FORT WAYNE — St. Mother Theodore Guérin was honored on Jan. 6 with the blessing of a statue placed in the location where the Catholic school she provided Sisters of Providence once stood. At that location today is the diocesan chancery office. But years ago, St. Augustine Academy graced the grounds, and Mother Theodore lived briefly with her sisters there as the Catholic school, the first in Fort Wayne, was launched.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy, who blessed the statue after noon Mass, was joined by five Sisters of Providence, four of whom traveled from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods near Terre Haute, to commemorate the event.

In his homily at the Mass at the MacDougal Chapel in honor of St. Mother Theodore Guérin, Bishop D’Arcy spoke of Mother Theodore’s era after the French Revolution. The French sister lived in a time when the Church was terribly persecuted. The two sets of brothers, Simon and Andrew, and James and John, allowed themselves “to be won over by (Jesus’) gaze, his voice, his warm and strong invitation” (Pope Benedict XVI). They left their work, their livelihood, and their families to begin a new life in communion with Christ. Their adventure as fishers of men, as apostles, thus began. They would become intimately involved in our Lord’s mission of proclaiming the Gospel of God. The Church would be built on the foundation of these four men and the other apostles whom Jesus called to be fishers of men.

The Gospel account of Jesus calling the apostles to follow him resonates deeply within me today. Five years ago, I received the Lord’s call to serve as a bishop, as a successor of the apostles. Twenty-six and a half years ago I received the Lord’s call to serve as a priest. The majority of those years of priestly and episcopal ministry took place in my home diocese of Harrisburg. I thank our Lord for the many joys and blessings of those years and for the
The words of St. Paul remind us of our mission: to profess the truth in charity. In his trial before Pontius Pilate, Jesus himself proclaimed that “he loved his own life, and his love became complete for the sake of the testimony to bear witness to the truth.” — Jn 18:37. We carry on this mission. Our duty is to bear witness to the truth of the apostolic faith we have received and to act as witnesses of the Gospel in word and deed. I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul to one of his successors, one of the first bishops of the Church, St. Timothy: “Never be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord.”

Homily

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

privilege I had of serving His Church in that beautiful portion of the Lord’s vineyard. But just as through the years, Peter, Andrew, James and John were called to proclaim the Gospel and continue apostolic missions in new lands, so too I have been called to serve in a new diocese and a new state. It is certainly a privilege to have been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI, successor of St. Peter, to be the bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and another beautiful portion of the vineyard of the Lord. Though naturally I will deeply miss my family and friends in my home diocese, I come here with excitement and enthusiasm to promote the new evangelization in this wonderful diocese where I have been so warmly welcomed. I look forward to getting to know the faithful of this diocese and to visiting the parishes, schools and other communities throughout these 14 counties of northeastern Indiana. I look forward to my greatest joy as a bishop: celebrating the holy Mass and the other sacraments as well as teaching the word of God throughout the diocese.

Quisiera expresarme ahora a mis queridos hermanos y hermanas hispanas. Durante este tiempo que ha transcurrido después de mi nombramiento como su obispo, mis oraciones se han centrado en el tema del Evangelio de hoy: He meditado muchísimo en aquellos pasajes de los Evangelios y en aquellos escritos y arreglado sus redes en el mar de Galilea. Sus vidas cambiaron cuando Jesús los llamó a que los siguieran. El les dijo que los haría pescadores de hombres. Ellos dejaron su trabajo, su manejo de la lata y la vida y sus familias y empezaron una nueva vida en común con Cristo.

Este pasaje del Evangelio de hoy en el que Jesús llama a sus primeros Apóstoles tiene mucho significado para mí en este momento. El Señor Jesús me ha llamado a dejar mis redes, mi familia, mis amigos, mi casa en Pennsylvania para servirle a Él aquí en un nuevo mar, una nueva área de Su viva, la diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Aunque naturalmente extraño a mi familia y a mi diócesis original, vengo aquí con mucha alegría y entusiasmo a promover la verdad y a mi diócesis original, vengo aquí con mucha alegría y entusiasmo a promover la verdad y a mi diócesis original, vengo aquí con mucha alegría y entusiasmo a promover la verdad y a mi diócesis original, vengo aquí con mucha alegría y entusiasmo a promover la verdad y a mi diócesis original, vengo aquí con mucha alegría y entusiasmo a promover la verdad y a mi diócesis original, vengo aquí con mucha alegría y entusiasmo a promover la verdad y a mi diócesis original, vengo aquí con mucha alegría y entusiasmo a promover la verdad y a mi diócesis original, vengo aquí con mucha alegría y entusiasmo a promover la verdad y to profess the truth in charity.

As I begin my ministry as Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, I wish to reaffirm my commitment to our Catholic faith. "This is our faith," the bishop or priest says: “This is our faith. It is the Catholic faith. This is the faith to the truth of the apostolic faith we carry on this mission. Our duty is to bear witness to the truth of the divine truth of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.” My brothers and sisters, we should always be proud to profess our Catholic faith, doing so with courage and without equivocation.

My episcopal motto, “veritatem in caritate,” is a reminder that truth and charity must always go together. Love and truth are “the vocation planted by God in the heart and mind of every human person.” — “Caritas in Veritate” No. 1. Human beings are created in the image and likeness of God who is “Eternal Love and Absolute Truth” (ibid).

One of the greatest challenges we face in our culture today is relativism, the denial of the existence of objective truth. As we heard, St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians about the danger of letting oneself be tossed and swept along by every wind of teaching. The day before his election as pope, Cardinal Ratzinger also taught us that “we are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as certain and has as its highest goal one’s own egoism and one’s own desire.”

The future pope stated that we need to have a mature faith, one deeply rooted in friendship with Christ and therefore one that does not merely follow “the waves of fashion for the latest novelties.” In the midst of our culture’s dangerous confusion, we must stand firm in upholding the truths of our faith, including the moral truths that are sometimes unpopular in our increasingly secularized society. I commend to you the words of the Apostle Paul to one of his brothers and sisters, of visit all the communities including the ones we are now visiting, to upholding the truths of our faith, to a deeper and more authentic faith, one that speaks to the heart and responds to the heart, to the heart of each individual and to the heart of the community. This is the faith for which Jesus calls us.

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Today’s Catholic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Editor’s note: Coverage of the solemn ves-
series in South Bend and the Mass of
fication at the Cathedral of the
mulate Conception will be featured in
the Jan. 24, issue of Today’s Catholic. This
issue went to press before those events.
Migration week brings legislative push, prayers, a walk to Washington

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the Catholic Church observed National Migration Week Jan. 3-9, support for legislative efforts took the forefront amid various other steps to bring attention to the concerns of migrants and refugees.

In a teleconference Jan. 6, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Migration, described several steps being undertaken by the U.S. bishops, including a new Web site, a nationwide action alert and a previously announced postcard campaign to encourage members of Congress to support comprehensive reform. The Web site is a revamped version of www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

“The American public, including the Catholic and other faith communities, want a humane and comprehensive solution to the problems which beset immigration system, and they want Congress to address this issue,” Bishop Wester said.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., chairman of the Committee on International Policy, said the bishops also want the legislation to address the root causes of migration and help enable people to make a decent living in their own countries.

“The first principle of the U.S. bishops with regard to immigration is that migrants have the right not to migrate — in other words, to be able to find work in their own home countries so they can support their families in dignity,” he said. “Migration should be driven by choice, not necessity.”

Also in the teleconference, Sister Rita Mary Harwood, a Sister of Notre Dame who heads the Office of Parish Life and Development in the Diocese of Cleveland, said the church in Ohio will distribute nearly 300,000 postcards that will be sent to Congress.

She said she sees in Ohio many parallels between the migrants of past generations and those of today and hopes that reminding the public of those similarities will open hearts so that people will back immigration reform.

Sister Mary Beth Hamm, justice coordinator of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Philadelphia, said making sure the public hears the stories of individual immigrants is the key to what her order is doing to support immigration reform.

“You can’t hate the person whose story you know,” she said. Elsewhere around the country, Catholic, interfaith and nonreligious groups small and large held immigration-related events. They ranged from press conferences, simple prayer services and educational events to a walk from Miami to Washington by four students hoping to bring attention to the situations they and others face.

The four current or former students at Miami-Dade Community College planned to walk to Washington to draw attention to the problem of students who are in the United States illegally through no fault of their own, brought into the country by their parents when they were young.

Without legal status they are barred in many states from obtaining lower in-state tuition rates, making it impossible for many to attend college. Legislation that would open a path to legalization and U.S. citizenship for tens of thousands of such students has long had broad public and congressional support but efforts to pass the bill repeatedly have been shelved.

In Chicago, priests, sisters and brothers representing more than 37 religious orders planned a prayer service and press conference at Holy Name Cathedral Jan. 8 to call for passage of comprehensive immigration reform. The priests and religious planned to commit to a calendar of days to pray and fast over the next three months in support of the legislative effort.

Indiana Franciscans urge immigration reform

Last week, over 600 Indiana women and men, who live lives committed to the way of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, prayed and organized others to sign post cards to legislators. They pleaded to God and their co-citizens to reform laws that divide families, keep millions living in fear and build more walls between people. Franciscans here join Catholics around the country in recalling how Joseph, Mary and Jesus fled as refugees to Egypt to escape political oppression by an unjust king.

The Catholic Church, which has served and advocated for immigrants in this country for 400 years, designated Jan. 3-10 as National Migration Week to call attention to the billions of people forced from their homes and displaced through war, natural disasters, climate change and economic necessity. This year the children of immigrants and refugees, our modern day “Jesus in flight,” motivate prayer and political action.

“The Christian God is a God of immigrants, indeed an Immigrant God,” says Brother Bill Short, a theologian and historian from the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif. Francis often reminded his followers of the biblical injunction that we are ‘aliens and exiles, pilgrims and strangers’ on earth.”

— 1 Pt.2.11. Francis liked to quote St. Paul: “Our Lord Jesus Christ ... was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.” — 2 Cor.8.9.

For taking the path of living with and serving lepers and outcasts, Francis felt the sting of rejection by the people of his time. Followers of Francis and Clare today feel a special kinship with the most “undesireables” today. They commit their lives to serve the poor, especially those marginalized by society.

Franciscans are expressing their solidarity with immigrants and refugees through their work, their prayer and their citizen action.

Pope baptizes 14 infants, underlines role of parents and godparents

BY JOHN TRAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ginevra wiggled, Maria Magdalena thrust out her arms, Edoardo snuggled up against his mom. And Giulia, unflinching, kept her eyes wide open.

The baptismal ceremony was like others that take place every day for these children. Without legal status they are barred in many states from obtaining lower in-state tuition rates, making it impossible for many to attend college.

Pope Benedict XVI, who poured water on the heads of 14 infants at Holy Name Cathedral Jan. 10, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the pope underlined the importance of the sacrament.

“This is a great day for these children. With Baptism, they become participants in the death and resurrection of Christ, and begin with him the joyful and exciting adventure of the disciple,” he said in his homily.

He said the sacrament brings a particular responsibility for parents and godparents: to nourish the faith of the newly baptized with words and the witness of their lives. In this way, he said, the children will be able to “shine in our world, which often gropes in the shadows of doubt.”

The infants, seven girls and seven boys, were all children of Vatican employees, and the Mass was marked by a family atmosphere. The siblings of the baptized carried the offertory gifts, and the cries of babies echoed off the frescoed walls and ceiling of the chapel throughout the liturgy.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI baptized a baby during a Mass in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 10. The pope baptized 14 infants, calling it a “great day for these children.”

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI baptized 14 infants Jan. 10, the day of the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The ceremony was held in Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica in Rome.

The infants were from Italy and other countries and represented a mixture of the poor and marginalized, as well as the middle and upper class.

Benedict XVI has baptized infants in the past, but this was the first time he did so at a Mass on the feast day.

He also greeted participants of the March for Life, which was held in Washington, D.C., earlier in the day.

Benedict XVI said the sacrament of Baptism is a sign of the “beginning of a new life in Christ” for the infants.

He urged parents to “care for your children as they grow up, so that they may be able to take their place in society under your guidance.”

The pope also encouraged godparents to be involved in the lives of the infants and to be a source of support.

Benedict XVI emphasized that Baptism is a gift from God and that it should be celebrated with “joy and gratitude.”

The ceremony was attended by a large number of people, including parents, godparents and church officials.

The infants were brought to the altar by their parents and godparents, who were seated in front of the altar.

The ceremony began with the reading of the Gospel of John, where Jesus is recorded as saying that he came to bring salvation to the world.

The pope then said the children were “baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ,” and that they are “the sign of the new life to come.”

He also praised the parents and godparents for their role in the children’s lives and encouraged them to love and nurture their children.

The ceremony ended with the distribution of communion to the parents and godparents.

After the ceremony, Benedict XVI met with the March for Life participants, who were gathered outside the basilica.

He urged them to continue to work for a culture of life and to be a voice for the unborn.

The pope also thanked the participants for their efforts and encouraged them to continue to pray for the unborn and for a culture of life.

Benedict XVI then greeted the participants and wished them a “good day.”

The March for Life is a annual event held in Washington, D.C., to promote a culture of life and to oppose abortion.
Archbishop Kurtz praises New Jersey vote ‘for the truth of marriage’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The New Jersey Senate “stood for the truth of marriage as a bulwark of the common good” with its recent vote to defeat a bill that would have legalized same-sex marriage, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage.

“Preserving marriage between one man and one woman is a matter of justice; indeed it is one of the premier social justice issues of our time,” said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., in a Jan. 11 statement. “It does not deny but rather supports basic human rights — especially the rights of children.”

By a 20-14 tally Jan. 7, the state Senate voted down a bill called the Marriage Equality Act; if the bill had passed and been signed into law, New Jersey would have joined five other states in allowing same-sex couples to marry. The others are Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

But Archbishop Kurtz noted in his statement that the New York state Senate rejected a similar measure by a 38-24 margin Dec. 2 and in November the voters in Maine overturned a legislative move to redefine marriage to include same-sex couples.

“The recent decisions in Maine, New York and New Jersey are signs of hope and sources of encouragement,” he said.

Archbishop Kurtz’s statement was released on the day that U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker was to begin hearing testimony in San Francisco in a federal court challenge to the constitutionality of California’s Proposition 8, which overturned same-sex marriage in that state.

“We are in a pivotal moment in this country on the issue of marriage as more and more people recognize that protecting the basic rights of persons need not and should not come at the expense of the unique truth and value of marriage,” said Archbishop Kurtz, without making specific reference to the California case.

“The good of the love between husband and wife, the vital responsibilities of mothers and fathers, and the rights of children all deserve unique protection under law — all of these are indispensable to a just society that serves the dignity of all people and the common good,” he added.

The federal trial in San Francisco, Perry v. Schwarzenegger, was expected to last two or three weeks.

Sisters of Providence, Sister Maryann Fox who resides in Fort Wayne; Sister Donna Butler, who is a staff member in archives; Sister Jaqueline (Jackie) Hoffman, music ministry and receptionist coordinator at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods are shown with Bishop John M. D’Arcy and Sister Marie Kevin Tighe, formerly the coordinator of the shrine of St. Mother Theodore Guérin and vice postulator and promoter of the cause for sainthood of St. Mother Theodore Guérin; and Sister Barbara Doherty, coordinator of the shrine of St. Mother Theodore Guérin. Bishop D’Arcy blessed a statue of Mother Theodore Guérin after a Mass at the MacDougal Chapel in honor of St. Mother Theodore Guérin Jan. 6.

STATUE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Proposition 8, which overturned same-sex marriage in that state.

“...he would receive the body and His grace, and through the Eucharist, which she knelt before, adored Him a few days later when the same apostolate calls us,” he added. “So this statue, and this chapel ... is to remind us that we too are called to care for our young people, and to make sure they receive the faith, and to treasure the gift of human life and to do good works and to be open to the presence of Jesus Christ as she was to the Eucharist.”

Bishop D’Arcy said, “As we bless this statue, may it remind us of her holiness and of the ministry of education. May we pray to her, a saint of our own diocese, who walked here, and pray that more young women ... will offer themselves for the consecrated life.”

At the end of the Mass, Bishop D’Arcy invited sculptress Teresa Clark to tell her story of how her art and study of Mother Theodore brought her to the Catholic faith.

In 2000, she was commissioned by the Sisters of Providence to sculpt a statue of Mother Theodore. At the time she was not Catholic.

“I had a huge transformation (learning) about Mother Theodore. She and the sisters have influenced my life greatly,” Clark said.

While creating the statue Clark went through RCIA. “I was studying the faith that was (Mother Theodore’s) strength, and realized that is what my life was missing,” Clark said she continues to feel inspired from Mother Theodore. “Hopefully, through my statue, she will touch others as she has touched me.”
St. Mother Theodore Guérin inspires through art

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — Art students at Saint Joseph’s High School recently had the privilege of speaking to artist Teresa Clark about two unique sculptures she has created of St. Mother Theodore Guérin, the eighth saint who spent most of his or her ministry life in the United States and the only person from Indiana to be canonized.

“Mother Theodore has been a real influence in my life,” Clark told the students. Her journey through the creation of her two beautiful pieces included not only unique works of art but a spiritual realization about a path she had not yet taken in her life.

Clark was working in Fort Wayne several years ago and was approached about a possible mausoleum project using St. Mother Theodore Guérin. Clark, not being Catholic at the time or familiar with the subject, traveled to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to do research. She read stories, talked with the members of the faculty and staff of the school and spent time going through Mother Guérin’s journal. Unfortunately, the project was canceled. But five years later, Clark was commissioned to create a sculpture of St. Mother Theodore Guérin at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

“I was offered a space at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to do the piece. What better way to do the piece than on the grounds where she walked and lived?” said Clark. “Whenever I sculpt or draw, I try to think about who this person was.”

This move to the college gave her the chance to get more familiar with not only her subject but with the Catholic faith in general. Clark realized during this time that there was something missing in her life and decided to become Catholic.

“She (Mother Guérin) has been a significant part of my life,” said Clark.

To get things started on the six-foot statue, Clark used old photographs to design the facial features. Many old photographs show people with stern looks. Because Clark did not feel that Mother Guérin would be a stern-looking woman she took a little creative liberty and made her face less stern in the sculpture.

“I wanted her to be as real as I can make her,” said Clark. “In reading her journals, I realized that (a stern looking person) wasn’t who she was.”

The final piece was carved out of limestone and is residing in Mary’s Garden outside the basilica in Washington, D.C.

Clark was commissioned to create another piece with St. Mother Theodore Guérin for the All Saints Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum in Des Plaines, Ill. This piece was going to be an eight-foot bronze statue and needed to have an educational component.

“I loved Mother Guérin’s motto ‘love the children first then teach them’ and came up with a sketch of her and two children,” said Clark. The piece has the children looking out and Clark wants people to use their imagination on what they think the children are looking at while speaking with St. Mother Theodore Guérin.

This project started with a paper drawing that was turned into a one-foot, three-dimensional basic scale model. Once the scale model was approved, a two-foot clay model was made with more detail. She then began working on a full scale model that required the creation of a basic armature with one and a half inch plumbing pipe, heavy wire, thin wire and special insulation to create a structure that could accommodate the clay without poking through it while she worked.

Once the piece was finished, it was taken to be cast and made into a bronze sculpture.

“Since she affected me so greatly, I hope these statues will speak to someone that way,” said Clark of each of her pieces.

“I’ve got other ideas of Mother Guérin. I’ve thought of a piece of her sitting so other people could come up and sit by her,” said Clark.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was on the playground of St. Agatha School in Columbus, Ohio, that powerful mental image, which was clear but wordless and conveyed to him that he wanted to be a priest.

“The only words I could put to this experience was ‘I want to be a priest,’” he says, “and the experience was so strong, that I hung on to it as a guiding star.”

The star stayed with him as the family moved and settled for good in Des Moines, Iowa, and around the sixth or seventh grade, Tom Ascheman began removing “Vocation Postcards” from the school bulletin board and sent for information about the seminary.

Personally, he was fixed on the idea of going to a high school seminary, but on the advice of his parents, he attended and completed high school studies in a Catholic high school in Dubuque and then entered the Society of Divine Word, also known Divine Word Missionaries, attending college near Dubuque.

Within Divine Word, it is he practice to submerge a novice in an alternative culture promptly, and Tom Ascheman went to Mexico for several years where he worked in a consumers cooperative and taught catechism classes. For a further mix of culture, he also served three years in Japan.

After ordination, he spent 12 years in Rome at Divine Word headquarters as mission secretary. This assignment literally sent him around the world, where Divine Word has missions in more than 60 countries.

Today, Father Tom Ascheman is back in the Midwest, where he was first blessed with that compelling, wordless message that told him clearly what his life’s work would be. He is associate pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne, where membership is predominately Mexican, followed by Vietnamese and Anglos. The pastor, Father Chau Pham, is also a Divine Word missionary.

Although he enjoys all phases of his work, Father Ascheman is especially called to preaching, and in particular enjoys the mix with people and meeting new people. He believes that this special gift in his make-up is related to his work as a missionary; the desire to look ahead to the opportunity of making new friends for Christ.

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Once the piece was finished, it was taken to be cast and made into a bronze sculpture.

“A lot of thought went into subtle touches, like the position of her hand. I wanted her to look inviting – not like she’s looking for a hand out,” said Clark about the piece.

Clark was also commissioned to sculpt the statue of Mother Theodore recently blessed on the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception grounds.

Clark told the students she didn’t use a model for the creations, but did get some help from one of the nuns at the college who wore a veil so that Clark could see how the veil would look on Mother Guérin’s back as she stood and how the skirt would flow while standing.

“Since she affected me so greatly, I hope these statues will speak to someone that way,” said Clark of each of her pieces.

“I’ve got other ideas of Mother Guérin. I’ve thought of a piece of her sitting so other people could come up and sit by her,” said Clark.

Bishop Luers High School
333 E. Paulding Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46816

Freshman Registration
January 20th and 21st
6:30-8:30pm
Last Name A-L: 6:30-7:30pm
Last Name M-Z: 7-8:30pm

• Staff members will be available to answer your academic questions and guide you through the sign-up process.

• The business office will be available to collect registration fees. Financial aid and scholarship information will be available.

• Please bring your child’s last report card, ISTEP results, and a birth certificate copy.

For more information call 456-1261 or email janadorfer@bishopluers.org

All Saints Religious Goods
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Watch for our new second store coming soon to the north side at 8808 Coldwater
Selfishness, lack of respect for life lead to destruction, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — War, hunger, oppression, environmental degradation and the current global financial crisis are all the result of selfishness and a lack of respect for the human person created in God’s image, Pope Benedict XVI told diplomats from around the world. “If we wish to build true peace, how can we separate or even set at odds the protection of the environment and the protection of human life, including the life of the unborn?” the pope asked ambassadors from the 178 countries that have diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Pope Benedict met Jan. 11 with the ambassadors to offer them his best wishes for the New Year. After his speech, he spent more than half an hour greeting each of them and their spouses. In his speech, the pope highlighted his hopes and concerns regarding the state of the environment, ongoing wars and violence, military spending and the arms trade, restrictions on religious freedom and attacks on the unborn and on the traditional family. Much of his talk focused on the environment, echoing his message for World Peace Day Jan. 1, which had as its theme “If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation.” The pope told the diplomats that a “self-centered and materialistic way of thinking,” which ignores the fact that human beings are creatures and not gods, triggered the current global economic crisis and is also the attitude behind the devastation of the environment.

Milwaukee archbishop vows to serve ‘with every ounce of my being’

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Frigid Wisconsin temperatures hovering near single digits were a sharp contrast to the warm, festive mood inside Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Atkinson, where the Evangelist Jan. 4 as the Milwaukee Archdiocese welcomed its 11th shepherd, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki. Nearly 1,000 were on hand at the cathedral for the installation of the 60-year-old Chicago native, who most recently was bishop of La Crosse. The installation, a two-day event, began with vespers on the evening of Jan. 3 at the cathedral. Festivities resumed the following afternoon, with a procession of priests, bishops, cardinals and the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi. During his homily, Archbishop Listecki invited the faithful to work with him in his role as governor, teacher and sanctifier. “No one governs alone, but church in its best meaning needs collaboration with those he serves,” he said. Archbishop Listecki admitted that adherence to the church’s teachings is not always easy, “however, one must sacrifice for the truth. In this sacrifice, we demonstrate our love.”

Austrian cardinal says private Medjugorje visits bring good results

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After visiting Medjugorje, the site of alleged Marian apparitions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Vienna said the church must recognize that private pilgrimages to the village result in prayer and reconciliation. But Bishop Ratko Peric of Mostar-Duvno, the diocese that includes Medjugorje, said the cardinal’s very public pilgrimage “has added new sufferings” to those already present in his diocese and did not “contribute to its much needed peace and unity.” Cardinal Schoenborn visited Medjugorje Dec. 29-Jan. 1 in what his office described as a “private pilgrimage.” He visited one of the young adults who claimed they began receiving messages of the young adults who claimed they began receiving messages from Mary in 1981 and he celebrated Mass in the village result in prayer and reconciliation. But Bishop Ratko Peric of Mostar-Duvno, the diocese that includes Medjugorje, said the cardinal’s very public pilgrimage “has added new sufferings” to those already present in his diocese and did not “contribute to its much needed peace and unity.” Cardinal Schoenborn visited Medjugorje Dec. 29-Jan. 1 in what his office described as a “private pilgrimage.” He visited one of the young adults who claimed they began receiving messages from Mary in 1981 and he celebrated Mass in the village result in prayer and reconciliation. But Bishop Ratko Peric of Mostar-Duvno, the diocese that includes Medjugorje, said the cardinal’s very public pilgrimage “has added new sufferings” to those already present in his diocese and did not “contribute to its much needed peace and unity.”

Pope lauds North American College on its 150th anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI marked the 150th anniversary of the Pontifical North American College, and said the seminary deserves thanks for “training generations of worthy preachers of the Gospel and ministers of the sacraments.” The pope met at the Vatican Jan. 9 with the institution’s students, superiors, faculty and alumni. The college, the U.S. national seminary in Rome, was concluding a reunion and other events to commemorate the anniversary of its founding in 1859. The pope said he was confident the college would continue to produce “wise and generous pastors capable of transmitting the Catholic faith in its integrity, encouraging Christ’s infinite mercy to the weak and the lost, and enabling America’s Catholics to stand up for one another and work together for peace, justice and reconciliation.”

Papal liturgist endorses ‘reform of the reform’ of the liturgy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The pope’s chief liturgist, Msgr. Guido Marini, endorsed calls in the church for a “reform of the reform” of Catholic liturgy. “For some years now, several voices have been heard within church circles talking about the necessity of a new liturgical renewal,” Msgr. Marini said. A fresh renewal movement would be “capable of operating a reform of the reform, or rather, move one more step ahead in understanding the authentic spirit of the liturgy and its celebration,” he said. Msgr. Marini, who has served as master of papal liturgical ceremonies since late 2007, spoke Jan. 6 to a conference of priests from English-speaking countries gathered at Holy Name Cathedral in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The conference was sponsored by the Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy and the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy of Catholic Clergy. The papal liturgist said the goal of the new reform movement “would be to carry to its full implementation the reform of the liturgy that the conciliar fathers had launched” but which has “not always, in its practical implementation, found a timely and happy fulfillment.”

Cardinal Kasper expresses solidarity with Copts after attack in Egypt

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican’s chief ecumenist sent a letter of support to the Coptic Orthodox patriarch, Pope Shenouda III, expressing his solidarity with the Egyptian Coptic Christians. Seven people died in a drive-by shooting in the southern Egyptian town of Nag Hammadi as they were leaving the Virgin Mary Church after Christmas Eve services. Coptic Christians, who use the Alexandrian calendar, celebrated Christmas Jan. 7. Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, wrote to express his concern and closeness to Pope Shenouda and the Coptic Christian community. “With sadness I have heard the tragic news of the death and injury of seven Coptic Christians after a Christmas midnight Mass in Nag Hammadi,” the cardinal wrote. “Please know that I am praying with Your Holiness and with the Coptic Christian Community at this time.”

First American Indian prelate, Bishop Donald Pelotte, dies at age 64

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Retired Bishop Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup, N.M., 64, the first American Indian bishop in the United States, died Jan. 7 at a Florida hospital. He had been head of the Gallup Diocese for 18 years before resigning because of health problems in 2008. In July 2007 the bishop was severely injured in an incident at his Gallup home, spending months afterward in neurological hospitals and rehabilitation centers in Arizona, Texas and Florida. According to the Albuquerque Journal newspaper, Gallup diocesan spokesman Lee Lamb said his death was not related to those injuries. He had been hospitalized since Dec. 27 at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, near where he had lived since retirement. No further details were released.

Sister Jeanette Halbach, a member of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, signs up for a date on a calendar to promise to pray and fast for legislative change on immigration prior to a prayer service and press conference at Holy Name Cathedral Jan. 8. Priests for Justice for Immigrants, a group of more than 200 priests, and Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, a network of more than 100 sisters and brothers representing 37 religious orders, attended the prayer service and press conference. At the event, held during National Migration Week, group members expressed solidarity with immigrants by individually promising to pray and fast over the next three months.

NUN SIGNS CALENDAR PRIOR TO PRAYER SERVICE

(EN PHO/ANDER CALAMIA/CATHOILE新週報)
University of Saint Francis to host financial aid workshop

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis (USF) financial aid staff will host a financial aid workshop on Monday, Jan. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Pope John Paul II Center, room 107.

The public is invited to visit USF for help in completing the 2010-11 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Parents, current students and prospective 2010-11 students from any college are welcome to attend. If a participant’s 2009 taxes have not yet been completed, USF will estimate the income based on the student’s and parents’ 2008 tax returns.

For more information, please contact the financial aid office at (260) 399-8003.

Office of Worship offers spring workshops

The diocesan Office of Worship has announced the following training workshops and retreat experiences.

In Fort Wayne:

- Lector training, with instructor Ruth Chronister, will be held Saturday, Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne.
- Extraordinary ministers training will be instructed by Father Tony Steinacker and Casey Ryan on Saturday, Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne. Participants should park in lot on the corner of Trier and Reed Roads and enter parish hall, door No. 13.
- Extraordinary ministers of holy Communion to the sick, with instruction from Father Daniel Leeuw, will be held Saturday, March 6, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center.
- The RCIA Retreat with Judy Mockenhaupt will be held Saturday, March 13, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne.

In South Bend:

- Lector training, with instructors Harv Humphrey and Cindi Clawson, will be held Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Matthew co-Cathedral, South Bend.
- Extraordinary ministers training will be instructed by Father Bob Lengerich on Saturday, March 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Pius X, in the new library.
- Extraordinary ministers of holy Communion to the sick, with instructions from Father Daryl Rybicki, will be held Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend.
- RCIA Retreat with Diane Slatterbeck will be held Saturday, March 6, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Pius X, Gladwin Rd.

Retreat experiences, called Afternoons of Reflection, are offered in the late spring to provide those in ministry, such as

extraordinary ministers and lectors, the retreat experience they need to remain commissioned in their ministry.

These workshops have a registration fee and participants need to pre-register. For additional information and a brochure is available on the web site, www.dioceseofwab.org/diocesan-offices/worship-office/trainings-retreats/.

Holy Cross founder cause for celebrations

NOTRE DAME — Events have been scheduled at the University of Notre Dame to celebrate the Jan. 20 feast day of Blessed Father Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The second annual “Holy Cross: Faith in Our Future” celebration week will feature the memorial Mass for Blessed Basil Moreau at 5:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Jan. 20, plus other activities raising student, faculty and overall awareness of the congregation’s role at the university.

Vespers, scheduled in the basilica at 7:15 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 17, will begin the series of events. Those at the prayer service, sponsored by the Holy Cross Office of Vocations, will be invited to pray for the cause of Blessed Moreau’s canonization and for vocations to the congregation he founded, among other intentions.

On Monday, Jan. 18, theology professor Lawrence Cunningham will present the second annual Blessed Basil Moreau Lecture at 7:30 p.m. in Geddes Hall, exploring Holy Cross spirituality. This year’s lecture, “How is Your Heart? Toward a Profound Education,” will explore the mission of educating hearts as well as minds. Ann Firth, Notre Dame’s associate vice president for student affairs, will make comments as discussant following the lecture, inviting reflections on the mission’s meaning today.

On Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m., a panel of priests will convene in Geddes Hall for a second annual “Men in Black” evening of casual conversation about their individual lives and the Holy Cross priesthood.

Blessed Cross Fathers Paul Doyle, Ralph Haag, William Lies and Holy Cross Father Timothy Scully will participate. All events are free and open to the public.

Blessed Basil Moreau was beatified in 2007.

Ancilla College stressed as affordable, intelligent option

DONALDSION — While the economy continues to drag and many families find themselves in tight financial situations, Ancilla College president Dr. Ron May is stressing the Donaldson-based college as an affordable and intelligent option for those looking to continue their education.

“Our programs provide the foundation for success in baccalaureate programs as well as for the transition into the world of work,’ said Dr. May. “We are in a convenient location and we offer students educational opportunities in a small, student-focused environment.

Spring semester courses begin Jan. 11, and the college continues to take registrations through Jan. 15.

According to Dr. May, students of all backgrounds may qualify for need-based and academic REACH grants, in addition to state and federal aid.

Erin Alonzo, director of admissions, agreed, stating that affordability should not be an obstacle to affording college and pursuing one’s dreams.

“There are three main things all students need to ask themselves when they’re choosing a college: ‘Can I get accepted and do I fit?; ‘Does the college have what I need to be successful?’; and ‘Can I afford to go?’”

“Ancilla fits all three criteria, and we’re right here in their own backyard.”

Alonzo encouraged prospective students to contact admissions at (260) 485-8989 ext. 330 to schedule a visit, tour and placement test, free of charge.

College staff will be available to guide students through the application process, financial aid and support services, ensuring that those individuals are given the best possible foundation to achieve their goals.

Legacy Auction benefits St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School

FORT WAYNE — The St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School Legacy Auction will be on Saturday, Jan. 30, at 6:30 pm at the St. Elizabeth campus. This Legacy Auction is the school’s biggest fundraising event of the year. To attend or make a donation to the event please contact the school at (260) 432-4000.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School is a special place where Christ is first. Located on two different campuses, which makes the school unique. Preschool through fourth grades are at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton campus and grades 5-8 are located at our St. Joseph campus. Currently, there are 542 students enrolled at St. Joseph St. Elizabeth, in preschool through eighth grade.

Proceeds from the Legacy Auction are used to meet the needs of the school by offsetting the costs associated with technology, equipment, tuition assistance, liberal arts, music and many other areas.

USF offers Saturday morning art classes

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis (USF) has announced spring art classes for children in grades 1-8. Classes will be held from 9-11 a.m. on Saturdays from Feb. 6 through April 24 at the Roland Art and Visual Communication Center off of Leesburg Road.

Art materials will be provided. The cost is $75 per child, which includes all materials and instructional fees. Early registration is advised as enrollment is limited.

For more information contact the School of Creative Arts at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001.
John Gaughan retires with 57 years of service to Catholic schools

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Eighty-two-year-old John Gaughan lives by faith. “Faith describes me,” he says, adding, “without it I wouldn’t be anything.” And faith is what led him to serve 39 of his 57 years as teacher and coach in the Catholic school system in the diocese.

A native of Chicago, Gaughan and his wife of 58 years, Patricia, moved to Fort Wayne in July of 1959, where he served as athletic director of Bishop Luers High School for eight years. During those years he taught classes at the high school and coached football, track and basketball.

“I did the laundry for all the athletic teams too,” he quips.

His four years of Marine Corps duty during the late ‘40s, including 16 months in North China, motivated him to “be a catalyst for change” and served him well upon his return.

Armed with a bachelor’s degree in sociology in 1953 and eventually a master’s in education administration, he excelled as a young teacher and coach of high school students.

“Potential doesn’t make an A. Performance is what counts,” he says. But he admits that “challenging the young people to become what they are capable of becoming, permeated with the Gospel spirit of freedom, justice and charity” gave his career meaning.

Following the eight years as athletic director at Bishop Luers High School the Gaughans moved back to Illinois where for the next 12 years John served as director of studies, and football and basketball coach at his high school alma mater, St. Bede Academy. Then in 1979 the family moved back to Fort Wayne to stay. Gaughan took the administrative position of principal for Bishop Dwenger High School and led the school for 15 years.

After retiring from the Catholic school system in 1994, Gaughan was invited by Bishop John M. D’Arcy to become the assistant director of the high schools in the diocese, which had him making pastoral visits to all the Catholic high schools, and attending teacher, school board and other meetings. Gaughan also was involved in reviewing the budget with Chief Financial Officer Joseph Ryan several times each year and being the problem solving resource for the four high school principals.

Gaughan retired last month from his position as assistant director of high schools for the diocese and reasons, “I’m 82 years old. … Time is of the essence.” He and his wife are active parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo and have raised nine children, including Father Joseph Gaughan, pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne.

Wife Pat says of her husband’s career, “He went into it with love and I guess he’s leaving it with love. He was the guy for the job!”

In his well deserved retirement Gaughan plans to spend more time with his beloved wife and visit their 29 grandchildren more frequently. In addition to continuing to attend daily Mass, the Gaughans also look forward to volunteering to read to students at Most Precious Blood School this semester. And always a coach — Gaughan will take up the assistant coaching position for the fifth- and sixth-grade combined football team of Most Precious Blood and Queen of Angels Schools.

A retirement reception was held to honor John Gaughan on Jan. 6 at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center.

BY KAY COZAD

Pat and John Gaughan pose for a photo at a retirement celebration on Jan. 6 for John at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. He retires after serving 39 of his 57 years as teacher and coach in the Catholic school system in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. At the reception, Bishop John M. D’Arcy thanked Gaughan for his service and dedication.

“He went into it with love and I guess he’s leaving it with love.”

PAT GAUGHAN

Knights of Columbus

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[Image 187x682 to 623x935]
Do real men pray the rosary? Texas man says yes and finds many agree

McALLEN, Texas (CNS) — Throughout his childhood, David Calvillo’s mother urged him to pray the rosary but he admits the recommendation went in one ear and out the other.

“I thought the rosary was for old ladies and funerals,” Calvillo said.

His mindset began to change when he attended a retreat at the Benedictine Sisters of the Good Shepherd Monastery outside of Rio Grande City — reluctantly, Calvillo’s wife Valerie pointed out.

“He was a bit hesitant,” Valerie Calvillo said. “I used to see him walking around with the rosary around his neck, which is now the face of the apostolate. He said the inspiration for the logo was a man named Alex Gamboa, a parishioner at St. Joseph the Worker Church in McAllen.

“I used to see him walking around with the rosary around his hand and I thought it was powerful to see a strong man doing that,” Calvillo said.

Gamboa said he wraps the rosary around his hand during trying times and during times of intense prayer. “Pray for me” is a phrase Gamboa hears often because friends and family members know he takes the request seriously.

Gamboa also created a presence online through the Web site, www.RealMenPraytheRosary.org, and with a page on Facebook, a social networking site.

“I thought if we could get 200 members from the (Rio Grande) Valley, we could consider the Facebook page a success, but it just exploded,” he said. “Before we knew it, we had more than 4,100 members from all over the world.”

Calvillo recalled one particular day when he started a virtual rosary. By the time it was completed, it was pieced together in 15 languages.

Rosary-tying events draw the faithful of all ages from different parishes who gather together for the common goal of making rosaries. They are fashioned from colorful twine and metal crucifixes.

Each rosary is as unique as the person who ties it. No two are alike.

“I think these rosaries have more significance than store-bought rosaries,” said Tito Salinas, a parishioner at St. Joseph the Worker. He and his wife, Norma, are regulars at rosary-tying events.

“They may not be made perfectly, but they are made by someone who cares,” he added. “I think knowing that the rosary came from somebody who took the time and effort to put it together motivates the recipient to pray it more often and to appreciate it.”

During a recent rosary-tying event at Calvillo’s law office, dozens of people made rosaries for the troops serving overseas. The event also promoted fellowship among local Catholics, some who already knew each other and some who didn’t.

The rosaries are given out at retreats, Confirmation classes and wherever else they are needed.

Gamboa said he hopes the popularity of the apostolate “is only beginning and that it will expand on Wednesday.”

“When we have more lectors, catechists and charismatic priests who support this and of course, better mothers and fathers,” he said.

**INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**

**BY ROSE YBARRA**

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“When we have more lectors, catechists and charismatic priests who support this and of course, better mothers and fathers,” he said.
It is interesting and quite revealing to reflect on how often some of us connect with Jesus each day. I have to admit that if I didn’t go to Mass everyday I might not think of Jesus again until I pray at night before I go to sleep or unless I ask him for a favor during the day.

It takes a lot of conscious effort to recall the Lord’s constant, abiding presence in our lives; to really grasp the wonderful fact that he is always walking beside us no matter what happens. His love and his life in us keeps us going.

Recently I re-read a delightful little book called “Practicing the Presence of God.” It contains the reflections of a simple monk named Brother Laurence. He wrote how he continually strove to recognize Christ’s presence in all the people and events of each day of his life. He tried to live each moment, no matter what he was doing, conscious of God’s active love for all of creation. He experienced the Lord in every-thing and consciously lived in God’s presence. During most of his waking hours he carried on a running conversation with God.

One of the ongoing desires of my own life has been to try to live more that way. When we do, our lives will be transformed. Our attitudes toward others and the events of our lives can’t help but change if we recognize and remember that God is in and with them also.

If we are truly conscious of our God’s loving presence in each person, no matter how they are, it cannot help but influence the way we live our lives and treat one another.

An example I have used many times to explain God’s presence is, to think of it as radio waves. The atmosphere is filled with radio waves; but we have to turn the radio on to hear the music and voices. We know that God is faithful and with us always, but we have to “tune in” to him.

Another analogy comes from the Scriptures. The Book of Revelation 3:20 speaks of Christ saying: “Here I stand knocking at the door; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him.” This scene is depicted as a door with no handle on the outside. Only the person inside can open the door and let him in. God is always present but we have to let him in. We must learn to be conscious of that reality.

Jesus is always in and around us but we have to touch base with him. The more we do, the deeper our relationship with him will be. It can’t help but influence how we live.

It is a good way to begin a new year.

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

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Seize your second chance in this second decade

It is nearly impossible to recognize Danny Cahill, the Oklahoma land surveyor, in NBC’s “Biggest Loser.” But if you look closely, you can see him in the corners of his smile and the familiar glimmer in his blue eyes — hints of the former man, eight months and 239 pounds ago.

Today the 40-year-old dad is a reality TV star, peddling an eponymous Web site and a hit single. “This is your second reality TV star, peddling an idea,” says Meredith Vieira, the “Biggest Loser” host who believes that the new Cahill might make a second decade of excellence.

Danny told Meredith Vieira the footage he has given us: sweating on the treadmill, stepping onto the scale, hugging his family as confetti falls, then reaching behind right now. As the centu-ry’s first decade gives way to the second, we’re feeling a heightened desire for turnarounds, an itching to up the ante on our typical New Year’s resolutions.

Time magazine has added to our urgency, bidding farewell, on a recent cover, to “The Decade From Hell.”

“Bookended by 9/11 at the start and a financial wipeout at the end, the first 10 years of this century will very likely go down as the most dispiriting and disil-lusioning decade Americans have lived through in the post-World War II era,” Andy Serwer writes. “Call it the Decade from Hell, or the Reckoning, or the Lost Decade. Call it whatever you want — just give thanks that it is nearly over.

“Time” magazine’s dramatic claim is laced with the promise, a subtitle, that the next decade will be better.

As Catholics we have cause to hope for great hope — and a myriad of turnarounds. The lives of the saints are full of second acts and second chances: heretics and hedonists, embezzlers and extortionists, gossips and gamblers and gang leaders who turn around and do great things for the glory of God. St. Augustine stopped denouncing the Church. St. Olga stopped killing. And the wayward Mary Magdalene was freed of seven demons, becoming the first witness of Jesus’ resurrection. He explained, “Her many sins have been forgiven, hence, she has shown great love.”

Our merciful God has given us the grace of the sacraments and the power of reconciliation. “As far as the East is from the West,” David the Psalmist reassures us, “so far have our sins been removed from us.”

Just as 430-pound Danny Cahill has vanished, absolution leaves no trace of our former selves.

My favorite expression of that hope for transformation comes from the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke: “And now let us welcome the new year, full of things that have never been.”

What a sweet and simple phrase: things that have never been. Mountains that have never been climbed. Prayers that have never been uttered. Cures that have never been found. Babies that have never been born. Books that have never been written. Dreams that have never been imagined.

For as long as our history here, there is so much yet undone, waiting to be breathed and willed into life. This new decade. This new year. This new day.

Christina Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at christinacap@gmail.com.

The Right to Life

Friday January 22nd

Highlights from the Washington, D.C.
MARCH FOR LIFE

The Grace of the Sacraments

FREE BOOK about
“The Passion”

You have seen the movie, now read what Jesus says about the meaning of His Passion as dictated to Catalina Rivas.

This 48 page book has the “Imprimatur” and is recommended for meditation. Mrs. Rivas was featured in the recent FOX-TV special, “Signs from God” that was broadcast worldwide.

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T WEN T Y
S O M E T H I N G

Christina Capecci

The Cutting Edge

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

A s I walk around the grounds of Saint Mary’s College it is almost the exception to see a student without a phone on her ear. Often they are touching base with one of their parents or a friend. It seems like everyone these days is just a phone call away. Land-lines are nearly becoming obsolete. Most of us love instant communication and want to stay connected with those we care about at all times, from wherever we happen to be.

I got to thinking about this growing phenomenon where students, and others, just can’t seem to get through the day without calling their parents or some other significant person in their lives, and how this might relate to our relationship with Jesus.

Recently I re-read a delightful little book called “Practicing the Presence of God.” It contains the reflections of a simple monk named Brother Laurence. He wrote how he continually strove to recognize Christ’s presence in all the people and events of each day of his life. He tried to live each moment, no matter what he was doing, conscious of God’s active love for all of creation. He experienced the Lord in every-thing and consciously lived in God’s presence. During most of his waking hours he carried on a running conversation with God.

One of the ongoing desires of my own life has been to try to live more that way. When we do, our lives will be transformed.

It’s an apt soundtrack to the 2010s. As the centu-ry’s first decade gives way to the second, we’re feeling a heightened desire for turnarounds, an itching to up the ante on our typical New Year’s resolutions.

Time magazine has added to our urgency, bidding farewell, on a recent cover, to “The Decade From Hell.”

“Bookended by 9/11 at the start and a financial wipeout at the end, the first 10 years of this century will very likely go down as the most dispiriting and disillusioning decade Americans have lived through in the post-World War II era,” Andy Serwer writes. “Call it the Decade from Hell, or the Reckoning, or the Lost Decade. Call it whatever you want — just give thanks that it is nearly over.

“Time” magazine’s dramatic claim is laced with the promise, a subtitle, that the next decade will be better.

As Catholics we have cause to hope for great hope — and a myriad of turnarounds. The lives of the saints are full of second acts and second chances: heretics and hedonists, embezzlers and extortionists, gossips and gamblers and gang leaders who turn around and do great things for the glory of God. St. Augustine stopped denouncing the Church. St. Olga stopped killing. And the wayward Mary Magdalene was freed of seven demons, becoming the first witness of Jesus’ resurrection. He explained, “Her many sins have been forgiven, hence, she has shown great love.”

Our merciful God has given us the grace of the sacraments and the power of reconciliation. “As far as the East is from the West,” David the Psalmist reassures us, “so far have our sins been removed from us.”

Just as 430-pound Danny Cahill has vanished, absolution leaves no trace of our former selves.

My favorite expression of that hope for transformation comes from the German poet Rainer Maria Rilke: “And now let us welcome the new year, full of things that have never been.”

What a sweet and simple phrase: things that have never been. Mountains that have never been climbed. Prayers that have never been uttered. Cures that have never been found. Babies that have never been born. Books that have never been written. Dreams that have never been imagined.

For as long as our history here, there is so much yet undone, waiting to be breathed and willed into life. This new decade. This new year. This new day.

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To receive this book, send your name and address with $2 for shipping and handling to:
Love & Mercy Publications
P.O. Box 1160 • Hampstead, NC 28443
BISHOPS CELEBRATE MASS FOR LIFE

A Mass for Life marking the 37th anniversary of Roe v. Wade will be celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 17, followed by a Eucharistic Holy Hour at both the Fort Wayne and South Bend cathedrals. Bishop John M. D'ArCY will celebrate the Mass at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate at 5:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

PRO-LIFE

A fellow Catholic tells story of Rachel’s Vineyard, forgiveness

Allow me to introduce myself. I am the woman who sits next to you in the pew on Sunday. My family and I are there each week. We tithe regularly and are moderately active in the parish. Our children attend religious education and we speak of our faith openly in our home. I have always had a heart for children and have recently felt a calling to minister to women. One thing I’ve learned in my 40-plus years is that everyone has a story. Here is mine:

I am a cradle Catholic. As the oldest of four children, I felt I was expected to set a good example. I grew up feeling like that was my lot in life — to be “good.” There is a large age difference between my siblings and I. So, when I went away to college and they were all still at home, I began feeling like an outsider. At times I wondered whether my parents’ love for me was unconditional. Even though I graduated with a degree in elementary education, my college years were less than ideal. Something happened during that time that would change my life forever and take me some 15 years to face.

For now, let me fast forward to my current life. I have been married to my college sweetheart for 20 years. We have two beautiful children together and a life I have always dreamed of.

Our marriage hasn’t always been “picture perfect,” however. Seven years ago, I was diagnosed with depression. I finally sought help after wishing I could just “disappear” and believing everyone, my children included, would be better off without me. Most frightening of all, I began having dreams about killing myself. I truly felt there was a battle for my soul occurring.

I entered counseling and started to feel a little better but was still not myself. Deep down, I knew the reason for my depression was unrepented sin. My counselor encouraged me to find healing in my faith. She had another client who had attended a retreat called “Rachel’s Vineyard” — a retreat for women who have had an abortion. While I felt God’s forgiveness for my sin, I still felt a calling to minister to women. I knew God wanted me to go there. I attended the retreat on my own and found it to be the most divine experience I have ever known.

I did not walk on that journey alone, however. I believe God sent a guardian angel to walk with me. This Irish priest and I spent much of the weekend together. He had come to know me during that time and realized my feelings of invisibility and unworthiness. Being able to make my Confession to him was indeed divine order. He spoke directly to my heart as he told me to go out and make myself known. After that Confession, other retreat attendees said I was absolutely glowing. As I was getting into my car to leave at the conclusion of the retreat, the priest called my name. He had come looking for me. He then spoke the words to me I’ll never forget. He said, “It was a pleasure to be in the presence of a true lady all weekend.” I felt not only forgiven but treasured, as well. The last thing I had felt like over the past 15 years was a “lady.”

It is at this retreat that I was able to name my baby, Colin Charles, weep for him and beg for forgiveness. That weekend I literally laid my life at the foot of the cross and felt God’s unbelievable love for me. That He could forgive me for such an unthinkable act can only be through divine mercy and grace. I will praise Him forever!

That being said, there’s not a day that goes by that I don’t think of my child and wish he were here with me. Since it was my husband’s child, as well, I think about how much richer our lives would be had we not made that sinful choice so many years ago. I think about how old he would be now and what kind of bigger brother he would be to our children.

I used to think that every bad thing that happened to me was a result of that choice. I now know God does not work that way. I know someday my son and I will be reunited.

For so many years, I felt unworthy of God’s love and never sought it. But He never gave up on me. I believe He used my depression to call me to Him and to help me face the pain I had tried to carry on my own.

While I felt God’s forgiveness at the retreat, it wasn’t until I began sharing my story with others that I learned to forgive myself. Until recently, I had only shared my story with one other person fearing it was too ugly to let out in the light. In allowing God to help me by being vulnerable, I have achieved greater healing than I ever thought possible.

People say I am “brave” for sharing my story. It doesn’t feel like an act of bravery. Rather it is a privilege. My spiritual journey and healing is God’s story. It is a story of the kind of unconditional love that only our Savior can provide. It is a love available to all, even a sinner like me.

Signed,
A fellow parishioner
Project Rachel: Reaching out compassionately after abortion

BY LISA EVERETT

In Ramah is heard the sound of weeping, of bitter weeping! Rachel mourns her children, she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more. Thus says the LORD: Cease your cries of mourning, wipe the tears from your eyes. The sorrow you have shown shall have its reward. There is hope for your future.

— Jer 31:15-17

This past summer, Project Rachel, the Church’s healing ministry to those who have been involved in abortion, marked its 25th anniversary. Founded by Vicki Thorn, who at that time served as pro-life director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Project Rachel is an outreach program that operates as a network of priests, professional counselors and other mentors who are trained to offer one-on-one spiritual and psychological care for those suffering from the aftermath of abortion and seeking healing and reconciliation.

“Fifty years ago, I first encountered the wounds that abortion leaves on the souls of women,” Vicki recalls. “A friend of mine had placed her first baby up for adoption. My friend later endured sexual abuse by a family member, which led to her second pregnancy. Her mother arranged for a safe but illegal abortion. Little did her mother know that she had bought her daughter a one-way ticket to a life of suffering.”

Later in life, Vicki’s friend struggled with suicide attempts, an abusive marriage, chemical dependency, as well as becoming abusive herself toward her other children. “I can live with the abortion,” she always said. “I can’t live with the abortion.” Vicki’s search for answers to her friend’s pain led her to obtain a degree in psychology, to become certified as a perinatal loss facilitator and a grief counselor, and to become trained in trauma counseling and spiritual direction. All of this education, coupled with a compassionate heart and the grace of God, eventually led Vicki to develop Project Rachel, a program now offered in 140 Catholic dioceses in the United States, as well as dioceses in other countries. Besides responding with the compassion of Christ to a profound human wound, Project Rachel is a concrete way to implement the U.S. Bishops’ call for post-abortion ministry, expressed in their very first Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities in 1975 in response to the legalization of abortion nationwide.

This call was reaffirmed and expanded in 2001. “The Church offers reconciliation as well as spiritual and psychological care for those suffering from abortion’s aftermath. Every Church-sponsored program and identifiable Catholic organization and agency should know where to refer them in need of post-abortion healing.”

As part of the process of rejuvenating our own Project Rachel program, Vicki Thorn came to the diocese this past November and conducted day-long workshops in both Fort Wayne and South Bend for those interested in learning more about how to help women and men who have been involved in abortion.

A new Project Rachel hotline has been established at (574) 386-8295, and Margarita Rodriguez, who works in the diocesan Office of Family Life as assistant director for Pro-Life and Hispanic Outreach, is the Project Rachel phone counselor, able to speak to callers in either English or Spanish. A confidential network of priests, professional counselors and other trained individuals in the diocese has been established, and referrals for one-on-one counseling will be made as appropriate.

Publicity about the Project Rachel program will take place through Today’s Catholic, parish bulletins, local newspapers, public service announcements on radio stations, and specially printed business cards intended for the back of churches, college campuses and other public places in the broader community.

As a mother of six, Vicki is quick to credit the Blessed Mother with the success of Project Rachel over these 25 years. “Mary’s footprints are all over Project Rachel,” she said at the workshop in Fort Wayne, mentioning that she realized later that the first press release about this new ministry went out all over the world on the feast of Our Lady of LaSallette, Consolation of Sinners. “People always ask me if I get depressed hearing all the painful stories that I hear.” Vicki said. “I never do because I know that God will heal anyone who asks. God is alive and well. No one has ever called me and said that healing didn’t happen, if they opened their heart to the Lord. If fact, women often give me a hug and whisper, ‘thank you’ in my ear. I recently met a woman whom I had counseled. With a huge smile she said, ‘You and I have known each other a long time! And the joy in her eyes told me that the merciful hand of God had touched her and made her whole. If you give God permission to heal you, it will happen, and you will be astonished at the ‘God happenings’ in your life.”

Lisa Everett is the codirector of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
Abortion’s aftermath and the journey towards healing

BY LISA EVERETT

Since Roe v. Wade, there have been over 50 million legal abortions in the United States. According to Vicki Thorn, the founder of Project Rachel and director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing, while some women report relatively little trauma following abortion, for many, the experience is devastating, causing serious and persistent emotional, psychological and spiritual difficulties. According to Vicki’s Web site, www.hopeafterabortion.com, women who have experienced an abortion may exhibit some or several of the following symptoms:

- Low self-esteem
- Grief (mild to profound)
- Depression (sometimes to the point of suicidal thoughts and attempts)
- A sense of alienation from family and friends
- A feeling of being “numb,” not able to enjoy activities that used to be pleasurable
- Isolating oneself from others to avoid discussing the abortion experience
- Guilt and shame
- Difficulty concentrating
- Anger towards oneself, the baby’s father, or others involved in the abortion decision
- Sleep disorders
- Abortion-related nightmares, flashbacks or even sounds of a baby crying
- Alcohol and drug problems, which develop to dull the pain
- Desires for a “replacement” baby
- Anniversary reactions of grief or depression on the date of the abortion or the baby’s due date
- Problems bonding with her other children (being over-protective but emotionally distant)
- Fear that God will punish her, or is punishing her.
- Some women, especially teens, experience symptoms soon after the abortion. However, it is more common for symptoms to occur over the course of five to 12 years after the abortion. Sometimes a woman does not realize that the suffering she has been experiencing, perhaps for many years, is associated with her past abortion. This is likely due to the fact that our society has largely accepted abortion as a common surgical procedure that is no big deal and means little more than having one’s appendix removed. Those who experience symptoms of grief and mourning afterwards are often dismissed with the advice to “get over it” and left alone to suffer in silence, sometimes for decades, before seeking help and healing.

“Many women who have walked a path of grief and hopelessness after abortion, usually alone, eventually begin to understand that they have a deep spiritual wound,” Vicki comments. “But sadly, they also are likely to believe that they have committed ‘the unforgivable sin’ and fear God’s anger. Women who have had an abortion often have many questions, the answers to which are indispensable to beginning the healing journey. Can God ever forgive me? Can my child? Can I ever forgive myself? Will the Church let me stay when I confess this sin? Will this horrible pain ever go away? Is healing possible? The answer to all these questions is, of course, yes!”

Pope John Paul II himself, in his 1995 encyclical “Evangelium vitae,” (“The Gospel of Life”), specifically addressed women who have had an abortion with words of tenderness and compassion: “The wound in your heart may not have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord.” (no. 99). For more information about Project Rachel in the diocese, the Church’s program of post-abortion healing, or to get started on the journey yourself, please call (574) 386-8295.

Resources recommended by the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing

- “‘The Gospel of Life’… is, of course, yes!”

The nearer a soul is truly united to God, the more its sensibilities are increased to every being of His Creation; much more to those whom it is bound to love by the tenderest and most endearing ties.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
Fort Wayne
Support the Dignity of Human Life

Life is a Miracle

St. Charles Borromeo Church
FORT WAYNE

THE CONFLICT is between a culture that affirms, cherishes, and celebrates the gift of life, and a culture that seeks to declare entire groups of human beings - the unborn, the terminally ill, the handicapped, and others considered ‘unuseful’ to be outside the boundaries of legal protection.

-Pope John Paul II

Since 1973, over 50 million babies have died by abortion. It’s time to stop the violence! Pray to end abortion. Join us at the rally in Washington, D.C.

St. Mary of the Assumption DECATUR and St. Joseph School

DEFEND LIFE from conception to natural end, through Prayer • Charity • Education St. Bernard Parish WABASH

RESPECT LIFE “The gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message...it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity; as ‘good news’ to the people of every age and culture.” -Pope John Paul II

St. Patrick Church ARCOLA

Rodriguez to offer Project Rachel outreach to the Hispanic community

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — As Project Rachel is rejuvenated in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, the Office of Family Life is making sure the program is available to anyone whose life has been affected by abortion. Family Life Coordinator Lisa Everett says she needed to look no further than Women’s Care Center and the training provided to Margarita Rodriguez, now assistant director for Pro-Life and Hispanic Outreach.

“Margarita used to work as a counselor for Women’s Care Center,” explains Everett, referring to the years Rodriguez spent as a bilingual counselor, teaching parenting classes and helping women facing a crisis pregnancy. “She is bilingual and works in our office for pro-life outreach, especially with the Hispanic community, (that) makes her the perfect person to answer the hotline.”

Rodriguez agrees that her role will be to compassionately listen to the people who call, and assess their needs.

According to Everett, the hotline counselor’s job is to then refer them to someone on the confidential network of priests, professional counselors and spiritual mentors who will help them through the process of healing and reconciliation. Rodriguez says she is relying on her faith as well as her training.

“As a hotline counselor for Project Rachel, and with the help of Jesus and Mary, our Mother, I hope to be a resource and provide support and information to the women and men whose lives have been affected and devastated by abortion,” says Rodriguez.

Rodriguez also credits her experience with Women’s Care Center for preparing her to help others through Project Rachel. “Women’s Care Center bases its services on the ‘Love Approach,’” explains Rodriguez. “Jesus’ unconditional and nonjudgmental love is the main approach I will take as the diocesan hotline counselor for Project Rachel. This same approach is at the core of the Church’s pro-life vision and at the core of my passion for doing this ministry.”

Rodriguez believes the Hispanic community, along with other minorities, are frequent targets of the abortion industry. She says she hopes to be “an instrument of God” in promoting awareness.

“Abortion affects us all,” con-

36th Annual March for Life SPONSORED BY ALLEN COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE

January 30, 2010 - Noon Scottish Rite

Keynote: Abby Johnson former abortion facility director

NOW PRO-LIFE ADVOCATE

With special guests:
US Congressman Mark Souder & State Representative Jackie Walorski

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010
IPFW Campus at noon in the Ballroom - Walb
University of St. Francis 7:00 pm

Our parish is dedicated to

The Mother of Our Saviour
The Star of Hope
The Comfort of the Afflicted

And the one chosen to guide us through the sorrows of life, including the agony brought about by abortion.

Queen of Peace, be with us.

Saint Mary Parish - Huntington
continues Rodriguez. “Hispanics and blacks have been one of the main focus of the Planned Parenthood agenda, and of the culture of death in general. These are all attempts to destroy life; from the unreliable, deceiving and defective, “sexual education” that promotes and generates promiscuity, and shapes a destructive contraceptive mentality ... that leads to the use of artificial contraceptives, abortion, artificial reproduction and euthanasia. And of course social injustice, destructive inhumane and unjust immigration laws; all have the same tactic, to dehumanize and demonize the undesirable person. I really believe that giving priority to the sanctity of life will bring blessings in every way, including a just immigration reform. The sanctity of life is like the core piece of the puzzle once we place and protect that piece all the others will come in place.”

Rodriguez says she is grateful to Bishop John M. D’Arcy for the work he’s done, and after hearing how involved Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has been with the Hispanic community, she looks forward with great excitement to working with him.

“I feel like a kid Christmas morning unwrapping her gifts,” smiles Rodriguez. “My wish list has been granted with flying colors and I barely started unwrapping. Something tells me that feeling is going to last for a long time!”

The Families of Saint Matthew Cathedral
Parish and School work and pray for a greater respect for the gift of life.

Msgr. Michael Heintz, Rector and Pastor
Rev. Jacob Runyon, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Andre Leveille, CSC, Assisting Priest
Rev. Mr. Emilio Gizzi, Deacon
Mary Ann Retseck, Principal
Megan Hartz, Director of Liturgical Music
Rick and Nancy Becker, Directors of Religious Education
Lisa Marino, RICA Director
Mike Bogdan, Director of High School Ministry

“Christians are not distinguished from the rest of the human family by nationality, speech, or particular customs.

They are in the flesh but do not live according to the flesh.

They dwell on earth, but have their citizenship in heaven.

They obey the laws of the land, but in their own lives they transcend those laws.

This is the responsibility to which God has called them, and it is not right for them to shrink from it.”

The Epistle to Diognetus (c. AD 180)
Diocesan winner of pro-life essay contest, ‘The American Holocaust’

BY VERONICA FRECKER

In a period of 11 years, an estimated 11 million people had their lives and dreams stolen away from them. This was the result of the hate and racism of the Holocaust during the Second World War. This horrible event seems to be an event that could never be repeated, but what most people fail to realize is that there is still a mass destruction of human life going on today. In America, there have been over 49,551,700 victims since 1973. Though this modern day mass murder has much in common with the previous Holocaust, it is not as well known. This new horror is abortion — the American holocaust.

The first similarity between the American and the World War II holocausts is the fact that human beings were and are eliminated for the betterment of the human gene pool. This selection method is called eugenics. Nazis worked toward the “final solution,” by killing people who were physically or mentally handicapped. They wanted to create the perfect race, and anyone who did not meet their guidelines was considered an obstacle. Every obstacle must be exterminated before the goal can be accomplished.

Today, parents test an unborn child for deformities. If any problems, such as retardation or autism are found, the parents may decide they will not be able to care for someone who has these special needs. In response, the parents exterminate their “problem.” The practice of eugenics takes away the individuality of the person, and it makes a species of undefined individuals.

It is so easy to get rid of something when it has no value. That is why Nazis and abortion supporters dehumanize their victims. In the past, Nazi propaganda was used to create anti-Semitic feelings. Jews were criticized as the cause of social and economic problems. This made them a group of undesirables that could be done away with, with little guilt.

The same problem occurs today. Though unborn children are not blamed for problems in our society, they are degraded to nothing but a mass of cells or a fetus with no real connection to the person they have the potential to be. When those supportive of “choice” claim that the fetus is not yet a person, this is just their way of dehumanizing the infant. It severs the emotional bond between the mother and the baby, and the act of abortion seems less immoral. The life of the child is then disposed of without sympathy, and its body is trashed unceremoniously — trashed because it has no value, and no connection.

Dehumanization is a plague to our species, for it turns a life into something that can be discarded like garbage. When people of any day and age think like...
JANUARY 17, 2010 PRO-LIFE 17

lives would come to the same
tim. The innocent is made a vic-
dier, the innocent is made a vic-
choice is made, whether it is
defend itself. It has no voice to
baby.
unborn children alive is whether
sensation that the child
injection. The pain from
baby can have its
baby’s remains
be made by selling
simply discarded.

- Jeremiah 1:5

The victims of the modern
tortures is the last
brain suctioned out,

Any dignity the life-
left was stripped away
from the womb, the

This is achieved in many
organizational authority
Pope John Paul II

The victims of the
torturers.

Fortunately,

It has been said more than
Once again, we are reminded

Veronica Frecker, a sophomore at
Bishop Luers High School in

The St. Joseph Parish
stands in loving support of life in
all its stages, from conception to

Pope John Paul II

Holy Family — Marching, fasting,
and love? As believers,

Rev. Christopher Smith, Pastor

Rev. Robert Van Kempen, Pastor

Rev. William Sullivan, Pastor

Rev. Glenn Kohrman, Pastor
High noon for healthcare reform

As congressional leaders meet to hash out the final version of a healthcare reform bill, a final stand on the House floor by pro-life Democrats regarding abortion coverage looks all but certain. While the House bill had a strong federal ban on funding abortions except for cases of rape, incest or the life of the mother, the Senate version would, in many cases, require federal subsidies for abortion on demand — no matter how far along or for what reason. Many are guessing that the final bill will contain the Senate language on abortion coverage.

It will likely take only a dozen of the House pro-life Democrats to stand firm in order to stop passage of a pro-abortio

healthcare bill. Rep. Joe Donnelly of South Bend has indicated that he will be among them. The big question that remains is whether the congressional leadership would then quickly insert a restrictive funding amendment in order to save the healthcare bill. Let us pray for a victory for both the poor and the unborn.

The Magi show us the way

In his reflections on the Epiphany, Pope Benedict reminded the world that humility is needed in order to both seek and find the Truth. To the Magi, the Gospel says "they knelt down and paid him homage." They could have wasted themselves before "the child with Mary his mother." The Gospel says that "he had the humility to make them wise as well. This authentic wisdom gave his wisdom, and tell them that he is certain that they will make the correct decision.

John Gaughan, thank you for your service. You will be missed.

Mary Keefer, Principal, Bishop Luers High School
Fort Wayne

White House protest new to March for Life activities, Roe anniversary

BY CHAZ MUTH

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pro-life activists flocking to the nation's capital for the 35th March for Life Jan. 22 will be buoyed by recent polls that say they are among the majority of Americans who identify themselves as pro-life.

Organizers of the massive demonstration also have scheduled — for the first time in its history — a two-hour rally at Lafayette Park, across from the White House, the evening before the main event. The March for Life organizers are promoting their commitment to the pro-life movement to President Barack Obama.

"Billled as a mini-rally because the permit limits the gathering to 3,000 demonstrators, organizers say they planned the White House event to bring "the life principles" to the president of the United States," Obama, near the end of his first year in office, has repeatedly said he supports keeping abortion legal in the U.S.

Tens of thousands from all over the U.S. travel each year to the nation's capital for the Jan. 22 anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

The same day the Supreme Court ruled on the Roe case, it also handed down the companion decision Doe v. Bolton. Together, Roe and Doe defined abortion as a constitutional right and returned most state laws banning the procedure.

As usual, the main event will begin with a noon rally Jan. 22 on the National Mall, followed by a march along Constitution Avenue that will end at the U.S. Supreme Court. From there, participants are urged to meet with members of Congress to lobby on abortion-related issues.

Pro-life activists have been encouraged in the last year that their message has been resonating with the American public and that the pro-life movement is gaining ground on the divisive issue.

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Closure — the myth

It’s time to dispel an unsettling myth that has become popular in our culture in the last couple of decades — the myth of closure. Closure can mean different things to different people, but in the bereavement arena it is typically defined as letting go, putting “it” behind you or closing the door on the past. When the phrase, “Now you have closure,” is expressed, it’s message is one of confusion for the bereaved — time to be.

How does one close the door on their grief? On their memories and love? Those of us who have experienced the complex and deeply personal journey associated with losing a loved one find that there is no getting over a loss — no real or imaginary closure.

Most of us will never forget the life altering event of our loved one’s death. One day we wake up and realize that they are no longer with us. We take steps to close the door on the loss, with all it’s emotional turmoil and mandatory self-discovery, would mean closing our minds and hearts to the memories of the love we shared and time we spent together.

Rebecca, a woman who recently buried her husband of 27 years, says, “So many people told me at the funeral that I would find closure after I buried my husband. So far I haven’t found it.” She has found that by day as she faces her grief, that she is on a path of discovering a new normal for herself and her family — and it is an ongoing process. Recently she commented, she continued to seek the closure that her husband’s funeral eluded to, hoping to distance herself from the memories she cherished that had brought her comfort, solace and peace. Only after she cleaned out his things and gave them away, would she close this chapter of her life,” she said. Unfortunately she discovered that even without her husband’s belongings in her possession, his memory remained and her grief journey continued.

Whether it’s following the funeral or special ceremony, a special anniversary date, removal of wedding rings or distribution of personal items, the pain of loss typically continues. If by attended to and expressed, the pain will soften over time and become transformative.

Some of us, after hearing about this elusive “closure,” not achieving it, may over time begin to wonder if there is something wrong with us or our style of grieving. Nothing could be further from the truth. David Prend wrote on the bereavement Web site, For the Love of Cristy, “Closure is for real estate transactions. Closure is not for feelings or for people we love.”

This year marks the 20th anniversary of my husband’s death. In the past two decades, I have experienced the emotional birth pangs of creating a new life after loss and found goodness and joy again. But I would be remiss if I did not say that the memories we cherish, somehow which still occasionally stir sadness and pain, have remained with me. And I suspect they will remain with our heart and soul. They are, after all, the very thing that connects us to the person who meant so much to us. I would never close the door on that.

The very essence of grief work is rediscovery of life. That process, difficult as it is, can be embraced but never closed.

So if you haven’t been able to find closure, relax and take a breath. It does not exist. The issue is the underlying message — be put behind you, forget about it. To mourn well and live well, facing the pain of the loss and the treasured memories in everyday life is essential to healing and creating a new normal. This is the way we honor our past, live in the present and move into the future.

KAY COZAD is a certified grief educator and news editor of Today’s Catholic News. She can be reached at kcozad@todayscatholicnews.org.
America’s Roman college at 150

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

Gospel for January 17, 2010

John 2:1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C, about the wedding at Cana. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THIRD DAY INVITED MY HOUR GALLONS DRAW SOME OUT CALLED FIRST IN CANA NO WINE STONE IN CANA NO WINE STONE FILL THE JARS TAKE BRIDEGROOM HIS SIGNS

WINE JARS


SCRIPTY SEARCH

Gospel for January 17, 2010

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THIRD DAY INVITED MY HOUR GALLONS DRAW SOME OUT CALLED FIRST IN CANA NO WINE STONE FILL THE JARS TAKE BRIDEGROOM HIS SIGNS

WINE JARS


CROSSWORD

Based on these Scripture Readings: Neh 8:2-10; 1Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1: 1-4, 4:14-21; Lk 4:21-30

ACROSS

1 No longer __ or Greeks 5 Environmental agency 8 Revolutions per minute 11 President’s office 12 Males 13 Talk back 14 Treaty Organization 15 Flying saucer 16 Leave out 17 Practiced 19 Adam and Eve’s first home 21 Possessive pronoun 22 Stomach ache 24 Computer part 26 “Curves”

DOWN

1 A whale of a prophet 2 Shark 3 Baptize with 4 Swill 5 Flightless bird 6 Be __ as your heavenly Father is 7 Negative battery terminal 8 Sacrifice animal 9 Pounds per square inch 10 Mountain Standard Time 11 “… of Joseph” 12 From Constantineople 12 Learned 23 Not ordained 24 Executive 25 Set 26 Not downs 27 Dept. of Defense 29 Big, or siss. 30 Her 31 Brooch 32 “Baptized in __ body” 33 Wrath 34 Ex. 35 Embarrassed 36 Got out of sleep 37 Naomi was from 38 Ovations 39 In 40 Tournaments 41 Tell 42 Snarky 43 “The Water ___” 44 “Expression of surprise” 45 Gruff 46 Comes before “M” 47 Chat

Answer Key can be found on page 23

HIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

were denied by the Sadducees. The Sadducees defended freedom whereas the Pharisees believed in predestination.

J. Comay says the Pharisees prescribed rules for new members, including the observance of seven hours of prayer, giving one-tenth of all possessions to the Temple, fasting twice a week on

the days when Moses ascended and descended from Mount Sinai, performing ritual washings and offerings, and adhering to complicated food laws and Sabbath regulations. The Pharisees then scorned those who did not meet their rigorous standards. Contact with these sinners rendered the Pharisee unclean.

Although many of the Pharisees criticized Jesus, some Pharisees liked Jesus, such as Nicodemus who secretly met Jesus at night about the sacrament of Baptism and then helped bury Jesus, the

wealthy Joseph of Arimathea who offered the crucified Jesus his new tomb hewn out of rock, the rabbi Gamaliel who publicly defended the apostles before the Sanhedrin, and Paul the great missionary who devoted his life to spreading the Gospel of Christ.

When the Romans destroyed the Temple of Jerusalem, its priesthood, and the Jewish community, in A.D. 70, the Sadducees, as a group, disappeared. The Judaism that survived was that of the Pharisees and the rabbis.

If death threats are issued — and they are — against prominent American lay defenders of marriage rightly understood, can anyone doubt that similar threats will eventually be aimed at Catholic priests who defend the primordial sacrament?

No one wishes for this; indeed, we should pray daily that we are spared such sacrifices as a Church. That the dictatorship of relativism (as Pope Benedict XVI describes it) is determined to use coercive state power to enforce lifestyle libertinism is not, however, in doubt. The evangelical challenge that fact poses gives a special spiritual texture to preparation for ordained ministry, at NAC or anywhere else, in the Church’s Year for Priests and the sesquicentennial year of America’s Roman college.
Panthers crowned Hoopfest Champs

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth League’s (CYO) St. Vincent Panthers are off to a roaring start this season opening with a 2-0 record in Gold League play by beating St. John, Fort Wayne and St. Jude 8 during the month of December. After that, the Lady Panthers went on to win the 2009 Hoopfest, which showcased many CYO teams as well as a tough lineup of public middle schools over the Christmas break. On the hardwood at the University of Saint Francis, St. Vincent downed St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth 8 in a close one, 42-40.

In early 2010 action, St. Joseph snatched the dekalb Barons’ 26-game win streak with a 48-46 win on Jan. 5. In the title game, the Panthers battled back, after being down 15 points at the beginning of the second half. St. Vincent’s Mikayla Hudson made her second free-throw with only two seconds left on the clock, forcing an overtime playoff.

St. Therese girls anticipate strong CYO showing

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — With Lindsay Shutt and Dustin Luerging at her side, Coach Linda Luerging is once again coaching the St. Therese girls this season.

Luerging has been coaching for 22 years — the past six with the Crusaders. The Lady Crusaders list eight on their combined roster with four eighth graders and four seventh graders for the 2009-2010 season.

St. Therese is off to a 2-2 start which includes four games over the Christmas break at the University of Saint Francis holiday tournament where the Crusaders finished fourth with wins over St. Jude 8 and St. Jude 7.

Their losses during the tournament came to Memorial Park and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth 8.

“I felt we played defense throughout the whole tournament, but struggled offensively,” explained Luerging.

Looking to get their scoring back on track, the Crusaders have a bye the first week back, but resume play on Sunday, Jan. 17, when they face St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth 7.

In Blue League play, St. Therese is 2-0 with wins over Huntington and St. Aloysius. They anticipate a strong showing in the 2010 CYO tournament after a third-place finish a year ago.

“Hessen Cassel will definitely be the team to beat. We have not seemed to get that done in past years,” noted Luerging.

Goals for her team this season include becoming stronger shooters — both free throws and field goals. Luerging also hopes to finish the season with a better than .500 record and see continuous improvement from the beginning of the year to the final game of the season in both individual and team play.

“Six out of the eight girls played for me last season. These girls have a lot of heart and play together well as a team. They work hard in practice and it shows in our games,” Luerging added.

In other action over the Christmas break, the eighth-grade girls from St. Vincent took home the blue medals at Saint Francis, while St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel remained undefeated, winning both a feeder-school tournament and a four-team showdown at St. John, New Haven.
Catholics look at how to welcome their own back to the fold

BY KATIE BAHR

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) —
Two women who have returned to their Catholic faith after years away have written a book, “When They Come Home,” as a guide for parishes on how to minister to returning Catholics.

The women, Anna LaNave and Melanie Rigney, parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Arlington, say parishes need to reach out to inactive members by tailoring parish programs to meet their needs.

“The church really needs to come up with a strategy for how to bring these Catholics back,” LaNave said. “Otherwise, we’re going to have a very strong margin of inactive. It will be none.”

landings that is designed to

LaNave is facilitator for a program
ginal. It will be none.”

percent weekly or more. For Catholics who grew up after the Second Council, the percentages of those attending Mass and expressing a strong identification with the church are even lower.

Among Catholics of the pre-Vatican II and the immediate post-Vatican II eras who have drifted from active involvement, there are degrees of hostility and anger, Father DeSiano said. Some have joined other churches. Catholics from that generation need to be approached with great sensitivity.

The key is a sense of welcome, rather than judgment, and people with whom they can bond.

The key is a sense of welcome, rather than judgment, and people with whom they can bond.
What’s Happening?

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

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus will have a spaghetti dinner Friday, Jan. 15 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 553 E. Washington St. from 5-7:30 p.m. Adults $7, children under 12 $3.50.

Young adult retreat
Mishawaka — A young adult (18-35 years) mini-retreat will be held Sunday, Jan. 17, from 1-6 p.m. at the convent of Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, 1515 W. Dragoon Tr. An afternoon of prayer, inspiration and quiet is planned. “Faith and Reason in Today’s World and How Do We Bring Christ to It?” will be presented by Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart. Mass at 5 p.m. Cost $5.

Celebration of diversity in the arts
Fort Wayne — The Global Village will take the stage Sunday, Jan. 31, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Pierceton. The theme for the day is “Pro-Life Michiana: A Reviewing the Situation.” The speaker will be Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart. Mass at 5 p.m. Cost $5.

Pancake breakfast hosted by Knights
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 9460 will host a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, Jan. 31, at the St. Therese Parish Hall, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A freewill donation will be accepted.

Jim Murphy to speak at day retreat
Mishawaka — St. Catherine of Siena Rosary Sodalities present Jim Murphy on “Gift of Faith,” Saturday, Jan. 30, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragoon Tr. Registration and breakfast begins at 8 a.m. with the retreat at 9 a.m. Mass at 11:30 a.m. with lunch following. Cost is $25. Register by calling (574) 291-0570.

Annual Right to Life March
South Bend — St. Joseph County Right to Life will hold its annual March for Life on Friday, Jan. 22, from noon until 1 p.m. in front of the Federal Courthouse at the corner of Main and Jefferson in downtown South Bend. This day will mark the 37th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the U.S.

March for Life planned at Scottish Rite
Fort Wayne — The Scottish Rite of Fort Wayne — Allen County Right to Life to have a March for Life, Saturday, Jan. 30 beginning at noon at Scottish Rite Auditorium. Speaker is Abby Johnson, former abortion facility director, now pro-life advocate. Special guests include Congressman Mark Souder and State Rep. Jackie Walorski.

Pro-Life walk and talk planned by
Knights
South Bend — A pro-life walk and talk sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 553 will be Sunday, Jan. 17, from 2-4 p.m. starting at council headquarters at Hill and Washington St. Walk as a group to St. Joseph Church for a prayer service, then return to the council for a panel discussion, “Pro-Life Michiana: A Status Report.” Free of charge, refreshments. For more information call (574) 232-6777.

DCCW to meet at St. Joseph Hospital
Fort Wayne — The Council of Catholic Women will meet Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 10 a.m. in lower level of St. Joseph Hospital. The speaker will be Bryan Brown from the Archangel Institute in Fort Wayne. All women of the diocese are welcome.

Plan to attend Mass for fallen-away Catholics
Fort Wayne — Family and friends who know Catholics who have fallen away from the faith are invited to join others at St. Jude Parish Saturday, Jan. 30, from Mass at 8:15 a.m. then coffee, donuts, prayer and an open discussion. Call Angela Schade at (260) 482-3331 for information.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A Day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Jan. 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Reviewing the Situation.” Please bring your Bible. The cost of the day is $15 and includes lunch. Register by Jan. 22 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Dale Bauman will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Father Dale is associate pastor at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Pierceton.

Mystery dinner theatre
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus will have an open house Sunday, Jan. 31 at 11 a.m., St. Anthony de Padua, 2310 E. Jefferson Blvd., will have an open house Sunday, Jan. 31, from noon to 2 p.m.

Trivia night announced
South Bend — Corpus Christi School will host a trivia night on Saturday, Feb. 6. Tailgating begins at 6 p.m. with gameplay beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 per person, maximum of 12 people per table. Special guest emcees: Father Darby Rybicki. Registration forms available in the school office or by calling (574) 273-2931.

Men’s club athletic fundraiser
Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Men’s Club will have a casino night on Saturday, Jan. 30, from 5:30-11 p.m. in the parish hall. Texas Hold’em tournaments, black jack, dice, big wheel and more. Notre Dame football players on hand. Admission is $15 pre-sale or $20 at the door and includes food by Casa’s with refreshments available. Contact Todd Martin at mensclub@aintv.org for tickets.

Mystery dinner theatre
Fort Wayne — Father Henson Cassel will host a mystery dinner theatre with appetizers, dinner and theatre performance Saturday, Jan. 30, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are $25 each. Call (260) 415-2900 for information.

Spaghetti dinner and silent auction
South Bend — St. Monica Parish will have a spaghetti dinner and silent auction Saturday, Jan. 30, from 4:30-7:30 in the school gym. Advance sale tickets are $6 for adults, $4 for K-8 and under 4 are free. Tickets at the door are $1 more. Call (574) 255-0709 for tickets.

St. Anthony announces open house
South Bend — St. Anthony de Padua, 2310 E. Jefferson Blvd., will have an open house Sunday, Jan. 31, from noon to 2 p.m.

Visit www.diocesefwsb.org for a complete calendar of events in the diocese.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

REST IN PEACE

Auburn
Patricia J. Westrick, 78, Immaculate Conception

Bristol
W.E. Downs, 73, St. Mary of the Assumption

Churubusco
Mary Catherine Wisniewski Didon, 54, St.John Bosco

Elkhart
Edwin L. Huot, 83, St.Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne
Doris M. Mohl, 88, St.Charles Borromeo
Jean M. Partee-Woods, 84, St.Vincent de Paul
Steve Surfs, 63, St.John the Baptist
Margaret J. Morneme, 90, Our Lady of Good Hope
Clifford J. Smelzel, 91, Our Lady of Good Hope

Frank Carmen
Margaret, St. Joseph
Lorraine Zilk, 59, St.Jude
Charlotte L.
Augustyniak, 88, St.Charles
Doris M. Evarts, 87, Queen of Angels
Michael D. Nichols, 62, Our Lady of Good Hope
Agnes M. Starost, 88, St.Jude

Garrett
Catherine M. Wiant, 95, St.Joseph

Mishawaka
ugo G. Frisoni, 89, St. Bavo

Notre Dame
Sister M. Peter Clare Berna, CSC, 77, Our Lady of Loretto

Robert C. Marnocha, 86, St.Casimir

Helen M. Zalejski, 89, St. Matthew Cathedral
Margaret M. Ciofo, 89, Corpus Christi
Christopher J. Bankowski, 27, St. Anthony de Padua
Rosemary Burger, 77, Little Flower
Aloysius Heet, 72, Our Lady of Hungary

Wabash
Theodore Bellock, 72, St. Bernard
Sister Adele Mann, 83, Church of the Immaculate Conception
Sister served at St.Judge and St. Therese Schools in Fort Wayne.

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Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Church on Jan. 10 in Fort Wayne, with Deacon Andrew Budinski, left, in attendance. The bishop told the congregation in the packed church that it was a “time of thanksgiving, gratitude and joy,” as he celebrated his final Mass as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He stepped into the bishop emeritus position on Jan. 13 when Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was installed as ninth bishop of the diocese.

Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the diocese, shares fond memories of Bishop D’Arcy following the Mass of thanksgiving. His remarks inspired a standing ovation for the bishop. Following Mass the bishop greeted the faithful of the parish before attending a reception at the Grand Wayne Center.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy greets a woman at the reception held at the grand Wayne Center following the bishop’s final Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The bishop greeted the more than 200 guests and media at the light lunch and cake reception.