FORT WAYNE — With the announcement in November of the acceptance of the resignation of Bishop John M. D’Arcy by Pope Benedict XVI, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend bids farewell to the man who faithfully shepherded this flock for over 24 years.

In his remarks at a press conference, when asked what he would be doing in his retirement, the bishop expressed his desire to spend more time with his family. His two remaining sisters, Sister of St. Joseph Sister Anne D’Arcy and Joan Sheridan share their delight.

“It’s bittersweet,” says Sister Anne of her brother’s retirement. “He loves the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He’s given his heart and soul to it. He loves the people and has made many good friends.”

But she and sister Joan are ready for more regular visits from their busy brother, both back east and in Fort Wayne.

“I’m hoping he might take a little longer vacation and we might see him a little more,” says Joan, who adds that they plan to visit the bishop in Indiana more regularly as well. Both express their anticipation of Bishop D’Arcy spending more time with his nieces and nephews.

“I hope when he comes home he will be able to visit my son John in New Jersey. He hasn’t seen his house yet,” says Joan.

Though the family always enjoyed Bishop D’Arcy’s annual holiday call, when he spoke with every member of the family gathering, their hope is that he will be able to join them in person during the holidays in the years to come.

The four D’Arcy children, born of faithful Irish Catholic immigrants, were raised with a strong faith foundation attending daily Mass, praying the rosary nightly and regularly engaging in community service. The sisters both agree that it is by their parents’ example that their love of God was passed on.

“I think what they did was live their faith,” recalls Joan, adding, “Both my parents knew that passing on the faith was most important.”

Most of the D’Arcy clan, including bishop’s now deceased mother and older sister Mary, was able to attend the installation celebration of 52-year-old Bishop D’Arcy in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in May of 1986. It was difficult for the family to see him leave their home diocese, but they knew there was no question of his obedience to the church. And though it was an adjustment to move from the urban Boston area to the relative countryside of northeast Indiana, Sister Anne says, “He’s fallen in love with living in Indiana.”

As she had for her brother those 24 years ago, Joan has great admiration for the new Bishop Kevin Rhoades, who will be installed in the diocese on Jan. 13. “I was so impressed how Bishop Rhoades was the bishop of his home diocese and ... like the apostles, when he was sent to Indiana he did God’s will and went.”

With the death of their oldest sister Mary in 2007, the siblings reflect on life.

“When Mary died two years ago, it brought us closer. We realize life is short,” says Sister Anne. Mary, says her sister Joan, would be “thrilled with the appointment of the new bishop.” She says of her sister, “Mary was always so involved. She would probably be going out there now to visit.”

While bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, his sisters felt Bishop D’Arcy shepherded with honor and grace.

“John loves the church, loves Christ. He prays. He’s given his whole heart and soul ... his whole life to Christ and the church,” says Sister Anne. She adds with commitment, “But he’s not afraid to do tough things. He has acted with integrity.”

His sisters’ hopes for him in retirement:

“I can’t imagine him being retired,” quips Sister Anne. But as she realizes this is a “new time in his life,” she says, “I hope he’ll be able to enjoy the ministry of it without the administration tasks. He loves people. He loves priests and giving priests’ retreats. And he loves confession. At heart he is a parish priest.”

She adds that her brother has always enjoyed “giving the sacraments and reaching out to the hungry and poor.”

Joan agrees adding, “I think my brother will be very busy in retirement. I know he will pray a lot. I think he will do a great job giving retreats to priests. ... I expect him to be busy with friends ... but I think he will be happiest helping out in a parish in Indiana and helping with confirmations.”

Both sisters hope that Bishop D’Arcy will be able to make a visit to Ireland soon, a dream he has not had the time to fulfill until now.
Diocesan departments assist in bishop’s ministry

one man cannot do it alone. That is why Bishop John M. D’Arcy relies on diocesan departments, those who work with Bishop D’Arcy day to day, to assist him with the ministries of the Office of Bishop and serve parishes.

Today’s Catholic invited department heads to offer some words about Bishop D’Arcy, who will soon retire as the eighth bishop of the diocese.

Msgr. Robert Schulte, diocesan vicar general and chancellor

In my experience serving as vicar general and chancellor of the diocese as well as pastor under Bishop D’Arcy, I found that he is easy to work with, consults widely, prays and considers major decisions carefully.

His prudence has been a gift for our diocese. I have enjoyed his insights and his spiritual perspective, which often appears along with his sense of humor.

He has a great knack of lightening a ponderous discussion with a little humor from time to time. This greatly helps us all to keep the right attitude. I have appreciated his visionary leadership.

Mary Glowaski, director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry and victim assistance coordinator of the Safe Environment Program

As victim’s assistant for the diocese, I have witnessed first hand the pain of the scandal that rocked our church. This pain has been borne most profoundly by the victims of abuse, their families and friends, but also by our faithful priests, by our parish communities and, in a profound and personal way, by our faithful bishops. This has certainly been the case for Bishop D’Arcy.

I have witnessed the pain he feels over the violation so many have experienced and the aftermath of the pain. I have also been privileged to witness his care for those who have been so deeply wounded by the betrayal of abuse.

As he listens to their story, his eyes never stray from theirs and his humble resolve to receive their anguish never falters. I will forever remember and be moved by the love he expresses as he, with humility and sincerity, offers a simple “I’m sorry.”

Since the announcement of his retirement, I have received calls and e-mails from some of our victims asking that I express their gratitude and love to him. Anguish has been held, hearts have been moved and deep unyielding wounds have been healed by the power of the Holy Spirit though Bishop D’Arcy.

Cathie Cicchiello, coordinator of the Safe Environment Program

As safe environment coordinator for the diocese, I am in my second stint as a diocesan employee.

My first came in 1986, fresh out of college and filled with enthusiasm. Back then, I began the youth program in the Office of Spiritual Development. Some of the days were challenging as they often are when you are trying to launch a new initiative.

I recall one thing that would always boost my spirits and fill me with energy. That was to listen to Bishop D’Arcy preach or speak about the spiritual life. His words would resonate deep within me, I will be forever grateful.

Jim Tighe, director of the Office of Catechesis

Not long after I began working in the Office of Catechesis, I heard Bishop D’Arcy tell a group of new catechists, “If you’re going to teach, get it right!” That sums up his position for teaching the doctrine of the church... get it right!

With that in mind, Bishop D’Arcy leaves us having built a strong foundation, so that catechists can get it right. The Notre Dame-Our Sunday Visitor masters program, Education for Ministry, Catechetical Institute Day and now a thorough curriculum based on the National Directory for Catechesis are just a few of the building blocks Bishop D’Arcy leaves us with...

Vince LaBarbera, director of the Catholic Communications Office

Aside from meeting Bishop D’Arcy briefly after he confirmed two of our four children, I first met him on a personal basis in July 1996 when I interviewed for a position with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as associate director of the Catholic Communications Office.

Bishop D’Arcy’s immediate warm and friendly manner buoyed my confidence that I was going to be successful in securing employment with the diocese. I soon realized, however, she was a man who is very serious about spiritual matters as well as the financial justification of adding another full-time salary to the payroll. And despite several letters of praise on my behalf, Bishop D’Arcy was and continues to be no pushover. I was going to have to convince him I was a worthy candidate, sincere in the practice of the Catholic faith, and proficient at being able to address the communications and marketing needs of the diocese.

More than 13 years have passed since that formal meeting. I am proud to say Bishop D’Arcy evidently has continued to have confidence in me and, in fact, entrusted the position of communications director to me nearly six years ago. And I have
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Bishop's willing, patient participation in the writing and production of the ABA video has contributed greatly to the success of the yearly campaign. His inspiration and diligence to produce a quality finished product worthy of the message of the Gospel has been responsible for the success of each individual campaign. Whether the video is shown to the clergy at an advance gift or parish leadership dinner or to parishioners in the parishes, the overall response year after year, is: "It's better than last year's video?" This is due in part to Bishop D’Arcy’s ability to adapt his message to the medium, both in English and Spanish of late. The media — Meeting an anxious news reporter on deadline while he or she thrusts a microphone and/or a camera in your face is not an easy task even for the best professional. But throughout nearly 25 years as the spiritual head of our diocese, Bishop D’Arcy has handled the media’s many probing questions and inquiries with both aplomb and diplomacy.

Whether the interview involves good news or a difficulty, into a telephone, microphone or camera, live or recorded, Bishop D’Arcy treats the inquirer with courtesy, respect and sincerity. His ability to confront the situation with the truth and the message of Christ has gained the respect of both local and national media personnel, who often turn to him for his counsel on matters of faith and morals.

It is evident in everything he does and with every word he speaks that Bishop D’Arcy holds true to a responsibility as priest and bishop before God and humanity to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church. And, he uses every opportunity to evangelize — even technologies such as e-mail and the Internet he is not skilled at using, yet — making sure his message nevertheless is communicated by all means possible.

We truly have been blessed for the past quarter of a century to have had a man of Bishop D’Arcy’s spiritual caliber as the shepherd of our diocese. We wish him all the best for years to come.

Dr. Mark D. Myers, superintendent Catholic Schools

Though my time has been rather short with Bishop D’Arcy, he has made an impression on me that will last a lifetime. Bishop D’Arcy’s depth on school matters astounds me; in 35 years in education, I have not ever met anyone who has his capacity to scan for information about a particular issue and then process data like bishop.

And those eyes: they confirm, they inspire, they convey God’s grace; then one must give a response. That response is a response to the question: “What is God asking to do through me?”

Bishop D’Arcy accepted, and lived, his role as bishop seriously and he knew that that role had everything to do with his cooperation with God’s plan for him (his flock). He applied himself as bishop ordinarily, day-to-day, down-to-earth, always himself. His commitment was to follow and trust Christ and to teach and encourage others to do the same.

The Development Office coordinates the Annual Bishop’s Appeal and provides counsel to parishes and schools regarding development and fundraising issues.

One very important area of our work is stewardship. Christian stewardship is hinged on prayer and the acceptance of God’s grace; then one must give a response. That response is a response to the question: “What is God asking to do through me?”

Harry Verhiley, director of the Development Office

The Development Office coordinates the Annual Bishop’s Appeal and provides counsel to parishes and schools regarding development and fundraising issues.
As I have reviewed various high points of Bishop D’Arcy over the past 25 years, it is evident that he has made a series of commitments to God’s will. God was the point of his decision making. One significant statement that will remain with me in my development work, in short, states: Finishing the job is no longer sufficient for the membership of the boards of great universities, if indeed it ever was ... they are asked to make serious decisions before God.

I take from that statement that the criteria of the development work that we are engaged in must always be God, before money. Bishop D’Arcy has applied that philosophy to every development effort of the diocese. I am most grateful for his teaching of that priority to me.

Bishop D’Arcy, I am forever grateful for your love and commitment to our Lord and his church.

Fred Everett, JD, director of the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and diocesan coordinator of the Indiana Catholic Conference

It was May of 1985 and we were at the Notre Dame baccalaureate Mass sitting among our fellow graduates and our family as the new bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend was introduced and said a few words in a thick Boston accent. Little did Lisa and I know then that after we got married a year later, we would both have the privilege of working for this shepherd sent to us by Christ for over 20 years.

Looking back over those years, we have much for which to be grateful. Our working relationship was one of an active and respectful collaboration. The bishop was always very affirming of our work. Since we have directed the diocesan Office of Family Life as a husband-wife team since 1988 when we gave birth to our first child, we have always been very appreciative of the fact that Bishop D’Arcy realized and respected that the good of our own family came first.

He afforded Lisa and me the flexibility of working from home as our first seven children came along over the years and he endeavored our need to harmonize our work for the diocese with our primary vocation as parents.

In fact, we can remember one occasion in our first year working for Bishop D’Arcy. Lisa mentioned to him in which the bishop had called impromptu press conferences in South Bend and Fort Wayne in order to give our reactions to the Supreme Court’s Webster decision, which had allowed for greater state regulation of abortion. The three of us were to appear together for these press conferences. We had, however, a toddler in tow and we can still remember the bishop working the phone to help us out to see if someone could babysit him for a few hours. For the bishop, this was simply a natural expression of his human concern and understanding.

Over the years, the quality that we have found most admirable about Bishop D’Arcy is his unshakable commitment to Christ — his earnest desire to do the will of God, whatever the context, whatever the cost. In our experience, it did matter so much whether a decision he made would be controversial or not. Many situations. While in some diocesan departments heads like us are bureaucratically removed from direct and collaborative interaction with their bishop, Bishop D’Arcy has always made himself accessible and available to us, as he has to our diocesan colleagues. We knew that if we needed to speak with him on a particular matter that he was never more than a phone call away.

Finally, having met a number of prelates in our years working for the church, we appreciate all the more that Bishop D’Arcy is above all a genuinely humble man. He’s typically anxious to deflect attention from himself and quick to give credit to others for the good things going on in the diocese. He often credits the Holy Spirit, Our Lady, the priests, religious and the active lay people of the diocese for the good that has been accomplished.

Janice Cantrell, archivist for Diocesan Archives

The Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church states in a circular letter on the pastoral function of church archives that “archives are places of church memory, which must be preserved, transmitted, renewed, appreciated because they represent the most direct connection with the heritage of the church community.”

During my time working here as the archivist for the diocese, I feel that Bishop D’Arcy recognizes this important aspect of our church history. This is most evident in the fact that Bishop D’Arcy established the archive department and hired the first full-time archivist for the Diocese in 2002.

His commitment to the history of our diocese is also evident in his commission of the diocesan history written by Dr. Joseph White for the 150th anniversary of the diocese. His continued commitment to our history is apparent to me by his genuine interest and encouragement in my work, helping people and parishes to connect with their past. It has been a true pleasure to work for a bishop who recognizes that our past plays an important role in our future.

Nancy Cavadini, South Bend coordinator of the Diocesan Ecumenical Office

It has been my joy to serve the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as the ecumenical officer for the South Bend area. Bishop D’Arcy is fondly described by those who work for him as a bishop to whom it is difficult to say “No” when he asks you for something. That is also described this way with affection is an indication of the awareness of so many in this diocese that Bishop D’Arcy has always seen the work fully fulfilling his office as shepherd of Christ’s flock here in northern Indiana. His service has been characterized by a solicitous manner which has marked him above all, as eminently a pastoral bishop.

It was this solicitude which I remember most vividly from the day several years ago when he asked me to serve as ecumenical officer for South Bend. The work had not been done for several years, the contacts had all gone cold, and the work, to be done on something from one person could manage.

But how could I say “No,” and to Bishop? He gave me his reasons why I should be the one to do this work, but finally added, “If you should ever find that this work does not give you joy, you should no longer do it.”

Bishop’s final admonition that joy itself would indicate to me whether to continue this work for the diocese has remained with me, remarkably, and has continued to teach me how to think about ecumenical work.

I remember asking Bishop at one point if he didn’t have something I could do that didn’t have to deal with sinfulness and failure, which is the background against which all ecumenical work labors. But joy in our work is related to the rest and joy which we will hopefully know in the fullness of the kingdom of God — something for which we labor now, and in which we mysteriously participate in hope.

I am certain bishop has himself found joy in his years as our bishop. He has alluded to this in his homilies. May grace and strength be given him as he begins his life as our bishop emeritus. I am certain we will witness there as well the joy which is the result of a life of faith lived in the hope of the coming of the kingdom of God.

“Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.” — Ps 105:3.

Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, judicial vicar for the Marriage Tribunal

The Marriage Tribunal exercises a demanding and sensitive ministry within the diocese. While charged with upholding the indissolubility of marriage, the tribunal attempts to help persons touched by the tragedy of divorce obtain a declaration of nullity, which permits them to be married within the church and/or rectified to her. Bishop D’Arcy has always insisted that while the tribunal must give people every break entitled them in the law and teaching of the church, it is a false compassion that refuses to tell people when they have failed to prove a prior marriage invalid.
call to faith, discipleship and evangelization. Some examples include: Disciples in Mission, Wells of Hope and the annual Lenten faith-sharing series. And who can forget the yellow umbrellas, clearly visible signs of the sacrament of reconciliation at both jubilee celebrations at the University of Notre Dame?

On bishop’s night of the missions and many other occasions with the people of our diocese, Bishop D’Arcy has been very approachable and keenly interested in each person as an individual. He is always concerned for those who have wandered away or are struggling with their faith. He has a special place in his heart for children and believes in the importance of growth closer to God through prayer, reconciliation and the enrichmentes, retreats and other efforts. OSD has been able to nourish and empower the lay people and to help them carry out their baptismal vocation.

Cindy Black, director of Youth Ministry and Spiritual Formation

Like Jesus, Bishop D’Arcy has a heart for youth. He shows this by always making diocesan youth events a priority in his full schedule. A favorite session at FaithFest, our high school youth rally, and the confirmation rally is “Ask the Bishop.” He proclaims the truth of our faith in love, sets high standards, challenges them and exudes love of Christ in his responses.

Young people appreciate how approachable and genuine he is with them. I won’t mention here how many times the popularity of this session and bishop’s thorough answers have changed the schedule for the day — we’ve learned to be flexible.

Bishop D’Arcy is willing to do whatever it takes to lead young people to Christ ... I’m fairly certain he is the only bishop featured in a video using a light saber! How cute it was when bishop turned to me and asked, “Cindy, will the teens know what a light saber is?” He may not always be up with pop culture, but that’s okay, because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And as our shepherd, he leads us to Christ.

On a personal note, when I would meet with bishop about youth ministry, our conversations were always open and frank. Although we had much to discuss, he also asked about me, my prayer life and our family. He cares deeply for each and every soul entrusted to him. Bishop, you often borrow the words of John Paul II and tell us that it is not the bishop who draws young people to events, but rather the young people draw the bishop to such gatherings — I would say that it is love that draws us all together — we can pray that you love us and we pray that you know how much we all love you.

Jennifer Kohrman, interim director of the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization

The Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization (OSD) was instituted by Bishop D’Arcy shortly after he came to our diocese. He firmly believed that a strong faith life was the bedrock for ongoing faith development and the spiritual growth of our diocese. His vision for the OSD was to always serve the parishes, encouraging them to grow closer to God through prayer, reconciliation and the Eucharist.

By facilitating missions, retreats, enrichmentes, retreats and other evangelization efforts, OSD has been able to nourish and empower the lay people and to help them carry out their baptismal vocation.

Pastor Tim Johnson, editor of Today’s Catholic

As publisher of Today’s Catholic, Bishop D’Arcy has made communications with the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend a priority. As editor for the last six years, I appreciate his approachability and his encouragement.

Whenever technology aided evangelization — such as the Web site, digitalization of the newspaper, podcasting — he would support our team, even if he didn’t understand how the technology worked.

Whether it is covering a story with the bishop in LaGrange or in Rome, Italy, I have come to see how people — young and old — are attracted to his words and message. I see how he reaches out the immigrant, to the fast-growing Hispanic population and how they love him. He is an advocate for the truth — always — even when the truth is countercultural and not popular with society’s values.

I remember riding the bus with Bishop D’Arcy at World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002. Some German girls on the bus were talking with our diocesan group, including Bishop D’Arcy, who introduced himself as “John.” We slipped in that he was our bishop. They had a look of surprise that they were talking to an American bishop.

I have fond memories of the days that our diocesan priests and staff spent at the Vatican for the canonization of St. Mother Theodore Guérin. Once the Vatican authorities discovered Bishop D’Arcy was in town, they wanted to meet with him. We may think that the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is off the radar of the Vatican officials, but that isn’t so.

And Bishop D’Arcy’s Italian is impressive too. He was really good at helping us order Italian food.
Kathy Denice, business manager for Today's Catholic newspaper

I have known Bishop D'Arcy for over 20 years. We first met in the Fort Wayne Airport on a flight to Los Angeles.

After inviting him to pass the long layover time in Chicago with me, bishop asked me to have our seats changed to be together so we could continue our conversation. From that point on we were friends and kept in touch by way of diocesan travel directed to my travel agency.

Following the retirement of the former business manager of Today's Catholic seven years ago, I stepped into the diocesan position with bishop’s blessing and I have to say it’s been a joy to work for bishop. His love and dedication to his vocation has inspired us all to be better Catholics. In his retirement, I wish for him good health and a springtime, as described by the late Pope John Paul II.

Most importantly, Bishop D’Arcy’s selfless and tireless dedication to this diocese has been an inspiration to so many of all ages and backgrounds. I have learned many reasons why he is one of the most highly respected bishops in this country and have personally come to see that he is a very holy man. We are all truly blessed to have had such a shepherd, and those of us in the Office of Worship have considered it a great joy and honor to assist him in his liturgical mission. We thank him for this opportunity and wish him all the best in the years to come.

Brian MacMichael, director of the Office of Worship

I am very grateful to Bishop D’Arcy for giving me the opportunity to serve the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in the area of sacred liturgy. In the diocesan Office of Worship, my staff and I have been impressed by Bishop D’Arcy’s love for the holy Mass and the care with which he fulfills his role as chief liturgist of the diocese.

Bishop D’Arcy offers a fine example of attentiveness to the documents and teachings of the church as well as to the words of our Holy Father. He has also been a tremendous model and mentor for me when it comes to providing assistance to our priests and in providing for the needs of the faithful in our parishes — all through pastoral and catechetical manner. Above all, he always has in mind the good of souls and the importance of giving proper glory to God, which, of course, are the goals of the liturgical life.

Even outside liturgical matters, I have gained a great respect for Bishop D’Arcy’s work with diocesan youth and toward the promotion of vocations. He recognizes that they are the future of the church, and he is a great proponent of the new evangelization and the “new springtime,” as described by the late Pope John Paul II.

Most importantly, Bishop D’Arcy’s selfless and tireless dedication to this diocese has been an inspiration to so many of all ages and backgrounds. I have learned many reasons why he is one of the most highly respected bishops in this country and have personally come to see that he is a very holy man. We are all truly blessed to have had such a shepherd, and those of us in the Office of Worship have considered it a great joy and honor to assist him in his liturgical mission. We thank him for this opportunity and wish him all the best in the years to come.

One of the my most endearing memories goes back to 2005, at the blessing of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. Bishop D’Arcy came into our new Today’s Catholic office, and the next thing I see and hear is Bishop D’Arcy and my daugh
ter, Heather, who was 3 years old at the time, singing “Jingle Bells” outside my office door. I wish I had that moment on video.

Linda Furge, jubilee coordinator

While the world watched, waited and worried about Y2K and the threat of widespread failures because of the two-digit rollover, the universal church and our diocese looked to celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of Christ’s birth and the entrance of a new millennium in an entirely different way: Jubilee 2000. It was a four-year process (1997-2000) with three years of prepara

tion devoted to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and then the Jubilee Year itself.

Both parishes and diocese celebrated their past and looked at how they could implement Pope John Paul II’s call to welcome the new millennium by “Opening Wide the Doors to Christ.” The outline of diocesan Jubilee 2000 “happenings” was impressive: two pages, single-spaced, full of special events, sacramental occasions and pastoral initiatives. From everything that was accomplished during Jubilee 2000, two highlights stand out.

Pope John Paul II asked that local churches make their jubilee celebration visible and joyful. A generous grant from Our Sunday Visitor Foundation made possible a Eucharistic Congress, the highlight of our jubilee celebration: a day-long, diocesan-wide pilgrimage and celebration at the University of Notre Dame on Aug. 26, 2000. The diocese, parishes and university worked together to plan a day that literally, had something for every
diocese events and sacramental celebrations during the jubilee year. Again, the highlight of the year was another hugely successful Eucharistic Congress at Notre Dame.

Working with Bishop D’Arcy during Jubilee 2000 and the Sesquicentennial Jubilee was an absolute delight, especially as everyone involved witnessed his great love and dedication to this diocese. The frequently heard phrase, “We’ll find the resources somewhere,” exemplified his unwavering faith in God and the looks.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is forever grateful for Bishop D’Arcy’s devoted care, his faith-filled leadership and his inspiring hope for the future!

Enid Roman DeJesus and Lourdes E. Silva, director and codirector of the Office of Hispanic Ministry

We want to thank you, “Gracias,” for all the years of support, prayer, sacrifice and pastoral guidance you have so selflessly given to our Hispanic and Latino Catholic community.

When Bishop D’Arcy arrived to Fort Wayne and South Bend, Indiana, there were few parishes with service to our Hispanic population. Today, the number has grown to 14 parishes, all of this under the guidance of Bishop D’Arcy and the persons he assigned to carry out the Hispanic ministry with the collaboration of dedicated laity. He believes in serving all children of God equally, because in the house of our Lord there is true equality.
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Many times Bishop D’Arcy pressed forth efforts for the immigrants in the midst of great challenges; he even marched down the streets of Fort Wayne and South Bend in silence, yet powerfully demonstrating that a bishop is here to serve the people, the princes and princesses of our heavenly Father. What a great and unique example of a Father’s love and dedication. Bishop D’Arcy has been for us.

Bishop D’Arcy has gone to the extent of sharing intimate family stories of how he saw his mother raise him, under circumstances very similar to the experiences of the Hispanics in our diocese today. With this he related to the people’s personal struggles, hardships and sufferings, in other words let them know he was also among them in their trials.

He has participated every year offering Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe and played the part of Bishop Zumárraga who was the bishop who tested Juan Diego and later was convinced by the sign Our Lady sent. In this drama with great elation Bishop D’Arcy would stand up from his chair and proclaim, “Milagro,” meaning “miracle.” The Hispanic population would feel great connection with our bishop. How many other bishops have we seen go to these extents to make a people feel welcomed, valued and loved? Meanwhile, he has set an example for all of us in the clear way he expressed to everyone our journey always practicing the ineffable love you have modeled for us in order to reach the reign of God.

With the guidance of Bishop John D'Arcy, vocations in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have provided men of quality for the priesthood.

Msr. Bernard J. Galic, director of the Vocation Office

Bishop D’Arcy’s support of and involvement in the work of the Vocation Office, from the composition of vocation-promotion material, to the screening of candidates, and the ongoing support of the seminarians through their years of study has been legendary.

He has always made it a point to know each of the men personally and to remain in touch with them.

Wherever our seminarians are studying, we continually hear from the seminary administration that Bishop D’Arcy “knows how to pick them.”

Thanks to the bishop’s careful selection, our seminarians have consistently proven to be an asset to the seminaries in which they are studying and a credit to our diocese. Furthermore, the hospitality that the bishop has extended to the seminarians and their families and friends, including visiting seminarians and priests, on the occasions of ordinations has earned him the reputation of being a most gracious host.

The priority that the bishop has always given to the work of attracting and nurturing priestly vocations is one of the hallmarks of his years of service in our diocese and a blessing to the diocese for many years to come.

My associate Mary Szymczak and I, along with the seminarians and the recently ordained priests, remain personally very grateful for the support the Vocation Office has received from Bishop D’Arcy throughout his years as our shepherd.

Mary Szymczak, director of the Permanent Diaconate

Four years ago Bishop D’Arcy asked me to direct/coordinate the new permanent diaconate program for the diocese. After 22 years of no program he had decided it was time to start again. After much praying and talking with my husband, I accepted the challenge. I don’t know what prompted Bishop D’Arcy to ask me to do this program, but I want to thank him for his confidence and faith in me to do the job.

I have been given the opportunity to work with 11 men who are studying for the diaconate. These men and their wives have worked hard to prove they are worthy servants of the church. I have also had the opportunity to meet our older deacons and witness their faith. They have all touched my life in a way that is hard to explain.

I want to thank Bishop D’Arcy for his constant support and the opportunity to work with the permanent deacons of our diocese.

Debbie Schmidt, director of Catholic Charities

The staff, board and clients of Catholic Charities are greatly in debt to Bishop D’Arcy for everything he has provided to our agency and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and through that, the gift given to the whole church.

We have enjoyed him and been most blessed to have his guidance. We wish him every goodness and every blessing in the years ahead.

Elisa Smith, director of Planned Giving

I met Bishop D’Arcy in 2002 while I was working on the financial audit for the diocese. When I told him that my background was in estate planning, he asked if we could meet and talk. A year later he created the Office of Planned Giving and asked me to coordinate and manage this ministry. Throughout the past seven years, he has always been very supportive and involved in the efforts of planned giving and endowments. I have felt truly blessed and grateful to have had the opportunity to work with bishop in serving the church.

One of my favorite quotes, by David Trueblood, goes like this, “It takes a noble man to plant a seed for a tree that will someday give shade to people he may never meet.” Bishop D’Arcy, you have truly planted the seed for the ministry of planned giving in our diocese. Through your guidance and support, many people throughout the diocese have learned about stewardship and how to properly plan their estates and their charitable gifts. Through your devotion to helping those in need, future generations will benefit from the endowment funds held in the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana.

I wish you continued blessings as your enter this new chapter of your life.
WCC Fort Wayne to open new center honoring Bishop D’Arcy

BY DIANE FREEBY

FORT WAYNE — When providence knocks, it’s always best to answer. That’s just what the Women’s Care Center does as opportunities to help more women continue to present themselves.

A third care center opened its doors Dec. 14 in Fort Wayne, at 921 W. Coliseum Blvd., just weeks after a serious need was identified.

A volunteer leafing through the phone book noticed a chemical abortion provider was open for business nearby. She alerted Anne Koehl, Women’s Care Center director in Allen County and a registered nurse. Koehl recalls the day she and Women’s Care Center President Ann Manion and Foundation Director Bobby Williams were in Fort Wayne for a meeting. Manion suggested they drive around town to see if any office space might be available for another care center. When the trio located the chemical abortion clinic, they also saw a building for sale, just across the street. Koehl realized she passed it every day on her way to work and church.

“I had stopped by this building four or five times before,” remembers Koehl, “and I had never seen it for sale or lease, until we stopped by that day with Ann and Bobby.” They discussed it at the board meeting that evening, and everyone agreed the timing was perfect.

“A local family, who wishes to remain anonymous, stepped up to buy the building,” says Manion. “They generously donated it to Women’s Care Center, and renovated it with support from Bishop (John M.) D’Arcy and Our Sunday Visitor.”

Six weeks later, Women’s Care Center opened for business on one of the busiest roads in Fort Wayne.

“Being on Coliseum opens up opportunities to serve all kinds of women,” says Manion elaborating on the importance of helping women before they are in a crisis. “We serve one out of every three Fort Wayne area Women’s Care Center locations, including the Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne plans to open a third Crib Club, helping people earn coupons to put toward items like cribs, clothing and other necessities. Koehl says this is crucial as the economy forces more people to seek help.

“People who probably would never have had to come here for diapers, for instance, are coming to parenting classes so they can get three dozen diapers for the week,” reveals Koehl. “I think our couples numbers are up quite a bit, and I think that’s always positive when dad gets more involved.”

The family who donated the building is making one request, along with Our Sunday Visitor. Manion says the Women’s Care Center is more than happy to oblige.

A third Women’s Care Center opened its doors Dec. 14 in Fort Wayne, at 921 W. Coliseum Blvd., just weeks after a serious need was identified.

Koehl says 14 people staff the new care center will

see those numbers go up, and believes they will if early results are any indication.

“We started putting our sign up Dec. 11,” explains Koehl, referring to the 30-foot sign that now stands outside the center, “and we finished putting it up on Monday, the 14th. We had five walk-ins that first day!”

The new care center will serve as the area’s “super-center,” with staff on hand to provide pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting classes in both English and Spanish, delivery preparation classes and a sexual integrity program. Designed to teach women how to make better choices before they get into crisis situations, the program is similar to the existing chastity programs at Women’s Care Center with a more personal approach to relationships.

“I think if we meet a girl and she has a negative (pregnancy) test,” says Koehl, “we can begin immediately to talk with her about why she is so relieved to have that negative test and what happens next. I think this will help us really meet women wherever they’re at. I think the fact that it will be more private will help them be more open.”

Koehl says 14 people staff the three Fort Wayne area Women’s Care Center locations, including one nurse for each site who is available to provide ultrasounds every day. In addition, 27 volunteers serve as receptionists and volunteer counselors. The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne will be dedicated to Bishop D’Arcy. He has been so wonderful and helpful to us over the years. We couldn’t have done it without him!”

This photo shows the interior of the new Women’s Care Center, which will be named in honor of Bishop John M. D’Arcy.
Historian, writer of ‘Worthy of the Gospel of Christ’ offers reflection on Bishop John M. D’Arcy

BY JOSEPH M. WHITE

For a diocese the change of bishops marks a milestone in its history. The occasion prompts thoughts about the retiring bishop’s contributions especially those that may be long remembered and/or have a lasting impact.

As diocesan ordinary 24 years, seven months and 12 days before his successor’s installation on Jan. 13, 2010, Bishop John M. D’Arcy will complete the second longest service among the diocese’s first eight bishops. Only the legendary Archbishop John F. Noll served longer — 31 years and one month — 1925-1956.

During his tenure, Bishop D’Arcy addressed a host of pastoral and administrative issues and some public controversies during a time of rapid transition in the church and the world. The 150th anniversary history of the diocese, “Worthy of the Gospel of Christ,” gives this writer’s preliminary narrative of the D’Arcy years along with the bishop’s own chapter of reflections on his service as of 2007. Those chapters provide the specifics. What follows is a personal reflection on several outstanding characteristics of his ministry.

On a bright May 1, 1985, when Bishop D’Arcy was installed as diocesan ordinary at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, he quoted Pope Paul VI on the bishop’s role as “not one who holds sway but one who wants to be of service. The episcopacy is not the name of an honor but of a work.” The bishop would quote these words many times over the years.

Indeed, unceasing work has marked Bishop D’Arcy’s service. As ordinary of a diocese with two see cities — Fort Wayne and South Bend — he has been devoted to its liturgical ministry at not one but two cathedrals. Likewise, the diocese has chancery offices and bishop’s residences in both cities. In contrast, most U.S. bishops have quite enough to do — liturgical, pastoral and administrative — with one cathedral, chancery and residence in their diocese’s largest city. In light of “double” duties, it is not surprising that Bishop D’Arcy has declined to accept appointment to standing committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Attending more meetings outside the diocese would have diminished his commitment to its service.

Based in two cities, the bishop has made himself available to his flock for events of all kinds. Naturally outgoing, he is comfortable mingling freely with people. Catholics of his diocese are so accustomed to his accessibility that they may think it normal for a bishop.

Actually, too many U.S. bishops, past and even present, have been remote, formal and lacking the “people” skills and self-confidence to be as accessible as Bishop D’Arcy.

At the time of his appointment, Bishop D’Arcy’s sister, as reported in the diocesan newspaper, described her only brother as an excellent listener, and he “remembers what he hears.” From working with the bishop, I can personally attest that he listens, understands and remembers.

Listening, gathering information, soliciting expert views, asking questions, holding meetings and considering options all go into his decision making. Finally, he explains steps in decision making in his weekly column. All this comes naturally to him. But he also fulfills the requirements of canon law that the laity have a right to such information. Not many U.S. bishops, past or even present, have revealed such openess.

In the past half century, the Catholic Church and the diocese have undergone substantial changes. Appointed in 1985, 20 years after Vatican II’s conclusion, the bishop came to the diocese as the church entered a second generation of renewal based on the great council. In renewing church life in the diocese, the bishop has strengthened Catholic identity. This has been evident in the initiatives in worship, spirituality, religious education, schools, youth and campus ministry, family life and the Catholic social mission.

Every diocese has characteristics that set it apart from others. As one of its outstanding features, the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese is home to the University of Notre Dame, one of the best known institutions in the Catholic world. Bishop D’Arcy’s comfort in dialogue has resulted in positive relations with the university through the years, though he has found himself in disagreement with the university in a number of highly publicized cases. Divisive issues have not prevented him from a close relationship with the university at several levels. Accordingly, he did not repeat the history of one of his predecessors whose relationship with Notre Dame broke down. In particular, the bishop’s relationship with Notre Dame has been a fruitful one marked by its participation in several aspects of diocesan life.

The clergy sexual abuse crisis burst into the national spotlight at the beginning of 2002. Under Cardinal Bernard Law, it was revealed, the Boston archdiocese had covered up some 70 priests’ sexual abuse of boys through a pattern of reassigning those priests to parishes without revealing their past and quietly paying victims of abuse. As auxiliary bishop of Boston until 1985, Bishop D’Arcy had repeatedly warned Cardinal Law about assigning predator priests to parishes only to be ignored. Thus, Bishop D’Arcy was described as a “voice in the wilderness” in the U.S. bishops’ official report on this national crisis published in 2004.

Not surprisingly, the bishop as ordinary of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese removed permanently from ministry any priest with a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor even though that priest may have received professional treatment. From the national perspective, he was far ahead of the common thinking and practice about handling clergy sexual abuse cases, both in Boston and Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese has been blessed for nearly a quarter century — almost one sixth of its history — to have a thoughtful, devoted and energetic spiritual leader. He has set a high standard for his successors. May he be long remembered for the quality of his service and the joy he brought to serving God and his flock.

Notre Dame theology Professor John Cavadini has collaborated with Bishop D’Arcy

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — University of Notre Dame Professor John Cavadini is chairman of the Notre Dame Theology Department and director of the university’s Institute for Church Life. He has closely collaborated with Bishop John M. D’Arcy over the years, and Today’s Catholic asked him to discuss some of those collaborations.

Today’s Catholic: When did you first get to know Bishop D’Arcy?
Professor Cavadini: I got to know Bishop D’Arcy very soon after I was appointed chair of the department of theology 13 years ago. He took the initiative to get to know me, if I remember correctly.

Today’s Catholic: What are some of the projects you have collaborated with him on?
Professor Cavadini: We collaborated on a number of projects. Many of these were diocesan projects and involved continuing education for priests. I spoke at a number of the priests’ workshops that bishop had, and on three occasions also collaborated with bishop’s designee or designees on designing the workshop (one on preaching, one on the early church and one on marriage). I also worked on sessions for the Eucharistic Congress, and spoke at two of the priests’ days of recollection.

Another collaboration, a bigger one, was with the M.A. degree in theology for catechists (the Our Sunday Visitor program). We worked very closely together to work out the details of this major diocesan-university collaboration, I think to the benefit of both parties. Our department has enjoyed working with the diocesan catechists, and I think the catechists have benefited from our courses.

Another collaboration was with the Institute for Church Life. Our Lilly grant, Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, which is a program aimed at fostering the pastoral excellence of bishops, is administered by a steering committee of which Bishop D’Arcy is the chairman. With Bishop D’Arcy’s support and help, we were able to hold two major conferences for bishops here in South Bend, with most of the speakers being members of the ND Theology Department.

Finally, we have collaborated in bringing speakers to ND, sometimes successfully, sometimes unsuccessfully. One of the latter cases was my attempt, with Bishop D’Arcy’s support and collaboration, to bring the then-Cardinal Ratzinger to speak.

I should also mention that with the help of Our Sunday Visitor once again, the ND Vision program was able to offer special scholarships to diocesan high school students to attend. Now that I am thinking about it, there is quite a bit of collaboration and I’m afraid I’m leaving some out!

Today’s Catholic: What do you see as the most important contributions Bishop D’Arcy has made to the church at large?
Professor Cavadini: I’m not sure I am the best person to name the most important contributions he has made to the diocese or the church, but I think that high among them would be his strong and caring pastoral leadership, described below. But if I were to name specifics, I would single out a) his attention to education at all levels; b) his recruitment of priests; c) his establishment of the lay review board and his impeccable record in handling associated issues; d) his ability to nurture an active ecclesial life by encouraging beautiful and dignified liturgy and by fostering a vibrant sacramental life, including the renewal of reception of the sacrament of reconciliation.

Today’s Catholic: How would you characterize his style of leadership in the diocese?
Professor Cavadini: Bishop D’Arcy’s style of leadership is first, consultative — he always listens before making a decision, and he listens not only to the ordained priests, but also members of the lay faithful — but when he then makes a decision, he takes responsibility for that decision himself. Bishop D’Arcy is one of the least “clerical” and at the same time most priestly bishops or priests I have ever met.

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He does not hang on clerical privilege or judge the person he is listening to by their status as ordained or not, and yet his whole demeanor and approach are priestly to the core.

Second, I guess this is the essence of the charism of holiness that is unique to the priest — "pastoral charity." I have always thought of Bishop D'Arcy as very closely configured to the priesthood of Christ, which is his self-gift. It means an attentiveness to the cares and concerns of everyone in his diocese as though these cares and concerns were his own. I have never noticed any difference in the way he treats people of different rank, economic status or position in the church. At conference receptions, I have seen him (politely) stop speaking to the keynote speaker in order to hear the confession of a random student who asked him to hear his or her confession on the spot.

He is just as content to sit in St. Matt’s cafeteria talking to families and parishioners as to sit in a dinner reception with wealthy benefactors and distinguished guests. I have never sensed any difference in the way he speaks to these different groups. And, if he feels that, after careful deliberation, he must offer someone a kind of fraternal correction, he is just as likely to offer this to a very highly placed layperson or cleric as he is to someone who is more humbly placed, and in fact more likely to offer it to a highly placed person.

Bishop D’Arcy speaks the truth in love. Further, he receives criticism in the same way. I have seen him change his mind about a number of things over the years based on input from various people. Bishop D’Arcy’s sole concern in making decisions is the good of his diocese, of the people of God in Fort Wayne-South Bend, and there is no other determinant of his decisions. He works to “build up the one body,” through fostering the many gifts of the one Spirit.

Today’s Catholic: If you had to select one highlight of your relationship with Bishop D’Arcy, what would it be?

Professor Cavadini: This is really hard to say — the one highlight. I had never met or known a bishop before Bishop D’Arcy. My entire idea of what a bishop is and should be comes from my 13-year long friendship with Bishop D’Arcy. I think I am probably spoiled. Although I am a layperson, he never treated me as someone to humor while he had the important conversations with the priest in charge, so to speak. He is a real Vatican II bishop who can see the gifts of all manner of people — and I say “see” because you have to see them in order to appreciate them. I think that many bishops and priests, without meaning to, often do not really “see” the laity, and their charisms and gifts.

My highlight was attending Mass celebrated by Bishop D’Arcy in St. Peter’s Basilica with the diocesan delegation for the canonization of Mother Guérin. I thought it exemplified everything Bishop D’Arcy stood for: unity of the local church around its bishop, in communion with Peter in the one sacrifice of Christ. I can’t think of a more beautiful image, or one that sums up Bishop D’Arcy’s episcopal ministry more fully. Bishop D’Arcy might think I should mention the meeting with His Holiness Pope Benedict that he arranged at a Wednesday audience when we were there for the canonization, since Bishop D’Arcy personally introduced me to His Holiness — but for me, it was the Mass bishop celebrated with us plain old folk from the diocese, early one morning at 7 a.m. in the great Basilica of St. Peter.
Bishop John M. D’Arcy, as he prepares for retirement, describes his almost-25 years as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, as very joyful, beautiful, a privilege and joy, yet demanding. But he has four goals in retirement: to brush up on his Spanish; become more competent on the Internet; pray; and read more.

In an interview with Today’s Catholic, Bishop D’Arcy reflected on his years as the eighth bishop of the diocese. Of all the diocesan bishops in the 152-year history of the diocese, Bishop D’Arcy has the second longest tenure — only Archbishop John F. Noll had a longer episcopacy of 31 years.

In the days following the installation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Wednesday, Jan. 13, Bishop D’Arcy plans to go home for a few weeks “to visit with my sisters and to rest in the home of my parents where I grew up. I go home there to rest and take some walks, and pray and read.”

He added, “I have quite a few responsibilities beginning in mid-February with a talk with the Holy Cross seminarians.”

“And I’m looking forward to the continuation of the priestly things that I love — hearing confessions, preaching, giving the sacrament of confirmation, and also doing spiritual direction, giving retreats,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “I think I’ll be giving the retreat to the young adults in April, which is something I started when I came — and I’ve been asked to give a retreat for the bishops of Ohio and Michigan. I’m looking forward to that. I looked over my schedule yesterday and it looks very busy.”

Also, Bishop D’Arcy plans to take a trip to Ireland with his sister, Anne. “When my sister Mary died, I promised (Sister Anne) that I would do that,” he said.

Looking back, the reception of the people

Bishop D’Arcy, looking back to his installation as bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, quickly came to realize the challenges of his new diocese.

“I think the people always received the bishop well because it is an act of faith,” he said.

“But you know there were a lot of problems here that the new bishop had to face.”

One problem was the removal of priests from ministry in the first seven to eight years of his episcopacy.

“And I think people didn’t understand that,” he said. “And some of the priests didn’t understand that. ... There was a great division among the priests (at that time).”

But that changed in time, especially with the abuse crisis.

“When the sex abuse crisis broke in the ‘90s and especially the early part of the century,” he noted, “I began to get letters from priests thanking me for some of the things that were done.”

Bishop D’Arcy made some changes in the diocesan departments when he arrived as well.

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treasure those days, looking back, because once people saw the direction that we were going there was tremendous cooperation, tremendous support, especially by priests.”

Beginning with the early years, Bishop D’Arcy had collaborative meetings with the priests — the Priests Council, the Priest Personnel Board — and he said, “I always found those very supportive, very consoling and very encouraging.”

A Bostonian accent

As for Bishop D’Arcy charming the people of the local diocese with his Bostonian accent, he said, “I think it has changed some through the years. People still pick it up.”

He quipped that his two living sisters’ accent “is much stronger than mine. I notice their accent now, which I never did before.”

Of his accent, he told a story of a woman he met: “A woman came to me once and said, ‘I love to hear you preach.’ I said, ‘O boy, this lady must really know the great theology that I had.’ She says, ‘Yes, my family comes from New England and you sound just like them.’ So she wasn’t telling me how great my talks were.”

Diocesan surprises and challenges

Bishop D’Arcy said, “I was struck at the very beginning by the great pride that Catholic people had in the church and the schools.”

He said, there was “a great love for the Catholic faith and a real desire to grow in it.”

Surveys of the different departments, schools and parishes indicated that the priests of the diocese were devoted to schools. “In the (Boston) archdiocese that I came from, many of the priests did not want to have a school,” he said.

“I found a strong Catholic identity here,” Bishop D’Arcy said, especially in the four diocesan high schools, the former Central Catholic High School alumni, and the other Catholic institutions such as the hospitals, Saint Anne Home and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

“I think it came from being a minority,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

I think Fort Wayne is about 22 percent Catholic. South Bend is higher. But he noted in some areas of the diocese, the Catholic percentage is as low as 5 or 6 percent.

“I always found the small parishes very fascinating, very interesting, but a great desire for the church to do well, that the parishes be well-led,” he said.

One of his biggest challenges was to stabilize the Catholic parishes and schools. When he arrived, teachers’ salaries were low, and there was a struggle with a teachers’ organization, a union, called CATCH.

The church respects the right of people to organize. Yet this organization was always opposing the bishop in public, so it was necessary to address that,” he said.

“We did that by organizing a Teachers’ Council, which I promised to meet with four times a year my first two years and at least twice a year after that,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

“That has brought me closer to the teachers,” he said. “I hear their problems. I sit in their presence and hear their problems. They hear my problems and the problems of the diocese. So it’s been a much better fit than with the organization that was adversarial.”

Bishop D’Arcy said, “The teachers were right. The salaries were very low. ... There was a challenge to face that, to form the Teachers’ Council and improve salaries.”

He said, it’s a financial struggle with Catholic schools all across the country, but, he said, “We’re in much better shape financially.”

Later in the interview, Bishop D’Arcy noted, “The challenges of the schools was great. ... We will try to be equal to other Catholic schools’ (teachers’ salaries), which have the same burdens that we have. We have raised salaries slowly and steadily.

“We still have schools that are struggling. But the Legacy of Faith has allowed us to give $1.7 million to Catholic schools in the last two years and a total of $8 million to parishes with schools or without schools.”

Annual Bishop’s Appeal

And another part of the financial stability of the schools stems from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal.

Bishop D’Arcy said, “I think one of the best things we ever did financially was the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. I came in May and the first meeting I had with priests was in September in Warsaw.”
He explained, “the way the diocese was financed — 13 percent on all income, not just your Sunday offertory. Your school tuition was taxed. If you had a fundraiser for $100,000, you had to send 13 percent to the diocese. The priests were very upset with this so we had a committee of 10 priests and six lay. And they recommended an Annual Bishop’s Appeal, and dropping the tax on everything except offertory and take it from 10 percent down to 6 percent. Canon law allows you to have such a tax for the ministries of the bishop.”

“It was a tremendous success,” he said. “The first year we raised $4.5 million. And it was done collaboratively.”

Bishop D’Arcy said the appeal draws the diocese together. The campaign works with a couple from Fort Wayne and a couple from South Bend in alternating years as diocesan leadership. He added that the video, too, draws the people together. The appeal has “stabilized the high schools because they were assured of $1.7 million every year distributed among the high schools,” he said. “I knew very early on that people really loved these four high schools because of their athletic endeavors, their academics.

“But I also knew there was an enormous amount of time and energy, time and money being put into these high schools,” he said. “Were we teaching religion? It was only justified if we were teaching the faith and bringing the young people closer to the sacraments and to Christ.”

Masters in theology program

Our Sunday Visitor, established by Archbishop Noll, has played a significant role in preparing catechists to bring people closer to the sacraments and to Christ.

“I need to give an enormous amount of credit to Our Sunday Visitor board, because with the help of Sister Jane Carew early on, we applied for funds to prepare catechists — first with the University of Dayton, and the last 10 years with the University of Notre Dame — to get a master’s degree in catechetics or theology,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

“And then they can teach in our schools. We have about 65 who have completed the program, and it’s still ongoing.”

The masters students “don’t have to pay anything,” he noted. “They have to promise to teach for us at least four years. So we have this whole army of catechists in our schools and our parishes. ... To have all these lay people and priests teaching is a great blessing for us.”

Diocesan progress

Bishop D’Arcy said one of the things that has pleased him most in his years as bishop is the unity of his priests. “People who come to give Days of Recollection always talk about the unity among our priests,” he said.

He also appreciates the prayerful reverence in parishes across the diocese. “The Mass is a gift,” he said. “You can’t manipulate the Mass. You have to celebrate the Mass as the church says you should celebrate it. And in most of our parishes that’s done right and well.”

He is also pleased with the evangelization efforts of the diocese. “The fact that we are able to have Mass on television in both cities. That is just amazing,” he said. “Our communications, and our newspaper now going to every home — that’s a great thing — and I’m proud of the newspaper.”

Potential seminarians, priests

In the early days, Bishop D’Arcy was often criticized for turning down too many potential priest-candidates.

“I interview every candidate myself,” he said. “And then we have a psychological screening — an excellent person. She is the head of a counseling service at Notre Dame. She gives me an excellent psychological report. This doesn’t mean that we have been perfect. We have made mistakes sometimes, but generally our screening has been good.”

He said, “And so (I look at) the quality of seminarians — men who would be good fathers and would be good husbands and would be successful in whatever they did. And I believe very much in the philosophy of Pope Benedict who said in his visit to this country, ‘We have learned that it is more important to have good priests than to have many priests.’”

Bishop D’Arcy added, “Now we need many too, but the way to many is through quality people who will trigger other quality people.”

Closing, merging and growing parishes

Bishop D’Arcy said, “One of the more difficult things has been the closing of parishes. We
had 90 parishes when I came if you include St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, which was the parish that I started. And now we have 80.

"It was painful to close them," he said. "When my parish was closed at home, I saw what a painful thing it was for my family, for the people. So I have been slow to close parishes. The new bishop will have to merge some. I gave to the people, a year ago, a map for the future, because you have some parishes where there are five or six baptisms a year with one priest and you have St. Patrick’s with 250 baptisms and two priests."

He added, "Another important factor is the increase in Hispanics, Mexican mostly but people from Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala. And that's one of the things I asked the Holy Father, to give us a bishop fluent in Spanish, and so he has."

Loving every day

Bishop D'Arcy said when people ask him how he feels about retirement, he replies, "Well, I’ve enjoyed everything. I still love every day."

The work is demanding, and he said of the retirement, "There’s some pain involved in giving it up, because you hold it in your heart all the time. It’s like marriage. You’re married to the diocese. That’s an ancient concept. The church always sees the bishop as married to the diocese and staying with it and not leaving it. So you’re holding it in your heart all the time and thinking about it all the time."

He said, "The office of bishop allows you to do so much good," and noted that the "best thing you ever do for a parish is send a good priest there. People know that. When you go to parishes and install pastors and the people tell you, ‘Thank you, bishop, for sending us this priest,’ that’s the greatest consolation that I have experienced."

"I will mind giving it up," he said. "I’ve enjoyed everything, especially being with the people preaching, teaching. I enjoyed being with young people in the high schools."

"I enjoyed the great historic things we had in the year 2000, the Year of the Great Jubilee with Pope John Paul II; and in 2007, our 150th anniversary, and especially that we tied those things to the sacraments — from the sacrament of penance to anointing," he said.

"And I loved facing the challenges, the financial challenges and the cooperation of the people," he said. "The Annual Bishop’s Appeal per capita is the highest in the country — even this year, in this time, it’s looking very good. It’s a very generous diocese with so many good people."

The demands come in driving back and forth between the two cities, Fort Wayne and South Bend.

"I realized early on that I had to establish myself in South Bend, I had to establish a presence up there," he said. "So I began looking right away for a building and in a couple of years we had the chancery." This location includes several diocesan offices, a chapel and an office for the bishop. He said, "that gave us a strong visibility in South Bend."

But he kept a rigorous driving schedule, especially at Christmas when he celebrates the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend and then the midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. He does the same with the sacred triduum:

"To have one cathedral is a blessing. To have two is a double blessing," he said.
Accepting difficulties

Bishop D’Arcy said that in the early years “people did not understand the hard things that had to be done.” He said, “But you have to have the cross. The hardest thing for me in life is not doing hard things, I want to do good things for the church, even if they are hard. I don’t mind that. The only thing that would make me anxious is if I didn’t know what the right thing was or if I found that I didn’t do the right thing. When I do the right thing, whatever people say, I don’t care. You mind the criticism and so forth, yes. The strength comes from Christ and from his grace. The light and strength to do the right thing has always been there. Sometimes you have to have more quiet time, you have to find time for prayer and time to ponder things, and that’s difficult. It’s not easy to get when you are driving back and forth all the times, but the grace and the light of the Holy Spirit to do the right thing is always there.”

The University of Notre Dame and controversy

“Even though this is a small diocese, it is a high profile diocese because there are five Catholic institutions of higher education,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “You also have several (religious) communities that have their motherhouses here.”

He noted, “It’s been a joy to have been affiliated with these Catholic universities and certainly with Notre Dame. I’ve enjoyed all aspects of it with the Holy Cross priests, with the young people and the administration and the many fine professors there.”

He said, “The results of last spring were painful, so there is a painful aspect as I leave, a painful experience. You wear a cross if you’re going to do the right thing and be faithful to Christ, as you promised on your day of ordination. There are several promises that you make and one of them is to be devoted to the truth as found in the Gospel and the preaching of the truth.

“I have great consolation (knowing) that everything I did last spring and since then and over the years, I was always trying to do what was right for the church. So that brings me great peace, but it is tinged by sadness,” he said.
As the priestly life of Bishop John Michael D’Arcy takes a new direction with new plans and new goals, we express our thanks for his leadership and pastoral care and offer prayerful best wishes for a joyful and fulfilling retirement.

Sacred Heart Basilica
Notre Dame
Thank You, Bishop D’Arcy from the priests and people of Holy Family Parish, South Bend for your faithful service as our shepherd.

May God fill your retirement with refreshment, joy and peace!

In deep appreciation to Bishop John M. D’Arcy for your leadership and commitment to our Diocese and Catholic Education.

Thank you for dedicating your life to serving the least among us.
Prayers and Best Wishes from Your Former Auxiliary

Most Rev. Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, and the Diocese of Peoria

Thank You Bishop D’Arcy for your vision of evangelization through television...

The TV MASS VOLUNTEERS appreciate your support of this medium and giving us the opportunity to bring the gospel to the homebound.

IN SOUTH BEND
Rev. Bernard Galic • Sr. Agnes Marie • Andy & Linda Knapp
Paul Olen • Betty Zavor

IN FORT WAYNE
Rob Blackburn • Dave Gelzleichter • John Henry
Beth Machall-Dwyer • Vince LaBarbera • George Manning
Sean, Devon & Trevor McBride • Bob, Amy, & Bobby Nicola
Fred Price • Nick Stanley • Tess Steffen • Amber Warnick
Homer Witham • Jim & Teresa Lamping • Sr. Carol Myers, OFM
and in loving memory of Msgr. Edward Hession...
and Ed McBride, First Producer of the TV Mass

CELEBRATING YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE CHURCH
Bishop John M. D’Arcy
Best Wishes and Continued Prayers from your eastern neighbor.

The Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Bishop of Toledo
and the clergy, religious and laity of the Diocese of Toledo

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To Our Shepherd

THE MOST REVEREND JOHN M. D’ARCY

The names below represent diocesan departments...those are official titles...much deeper than that, they represent individuals who through your example and leadership have become dedicated to your principles and goals which are Christ-centered and intended to benefit souls as well as meeting the practical demands of an entire diocese. Friendship...friendship and leadership are what you have given us. In return, we extend our gratitude, prayers, and warm wishes for your continued ministry in the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

• Cathedral Books & Gifts
• The Diocesan Business Office
• The Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry
• The Office of Catechesis
• Catholic Charities
• Diocesan Services Agency
• The Office of Communications
• The Development Office
• The Office of Diocesan Archives
• The Office of Family Life

• The Diocesan Office for Hispanic Ministry
• The Catholic Schools Office
• The Office of Spiritual Development/Evangelization
• The Marriage Tribunal
• The Office of Vocation
• The Office of Worship
• The Office of Youth Ministry
• Today’s Catholic

Ancilla College extends Best Wishes and Appreciation to Bishop John M. D’Arcy on his farewell.

Ancia College
1.866.ANCILLA • 574.936.8898 • www.ancilla.edu

Bishop D’Arcy
Thank you for your support for the twelve years as our Spiritual Advisor.

Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne

Deadline!!!

Dear Bishop D’Arcy...

The relationship between a Catholic newspaper and its publisher is very close, and one that we have enjoyed.

Evangelization in print is an opportunity and a tremendous responsibility, particularly when it is done against the clock.

Thanks to your courage and belief in the need for full coverage, Today’s Catholic now reaches every registered Catholic home in the diocese.

So, thank you for your leadership, your love, and support of this newspaper ... your voice to your people.

We wish you all the best in your continued ministry.

THE STAFF AT TODAY’S CATHOLIC

St. Joseph Parish
MISHAWAKA
Extends gratitude to Bishop John M. D’Arcy for his dedicated service and includes prayerful best wishes for a fulfilling retirement.
Do you resolve to preach the Gospel of Christ with constancy and fidelity?
(From the Rite of Ordination of Bishops)

For 24 years Bishop D’Arcy, you have preached the Gospel of Christ in our midst. Through your leadership and your actions, in season and out of season, you have served the Gospel with constancy and fidelity.

Do you resolve to build up the Body of Christ, his Church?
(From the Rite of Ordination of Bishops)

Our diocese has grown under your leadership, with new parishes, improved religious education and catechesis, and many solid programs to assist those who are most in need of our care. As chair of the Board of Directors of Our Sunday Visitor, you have led this organization during a time of growth and renewed sense of mission.

It is with sincere appreciation that the directors and employees of Our Sunday Visitor congratulate you on your retirement as head of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese. Through your many years of faithful service on behalf of this diocese, you have met the commitment asked of you at the time of your ordination. You have been a gracious shepherd and a priestly role model for the entire Catholic community.

We wish you much health, joy, and great blessings as you embark on your new journey in service to the Lord.

“His Mercy is Forever.”
— Episcopal motto of Bishop John D’Arcy

Our Sunday Visitor

200 Noll Plaza | Huntington, IN 46750 | (800) 348-2440 | www.osv.com
I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Father Joseph Gaughan, the parishioners, and the students of MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH send expressions of gratitude and best wishes to Bishop John M. D’Arcy as he begins a new day in his priestly ministry.

Bishop D’Arcy

On behalf of the children in our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, we thank you for the interest, support, leadership and spiritual direction to the thousands of students who have benefited from your love and guidance.

Catholic Schools Office

“It takes a noble man to plant a seed for a tree that will someday give shade to people he may never meet.” — David Trueblood

In thanksgiving to you, Bishop D’Arcy, for planting the seed for our Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana which holds over 100 endowments for parishes, schools, and diocesan agencies, and for establishing Legacy of Faith endowments for Catholic education, Hispanic Ministries, and Catholic Charities — all that will someday give shade to future generations.

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana congratulates you on your retirement!
Bishop D’Arcy
Through the years, Bishop D’Arcy has led his flock by example. He built a diocesan community based on individual integrity and mutual respect. He reached out to the poor and the forgotten.

All the while, he was gathering friends for his faith. Like his apostolic predecessors, he was demonstrating his belief in an ancient promise: *In hoc signo vinces.* In the sign of the cross, he has triumphed. And those of us who have been blessed by his priesthood will forever delight in our memories of him and his work.

Bishop John, thank you for the church you have renewed. Thank you for your service to the families of our diocese. Most of all, thank you for the precious gift of your friendship.

*With fond appreciation,*

Art & Pat Decio

---

With gratitude to God for your faithful service to God’s people... and for a happy retirement.

Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, D.D., J.C.D.
and the faithful of The Diocese of Rockford

---

Thank You, Bishop D’Arcy

For all the big things and all the “Little Ways” you made a difference in our Diocese.

Saint Therese Parish

---

Thank You,
BISHOP D’ARCY

Bill and Peggy Dotterweich

---

with pride, love and best wishes on your retirement from one of your Philadelphia cousins.

Catherine and Seamus Bonner
Thank You Bishop D’Arcy

You led us with gospel values
You fed us from the holy table
You spread the word of his love and mercy
You did not bury the master’s talent,
But enriched it to benefit his people.

May your footsteps steadfastly follow truth
And may your prayers be in God’s ear.
May you stay in the shadow of His wings
And remain the apple of His eye.

Thank you,
Bishop D’Arcy

for being a great pastor for the
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

We are especially grateful for
the beautiful restoration of 1998
and the prayerful liturgies
you have given us.
May God bless you always!

The Cathedral Parish
Thank You, Bishop D’Arcy

For your scrupulous consideration of each of us as candidates for seminary training, and for your encouragement, prayers, and most of all, for setting the example of what a priest should be.

SEMINARIANS OF THE DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

Deacon Andrew Budzinski
Matthew Coonan
Terrence Coonan Jr.
Benjamin Muhlenkamp
Jacob Meyer
Royce Gregerson
Zachary Barry
Cristian Reyes

Matthew Soberalski
Joseph Becker
Brandon McCaffery
Jonathan Norton
Daniel Davis
Christopher Sindelar
Nathan Maskal
Thomas Zehr

Vocation Office - Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend

Msgr. Bernard J. Galic, Director  Mary Szymczak, Associate
The priests and parishioners of

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO PARISH
ST. VINCENT de PAUL PARISH
OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE PARISH
ST. JUDE PARISH

Fort Wayne
extend warm wishes and prayers
that the Good Shepherd will continue to bless

Bishop John Michael D’Arcy
who has been such a faithful and dedicated
shepherd over the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Congratulations to

Bishop John M. D’Arcy
with gratitude
from the
Department of Theology
University of Notre Dame

“Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.” — Jeremiah 3:15
They left their nets and followed him.

Bishop D’Arcy...

As you hand off the duties of bishop and continue in the footsteps of the fishermen, we congratulate you for your achievements, thank you for your leadership and friendship, and extend prayerful best wishes for your continued ministry.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE in ELKHART

ST. VINCENT de PAUL in ELKHART

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST in GOSHEN and

ST. MARY of the ANNUNCIATION in BRISTOL
"In regard to the suitability of a candidate for the episcopacy, it is required that he is: outstanding in solid faith, good morals, piety, zeal for souls, wisdom, prudence, and human virtues."

-Code of Canon Law-

Thank you, Bishop D'Arcy, for being a shepherd for us, after the heart of God.

May the Lord, whom you have so faithfully served, bless you!

With affection and gratitude,

Your Holy Cross Parishes
Best Wishes!

Bishop John M. D’Arcy for Twenty-Four Years of Devoted Service to the People of the Ft. Wayne, South Bend Diocese.

We thank you for the countless lives you have influenced, the hearts you have touched, your faithful wisdom, and your dedication to the Church. We will miss your wise leadership and look forward to continued friendship.

-The Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province
-Holy Cross College
-Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame
Bishop D’Arcy
We are grateful for your support and time spent as our shepherd.

CATHOLIC CEMETERY
OF FORT WAYNE, INC.

As Chairman of the Board of
CATHOLIC CHARITIES,
Bishop D’Arcy
You have helped us find the face of God in the homeless, the helpless, the hungry and all of those who have come to depend on Providence alone.

Congratulations and Gratitude

To Bishop John M. D’Arcy
On the occasion of his retirement and especially in the fulfillment of 24 years of devoted Episcopal Service to the Church of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Bishop Paul S. Loverde
and the Faithful of the Diocese of Arlington

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
offer best wishes and thanks to

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY
Thank you for your 24 years of dedicated service to our Diocese and to us. Our prayers are with you as you enter the next phase of priestly service.

Thank you Bishop D’Arcy
For your support over the years.

Best wishes for your continued ministry.
Very Reverend James A. Wehner, STD,
Rector / President,
and the community of the
Pontifical College Josephinum
send congratulations and prayerful best wishes to

**The Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy, STD**

in recognition of his 24 years of service as
Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

**AD MULTOS ANNOS!**
On this very special occasion of retirement, the faculty and seminarians of IHM Seminary congratulate you and thank you for your dedicated service to God. May He continue to bless you abundantly!

Our very best wishes to BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

May your retirement years be richly rewarding.

The Fort Wayne Jewish Federation and Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley

BISHOP D’ARCY

Your Brother Knights of Santa Maria Council #533, South Bend offer prayers that Our Lady will continue to be a constant presence in your life.

553 East Washington • South Bend

Bishop John M. D’Arcy

Your leadership and stewardship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has been like seed on good soil. We salute your example and offer prayerful best wishes for a fulfilling retirement.

LEONARD J. ANDORFER & CO., LLP
Certified Public Accountants
Fort Wayne

To Our Brother Knight
BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

Your leadership and guidance for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is appreciated in every parish, school, and diocesan institution as well as in the hearts of all of those whom you have served.

Indiana State Knights of Columbus

Stephan Ziemba
STATE DEPUTY

Fr. Michael Yadron
STATE CHAPLAIN

Bishop D’Arcy

Your leadership concerning the Dignity of Life, Vocations, Youth Activities and Family Life is deeply appreciated by your brother Knights of Father Tremmel Council

PLYMOUTH
Vivat Jesus!

Bishop D’Arcy

Knights of Columbus Council 451 Fort Wayne would like to wish you the best in your retirement and to thank you for your support during your time in Fort Wayne.

Thank you, Bishop D’Arcy

for sharing the mission of the Marriage Tribunal.
Your advice and guidance is deeply appreciated.
Bishop John M. D’Arcy

Congratulations on Your Retirement
Thank You for Your Support

The Echo Program
In Partnership with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Echo, Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame

The pastor and parishioners of
Our Lady of Hungary Parish
and all of its various societies wish
The Most Reverend John Michael D’Arcy
(bishop Emeritus)
a very happy retirement
and God’s blessing on a job well done!

Rev. Lawrence Teteh, C.S.Sp (Pastor)
Mr. Al Heet (Pastoral Council Chairman)

OB GYN
ASSOCIATES OF NORTHERN INDIANA, P.C.
Thank you, Bishop D’Arcy for your years of
devoted leadership to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

MICHELE L. ASHTON, M.D.
SANDRA R. BROWN, M.D.
TRACY S. BYRNE, M.D.
UTHMAN CAVALLO, M.D.
LEN R. FERGUSON, M.D.

JOSEPH P. HARMON, M.D.
MARK G. LEWIS, D.O.
CARLTON L. LYONS, M.D.
KELLY W. McGUIRE, M.D.
GREGORY P. WOLFE, M.D.

610 North Michigan Street • Suite 200 • South Bend • www.obgynni.com

Bishop D’Arcy
The Saint Vincent De Paul Society’s
Fort Wayne District Council
Thanks you for your support
and guidance throughout your
many years of service to our diocese.
God Bless!

With gratitude to you for your 24 years as
Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Please know that you have our continued friendship
and that you will remain in our prayers.

The Indiana Province of Priests and Brothers

MAKING GOD KNOWN, LOVED, AND SERVED

CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS
INDIANA PROVINCE
Thank You
Bishop D’Arcy
for your ministry, witness
and service to the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
May the blessings of
Saints Peter and Paul
be yours forever.
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish
Huntington

The Pastor, People and Students of Saint Aloysius Parish, Yoder
wish you good health, abundant blessings, and a joyful retirement

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish
Huntington

With many others who express admiration and appreciation to
Bishop John M. D’Arcy
for his vision, guidance, and leadership
in the 24 years of his episcopacy
in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend,
the priests and people of
Sacred Heart Parish
WARSAW
and
Our Lady of Guadalupe
WARSAW
wish to share in these greetings
with a promise of prayers for his joyful retirement and continued ministry.

Thank You
Saint Mary’s Colleges thanks
Bishop John D’Arcy for his 25 years
of pastoral service to our students.

Generations of Saint Mary’s women have enjoyed his visits to campus, laughed at his jokes at Baccalaureate, and learned from his thoughtful reflections.

We wish him good health as he begins the next phase of his holy priesthood, and hope that he will continue to remember us in his prayers.

Saint Mary’s College
Notre Dame • Indiana
saintmarys.edu
BISHOP D’ARCY TRIBUTE

January 3, 2010

Your constant advancement of Religious Education, and unwavering defense of the Faith and the dignity of human life have been uplifting and inspirational. We have been blessed to have you as our shepherd. May your retirement be joyful and rewarding.

Mike and DeDe Dahm

Thank you, Bishop D’Arcy for your steadfast support of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life... may your own ministry in retirement continue to be blessed and joyful.

Fort Wayne Serra Club

RESTAURANT
127 South Michigan, South Bend
THANKS
BISHOP D’ARCY for being a regular customer and great company. We wish him a joyful retirement and look forward to his future visits when he is in South Bend.

Peg Dalton
The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods express their congratulations and best wishes to Bishop John M. D’Arcy on his much deserved retirement.

We thank him for his past 24 years of support of our Congregation and his service among God’s people.

To our beloved Bishop D’Arcy:

As Christ poured out His life on the cross for the Church, so have you given yourself as a complete gift to this Diocese; serving and loving her as a bridgetm loves his bride.

United to the steadfast love of Christ, may your gift continue to bear fruit. Know of our continued love and prayers for you and your beloved Diocese.

His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.”

- St. John Mary Vianney
St. Bernard Parish
WABASH
Thanks Bishop D’Arcy
for his leadership and guidance to
the faithful of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
and wishes him well
in his retirement.

THOU ART PETER

St. Joseph Parish and St. Catherine of Alexandria
ROANOKE
NIX SETTLEMENT
Father Kenneth Sarrazine

Good luck
BISHOP D’ARCY

May your retirement include
happy times with family and old
friends in Boston... good reading,
a good rest, and good luck with
The Sox, all covered with the
continued blessings of Providence.

St. Mary Parish
HUNTINGTON

Thank you, Bishop
D’Arcy, for your 25
years of service to our
Diocese! You have
blessed MANY lives;
we are grateful!

— St. Mary's Decatur

Thank you, Bishop
D’Arcy, for your love and care
of this diocese, as
Saint Joseph
loved and cared
for the Holy Family

St. Joseph Parish
BLUFFTON

Thank You Bishop John D’Arcy
For your support and encouragement of the
Franciscan Center over the past 20 years!

We wish you all God’s Blessings
as you begin a new chapter in
the journey of your life.

The Franciscan Center - 4643 Gaywood Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46806 - (260) 744-3977
Father Barry England and the faithful of St. Bavo Parish express their appreciation to BISHOP JOHN D’ARCY for his service to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and ask that continued blessings come his way.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Bishop John M. D’Arcy for his many years of compassionate and dedicated service. May God shower you with an abundance of daily blessings.

St. Adalbert Church and St. Casimir Church

We rejoice knowing that His Spirit is woven within your life and ministry. God’s blessings on your retirement, Bishop John D’Arcy. You will be missed!

from the Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki and the Diocese of La Crosse

Thank You BISHOP D’ARCY For your vision, leadership, guidance, and fulfillment of the phrase “Good Shepherd” May your retirement be rewarding in every way that you hope it to be.

St. John The Baptist Parish Fort Wayne
The Priests and People of
SAINT MATTHEW CATHEDRAL PARISH
South Bend

With deep affection and abiding respect, offer the pledge of their continued prayers to
BISHOP JOHN MICHAEL D’ARCY

The bishop is the “steward of the grace of the supreme priesthood,”
especially in the Eucharist which he offers personally, or whose offering he
assures through the priests, his co-workers. The Eucharist is the center of the
life of the particular Church. The bishop and priests sanctify the Church by
their prayer and work, by their ministry of the word and of the sacraments.
They sanctify her by their example, “not as domineering over those in your
charge but being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5.3). Thus, “with the flock
entrusted to them, they may attain to eternal life.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church 893

In heart-felt gratitude for his vocation as
priest, bishop, and our shepherd for over 24 years
Saint Pius X Catholic Church

In gratitude
for your dedicated service
to our diocese, we pray
that God will continue to
bless you with good health, abundant grace,
and lasting success in your ministry.

St. Stanislaus Kostka
NEW CARLISLE

Laity for Life
thanks Bishop D'Arcy
for principled leadership
during difficult times.
Mary Reilly Hunt, Board of Directors

S Peter’s and St. Mary’s

Two venerable Fort Wayne parishes which have served the Catholic faithful
for a total of two hundred ninety eight years, express affection and admiration for
Bishop John M. D’Arcy

for his service as our shepherd, and wish him all the best as he retires.

Saint Peter Catholic Church
“The Splendour of the South Side since 1872”

Saint Mary Catholic Church
“Serving the People of God
spiritually and physically since 1848”

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish
NORTH MANCHESTER
sends Bishop D’Arcy
Best wishes for a
Happy Retirement

“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...”
-Matthew 16:18

Saint Pius X Catholic Church
gives thanks to
Bishop John M. D’Arcy
for his many years of care and service to the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
To Bishop John M. D’Arcy,

With deep gratitude for your distinguished ministry, and our very best wishes for your retirement.

Sincerely,

The University of Notre Dame

Her students, faculty, staff, trustees, and the Holy Cross community at Notre Dame
Thank you,

Bishop D’Arcy

for your faithful service

to the young, the old,

the poor, the hungry,

the lost, the found,

and the strangers in our midst.

Chris and Shannon Tippmann

“Bishops have a particular responsibility to promote Catholic Universities, and especially to promote and assist in the preservation and strengthening of their Catholic identity.”

- John Paul II, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*

We at the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture are grateful to The Most Rev. John M. D’Arcy for his many years of loyalty to the Catholic heart of Notre Dame and his courageous defense of truth.

David Solomon
Elizabeth Kirk
Kathryn Wales
Tracy Westlake
Adam Skoczylas

W.P. and H.B. White Director
Associate Director
Program Coordinator
Administrative Assistant
Website Coordinator

Student Assistants
Karen Chan
Octavia Ratiu
Tom Everett
Victor Ratiu

Claire Brown
Kelly Mason
Pete Freddoso

Thank you,

Bishop Dale J. Melczek
and the clergy, religious, and faithful of the Diocese of Gary
extend very best wishes to

Bishop John M. D’Arcy
on the occasion of his retirement!

Bishop D’Arcy,
Thank you for your faithful years of episcopal ministry to our neighboring diocese!
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
and the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago
extend prayerful best wishes to

Bishop John M. D’Arcy
on your retirement as
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

From a dream of 300 families and their bishop to a house for the Lord,
where more than two thousand families now gather in His glory.

The priests and people of
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton parish
express their appreciation to
BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY
for his vision, support and founding of our parish in 1988.

As we extend our best wishes for your future plans,
please be assured of our continued prayers for your ministry.
Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Indianapolis

and the entire
Church in Central and Southern Indiana

send greetings of peace
and best wishes
to

Most Rev. John M. D’Arcy

upon his retirement as Bishop of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Ad Multos Annos
et
Tanti, tanti!
BEST WISHES

to Bishop John M. D'Arcy

on the occasion of your retirement:

May your years ahead be blessed, and enriched with new endeavors!

from Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger
and the People
of the
Diocese of Evansville

The Catholic Church in Southwestern Indiana
The man from Galilee preached from a boat, spoke in the temple, and wrote in the sand. Somehow, his words and actions survived over centuries and inspired a boy in Boston to the point that he longed to be one of the messengers of the good news from Galilee. By the grace of God, he got that chance 53 years ago and began to spread Christ’s word in the pulpit, in homes, and any place that presented the opportunity. Today, in addition to speaking in churches, and through the resources available to a bishop, he sends the lessons from Galilee by audio visual presentations, radio, television, the Internet, and on the pages of this newspaper.

As beneficiaries of his guidance, leadership and love, we wish to express our appreciation to Bishop John Michael D’Arcy, as well as our admiration for his achievements as Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Thomas and Phyllis Blee
Myron & Eileen Brodmerkel & Family
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dahm
Kathy Denice
Don and Mary Jane Dimberio
Dick Doermer
Reverend E E Erpelding CAPT, USN (RETIRED)
Dr. Pauline T. Flynn
Frank L. Gallucci
Ken and Sara Gray
Don and Kate Griffith
Jerry and Peggy Hipskind
Jon and Sherry Housand
Jerry and Judy Kearns

Grace and Michael Mastrangelo
Ed and Sue Merz and Family
Margaret Nolan
Neil and Nancy O’Brien
Deacon and Mrs. Kevin M. Ranaghan
Carolyn and Don Schenkel
Bill and Maureen Schott
Steve and Vicky Schwab and Family
Rabbi Marla Joy Subeck Spanjer
Paul and Shirley Vomdran
Vincent Waldschmidt
Sarah and Terry Ward
Sally and Bob Weigand

Donations to this tribute to Bishop D’Arcy will go to the Catholic Education Fund of the diocese
The Shepherd has served the flock

Achievements

- Women’s Care Center, Fort Wayne, organized and operational in renovated facility
- Vincent House/Village for homeless founded
- Annual Bishop’s Appeal organized — 23rd appeal in 2009 — monies support parish and diocesan projects
- A $3.6 million renovation/restoration of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, 1998
- Eucharistic Congress at University of Notre Dame, 2000
- Legacy of Faith endeavor, 2004-2005 — created endowments of more than $46.5 million
- Initiated free Sunday television Masses, Fort Wayne and South Bend, 1986
- Wrote major article on relationship between Catholic universities and bishops — especially relating to the requirements of the man datum for Catholic theologians
- Undertook exumation dialogues with Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran and Jewish leaders
- Eucharistic Congress, Aug. 16, 2007

Established for diocese:

- Office of Spiritual Development
- Office for Hispanic Ministry
- Office of Catechesis
- Expanded campus ministry/young adult program; initiated annual youth and young adult retreats; retreats for disabled
- Diocesan office buildings in both downtown South Bend and fort wayne
- Position of archivist to preserve diocesan/parish history/documents
- Independent status for diocesan newspaper, Today’s Catholic
- Commissioned “Priesthood of the Gospel of Christ,” compilation of diocesan history
- St. Mother Theodore Guérin Latin Mass community formed, Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) brought to diocese for chaplany, 2008

New church buildings for:

- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne, 1989
- St. Pius, Granger, 1989
- Blessed Sacrament, Albion, 1990
- St. Mary, Fort Wayne, following destruction of church by fire, 1996 (established St. Mary’s Heritage Fund)
- Holy family, South Bend, 1997
- St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne, 1998
- St. Therese, Fort Wayne, 1999
- Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw, 1999

New buildings erected:

- St. Peter, Fort Wayne - parish hall, 2005 • St. Pius X, Granger - parish center
- St. Hedwig, South Bend - building addition, 1990 • St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne - school addition, 1990 • St. Hyacinth, Fort Wayne - community center
- Immaculate Conception, Kendallville - building addition, improvements, 1992
- Villa of the Woods, Fort Wayne - renovation 2003 • St. Mary, Avila - school expansion, new classrooms • St. Dominic, Bremen - parish hall
- St. Mary of the Assumption, Bristol - education/catechetical center, rectory • St. Joseph, Bluffton - new parish hall
- St. Thomas, Elkhart - new parish gym/activity center
- St. Mary, Geneva - parish hall • Holy Cross, South Bend - school addition • St. Joseph, LaGrange - building addition, 1993
- Queen of Peace, Mishawaka - addition to school (closed for over 30 years), restarted K-8
- St. Monica, Mishawaka - parish center • St. Barn, Mishawaka - several new facilities • St. Paul Chapel, Clear Lake - building addition, 1991
- Sacred Heart, Notre Dame - parish center • St. John the Baptist, New Haven - parish hall • Marian High School, Mishawaka - second gym
- Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne - second gym and library
- St. Joseph’s High School, South Bend - athletic fields and new land
- Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne - infrastructure
- St. Patricks, South Bend - parish hall • Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne - activity center, 1995
- St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne - Father Hession Hall, rectory
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne - new school, rectory, religious education facility and church enlargement • St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne - activity building • St. Joseph, Hesey Cassel - restored church, school addition, 1998 • St. Michael, Plymouth - school addition, 1998
- St. Mary, Fort Wayne - rectory, 1998 • St. Martin de Porres, Syracuse - church renovations • Our Lady of Guadalupe, South Bend - expanded school • Little Flower, South Bend - new parish hall • St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart - community building, 1994
- Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne - day-care center addition, new rectory • St. Athanasius, Yoder - new parish center and classrooms • St. Anthony, Angola - new hall • St. Casimir, South Bend - restoration, 2007 • Bishop Luers high school - renovation, 2007 • St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne - parish activities center, 2007 • Victory Roll - renovation, 2007 • Bishop Dwenger high school - addition, 2007 • St. Patrick, South Bend - community center
- Holy Cross, South Bend - school addition, 2000 • St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart - Eucharistic adoration chapel, 2008 • St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart - school addition • St. Pius X, Granger - parish education center • St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne - school addition
- St. Jude, Fort Wayne - school addition • St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne - school expansion • Sacred Heart, Warsaw - church renovation, 2009
- St. Anthony, Angola - groundbreaking for new church, May 2009 • St. Peter, Fort Wayne - 17-year renovation completed
- MacDougal Chapel, Fort Wayne - renovation and rededication to St. Mother Theodore Guérin