utilized by the significantly ill,” said Dr. Steven Gable, SJRMC’s vice president of Medical Quality Improvement. “If people are experiencing flu-like symptoms, but the symptoms are not severe, they should stay home, get plenty of rest, and drink lots of fluids. Coming to the ER in these situations would only spread the disease.”

Those who go to emergency rooms and are not sick with swine flu are at risk of catching it from those who do have it, according to the CDC’s Web site.

The CDC’s Web site provides a wide range of information regarding what to do if you get sick, as well as information for specific groups including schools www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/, parents, pregnant women, and there is even an evaluation link www.flu.gov/evaluation, where users can evaluate their possible symptoms. The CDC can also be reached at (800) CDC-INFO.

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Today’s Catholic editorial board consists of Kay Cozad, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Guttner, Father Michael Heinitz, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.

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

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Signs of movement on immigration

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After two years of essentially no change in the “on hold” status of immigration reform legislation, as well as eight years of increasingly restrictive federal policies toward immigration enforcement, signs of movement on both fronts are now coming fast and furiously.

President Barack Obama has repeatedly said he wants to begin consideration of a comprehensive immigration bill this fall, after healthcare legislation is finished. As Congress neared votes on health care, progress was reported on drafting immigration legislation and supporters of comprehensive reform were rallying their forces and carefully laying the groundwork for the legislative battle to come.

Meanwhile, promised administrative reviews of some of the most harshly criticized aspects of federal immigration policies also were beginning to produce results that generally made advocates for immigrants happy.

The same week, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano outlined an overhaul of the system for immigrant detention. The changes address many of the long-standing complaints about the treatment of detainees, most of whom have applied for asylum, are awaiting resolution of applications to stay in the U.S. or have pending deportation proceedings.

Among the changes she said she anticipates are housing people with no criminal records and no history of violence in more residential-like facilities, such as converted nursing homes or hotels, rather than in prisons and jails, where most are now kept. Others are likely to be released to their homes with ankle bracelets to monitor their whereabouts.

In late September, her agency announced it had moved the last of the families in detention out of the much-criticized T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility in Taylor, Texas. Soon after the privately run medium-security prison was converted for use by families in 2006, Hutto became the subject of a lawsuit over conditions inside.

Though a settlement agreement resulted in improved living conditions, it retained its prison character, with parents and children sharing small cells in a strict institutional atmosphere. Napolitano announced in early August that families would be moved out of Hutto and the entire system of detention for the legislative battle to come.

On being true to God

The first reading for this weekend is from the Book of Isaiah, precisely from its third and last part. Isaiah on several occasions describes, or refers to, a loyal and devoted servant of God who endures outrageous insults and severe misfortunes. Yet this servant never despair, for he ever rebel against these unhappy events as they come to him.

Furthermore, through, and from, these sufferings, good prevails. It prevails in his own faithfulness. And, the glory of God shines through all that happens. While these verses were written many years before Christ, wise Christians always have seen in them a prefiguration of their gentle Savior, the innocent Lamb of God, insignificant and merciful, good and perfect, but the victim of viciousness and of the indifference of so many.

As its second reading for this weekend, the church presents a selection from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Typically throughout Hebrews, the reading is strong in its Old Testament imagery, especially in the symbolism of the ancient rituals of the Jewish temple. In A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed the temple, as a

Reflection

The Lord came into the world as the Redeemer. His mission was to redeem, or rescue, humanity from its own plight, a plight created by willful sin and voluntary rejection of God.

Sin had disordered and weakened human nature. In many cases, sin reigned supreme in the world. To follow Christ with sincerity means the determination to be true to God despite human weaknesses pointing the other way, and it means resisting sin and its effects throughout earthly life.

These readings call us to face all these realities. We live in a material world. As disciples, we look to the spirit. We live in a world in which sin is strong, and sinners are many. It is a world with little love, and with little justice.

So, we must swim upstream. It will be difficult, accomplished only with God’s help. But, if we ask for it, God’s help will come. We can, and will, succeed in our purpose to be with God in the great new kingdom of peace and life.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 53:10-11 Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22Heb 4:14-16 Mk 10:35-45
Monday: Rom 4:20-25 (Ps) Lk 15:75 Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21 Ps 40:2-17 Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18 Ps 124:1-8 Lk 12:35-38
Thursday: Rom 6:19-23 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 12:49-53
Friday: Rom 7:18-25a Ps 119:66,68,76-77,93,94 Lk 12:54-59

ANSWERS:
1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5b, 6a, 7b, 8a, 9b, 10c, 11b, 12c, 13b, 14a, 15b
Is visiting a fertility clinic ethical?

Are infertile Catholics permitted to visit fertility clinics? Obviously Elizabeth and Zachary, in Luke’s Gospel, would not have visited one. Oddly, some political leaders and followers favor the work of fertility clinics, yet adversely condemn the work of stem-cell researchers. Both industries perform embryonic abortion in achieving their goals.

Fortunately, there are stem-cell research labs that profess not to use embryonic techniques. Finally, are Catholics permitted to buy publicly traded stock from open market fertility businesses? JG, Tucson, Ariz.

Good questions. Let’s break them down a bit.

Regarding the permissibility of Catholics with fertility problems visiting fertility clinics, the question leaves out the purpose for their visit. If it is to pursue an ethical treatment, this could be permitted under certain circumstances. If it is to pursue a treatment that is unethical, then it would not.

Examples of unethical treatments would include in vitro fertilization, the donation, purchasing or selling of gametes, or the involvement of a surrogate mother. An example of an ethical treatment would be a giving a woman who does not regularly ovulate various injections in order to achieve the normal ovulation of one egg. Unethical treatments replace or substitute for the marital act, whereas ethical treatments assist the marital act in achieving its end but do not replace it.

A further consideration with respect to visiting a fertility clinic that does seriously unethical practices such as destroying or freezing human embryos, is the element of scandal in visiting such a place—even if for an ethical procedure. For example, would we visit a clinic that regularly kills Down’s syndrome children or freezes them for scientific exploitation? Very likely, the answer would be that we would not want our money going to such an establishment or giving others the impression that we do not consider these evil deeds an outrage. The same holds for fertility clinics involved in similar evils.

With regard to stem-cell research, the most promising research to date does not involve embryonic stem cells. Those research labs that either kill the embryos or pay for the stem cells derived from killed embryos are, indeed, involved in evils as great as those in many fertility clinics.

Finally, with regard to the permissibility of buying the publicly traded stock of fertility businesses, it is very unlikely that it could be justified. Were the business one which mainly offered ethical services, then a stockholder could purchase a sufficient quantity of stock in order to try to have a positive influence on the company and curb its unethical practices.

However, due to the fact that fertility businesses whose stock is publicly traded are mainly involved in unethical services, there would be little to no prospect of changing the company. To purposely buy such stock in order to benefit from the money made by their evil actions is, obviously, unethical.

Fred Everett, co-director of the Office of Family Life, answered this week’s question.

Irving Kristol, Catholic social ethicist?

Severl years ago, after Irving Kristol had had a cancerous lung removed, Father Richard John Neuhaus visited him in the hospital. After they chatted briefly, Father Neuhaus, at the door on his way out, turned back toward the bed and said, “I’ll pray for you, Irving.” To which Irving Kristol replied, “Don’t bring me to his attention!”

It was a typical Irving remark: wry, modest, indomitable. For those with ears to hear, there was also the undertone of an act of faith. For Irving, whose practice of Judaism was not strict, nonetheless, as he might put it, “theothropic” — intuitively persuaded that the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (and, as he supposed, of us would remind him, Jesus) was indeed the Master of the universe to which his ancestors in the shtetlts of eastern Europe had prayed.

Irving Kristol died on Sept. 18; it would be hard to find a man who, in our time, more vividly embodied the claim that devout Jews could join ranks in the defense of freedom.

The obituaries dutifully described Irving Kristol as a founding father of neo-conservatism, which was true enough. But that moniker — coined by an unconstructed leftist, Michael Harrington, by the way — tends to obscure at least as much as it illuminates. In Irving’s case, what it obscured was a combination of qualities rarely found in one man: common sense (which compelled his disentanglement from the Trotskyism of his college days); empirical rigor (which taught him to look, hard, at facts, like the fact that Great Society welfare programs were destroying the families they were supposed to help); good humor (which Irving sometimes found lacking in older styles of American conservatism, and which he supplied in ample measure); courage (to take on the settled liberal consensus among intellectual, journalistic and political tastemakers); and foresight (as in the creation of Encounter and the Public Interest).

Irving Kristol lived the last two decades of his life in Washington, but he was New York Jewish to his chromosomes. So I trust I won’t lose his memory if I suggest that these qualities were, in some sense, Catholic qualities. Despite what you will read in certain Catholic journals and blogs today, Catholic social doctrine is not about the infinite expansion of state power into every sphere of public life: education, social welfare, health care. One of the core principles of Catholic social doctrine is the principle of subsidiarity, according to which decision-making ought to be left to the lowest possible level in a social hierarchy, commensurate with the common good: you don’t ask the local fire department to rout al-Qaeda out of Afghanistan; you don’t ask the federal government to run the local schools or the local doctor’s office (or at least you didn’t, once upon a time).

The Public Interest, which was chiefly responsible for breeding the ideas embodied in the welfare reform of the 1990s, was a journal in defense of subsidiarity and in opposition to what John Paul II called the “Social Assistance State.” That, one suspects, is why Daniel Patrick Moynihan (who was Catholic New York the way Irving was Jewish New York) was one of its first paladins (before Pat veered off onto a Trotskyism of his college days); and that’s why it makes posthumous sense to remember Irving Kristol as a kind of Jewish Catholic social ethicist. I like to think he’d appreciate the title.

George Weigel

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.
ICCL victory for Blazers marks playoff

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The opener for the playoffs pitted the St. Matthew /St. Jude/Our Lady of Hungary Blazers, who owned a 25-0 victory in Week 2, against West Side Catholic Holy Family/St. Adalbert/ Corpus Christi/St. John the Baptist Cougars.

The contest would be anything but a defensive showdown. The Cougars started the contest with a nice drive that was stalled when Dominique Sanders pounced on a fumble at the Blazers’ 34-yard line. The first play scrimmage saw Sanders on his back after an 11-yard sack by the blitzing Cougars. The defensive jubilation would only last a second as Tyran Ottbridge took a handoff in the corner and was gone for a 75-yard touchdown run. His PAT attempt was blocked.

The Cougars would strike back quickly as tailback Garrett Lukens raced 43 yards into the end zone to even the score at six. After both teams struggled on their next two possessions, the first play for the Blazers again saw quarter- back Adam Gonzalez run 37 yards to the Cougars’ two, but after a procedure penalty, the Blazers’ Brody Hawkins recovered a miscue at the 10. The Cougars defense would hold, and after a short punt, Lukens scammed 13 yards into the end zone knotting the score at 12 with still 3:33 left in the first quarter.

Starting at its own 47, the Blazer combination of Sanders to Ottbridge connected on a 35-yard touchdown completion making the score 18-12.

The combination of Sanders and Ottbridge would again prove too much for the Cougars as Ottbridge picked off a Gonzalez offering and with great down-field blocking by Sanders, pranced 90 yards for the score. The PAT was missed making the score, 24-12, with 1:29 left in the half.

Just over a minute was all that was needed for Gonzalez to grab a tipped Tyler Beck pass and race 28 yards for a Cougar score. Ryan Jankowski plowed into the end zone for the PAT making the margin to three.

The Blazers struck right back when after a big return from Sanders, the dynamic duo hooked up on a 29-yarder to Ottbridge. Cougar ball could only mean trouble. Gonzalez again found the end zone and Jankowski added a PAT, making the old-fashioned shootout 44-42 with 5:08 left.

The next Blazer series had Max Ujidak recovering a bobbling snap. The Cougars had the ball with time running down trailing by a mere two points when on fourth and long, Sanders leaped high into the air and snared Gonzalez’ last pass of the season completing the victory struggle for the Blazers.

“Staying together and fighting no matter what was happening on the field was our focus,” exclaimed Sanders immediately after the game. “The big catch late by Tyran was huge.”

Muddy fields mark beginning of CYO football playoff action

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth League (CYO) football playoff action got underway in the crisp October chill at both Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers fields on Sunday, Oct. 11.

Bishop Luers faced off with defending champs, Holy Cross, advanced to the semi-finals by downing Queen of Angels/Most Precious Blood (Q/PB), 24-0, on a mucky Bishop Luers field. Ryan Asher scored a pair of touchdowns while Lane Lewis added another for the Crusaders.

In their first-round game, the St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth/St. Aloysius/St. Therese (JAT) Knights defeated St. John, Fort Wayne. Nick Markotich passed through the guard center hole created by Matt Gigli and Cole Mulhern for an untouched 38-yard touchdown run to start things off. The extra point by Trey Casaburo was good and the Knights led, 8-0. The Knights carried on in the first half with scores from Quinton Gardner’s 5-yard run and Casaburo’s keeper around end to give JAT a 23-12 halftime lead.

The Knights’ defense stepped up in the second half with huge efforts from Morken, Mike Reed and Braeden Thiele. Offensively, Gardner opened with a 60-yard TD run on the Knights’ first play. The unstoppable Morken finished with five touchdowns for the day making the final score, 51-12.

JAT’s offensive line coaches Jerry Niezer and Ryan Palmer once again applauded their young line’s effort which includes: Caleb Moreno, Spencer Waspute, Drew Baehl, Gigli, Mulhern, Nick Miles and Thiele with help from Josh Yarde, Grant Detrick and Harrison Martin.

Scoring for the Eagles came from Gus Schendel Volmerding and Tyrell Johnson. Coach Jim Carroll gave special notice to his dynamic eighth-grade leaders commenting, “This bunch did not win a championship like the classes before them, but they never quit and were all winners in my book.”

Field conditions at Bishop Dwenger were torn up and saturated at St. Charles beat St. Jude, 14-8, in a hard-fought battle. Pat Henline’s Eagles closed out their season with a touchdown from Gus Schendel Volmerding in the final minute of the loss.

Finally, top-seeded St. Vincent continued their win streak downing St. John-New Haven, 32-6. Special teams were the order of the day for the Panthers as Kyle Hartzog ran back the opening kickoff for a touchdown and Michael Fiacable scored on a punt return. Other Panther scoring came from Ryan Watercutter catching a touchdown pass from Fiacable and Jordan Bly rushing for a touchdown. Stephen Colligan continued his outstanding kicking by successfully converting on all four PAT attempts.

Coach Corey Kitchen was especially pleased with the play of his offensive line (Jake Koehl, Gus Pelkington, Austin Hillman, Nick Palermo, Eddie Byrne and Chris Firestine) in the soggy conditions. “They did an outstanding job and seem to be coming together as a unit just at the right time of the season,” concluded Kitchen.

Round two of the playoffs will be played at the University of St. Francis on Sunday, Oct. 18, beginning at 1 p.m.

St. Joseph volleyball team undefeated

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel finished the regular season undefeated in Catholic Youth League (CYO) Blue League volleyball play with a win over St. Mary-St. Joe on Sunday, Oct. 11. Next weekend’s games will all be “no count” towards the final league standings with the tournament scheduled to start the following week.

In his fourth season with the Squires, Coach Doug Schaadt is pleased with his team’s performance headed into the post season. After a fourth-place league finish a year ago and placing runner-ups in the 2008 tournament, the mighty Squires have high hopes for 2009.

“Our girls play very well together,” stated Schaadt.

With just seven players on his roster during the season, Schaadt relies heavily on the leadership of his three eighth graders. He feels the team strengths are passing and serving this season.

USF SENIOR HITTER DOUBLE TROUBLE WITH BACK-TO-BACK VOLLEYBALL HONORS For the second week in a row, University of Saint Francis volleyball middle blocker Shellie Rumschlag has been named Mid-Central College Conference player and hitter of the week. Rumschlag finished the week Sept. 28-Oct. 5 with her 10th double-double kills-digs in USF’s last 11 matches. She also had 16 kills and 18 digs in USF’s lone win in five matches at MCC rival Marian. The 6-foot-2 senior from Bishop Luers High School, had a .388 attack percentage, while averaging 3.89 kills per game. This was the fourth time during Rumschlag’s four-year career that she has been selected MCC Player of the Week.
BISHOP DWENGER SAINTS

Class 4-A
Sectional 11
Recent Seasons 4-1
Coach Chris Svarczkopf
Eighth season
85-17 record overall
2009 season record (8-0)

Southside W 42-19
Concordia W 53-22
Northside W 56-7
Northrop W 56-6
Harding W 40-12
Wayne W 31-21
Elmhurst W 56-0
Snider W 10-0

BISHOP DWENGER KEYS TO VICTORY

• Play the first half with your head
• Play the second half with your heart
• Let everyone hear you play
• Play for all those who ever have and for all those who ever will wear that Gold Helmet

BISHOP LUERS KNIGHTS

Class 2-A
Sectional 27
0-4 against the Saints
Coach Matt Lindsay
23rd season
195-94 record overall
2009 season record (4-4)

Snider L 13-27
Northrop W 47-0
Southside L 25-50
Harding W 14-8
Wayne L 18-36
Concordia L 35-42 0T
Northside W 24-7
Elmhurst W 46-13
‘God Is Back’ says more about us than it does God

REVIEWED BY YORK YOUNG

It's often said Americans love nothing more than a comeback. From sports teams that turn it around after years of losing (example, Tampa Bay Rays) to rehabilitated celebrities returning to stardom (example, Robert Downey Jr.), we embrace those who have returned from the bottom of the pile. Based on this premise, according to the title of a new book, God must be feeling top of the pile. Based on this, who have returned from the bottom of the pile. Based on this premise, according to the title of a new book, God must be feeling top of the pile.

“God Is Back” (Penguin Press, $27.95) is a well-reported and up-to-date (through early 2009) book from two reporters from The Economist magazine — John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge — who traveled the world and detailed what they found to explain how religions across the globe are impacting society. Although global in impact, the United States gets special attention here. From details about how megachurches, evangelical and Catholics have influenced American culture, the authors take us on a worldwide tour that shows how much American religion has been exported to other countries, most notably South Korea, Nigeria and other African and South American countries.

They also provide a look at how recent politicians have used religious language and God talk to promote their agenda in a chapter titled “Bush, Blair, Obama and the God Gap.” Anyone who attempts to keep up with news from around the world will see a lot of truth in what the authors present.

However, while attempting to be dispassionate, there are passages — and, ultimately, the conclusion — in which religion gets looked at askance. Especially by adopting the line (this adjective should give you a clue of where the media is coming from) Protestantism and Jews are liberals. Though some groups — for example, secularists and atheists — may have tried to minimize God’s influence in people’s lives, and no doubt much of the media ignores religion, the devotion and attention to God and religion has never really waned. In fact, a recent study showed that about 10 percent of Americans considered themselves unaffiliated religiously. But when followed up with a year later, most had joined another church. Only 2 percent of Americans say there is no God.

To welcome God back as if his grace have always been present. His grace have always been present, no matter how his creation — that is, us — responds over time, he and his grace have always been present. The title says more about us than it does God.
WHAT’S HAPPENING

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Caring for Our Earth.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $15 and includes lunch. Register by Oct. 23 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Cinderella play performed
Mishawaka — Marian High School will perform “Cinderella,” Nov. 5-7, at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium. Tickets are $5 adults, $3 for those under 18 and seniors.

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Fort Wayne — The University of Notre Dame Glee Club will be in concert at St. Peter Catholic Church, 518 E. DeWald St., on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. Hear classic, contemporary and Notre Dame favorites in historical St. Peter’s. The Bishop Luers Chamber Ensemble will open the concert with several selections. Free admission with a free-will offering. All proceeds benefit the St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen.

Theology on Tap back in Fort Wayne
Fort Wayne — Campus Young Adult Ministry will be hosting Theology on Tap at Henry’s Restaurant, 536 W. Main St., on Oct. 22, at 7 p.m. Father Tim Wrozek will be the speaker. His topic will be “Q&A and the Theology of the Day.” For more information contact Mike at mgibson@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

Monroeville — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Caring for Our Earth.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $15 and includes lunch. Register by Oct. 23 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

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Monroeville — St. Joseph School will hold a dinner, dance and auction on Friday, Nov. 6, from 6-11 p.m. at Quixote Hills Reception Hall in Hoagland. Social hour and silent auction begins at 6 p.m. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by a live auction. Dance from 8:30-11 p.m. All proceeds go to the St. Joseph Home and School Association. Tickets are $12 in advance or $15 at the door. For tickets, call (260) 623-3447.

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Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Joseph Gaughan will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 7:15 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations.

40 Days for Life celebration
future confirmandi allow themselves to be lifted up, “when you go up in a balloon, it broadens your horizon,” Farmer explained.

Bishop D’Arcy arrived for a brief question-answer session. He explained that his calling to the priesthood was established by his family. Bishop D’Arcy encouraged the young people to have a daily dialogue with God. “Look into yourself deeply,” he said, “and find what God wants.”

At Mass, Bishop D’Arcy explained the importance of confirmation and used the Sunday Gospel where Jesus tells the rich young ruler, “go and sell all you have, and give to the poor and come follow me.”

Those preparing for confirmation found the day uplifting. Kaitlyn Andorf, an eighth-grade student at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Fort Wayne, found the prayer time helpful. “When we prayed, it helped me to focus on my faith and what I need to prepare for confirmation.”

Classmate Gracie Vandegriff told Today’s Catholic, “It helped me because everybody’s story is kind of like mine and you have to grow with Christ.”

As for favorable activities of the day, Andorf liked meeting new people and prayer.

Vandegriff said, “My favorite thing is the music because it all was upbeat, but still had to do with Jesus.”

Samantha Kely of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, enjoyed the comedy of APeX Ministries and how they got the students involved in the skits.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrates Mass with the 1,000 junior high students who gathered Saturday for the diocesan Confirmation Rally organized by the diocesan offices of catechesis and youth ministry.

**RALLY**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Women in Asian-Pacific attire watch as Pope Benedict XVI leads the Angelus prayer following a canonization ceremony at the Vatican.

A tapestry showing St. Damien de Veuster hangs from the facade of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 11.

Pope canonizes Father Damien, four others as models of Christian love

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Calling them “shining examples” of Christian love, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed five new saints, including Father Damien de Veuster, the 19th-century Belgian missionary who ministered to people with leprosy in Hawaii before dying of the disease.

At a Mass Oct. 11, overflowing with pilgrims from around the world, the pope also canonized Sister Jeanne Jugan, a French nun whose Little Sisters of the Poor continue to assist the elderly in the United States and more than 30 other countries.

After brief biographies of the five were read aloud, the pope pronounced a solemn decree of can-

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