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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Msgr. Lester remembered as a shepherd after the heart of Jesus

BY TIM JOHNSON AND KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — "I will give you shepherds after my own heart," said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as he spoke of Msgr. J. William Lester at the Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead for the Burial of a Priest celebrated Feb. 24 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Msgr. Lester died on Feb. 20 at the age of 90.

The words from Jeremiah, Bishop Rhoades said, were used as he reflected upon the priestly life and ministry of Msgr. Lester. "He was truly a shepherd after the heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd," Bishop Rhoades said. "Though I only knew Msgr. Lester for a very short time, I recognized in him his kind and generous spirit, humility and his joy — a shepherd after the heart of Christ."

Retired Bishop John M D'Arcy, many priests and others shared with Bishop Rhoades about Monsignor's exemplary priestly life and ministry through the years.

One of the priests told Bishop Rhoades, "that Msgr. Lester was a true giant in our diocese."

In this Year for Priests, Bishop Rhoades related, "He was a great priest, a beloved priest, a faithful and devoted priest."

Bishop Rhoades, in his homily, said, "In this time of sorrow, the Lord is in our midst. And at this Evening Prayer the Lord consoles us with His Word. He gives us strength and lifts us from grief. We gather here in hope, for we know that those who die in union with the Lord, are indeed blessed. We gather here in hope because we know the many good deeds of Monsignor go with him. And we gather in hope because of our faith in the resurrection of the dead."

Bishop Rhoades spoke of 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, the Scripture reading from the Evening Prayer. He said, "... We believe that God has given us the victory



KAY COZAD

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades incenses the casket of Msgr. J. William Lester at the Mass of Christian Burial at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Thursday, Feb. 25.

over death through our Lord, Jesus Christ. This was Monsignor's belief as well."

Monsignor lived his life with joy and hope because he firmly believed in Christ's victory, Bishop Rhoades said.

The bishop added it should be the goal of each of us to live in God's grace, so that we will die in His grace, and thus participate in

His death and share His Resurrection.

Msgr. Lester, Bishop Rhoades said, "poured out his life in service of others, in the service of the Church. ... We thank God for the gift of Monsignor's life, for his example and for his service. And we pray for him."

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Church coordinates aid, offers condolences to quake victims' families

BY BARBARA J. FRAZER

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — As Chile's Catholic Church coordinated aid to victims of the massive earthquake that struck the country's central coast on Feb. 27, Church leaders expressed their condolences to families of the more than 700 people killed.

"This has been a catastrophe," said Bishop Alejandro Goic Karmelic of Rancagua, president of the Chilean bishops' conference. "We ache for our brothers and sisters who have lost their lives, and we pray for their families and

friends and those who have lost all the possessions for which they have worked all their lives."

After praying the Angelus Feb. 28, Pope Benedict XVI said, "I am praying for the victims and am spiritually close to those affected by this serious catastrophe. For them, I ask God to grant relief of suffering and courage in this adversity."

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet declared the southern regions of Maule and Bio-Bio a disaster area, ordered the army to reinforce the police and imposed a nighttime curfew on the region to halt looting of stores. She also asked other countries to assist with

field hospitals, water purification and communications equipment, and generators.

Telephone communication with Chile still was difficult March 1, and Chileans abroad struggled to contact relatives. Much of the disaster area and even some communities around the capital, Santiago, were without electricity.

Most deaths were in the Maule region, about 200 miles south of Santiago, where a quake-triggered tidal wave swept through coastal villages.

Cecilia Espinoza, a Maryknoll lay missionary, had just returned to Santiago with a group of students

from Notre Dame and Marquette universities before the earthquake struck. While the group was unharmed, Espinoza was trying to learn if the people they had visited in the Maule region, where she and her family worked for many years, were safe.

In the coastal fishing village of Constitucion, "we saw a beautiful parade of folk groups in the plaza, which is a couple of miles from the beach and blocks from the river," Espinoza wrote in an e-mailed update. "Now there are boats in the

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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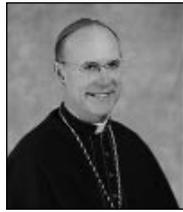
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May the Lord continue to bless you on your Lenten journey



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Msgr. J. William Lester

Last week, in this column, I wrote about the death of an exemplary and beloved priest of our diocese, Msgr. J. William Lester. This past Wednesday and Thursday, we celebrated the Church's funeral rites for Monsignor. The outpouring of love for this good and humble priest of Jesus Christ was tremendous. Bishop D'Arcy delivered a beautiful homily at the funeral Mass, recalling Msgr. Lester's devoted priestly ministry and comforting all present with his reflections on the Word of God. We prayed that our Lord would bring Monsignor into His Kingdom and give him a place in the liturgy of heaven. In this Year of the Priest, Msgr. Lester's life of faithful service reminds us of the gift and mystery of the priesthood. Let us continue to pray for all of our priests during this special year.

Priests' Lenten Day of Reflection

This past Wednesday, Bishop D'Arcy and I joined with the priests of our diocese in a day of prayer at St. Martin de Porres Church in Syracuse. Archbishop Alfred Hughes, the retired archbishop of New Orleans, a close friend of Bishop D'Arcy, offered two beautiful reflections on the priesthood, presenting as two models for us St. Paul and St. John Vianney. It was a very good day that included the opportunity for confessions and also time together in adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The turnout of our priests was excellent. Amid the busy days of Lent, it was a blessing to take a day apart to experience the goodness of the Lord in prayer. I thank all of our priests for their devotion and generous service of God's people.

Our Sunday Visitor

This past Monday, I had the pleasure of visiting the facilities of Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington. I received an excellent tour from Mr. Greg Erlandson, the president of the publishing division, and Mr. Kyle Hamilton, the president of the offering envelopes division. I had the opportunity to meet many of the devoted employees of OSV. As you know, *Our Sunday Visitor* began with the vision of a young priest, then-Father John Francis Noll, back in 1912. The future fifth bishop of our diocese was concerned about the anti-Catholic literature that was circulating at that time. He fought against this prejudice and defended the faith through his writings and particularly through the publication of the *OSV* newspaper. Through the years, *Our Sunday Visitor* grew and its mission expanded. Today, the *OSV* publishing division produces six periodicals and hundreds of books, tapes, software and education materials. It is also the nation's largest supplier of offering envelopes. Our Sunday Visitor, a Catholic not-for-profit organization, returns its net earnings to the Catholic community through its institute. Our diocese has received many generous grants for important projects from the *OSV* Institute



KAREN CLIFFORD

Catechumens, the soon-to-be elect, greet Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Feb. 28.

for which I am deeply grateful.

The highlight of my visit to Our Sunday Visitor was celebrating Mass with the staff. I was joined at the altar by two brother priests who concelebrated the Mass, Msgr. Owen Campion, the associate publisher of *OSV*, and Father John Pfister, the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Huntington. It was the feast of the Chair of St. Peter. We prayed for the present occupant of that Chair, Pope Benedict XVI, our Holy Father. Of course, the Chair of Peter is symbolic of the pastoral and teaching authority given to St. Peter and his successors by Our Lord.

Catholic school teachers

This past Friday, I was happy to celebrate Mass at Saint Joseph's High School for all our Catholic School teachers of the South Bend area. It was part of the Catechetical Formation Day, organized by our diocesan Office of Catechesis, under the fine leadership of Mr. James Tighe.

Earlier in the week, on Tuesday, I met with the Council of Teachers in Warsaw. This body represents the Catholic School teachers of our diocese. It was a pleasure to discuss with these devoted teachers not only the challenges we face but also our hopes for the future. I am grateful to all our Catholic school teachers throughout the diocese who have such an important role in the education and formation of our students in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.

Notre Dame Campus Ministry

On Friday, after the Mass at Saint Joseph's High School, I joined Father Richard Warner, CSC, the director of the Office of Campus Ministry, and his devoted staff at the University of Notre Dame for an enjoyable luncheon meeting. They arranged this luncheon to welcome me and to share with me the many programs and activities of campus ministry at Notre Dame. I enjoyed learning about the liturgical life of the university, the music ministry, the many retreats and spiritual programs available to students, as well as the religious education provided for students, including a strong RCIA program and Confirmation program. I learned

about the ministries for students of various cultural backgrounds as well. I was especially interested in learning about the faith life in the residence halls, which they described as "the heart of the faith life of Notre Dame." I pray that the students at Notre Dame and at all of our Catholic universities and colleges in the diocese will truly grow to a deeper knowledge and love of God during their college years.

Saints Alive

On Saturday evening, I had the pleasure of attending the Saints Alive dinner and auction at Bishop Dwenger High School. From the moment I arrived and was greeted by dozens of friendly Dwenger students, I was impressed. There was a great spirit as hundreds gathered in a beautifully staged "Age of Bruges" setting to support this wonderful high school. Mr. Fred Tone, the principal, welcomed me warmly and introduced me to the people gathered. The amazing generosity of the participants was a testament to the commitment of the community to the holy mission of Catholic education. As Bishop D'Arcy did in past years, I led the auction for gifts for financial aid for needy students. I told the audience that I did not know that this was part of the job description of bishops! I am very grateful to those who pledged nearly \$200,000 in gifts for tuition assistance. I thank all who participated in Saints Alive and all who share of their time, talents and treasure to support Bishop Dwenger High School and, indeed, all of our Catholic schools.

Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

On Sunday, I celebrated the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. It was a beautiful liturgy, as it was last week at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. It is edifying to see so many adults who have responded to God's grace and are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil this year. During this Lenten sea-

Pope prays for victims of massive earthquake in Chile

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI prayed for the victims of the massive earthquake in Chile and pledged the assistance of Catholic relief organizations.

The pope made the remarks at his noon blessing Feb. 28, the day after a magnitude 8.8 quake struck the South American country, triggering giant waves and leaving at least 700 dead.

“My thoughts are with Chile and with the populations stricken by the earthquake, which caused great loss of life and terrible damage,” the pope said from his apartment window above St. Peter’s Square.

“I am praying for the victims and am spiritually close to those affected by this serious catastrophe. For them, I ask God to grant relief of suffering and courage in this adversity. I am sure solidarity will be shown by many, in particular by church organizations,” he said.

Chile was moving about 10,000 troops into affected cities to maintain order and prevent looting. Many stricken towns in central Chile, the worst-hit area, were still cut off, so authorities feared the death toll could climb much higher.

Bishop Alejandro Goic Karmelic of Rancagua, president of the Chilean bishops’ conference, said in a message to the country that the Catholic Church would mobilize to help meet the people’s spiritual and material needs.

“With the strength of the Gospel, we are bearers of hope in moments of anguish, pain and devastation. To the public authorities, to those working for the state and to volunteer organizations, we offer our help,” he said.

A superior of the Sons of Divine Providence religious order in Chile, Father Roberto Simionato, reported that churches



CNS PHOTO/IVAN ALVARADO, REUTERS

Residents inspect a highway cracked open by a major earthquake, near the epicenter in Pelluhue, Chile, Feb. 28. A magnitude 8.8 earthquake, one of the biggest in centuries, struck Chile Feb. 27, killing at least 700 people and destroyed or badly damaged 500,000 homes.

and church administrative buildings were among those damaged in the hard-hit city of Concepcion.

He said that when the earthquake struck at 3:34 a.m., he thought it would pass like other previous tremors in Chile. But after 30 seconds, the quake was still getting stronger, he told the Vatican missionary agency Fides.

“It was frightening in its intensity. As it went on, things began to collapse, the noises grew louder and the lights went out. I remained still in bed. When it was over I went down to the courtyard and found all the priests. We checked to make sure we were all there and that no one was harmed,” he said.

He said the damage in Concepcion was extremely heavy, with collapsed houses, fires, sunken streets and no electricity,

water or telephone service.

Caritas Internationalis reported from its Rome headquarters that Caritas Chile was mobilizing to respond to the catastrophe, and working with civil authorities to establish a national help network. The first emergency aid was being distributed in Maule and Bio-Bio, the worst-affected regions, according to a Caritas statement.

“We are collecting food to be sent immediately to communities which have been most affected by the earthquake and where shortages are already being reported. Our own communications network and capacity to offer warehouses and points of collection and distribution are immediately available,” said Caritas Chile Director Lorenzo Figueroa.

Notre Dame students and staff safe after quake in Chile

BY DENNIS BROWN

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame has been assured that all students and staff members associated with its programs in Chile are accounted for and safe after an 8.8-magnitude earthquake rocked the nation Saturday morning, Feb. 27.

Those from Notre Dame include 19 undergraduate students and two staff members participating and working in the university’s study abroad program in Santiago, five graduate students involved in Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education program in Santiago, and a staff member from

the MBA program.

In addition, Chilean-based members of Notre Dame’s founding religious community, the Congregation of Holy Cross, which has engaged in education and pastoral work in the country for more than 50 years, also are reported to be safe.

“For the second time this semester, we are immensely grateful that Notre Dame students, faculty and staff are safe in the wake of a devastating natural disaster,” said Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, the university’s president. “As was the case last month for Haitians after an earthquake hit that nation, the prayers of the Notre Dame family now are with

the people of Chile.”

The university will monitor the situation in coming days to determine whether to continue with its programs in Chile this semester.

Established in 1993, Notre Dame’s study abroad program in Chile is based in Santiago. Students take most of their courses at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica, one of the most prestigious universities in South America.

ACE Chile is an 18-month program involving teaching for one year at St. George’s College in Santiago, certification in teaching English as a new language and Spanish language immersion.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- March 4-16 — Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and Sovereign Order of Malta



CNS PHOTO/IVAN ALVARADO, REUTERS

Residents inspect the destruction after a tsunami in Curanipe, Chile, Feb. 28. The wave was generated by a magnitude 8.8 earthquake a day earlier that devastated a large portion of central Chile. The temblor, one of the biggest in centuries, killed at least 700 people and destroyed or badly damaged 500,000 homes.

CHILE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

middle of the plaza, and the coastline and beach have disappeared.”

The magnitude 8.8 quake, one of the eight strongest on record, struck at 3:34 a.m. local time Feb. 27. Over the next two days, more than 115 aftershocks measuring more than 5.0 were recorded, nine of them registering more than 6.0. The strongest earthquake on record, which measured 9.5, struck the same area in 1960.

Although earthquake-prone Chile has upgraded its infrastructure over the years to withstand tremors, bridges collapsed and highways crumpled during the

most recent temblor. In the hardest-hit area, around Linares, Chillan and Concepcion, Chile’s second-largest city, people slept in the streets after the disaster.

In Santiago, the airport reopened to limited flights Feb. 28 and parts of the subway also were back in service. Government officials announced that the school year, scheduled to start March 1, would begin a week later.

President-elect Sebastian Pinera, who was scheduled to take office March 11, toured the disaster area and pledged that the country would rebuild with “budget reallocations and the solidarity of the private sector.”

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who began a five-day Latin American tour March 1, was expected to spend March 2 in Chile.

Conference final schedule released

The Office of Family Life has released the complete and final schedule for its inaugural Diocesan Marriage and Family Conference:

- 9 a.m. — Registration and continental breakfast
 10 a.m. — Welcome, Fred and Lisa Everett
 — Plenary Session One: The Vocation of Marriage, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
 10:50 a.m. — Break
 11:15 a.m. — Workshop Session One: Introduction to the Theology of the Body, Lisa Marino; Dealing with Infertility in Marriage, Dave and Suzy Younger; Marriage and Finances: Setting a Solid Foundation, Harry Verhiley; Parenting Teenagers in the Virtues, Cindy Black; La Vocación al Matrimonio, Father Glenn Kohrman
 12:05 p.m. — Lunch
 12:55 p.m. — Plenary Session Two: Life-Giving Love, Professor Janet E. Smith
 2 p.m. — Break
 2:25 p.m. — Workshop Session Two: Building a Culture of Life through the Theology of the Body, Tom and Mary Akre; NaProTechnology: New Hope for Couples with Infertility, Brad Ferrari, M.D. and Mary Ramsey, PA; Communication and Intimacy in Marriage, Lisa Everett; Challenges in the First Years of Marriage, John and Monica Sikorski; La Teología del Cuerpo, Margarita Rodriguez
 3:15 p.m. — Break
 3:40 p.m. — Workshop Session Three: Theology of the Body: What the Pope Couldn't Say, Father Bob Lengerich; Spiritual Parenthood, Bill and Elizabeth Kirk; Communication and Intimacy in Marriage, Lisa Everett; Pearls of Wisdom: What 46 Years of Marriage Have Taught Us, Dan and Annette Stobierski; Comunicación en el Matrimonio, Fred Everett
 4:30 p.m. — Day conference concludes
 5 p.m. — Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Bishop John M. D'Arcy
 6:15 p.m. — Social with cash bar opens
 7 p.m. — Banquet and talk by Professor Smith: Seeking Holiness in Marriage and Family Life

To register, please go online to cce.nd.edu and click the events calendar. The registration fee of \$35 per person for the day conference includes conference materials, continental breakfast, a boxed lunch and afternoon snacks. The evening banquet is an additional \$25 per person. Please indicate your workshop preferences in order to assist in guaranteeing proper room space. College or graduate students are welcome to attend any of the plenary or workshop sessions at no cost.

Professor Janet Smith to speak at Marriage and Family Conference

BY LISA EVERETT

NOTRE DAME — Final preparations are under way for the upcoming Diocesan Marriage and Family Conference on Saturday, March 20, at the Notre Dame Conference Center. Professor Janet Smith will be one of the main speakers at the day-long event, delivering a keynote presentation on "Life-Giving Love" and an after-dinner address on "Seeking Holiness in Marriage and Family Life." Professor Smith holds the Father Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. She is the author of "Humanae Vitae: A Generation Later" and editor of "Why Humanae Vitae Was Right: A Reader." Smith also has two new books — one on bioethics entitled "Life Issues, Medical Choices, Questions and Answers for Catholics," and "The Right to Privacy."

She speaks nationally and internationally on Catholic teaching on sexuality and bioethics, and currently is serving a second term as a consultant to the Pontifical Council for the Family. Over 1 million copies of her talk, "Contraception: Why Not?" have been distributed via audiotape or CD. *Today's Catholic* recently interviewed Smith in anticipation of her upcoming visit to the diocese.

TC: You have been involved in promoting the Church's vision of sexuality for over a quarter of a century, beginning when you were on the faculty at Notre Dame in the 1980s. Have you seen a change in the level of receptivity to the Church's vision during that period?

Smith: Yes, over the years the crowds certainly get bigger at all my talks! I get fantastic feedback from those who hear the talks and am always amazed at how many college students have heard the CD. Someone is doing a good job of getting the CDs out there. Certainly more and more priests are preaching against contracep-

tion and supporting NFP. Every year seminarians are more zealous about the life issues and sexual morality.



PROFESSOR JANET SMITH

TC: Which arguments, insights or evidence do people seem to find most persuasive?

Smith: The social science data on the connection between contraception, unwed pregnancy, STI's, abortion, divorce and poverty is powerful. The fact that couples who use NFP almost never divorce provokes many to take a look at NFP. The evidence of the bad health risks of contraception including increased incidence of breast cancer is unnerving. The evidence that hormonal contraceptives impacts how males respond to females and how females respond to males — to the point of which individuals they prefer as mates, is striking. People seem to like my argument that "Green Sex is Best": contraceptives leave a huge carbon footprint and they are damaging to the environment. And, of course, John Paul II's theology of the body provides the ultimate arguments — the arguments from the very nature of the human person and sexuality. We are meant to be affirming gifts to each other and contraception stands in the way of making that affirmation.

TC: While at Notre Dame, you also founded the Women's Care Center — which has now grown to over a dozen centers and spread to other states. To what do you credit this phenomenal growth and success?

Smith: I credit it to Ann Manion, her "imperialist" tendencies and brilliant management of the WCC and, of course, the staff she has assembled and that has been with her for years. The vision of the care center was solid — it was the result of many good people in addition to myself, and it has proven to be a

vision that works for reaching out to women. The vision is largely that we address the multiple needs that a woman has — material and educational and ultimately, spiritual. The results of the WCC are phenomenal — success breeds success!

TC: What connection do you see between the Church's teaching on sexuality and the challenge to build a culture of life?

Smith: Teaching and living by the Church's teaching on sexuality is the only way to build the culture of life, to build a civilization of love. Harry Knox, President Obama's advisor on Faith-Based Initiatives, accused Pope Benedict of "hurting people in the name of Jesus." How blind can one be! If people were living by the Church's teaching on sexuality — say just one of them, the teaching that sex outside of marriage is irresponsible, exploitative, unloving and thus immoral. Think how the world would change! No babies born to poor struggling single mothers, no poor struggling single mothers trapped in poverty, no lonely men living apart from their children, no abortions, no STI's ... I could go on and on and on.

To register for the March 20 conference, go online to www.cce.nd.edu and click the events calendar. You may also register with the center by mail or fax. The registration fee of \$35 per person for the day conference includes the plenary and workshop sessions, conference materials, continental breakfast, a boxed lunch and afternoon snacks. The evening banquet is an additional \$25 per person. College or graduate students are welcome to attend any of the plenary or workshop sessions at no cost. For more information, you may call the Notre Dame Conference Center at (574) 631-6691 or the Office of Family Life at (574) 234-0687.



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Bishops, other Catholics urge bipartisan action on healthcare reform

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Democratic and Republican leaders gathered in Washington for a health care summit convened by President Barack Obama, the U.S. bishops and other Catholic leaders urged all parties to commit themselves to healthcare reform that is affordable, accessible and protects the life and dignity of every person.

In a Feb. 24 letter to congressional leadership, the chairmen of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops asked for "genuine healthcare reform that will protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all."

Similar messages came from the president of Catholic Charities USA and from a coalition of Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Jewish leaders, including many Catholics.

The bishops' letter, released a day before the summit, reiterated many of the points made in earlier USCCB messages about healthcare reform, calling for a prohibition on federal funding of abortion, protection of conscience rights and guarantees that immigrants will have access to the reformed healthcare system.

The letter was signed by Bishops William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., and John

C. Wester of Salt Lake City and Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston. They chair the USCCB committees on Domestic Justice and Human Development, on Migration and on Pro-Life Activities, respectively.

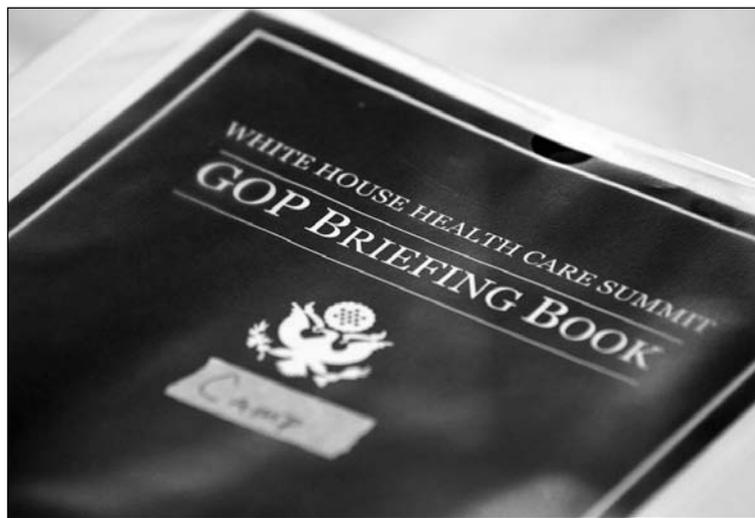
"It is time to set aside partisan divisions and special-interest pressures to find ways to enact genuine reform," the bishops said. "We encourage the administration and Congress to work in a bipartisan manner marked by political courage, vision and leadership."

But they stressed that any final plan must "respect the consciences of providers, taxpayers, purchasers of insurance and others, not violate them" and said it should be "truly universal and not be denied to those in need because of their condition, age, where they come from or when they arrive here."

"We will continue to work vigorously to advance true healthcare reform that ensures affordability and access, keeps long-standing prohibitions on abortion funding, upholds conscience rights, and addresses the health needs of immigrants," the bishops said.

"Dialogue should continue and no legislation should be finalized until and unless these basic moral criteria are met," they added.

In a clarification issued late Feb. 26, the USCCB said the Senate healthcare reform bill — on which Obama's reform proposal is based — "clearly expands abortion



CNS PHOTO/JASON REED, REUTERS

The title cover for healthcare documentation belonging to U.S. Rep. David Camp, R-Mich., is shown on the table prior to a bipartisan meeting with President Barack Obama and lawmakers to discuss health reform legislation at Blair House in Washington Feb. 25. The U.S. bishops and other Catholic leaders urged all parties to commit themselves to health care reform that is affordable, accessible and protects the life and dignity of every person.

services, despite suggestions by some political leaders to the contrary."

"While the Senate bill includes some language limiting the direct use of tax credits to subsidize abortion coverage, it still violates long-standing federal precedent on abortion funding in two ways," said Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB pro-life secretariat.

"First, the Senate's abortion language limits only use of tax credits for abortion in qualified health plans, not other funding in the bill," he said. "Second, the Senate's language on tax credits still allows subsidies for overall

health plans that cover elective abortions. ... The bill requires each American purchasing such a plan to make a separate payment to the insurer every month, solely to pay for other people's abortions."

Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, said in a Feb. 25 statement that the summit participants must "recognize the implications of inaction" as they seek "a bipartisan pathway to reform our broken healthcare system."

"People throughout our country are burdened by healthcare costs, pushing a new generation of Americans into poverty," he said. Father Snyder noted that

Catholic Charities agencies in Phoenix have been forced to reduce health insurance benefits for their own workers because of reduced donations.

"There are many issues associated with healthcare reform that divide us as a nation, but one that can unite us all; healthcare reform is essential to the reduction of poverty in America," he said. "As the leading voice in the mission to reduce poverty throughout the country, we see fixing the nation's healthcare system as integral to our overall efforts."

In a letter that appeared as a full-page ad in *The Hill* newspaper Feb. 24, thousands of members and leaders of U.S. faith communities urged Obama and Congress to "complete the task at hand on behalf of the millions who are left out and left behind in our current healthcare system."

"Let us not delay healthcare justice any longer," they wrote. "This is your moment for political courage, vision, leadership and faith. We urge you to take heart and move meaningful healthcare reform forward."

The letter was signed by more than 4,000 individuals, 58 national religious organizations, more than 80 regional and state faith organizations, and 26 national faith leaders.

Among the Catholic signers were the Network national Catholic social justice lobby, Maryknoll Sisters, Mercy Associates, National Advocacy Center of Sisters of Good Shepherd, Ursuline Sisters, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Mercy and Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

RHOADES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

son, let us continue to pray for these brothers and sisters who will soon join us at the Lord's altar. May their spiritual preparation during Lent be fruitful!

Congratulations Lady Knights

Congratulations to the Bishop Luers Girls Basketball team on winning the semi state basketball championship on Feb. 27. I am very proud of you and wish you the best of luck as you go on to the state finals! And may the Lord bless you and your athletic pursuits.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land

Over a year ago, I made a commitment to be the spiritual director

for the Knights and Ladies of the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and Malta on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land this Lent. Though I would not have made this commitment during this time if I had known that I would be transferred to a new diocese, I felt it was important that I be faithful to this commitment. I will be leaving on March 4 and returning on March 16. We will be visiting the holy sites of our faith in Israel and Jordan. Please pray for me and all the other pilgrims during these days. I will be praying for all of you and offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the faithful of our diocese at the Church of the Beatitudes (where Jesus gave His Sermon on the Mount) and at the Church of Our Lady of the Ark of the Covenant, the site where the Ark of the Covenant was kept until King David took it to Jerusalem. May the Lord continue to bless you on your Lenten journey of prayer and penance!



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Canadians proud that one of their own will be canonized a saint

MONTREAL (CNS) — Just 73 years after his death, Brother Andre Bessette will become the first Canadian-born man elevated to sainthood. The news of the Holy Cross brother's Oct. 17 canonization, one of six announced by Pope Benedict XVI Feb. 19, was met with elation by the members of the church in Montreal. "The announcement of the canonization of Brother Andre is the best thing that could have happened this year for the church of Montreal," Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte said in a statement. "I have always been impressed by this man, both a humble man and a visionary, a man of deep faith, an example of determination still relevant today in 2010. "For us, he is a symbol of victory. It is like winning a gold medal at the Olympics," the cardinal said later. "His sainthood is important not only for Catholics, but for all people who believe in God and who come to his basilica to find peace, even if they don't use the same name for God as we do." Born Alfred Bessette, Brother Andre was the founder of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, the largest shrine dedicated to St. Joseph in the world. The shrine sits atop Mount Royal overlooking the northern half of the city. Two days after Pope Benedict's announcement the oratory had no lack of pilgrims filing past Brother Andre's tomb.

Pope offers prayers for Iraq, asks government to protect minorities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said that during his weeklong Lenten retreat he frequently prayed for all the victims of violence in Iraq, especially members of the country's Christian minority. "I learned with deep sadness of the recent killings of Christians in Mosul and I followed with deep concern the other episodes of violence perpetrated in the martyred Iraqi land, harming defenseless people of different religions," the pope said Feb. 28, the day after his retreat ended. Speaking after reciting the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square, including a group of Iraqi refugees, the pope told Iraqi Christians, "Do not tire of being a leaven of good for the country to which you have fully belonged for centuries." As Iraq prepared for legislative elections March 7 and continued attempting to consolidate peace and democracy, the pope called on civil authorities "to make every effort to give security to the population and, particularly, to the most vulnerable religious minorities." The pope also asked the international community to help Iraq build "a future of reconciliation and justice." As the pope spoke, Catholic and Orthodox Christians in Mosul and the surrounding province marched for peace and government protection in northern Iraq.

NEWS BRIEFS

PRIEST CARRIES BODY TO BE BURIED AT MASS GRAVE SITE



CNS PHOTO/FELIX EVENS, REUTERS

A priest helps carry a body at a mass grave in Titanyen, where tens of thousands of people who died in the earthquake have already been buried, outside Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Everyday dozens of dead people found under rubble or from the general hospital are buried at the site.

Mexican officials tap Caritas Haiti to deliver more earthquake aid

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The Mexican government has tapped Caritas Haiti to deliver at least 20 percent of the more than 4,000 tons of relief supplies it is transporting to earthquake-shaken Haiti. A Feb. 26 statement from Cancun-based Caritas Quintana Roo said Caritas Haiti and its local chapters would deliver more Mexican aid in Haiti than any organization other than the Haitian government. "This is an important gesture of confidence and backing from the Mexican government, the (Mexican) Foreign Relations Secretariat and Mexico's navy for the work of the (Mexican bishops' social ministry) alliance," the statement said. That alliance includes Caritas Mexico, the Association of Mexican Food Banks, Caritas Haiti and Caritas distribution networks. The amount of aid delivered to Caritas Haiti by the Mexican government is expected to increase, said Alejandro de Hoyos, director general of Caritas Quintana Roo. "As we advance in the distribution (of aid) they continue putting more of the aid in our hands," de Hoyos told Catholic News Service by telephone from the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, where he is assisting with the aid distribution. "The Mexican government is trying to

have its contributions moved (in Haiti) through groups that are transparent, efficient and can work quickly upon the arrival of the assistance," he said.

Workshops scheduled to train priests, diocesan leaders on new missal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Registration is now open for a series of workshops to help prepare priests and diocesan leaders for implementation of the revised Roman Missal. The 22 workshops will take place in each of the nation's 15 regions beginning in April and continuing into November. They are sponsored by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Divine Worship and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, in cooperation with the National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Each seminar will be staffed by either Msgr. Anthony Sherman, executive director of the divine worship secretariat, or Father Richard Hilgartner, associate director. A second speaker will be either Brian Reynolds, chancellor and chief administrator of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky.; Dolly Sokol, director of development of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M.; or Peter Zografos, director of campus ministry and an adjunct faculty member at Our

Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. Registration information is available at www.usccb.org/romanmissal. Topics to be covered include the historical and theological context of the new missal; the role of the priest celebrant in both proclaiming and singing the texts; the impact of change on both priests and laypeople; and suggested strategies for implementing the missal locally.

Kenyan president assures Catholics that abortion will remain illegal

NAKURU, Kenya (CNS) — Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki assured the Catholic Church that abortion will remain illegal despite contrary statements by members of the country's parliament drafting a new constitution. Addressing the congregation in Christ the King Cathedral Feb. 26 during the installation of Bishop Maurice Muhatia Makumba of Nakuru, the president said he opposed efforts to legalize abortion and would not support any draft of the constitution that included language legalizing the procedure. The proposed constitution will be subject to a nationwide referendum in June. Cardinal John Njue of Nairobi, who celebrated the installation Mass, told Kibaki that the Church will reject the constitution if it would allow abortion to be legalized. "It is wrong for the constitution to abandon fundamental moral values which were respected

by our culture and promoted by the Christian faith," Cardinal Njue told the gathering, which included former President Daniel Moi.

People must listen to God in order to be fulfilled, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In order to realize their full potential, people need to listen to others and especially to God, Pope Benedict XVI said. "Man is not perfect in himself; man needs relationships, he is a being in relation" to others, he said Feb. 27 at the end of his annual Lenten retreat. The pope and top Vatican officials took part in a weeklong retreat at the Vatican, which was led this year by Salesian Father Enrico dal Covolo. The priest offered talks and meditations on the priesthood in the 21st century. At the end of the spiritual exercises, held in the Redemptoris Mater Chapel of the Apostolic Palace, Pope Benedict said people need the capacity to listen to others, especially to God. "Only in this way can one know oneself, only in this way does someone become himself," he said. A perfect example of how to listen fully to God with one's heart is Mary, who was immersed in God's word, reflected upon it and carried it safely in her heart, he said.

Maryland bishops oppose recognizing same-sex unions from other states

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (CNS) — Maryland's Catholic bishops took "strong exception" to a Feb. 24 opinion by Maryland's attorney general stating that state agencies should recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. "We trust our legislature and the people of Maryland will also object, and will act accordingly to counteract this opinion," said a joint statement released Feb. 24 signed by Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of Baltimore, Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington and Bishop W. Francis Malooly of Wilmington, Del., whose dioceses all include parts of Maryland. The statement was released by the Maryland Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's bishops, based in Annapolis. Attorney General Douglas Gansler issued the opinion on same-sex marriage in response to a legislator's request he look into a question some say is unclear in state law. Maryland is one of 41 states with a statute that defines marriage as only between a man and a woman. Measures to allow same-sex marriages in Maryland have failed, although the state's lawmakers have extended some benefits to same-sex couples. Although it will not change state law, Gansler's opinion can guide Maryland officials. The attorney general's office, for example, can defend a state agency in court for recognizing a same-sex marriage from another state.

St. Paul of the Cross hosts parish mission

COLUMBIA CITY — St. Paul of the Cross will host its parish mission titled "Meeting Christ Through the Sacraments" from March 6-11 at 7 p.m. each evening. The mission will feature Passionist Father Arthur Carillo as speaker. There will be children's activities and childcare will be available. St. Paul Parish is located at 315 S. Line St. in Columbia City.

Sacred Heart to host parish mission

WARSAW — Msgr. James Wolf and the parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish will host a Lenten parish mission entitled "The Doors to Christ are Wide Open," March 14-18. Each session will include prayer and renewal to prepare for Easter.

All evening sessions will begin at 7 p.m. in the church and will include the following themes and speakers:

- Sunday, March 14 — "The Doors to Christ are Open to All," presented by Meg Hanlon, theology department head at Bishop Luers High School.

- Monday, March 15 — "Loving God with our Whole Minds," presented by Msgr. Bill Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Granger.

- Tuesday, March 16 — "Loving God with our Whole Souls," presented by Father Bob Lengerich, associate pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Granger.

- Wednesday, March 17 — "Loving God with our Whole Hearts," presented by Father Bill Kummer, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Plymouth.

- Thursday, March 18 — "Going Forth from Eucharist to Love Our Neighbor as Ourselves," presented by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The morning sessions will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. in the gathering space in church. These sessions will be presented by Linda Furge, program developer for the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization and Natalie Kohrman, director of the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization.

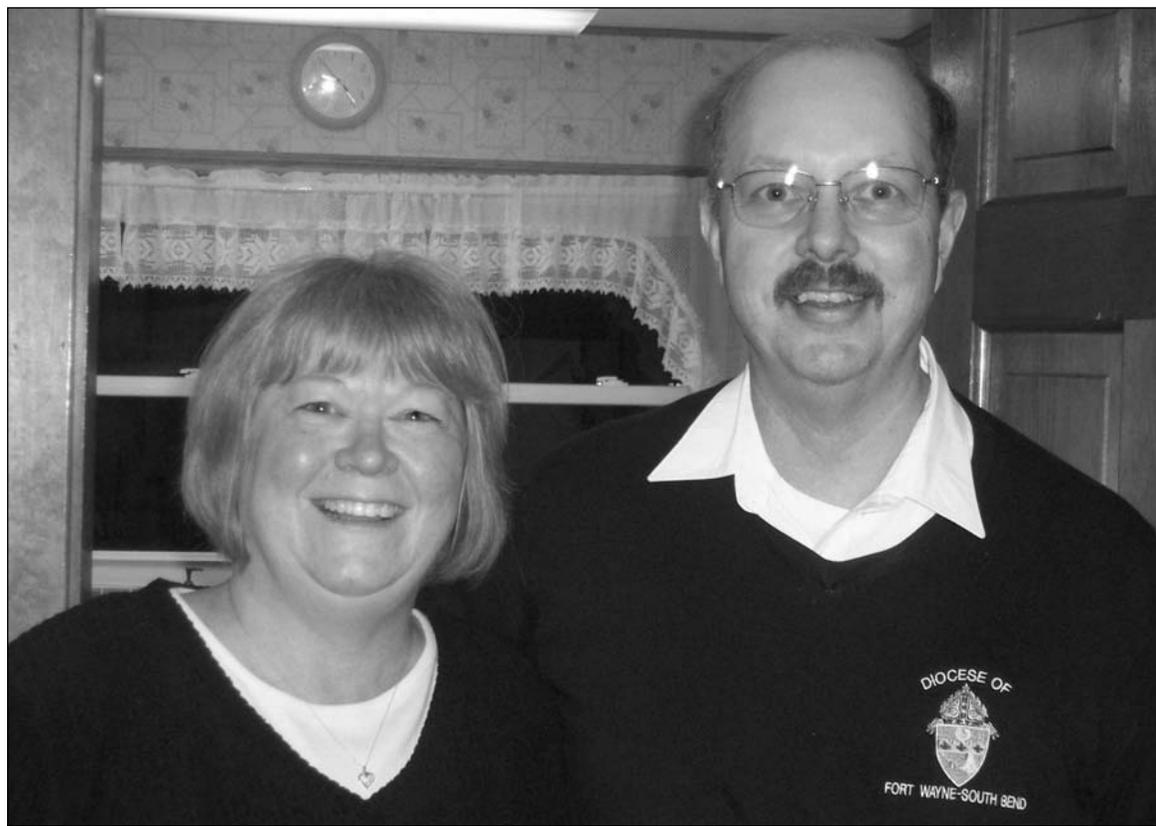
Annual 5K walk for homeless to benefit St. Joseph County agencies

SOUTH BEND — The Homeward Bound Walk involves 11 major cities throughout the state "uniting to provide housing and fight homelessness in Indiana" and is a project of the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED).

The eighth annual event for St. Joseph County will be held Sunday, April 25, starting and finishing at the College Football Hall of Fame, with registration opening at 1 p.m. and the walk beginning at 2 p.m. There will be light refreshments, a

AROUND THE DIOCESE

GAME NIGHT POPULAR AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH



PROVIDED BY JOEL BRITO

St. Francis Xavier Church, Pierceton, hosted its second game night on Saturday, Feb. 20, due to the popularity of January's game night when Father Dale Bauman, pastor, showed a card trick to begin the evening. Parishioners, friends, and even Father Dale came for a night of euchre and "Apples to Apples" board game. Participants carried in food to share. The gift card winners of the evening were Chris Lemmon at "Apples to Apples" and Father Dale Bauman at euchre.

fitness instructor and family-friendly entertainment by the Music Machine. Massage therapists will be available before and after the walk. Clients and staff of the following benefiting agencies will also be participating: Center for the Homeless, Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County, Hannah's House, Hope Ministries, Indiana Legal Services, Inc., St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County and Youth Service Bureau of St. Joseph County.

Funds raised are tax deductible and can be designated to support a particular agency, or shared amongst the seven local benefiting agencies. Online credit card donations can be made on the walk Web site, www.homewardboundindiana.org.

Admission cost is \$5 for individuals who aren't fundraising for the walk. Pay online via the registration tab or on the day of the walk at the registration table. A T-shirt and entrance into a prize drawing will be given to individuals who raise \$125 or more.

More information can be obtained by visiting the walk Web site, www.homewardboundindiana.org or contacting walk chair, Dee Dee Sterling, at (574) 631-9927.

St. Bernard Parish offers Lenten mission

WABASH — St. Bernard Church, corner of Cass and Sinclair streets, in Wabash will host a Lenten parish mission, "Take This Moment," March 7-10. All evening sessions will begin at 7 p.m. in the church, and include the following themes and speakers:

- Sunday, March 7, "Take This Moment to Pray" presented by Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Jude in Fort Wayne.

- Monday, March 8, "Take This Moment to Strengthen Our Faith" presented by Father Bill Kummer, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Plymouth.

- Tuesday, March 9, "Take This Moment to Forgive" presented by Bishop Emeritus John M. D'Arcy. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated this evening.

- Wednesday, March 10, "Take This Moment to Love" presented by Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart. Mass will be celebrated.

There will be refreshments served in the school basement of Zahn Hall following each evening's service except for Tuesday.

"Mornings of Reflection" will

be on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday beginning at 9 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 595 S. Huntington St. in Wabash. These sessions will be presented by Jennifer Kohrman, associate director of diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization.

Bishop D'Arcy and Holy Cross priests to lead Christ the King Parish retreat

SOUTH BEND — The episcopal motto of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, "His steadfast love endures forever," (Psalm 118 and 136) is the theme for the upcoming parish retreat of Christ the King in South Bend. The retreat will take place in the church on March 14-16, beginning at 7 p.m. each evening.

In choosing this particular Scripture to be his motto, Bishop D'Arcy explains on the diocesan Web site, "His steadfast love endures forever" expresses briefly an ideal, a program of life, the spirit of the one who selects it. It is also a call to the Church and to every person to be reminded of God's steadfast love even in the midst of pain and sorrow."

Bishop D'Arcy will further offer his reflections on this cornerstone

passage from his episcopacy on Sunday evening. Holy Cross Father Ken Molinaro, assistant provincial of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and Holy Cross Father Peter Jarret, religious superior to Holy Cross priests and brothers on the campus of Notre Dame, will offer reflections on the subsequent evenings.

Prayer and song will precede each reflection. Tuesday evening will also include the sacrament of Reconciliation following Father Jarret's remarks. In addition, time has been set aside for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in conjunction with the retreat. On Sunday, Adoration will take place from 1:30-4:30 p.m. and on Monday and Tuesday, Adoration will immediately follow the 8:30 a.m. Mass lasting until noon.

In preparing for this retreat, Father Molinaro offers, "Our lives can so easily become preoccupied with the cares and concerns of the day that we fail to see or recognize God's abiding presence. God's love is steadfast, loving us more than we realize or could ever imagine."

Father Molinaro goes on to explain, "God is continually inviting us into ever greater awareness, a consciousness of who we are in God's sight. This awareness is the very essence of prayer. The invitation in this Lenten season is to open ourselves to see more clearly God's steadfast love in our life and to enter more fully into this loving relationship with God."

This retreat is open to all. Child care will be available. For more information, please contact the parish office at (574) 272-3113.

Ostroganai selected for CLINIC advisor committee

FORT WAYNE — Luz Ostroganai, an immigration counselor at Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend has been selected to serve on the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., (CLINIC) from 2010 through 2012. Ostroganai was selected among a group of nominees from diverse backgrounds.

The committee works to resolve the many issues affecting immigrant communities across the country.

Lampen Lecture Series continues examination of sustainability

DONALDSON — Ancilla College biology instructor Dan Clampitt was the guest speaker for the latest edition of the Lampen Lecture Series, held at the PHJC Ministry Center in Donaldson.

His presentation, "Sustainability: Imperative for Survival," took a darker viewpoint on sustainability than those who have presented before him.

The series was designed to combine the universality of the Catholic Church, the international character of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, who sponsor Ancilla College, and the Earth Charter to promote thinking beyond one's own experiences and interests.

State proposal aimed at immigration enforcement fails

Comprehensive reform needed on federal level

INDIANAPOLIS — Church officials breathed a sigh of relief as a state proposal aimed at cracking down on undocumented immigrants failed to pass the Indiana General Assembly this year.

"We were very concerned about the harmful affects the undocumented alien bill, Senate Bill 213, would have had on countless families and children had it passed," said Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference executive director. "Church leaders in Indiana and nationally want immigration reform, but it needs to be comprehensive and addressed at the federal level. Senate Bill 213, which focused on enforcement, would have only made the problem worse rather than addressing the root of the problem — a broken federal immigration system."

Tebbe said, "Immigration reform must include a reasonable, legal pathway for the undocumented, many of whom have gone through all the legal steps in applying for citizenship visas, but who have had to wait years or in some cases nearly decades to get."

How long does it take to become a U.S. citizen? The answer all depends on the applicants' country of origin, the preference category of the applicant. Family-sponsored Mexican immigrants who applied in Oct. 1, 1992 qualifying in the first preference category will be granted a visa this month — an 18-year wait. Family-sponsored immigrants applying from China or India only have to wait six years. Employer-sponsored immigrants applying for visas sometimes have a quicker route to citizenship, but even professionals who hold a bachelor's degree and who are currently employed with a U.S. company must wait eight years before they can get their permanent visas.

These visa wait-time examples can be found in the March 2010 Visa Bulletin published by the United States Department of State which highlights the visa backlog issue. This is only one of many obstacles the undocument-

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

ed face in their attempt to become legal citizens.

"People have begun to see the need for comprehensive immigration reform not because of eloquent words, but because they have met someone who had no hope of changing their immigration status," said Benedictine Sister Karen Durliat, director of Guadalupe Center in Huntingburg, a ministry of the Diocese of Evansville serving the Hispanic community. "It's easy to demonize someone as a law-breaker until you meet them face to face and hear their story. It only seems to be at that point that we can reflect on our inability to 'throw the first stone' because I dare to say that we have all broken a civil law sometime in our life (be it driving too fast or going through a red light that was not operating correctly). And, we probably broke the law with less impelling reasons than the causes that have driven immigrants to cross deserts and rivers as a last chance for their families to survive."

"Immigration laws have been broken for so long that we are now punishing children of those who chose to break a law, or perhaps were defrauded when they thought they were paying for valid visas," said Sister Durliat. "Children of parents who chose to come to the United States to give their children a better life are now stuck between countries. They don't know their country of origin, perhaps not even the language. Yet, they are graduating from schools without the hope of obtaining a driver's license or getting a job," said Sister Durliat.

"We need laws that will enable immigrants without documents to come forward and pay a fine for what they have done. Then, they and their children can work legally, obtain a driver's

license, go on to universities and contribute to the country that has become their home," said Sister Durliat. "They will be able to find employment with just wages. They will be able to live without the constant fear of the possible deportation."

Immigration attorney Angela Adams, an associate at Lewis-Kappes Indianapolis law firm, has been actively lobbying in opposition to state-level immigration reform. "We need realistic, long-term solutions at the federal level," said Adams. "State lawmakers should not be involved itself in comprehensive immigration reform just for the reason they are frustrated with the federal government's failure to act." She explains that part of the problem with immigration law is "the law itself prevents people from doing the right thing."

Adams said changes in immigration law, which address a solution to the problem, would include: 1) eliminating the visa backlogs; 2) improving enforcement at the border; 3) allowing immigrants with qualifying family members or job offers, to pay a fine for immigration violations, and grant them a visa; 4) updating outdated visa quota systems; and 5) allowing shorter visa wait times for highly skilled, professional workers.

In January, the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops launched an immigration reform Web site called Justice for Immigrants to educate and rally support for reform. For details on the bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign go to www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

Web resources

Indiana Catholic Conference
www.indianacc.org

Legislative Action Center
www.indianacc.org click "Legislative Action Center"

Join the Indiana Catholic Action Network (I-CAN) at www.indianacc.org click "Join I-CAN Network"

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States.
www.faithfulcitizenship.org

Gail Walton, director of music at Basilica of the Sacred Heart, dies

NOTRE DAME — Gail Walton, director of music at the University of Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart, died Feb. 26 at the Indianapolis University Medical Center after a long illness.

Walton had served as director of music in the basilica since 1988, directing the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir as well as the Basilica Schola, which she founded in 1989.

Walton held degrees from Westminster Choir College and the Eastman School of Music, where she earned the doctor of musical arts degree in organ performance. The Eastman School also awarded her the prestigious Performer's Certificate in Organ. Before joining the basilica staff, she taught organ at Goshen College.

In addition to her work and ministry at the basilica, Walton performed throughout the Midwestern United States and played concerts in the German cities of Bonn, Heidenheim, Mainz and Rottenburg/Neckar in the summer of 1991. In the summer of 1995, she took the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir on a tour of Italy, giving performances in Florence, Milan, Assisi and Rome. She frequently played dual recitals with her husband, organist and Notre Dame music professor Craig Cramer.

"A gifted organist and choral conductor, Gail always strove for musical excellence, whether in her organ playing or in choral conducting. Gail was a totally committed Church musician," said Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca, rector of the basilica. "She loved the liturgy and her principal aim was always to lift minds and hearts to God through music and song, both in her students and in the worshiping assembly. Gail exposed her choir members to a wide range of musical repertoire, from chant and polyphony, to modern Church music of a variety of styles."



GAIL WALTON

"A perfectionist, Gail would settle for nothing less than the best, not only in her own organ playing and in that of her students, but also in the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir which sings regularly at the Sunday 10 a.m. Mass, and in the Basilica Schola," Father Rocca said. "During the eight years that the 10 a.m. Mass was televised to a national audience on the Hallmark Channel, Gail became a recognized friend to many of the 1,700,000 viewers who tuned into the basilica every week."

According to Father Rocca, Walton also worked with numerous couples in preparing their marriages, assisted grieving families with funerals of loved ones and provided music for numerous liturgies for the Congregation of Holy Cross, such as final professions of vows, ordinations, jubilees, and the burials of priests and brothers.

"This bright, articulate and gracious woman, whose enthusiasm, dedication, professionalism, selfless energy, and humility enriched beyond measure our liturgical life in the basilica and beyond, will be sorely missed," Father Rocca said. "May she rest in peace amid the choirs of angels."

A funeral Mass was celebrated March 2 in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

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about

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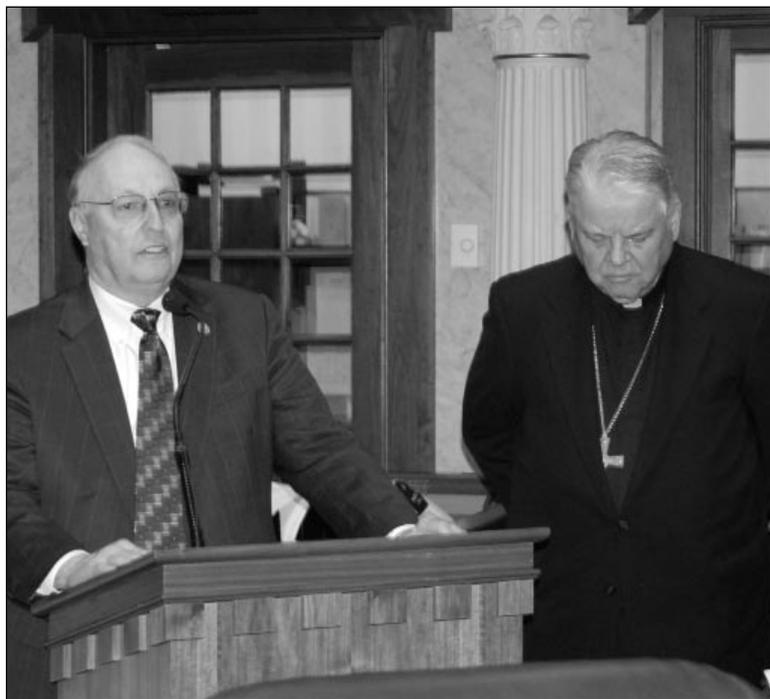
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BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE



PROVIDED BY SEN. TOM WYSS

Members of the Indiana Senate and the General Assembly resolved to congratulate Bishop John M. D'Arcy on Tuesday, Feb. 16, "on the occasion of his retirement as bishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese and thanks him for his dedication and devotion to the spiritual, emotional and physical well being of the people of his diocese and the state of Indiana." The resolution was transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Bishop John Michael D'Arcy, the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, and the parishes of St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne, St. Pius X in Granger, Holy Cross in South Bend, St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne, and St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla. Bishop D'Arcy is shown with Sen. Tom Wyss.

Queen of Peace to host mission

MISHAWAKA — Queen of Peace Parish will host a parish mission, March 7-12, using the theme "Falling in Love Again."

Speakers and themes include the following:

- March 7, Msgr. Bill Schooler on "Passion for Friendship" (Evening Prayer).
- March 8, Chris Godfrey, founder of Athletes for Life, on "Passion for Truth" (contemporary praise service).
- March 9, Sister Marie Morgan, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration and Marian High School, Mishawaka, teacher, on "Passion for Family" (Adoration with Benediction).
- March 10, Bishop Emeritus John M. D'Arcy on "Passion for Forgiveness" (Reconciliation service).
- March 11, Father Dan Scheidt on "Passion for Life" and Mass.
- March 12, "Passion of Christ," soup supper and Stations of the Cross.

Coffee house event rallies 40 Days participants

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend area 40 Days for Life held a coffee house event Feb. 27, at Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka. The atmosphere was geared toward young people and featured music and song by Josh Comeau, Jeff Raker and Ben Modlin. Interspersed with the entertainment were brief pro-life comments or presentations by Father Dan Scheidt, Dr. Tom Akre and Campaign Director Mary Akre. About 90 people attended this Culture of Life program.



American Choral Music

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Loving submission

BY FATHER DARYL RYBICKI
AND LINDA FURGE

Opening/closing song:

"Blest are They" (Gather Comprehensive, No. 659); "We Are Called" (No. 718)

Opening prayer

Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank You for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience Your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for Your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Inspire them with the vision of Your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of Your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

— From the Web site:
www.catholicdaughters.org

Excerpt from Pope Benedict XVI's Letter to Priests:

In Jesus, person and mission tend to coincide: All Christ's saving activity was, and is, an expression of his "filial consciousness"

which from all eternity stands before the Father in an attitude of loving submission to his will. In a humble yet genuine way, every priest must aim for a similar identification.

Commentary from Father Daryl Rybicki, pastor, Corpus Christi, South Bend

Of the many obligations and responsibilities that a priest is asked to fulfill, perhaps the greatest challenge flows out of the vow or promise of obedience that each priest makes on the day of his ordination. Kneeling before the bishop, who wraps his hands around those of the newly-ordained, the priest hears: "Do you promise obedience and respect to me and my successors?"

While some people may feel that the vow of celibacy or some other promise that a priest must make might be the most difficult, the promise of obedience looms large, since it involves a "dying to self" for the sake of the Gospel and the Kingdom. Jesus outlines the plan of discipleship for all believers, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For, whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it." — Mk 8: 34b-35

The priest, in the vow of obedience, loses his life for the sake of Christ, Christ's people and the



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Gospel he is called to proclaim and preach. In this sense, the priest truly acts in persona Christi ("in the person of Christ"), who humbled Himself in obedience to the Father's will, "becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" for the salvation of all. — Phil 2:8 Like Jesus, the priest, too, must die to himself, to his own self-interests, to his own ambitions for the sake of the Gospel and the people of God.

True humility

In our contemporary culture, humility and obedience are not always considered virtues. In fact, they are often considered negative traits, things to be avoided. Father Daryl references the Second Letter to the Philippians, in which St. Paul beautifully defines Jesus' humility: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself noth-

ing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!" — Phil 2:4-8.

In this Scripture passage, we see that humility can be a very positive way of living in God's Holy Spirit. In daily life, true humility helps us be realistic about our individual strengths and weaknesses. True humility leads to:

- Self-confidence and peace: "I know who I am, and I'm okay with that,"
- Joy: "God made me and loves me for who I am," and
- Community: "I'm comfortable working with others for the sake of the Gospel."

In St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, we see that, even in the time of the first Christians, the worldly sense of humility was used as a way to conceal "selfish ambition or vain conceit." We contrast that to humility in the manner of Christ who "made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant."

Humbleness and obedience

When we live in a spirit of humility, we act with humbleness and obedience. Again, we can contrast humbleness in the eyes of the world ("equality with God something to be grasped") with humbleness in the eyes of God ("He humbled Himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!")

As always, Jesus is our guide. During Lent we walk with Jesus' on His path of humble obedience. Living our lives with humility and acting with humble obedience is counter-cultural in the eyes of the world, but in reality it leads us to unity with Christ and to community with the people of God.

Like Jesus, like Father Daryl, we must all die to ourselves, to our own self-interests, to our own ambitions for the sake of the Gospel and the people of God. And, of course, we are promised that our reward for true humility of spirit and humbleness of action is to one day join Christ in giving glory to God in heaven!

Reflection questions

- Why is it so hard to humble ourselves in obedience to God's will?
- How do we feel about the spirit of humility and the actions of humbleness? About the virtue and actions of obedience?
- What are some concrete ways we can die to our ambitions for the sake of the Gospel?

Closing prayer

God of love and mercy, You call us to be Your people; You gift us with Your abundant grace. Make us a holy people, radiating the fullness of Your love. Form us into a community, a people who care, expressing Your compassion. Remind us day after day of our baptismal call to serve, with joy and courage. Teach us how to grow in wisdom and grace and joy in Your presence. Through Jesus in Your Spirit, we make this prayer. Amen.

— Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium, "A Prayer," page v, © 1995, United States Catholic Conference, Inc., Washington, D.C.

Spiritual pilgrimage with the stations

BY KAY COZAD

Today's Catholic offers the fifth and sixth Stations of the Cross as our Lenten journey continues.

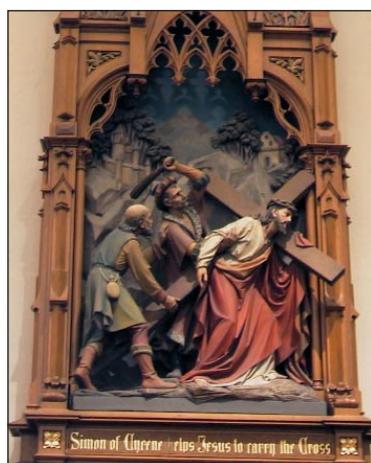
The opening prayer to each station is:

"We adore You, O Christ, and we praise you, because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world."

After reading a meditation explaining each step of Christ's Passion the following traditional prayers are recited: Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory Be

The fifth station: Simon of Cyrene carries the cross

As Jesus, weakened by the suffering He endured at the hands of the Roman guards, continues His journey toward Calvary, a bystander, Simon, is forced to assist Him with the burden of the Cross. Simon was unwittingly pressed into service for our Lord and found great blessing in it. How have you been pressed into service for someone who was carrying a heavy burden? How did it



bless you?

Prayer: Lord, as You received the help of Simon, open my heart to the needs of others that I might unselfishly assist them with their daily burdens. Strengthen me spiritually to be a respite for those in need. All for Your glory! Amen.

The sixth station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

As Jesus journeyed toward Calvary, his faced must have been almost unrecognizable, with its look of suffering and pain. Blood, sweat and tears stained his human skin. But Veronica recognized the face of the Divine as she wiped her Lord's face. When have you stopped to see the face of Christ in another? Pray today that you will see the face of Christ in all you meet.

Prayer: Jesus, by your sweat and blood, my eyes have been open to Your gift of salvation. Show me now Your face in my fellow man that I may serve You and Your people. With a grateful heart I say, amen.

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Msgr. J. William Lester

1919-2010

Family, friends pay respect to a diocesan icon

BY KAY COZAD AND
TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — “An icon is gone.” Those are the words of Father William Peil, retired priest from the Diocese of Gary who resides at Saint Anne Home and was a good friend of Msgr. J. William Lester, who died Feb. 20. The two friends were bridge partners in the St. Francis Bridge Club.

Last week, family, friends and former students paid their respects to this icon who served as principal, superintendent, pastor, administrator and much more.

Marcie Hunter, one of Msgr. Lester's closest remaining relatives, her husband Jim and their son Evan will miss their beloved cousin and family priest. Hunter's grandmother and Msgr. Lester's mother were sisters and raised their children as single moms. Though Msgr. Lester was raised in Gary, Bluffton, she says, became a home base for these families.

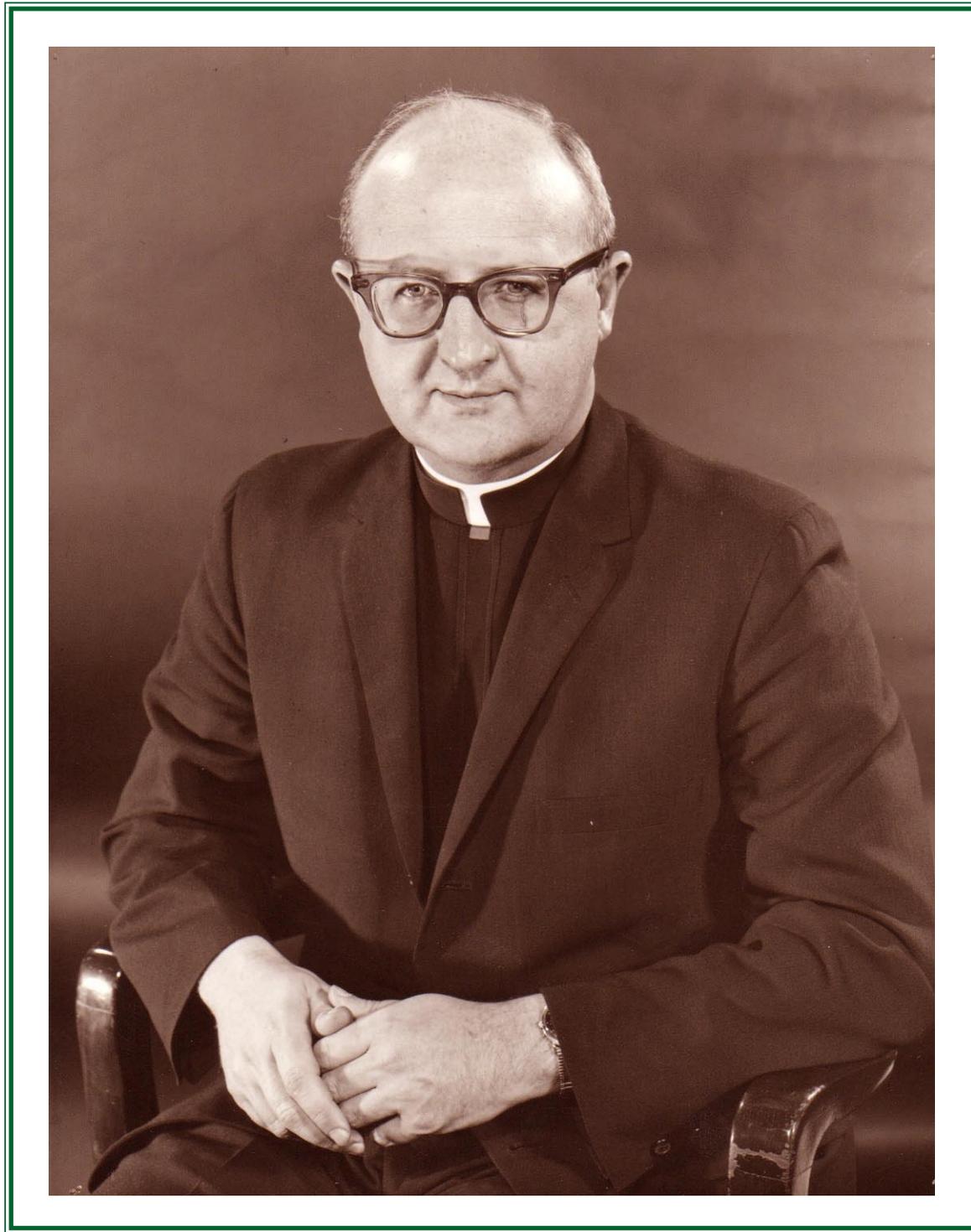
Hunter, who was born and raised in Bluffton, recalls their small close-knit family gathering in her mother's home on every holiday. Msgr. Lester and his sister Jeanette, who became a Holy Cross sister in her 50s after their mother died, were like an aunt and uncle to Hunter and her sister.

“In the summertimes when I was little we would go to St. Vincent Villa (Orphanage) when Father Bill was there,” she says, adding that after they chatted on the porch or in the kitchen, they would go for ice cream. The family would attend plays and musicals the boys at the orphanage performed as well. “I know he enjoyed the kids there,” she says.

“He loved life,” says Hunter of Msgr. Lester. “He would tell jokes and laugh. We loved telling him stories of school. ... Education was his baby. He had such an appreciation for the students.”

Following the death of Hunter's parents, her home in Bluffton became the gathering place for the remaining family and Msgr. Lester would always be there. “He was the strength and the rock of the family,” Hunter recalls. “Whether it was a joyful or disturbing thing — you called Bill first.” She recalls with fondness that Msgr. Lester was the first person to visit her in the hospital after she gave birth to her son. “He was always there,” she says.

As the years progressed Hunter and her family would visit the Monsignor wherever he was assigned within the diocese. “He was always proud to show us where he was,” she says.



And she is proud to share that Msgr. Lester gave all the family members including her sister's and her own children their sacraments. The Monsignor married Hunter and her husband in their home parish of St. Joseph in Bluffton, the very parish he celebrated his first Mass as priest.

“My mother used to say that it's such a blessing to have a priest in the family. And I see how greatly blessed we were to have him in our family,” she says, adding, “He will be greatly missed.”

Msgr. Jim Wolf, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw, knew Msgr. Lester, first as a principal at Central Catholic, and later as co-rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and co-vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

As a student at Central Catholic, a 1958 graduate, Msgr. Wolf says that he even shared with the bishop, that like many students he thought of Principal Lester as an older guy, “but he probably was just a young priest at the time, not ordained very long.”

Bishop John M. D'Arcy asked Msgr. Wolf and Msgr. Lester to share the rector, vicar general and chancellor capacities, Msgr. Wolf said. The two worked very closely together on the renovation of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the clergy abuse crisis as well.

“One of the things that really impressed me about Monsignor was how intelligent and how well-read he was,” Msgr. Wolf says.

He adds, “He was just a good person to be around. He had a

good sense of humor. ... You go to him and ask him questions about everything and anything. He'd try to help you out.”

Bishop Felipe J. Estevez, auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Miami, met Msgr. Lester as a boy during Operation Peter Pan, when he left his home and family in Cuba to escape the crushing communist reign of Fidel Castro. Msgr. Lester was instrumental in his relocation and the two remained friends for life.

Of his friend Bishop Estevez says, “Msgr. Lester impressed me by his selfless giving, like Jesus he did not come to be served but to serve. He served many and faithfully for a long time. He was extremely talented and intelligent yet at the same time he had such common sense in solving conflicts

and helping people all the time as a good shepherd of souls.”

Bishop Estevez recounts how from the age of 15, Msgr. Lester had a hand in helping him create a new life in the U.S. “I will never forget how he helped me find a house for my family and a job for my dad when all we had was \$150. He was also my confessor and advisor in my teens at Central Catholic.

“He vested me as a priest at the Fort Wayne cathedral and preached my first Mass homily,” Bishop Estevez continues. “He even came to help me when I was rector of the major seminary in Florida and when chosen to be auxiliary bishop of Miami, once again he preached at the first Mass I celebrated for family, friends and beloved parishioners.

“To me he deserved to be called ‘Father’ for he excelled in self-giving love — a true priestly heart,” says the bishop.

Jim Metzler, a parishioner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne and friend of Msgr. Lester's for over 30 years, enjoyed a dinner routine each Saturday at the Pine Valley Country Club.

Metzler tells *Today's Catholic*, “(A) real funny event was when he called me and asked if I wanted to go to the ND-Nebraska game. We took Interstate 69 to the toll road and on to ND. When I got the ticket at the toll road entrance I tried to put it in the center console. It slipped out of my hand and went underneath the console and gone forever. When we got to the toll road exit at Michigan Avenue, I told the attendant what happened. She saw I had a priest with me and asked Monsignor if that was what happened. He immediately said that she should not believe anything I said. He had that cherubic grin and luckily she knew he was kidding.”

Another friend and priest, Father Adam Schmitt, retired, tells *Today's Catholic*: “I have been blessed to have Msgr. Lester as a very good friend for over 30 years — in good times and bad times. ... We were both part of the Marian movement of priests. We were both members of our diocesan Fatima Apostolate.”

Father Schmitt adds, “The school song Monsignor sang for seven years at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., was Psalm 133: ‘How good and joyful it is to have brothers dwell in unity’ — that was the spirit Monsignor brought to our priest support group and to me and thousands of others throughout his life.”

TRIBUTE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Father James Seculoff recalls meeting Msgr. Lester in 1950. At the time, then-Father Lester was chaplain at St. Francis College. "Since I lived a block away from the college," Father Seculoff says, "I would serve daily Mass for Father Lester, along with three other Mass servers. Of the four of us who served for Father Lester, three became priests — Father Joe Uecker, Father Tim Hoban and myself. Needless to say Monsignor was an inspiration to all of us."

He adds, "As principal of Central Catholic High School and later superintendent of education for our diocese, he continued to be an inspiration and source of encouragement. When I was ordained he immediately treated me as a brother priest."

Msgr. Wolf recalls Msgr. Lester as an avid sports fan, "He was a White Sox fan," something that through osmosis, became an interest for Msgr. Wolf watching the White Sox games on television with Msgr. Lester at the cathedral rectory.

When Msgr. Wolf was assigned to Sacred Heart, Warsaw, he had connections with a parishioner to get tickets to White Sox games and the two would go to Chicago for games.

Father Peil says he is sure that Msgr. Lester will be cheering on Bishop Luers High School sports. He noted Monsignor was a Luers fan and always went to the games even when the bleachers were difficult to venture.

"He just enjoyed high school basketball and watching the kids," adds Msgr. Wolf.

Those comments are echoed by Fort Wayne resident Rosie Scranton: "Msgr. Lester was one of the most loyal supporters of diocesan high school sports that I have ever seen. He (and, most likely, Msgr. James Wolf) were seen at many Bishop Luers football games ... no matter what the weather. He will definitely be missed."

Debbie Frazier recalls the last Christmas Eve Mass, when two Masses were celebrated at the same time: "Almost two months ago, I was bestowed the honor of being cantor for Msgr. J. William Lester at St. Patrick Church, Arcola. ... Father Alex Dadrai was (celebrating) Mass in the church while Msgr. Lester said Mass in our hall. He met with the cantor, organist and altar boy to make sure everything went smoothly. He did not miss a beat during the whole Mass."

"I, along with everyone from St. Patrick's Church, Arcola, bid you farewell," Frazier writes. "Thank You for gracing us with your presence at our Christmas Eve Mass, 2009. You will never be forgotten."

Father Seculoff notes, "Msgr. Lester always worked. The day of his burial he was scheduled to help with the penance service at St. John's, New Haven. I pray that



PROVIDED BY CHERYL MOWAN

Msgr. J. William Lester is posed with the Cuban boys in the early 1960s. Msgr. Lester was a "parent figure" to the boys who lived at St. Vincent Villa.

God will reward Monsignor's goodness and his priestly work."

Barbara (Drewery) Smith, a graduate of Central Catholic High School, who now lives at Lake of the Woods in Hudson recalls, "Dear Msgr. Lester was principal of Central Catholic High School when I was a student 1951-1955. He was my friend and mentor. I worked in his office my junior and senior years during my study period. A wonderful person, priest and principal was Msgr. Lester. He was that and more — Monsignor made a difference at Central Catholic High School."

Another Central Catholic graduate, Merle Giant comments: "In 1952, I was a senior at Central Catholic High School. It was my duty that year to go to the principal (Father Lester's) office each morning before school started. I would play reville on the trumpet over the intercom and Father would make the announcements for the day. This gave us the opportunity to have a little conversation each morning.

"After I graduated," continues Giant, "I didn't see Father for about 35 years until I happened to see him at the cathedral in Fort Wayne in about 1987. I approached him and asked if he knew who I was. Without hesitation he called me by name. I couldn't believe that after all those years and the thousands of students he had known he would remember me. I always enjoyed those morning conversations and it meant a lot to me that he even remembered them."

Jerome Welch also recalls Msgr. Lester's ability to remember names: "In 1959, I had a brief visit with him in his office at Central Catholic High School. We talked about a teaching position in the Catholic schools. Eleven years later, he became pastor of St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne. One Sunday he saw me standing in the back of the church. He approached me with an extended hand and the salutation, "'Hi Jerry.' After a lapse of 11 years with no contact, how was he able to remember my face and name? Just incredible."

Charlyne (Owens) Wirtner recalls that her parents, Charles

and Betty Owens, became acquainted with Msgr. Lester when he was assigned at St. Mary's. She says, "What a joyous reunion it must have been when my Mother and Father welcomed Monsignor to heaven! We were parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church when (then) Father Lester was assigned to assist Father Dillion. Dad was also custodian of the grade school. On one occasion he was chatting with Father about Mom's 'homemade butterscotch pie.'"

She adds, "By the time the conversation was complete, Father had accepted an invitation to dinner. From that day forward we were to enjoy his company at our table many times, and he was to enjoy, home grown corn on the cob, fresh vegetables from the garden and his favorite, butterscotch pie!"

Linda Manske Psota worked at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in the mid 1980s when Msgr. Lester and Msgr. Wolf were co-rectors of the cathedral. "It was an honor and a privilege to have worked at the cathedral for Monsignor. He was very energetic and the epitome of a parish priest," she writes.

Dennis James, who now resides in Palm Bay, Fla., tells *Today's Catholic*, "Msgr. Lester was an important part of my life. A few years ago, when my beloved grandmother passed away, he graciously agreed on short notice to (celebrate) her funeral Mass and burial. His words and actions provided much comfort during a most difficult time for me and my family. In the 15 years or so that I have known Msgr. Lester, my life has been enriched by his presence. The way he lived his life provided an excellent example for all of us and his love of God, the Catholic Church, and his fellow citizens continues to inspire me. I will miss Msgr. Lester and I thank God for him and his amazing outlook on life."

Mark Weber contributed to this story.

Homily for Msgr. J. William Lester

Mass of Christian Burial, Feb. 25, 2010

BY BISHOP EMERITUS
JOHN M. D'ARCY

He was the first priest of this diocese whom I met. The first among those beloved priests with whom my life would be intertwined forever in prayer, and pastoral care for our people — priests from whom I would ask so much, whom I would come to love as friends and sons, which the Church calls the relationship between bishop and priests. It could be said of Msgr. Bill Lester in relationship to Christ and to his bishop, what Christ said of His apostles, "You are the ones who stood by me in my trials."

In those early days working together with the good Monsignor, as our staff sometimes called him, seeing his goodness, his high intelligence, his zest for life, his clear ethical sense, seeing all the people he knew — old and young — often from his days as principal at Central Catholic or from the Cuban boys whom he welcomed and cared for — who came here without parents — for whom he would be father and mother. Seeing his joyfulness and the energy he brought to his ministry and to the sound advice he would give — seeing it all and helped so much by him — I grew easily to trust him, and love him, and early on I had this thought:

"Someday, perhaps not too far away, because he is older than I — I will probably speak at the Rite of Christian Burial." It was a painful thought at the time.

And so it has come, much later than I first expected. We bring him back to the cathedral where he was ordained — and where he led the restoration of this beautiful house of God.

As I began to prepare, the words did not come. So many consultations, so many meetings, such a good friendship — how does one speak of a priest friend? The tears came quickly, tears of mind and heart; the words — slowly and with great difficulty.

What can I say about this sterling priest, a priest for all seasons, for a homily is not a eulogy — but a reflection on the Sacred Mystery, the Mystery of Christ, which is our salvation? A reflection on the One in whom we hope and whom we look forward to meeting, and this Eucharist presents a promise of that meeting. It surely is appropriate to ponder the place of the priest. As Catholics, we are a sacramental Church, the visible is important to us. We see here in this beautiful cathedral the great Catholic Tradition of making the invisible — visible. Msgr. Lester had a clear sense of this. Once, I asked

him if in the restoration we were honoring Mary sufficiently. "Bishop," he said, "the whole cathedral is a song to Our Lady."

These works of art in this Church are sacramentals. The priest, however, receives a sacrament and is a kind of sacrament. The priest is asked to make present Christ — the Good Shepherd — to make Him visible, to become a kind of stained glass window through which people may see the Good Shepherd.

"I am the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away. And the wolf catches and scatters them.

This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I will lay down my life for the sheep." — John 10. The hired man works for pay, Bill Lester was no hired man. He embraced his vocation to make visible the Good Shepherd. Just as we are called to look through the appearance of bread and wine and see the Body and Blood of Christ — we priests cooperating with grace must make it possible for our people to look through us and see Christ the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the flock.

This kind of love. Total, caring, visible, unselfish even to laying down one's life must be made visible — and the salvation of souls depends upon it. It is what people hunger for in a priest. The people crave a good shepherd, not a hired man — that is why there is sadness in this cathedral — we have lost a shepherd after the heart of Christ.

I think Jesus Christ has given us this day, the very day after we priests gathered for our regular Lenten Day of Prayer — with Archbishop Hughes as preacher — to hear beautiful truths about two priests: St. Paul and St. John Vianney. We gather one day later to ponder the life of a good shepherd who made present the generous heart of Christ.

And for all of us who knew and loved him, whom he served, we are asked to grasp afresh the beauty of the priesthood of Christ the Good Shepherd, made visible and present to many in a unique and beautiful way by our dear Msgr. Bill Lester.

The priest: Called to make present the love of Christ.

It is a life of love. Pope John Paul II says the following.

"Our priestly life and activity continue the life and activity of Christ, Himself. Here lies our identity, our true dignity, the



KAY COZAD

Bishop D'Arcy offers the homily for his dear friend and colleague Msgr. J. William Lester at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Video of this homily can be found at www.TodaysCatholicNews.org.

source of our joy, the very basis of our life. — John Paul II, *"I Will Give You Shepherds."*

Pope John Paul II speaks of the priesthood as an "amoris officium," an "office of love." A work of love "the priest, who welcomes the call to ministry, is in a position to make this a loving choice, as a result of which the Church and souls become his first interest, and with this concrete spirituality he becomes capable of loving the universal Church and that part of it entrusted to him with the deep love of a husband for his wife." St. John Vianney, whose image graces this cathedral, in the year dedicated to him — the Year for Priests — says, and this is quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Christ."

We know what the Lord said to Peter before He gave him his mission for souls, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

St. Augustine said of Peter, that Christ asked him about his love and then gave him a work to do. This unselfish love, which we priests and bishops are called to give to our people, is reflected in a beautiful article written by Pope Benedict XVI when he was a young professor of theology at the University of Regensburg in Germany. Here is what he wrote so long ago, and what we have seen lived in his life and the life of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, and what all of us priests are called to and what the people expect of us and rejoice when they find it in us. New Testament ministry "rests on the existential posture of the servant who has learned how to allot second place to his own will in favor of the will of the person to whom he belongs. It is essential to the bearer of this Office that he stands in the service of another's will."

How willing Msgr. Lester was to put his own will in second place. How did Christ's light shine in our own diocese through the priest we bury today? In the painful times, which fell upon the

Church and on our diocese, he was filled with compassion and understanding for those who had been hurt while resolved that truth would be served and the priesthood of Jesus Christ in this diocese would be purified.

He was devoid of any smallness or meanness. In the consultations concerning the placement of priests and their transfer, I never heard one hint of advice that was self centered. He always advised what was best for the Church.

He served as principal of Central Catholic when it contained 1,700 students. He worked with grace with the Sisters of Providence and others. He found sisters for St. Jude's Parish when the Sisters of Providence left. He served two terms as Superintendent of Schools. He formed the first Diocesan School Board 40 or 50 years ago. He told me that in his first assignment at St. Mary's, Huntington, he was asked to be basketball coach. "Bishop, I went to the library and found books on basketball so I could do it well."

Msgr. Lester and his beloved White Sox. He loved going to high school football and basketball games, down to Indianapolis with Msgr. Wolf to follow Bishop Luers in their various championship endeavors. But how can I possibly do justice to his role at filling-in in times of need? At a time of the severe shortage of priests, when a parish would be in difficulty: perhaps a beloved priest had died, as in the case St. Matthew's, South Bend, and Bishop Crowley. Maybe a priest had left the priesthood or had been asked to leave and a parish was divided. In two cases, religious congregations, Franciscans and Missionaries of the Precious Blood, had given up the care of parishes — in one case, after over a hundred years of service. While remaining vicar general, and co-rector of the cathedral, he would be sent by his bishop to a place in pastoral difficulty. Immediately, the hurt would be eased. The people would come together. Many of them knew him from Central Catholic or some other service in



MARK WEBER

Bishops and priest celebrants enter the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at the Mass of Christian Burial for Msgr. J. William Lester.

the diocese. There would be the feeling the bishop has sent us his best. Christ had sent his best. Financial difficulties would be addressed. People would be greeted. The Parish Council would begin meeting. Sound homilies would be given and things would settle. Here are the places, leaving aside St. Thomas, Elkhart; and St. Jude's, Fort Wayne; and St. Mary's, Huntington, where he served in regular assignments as at this beloved cathedral parish; here are the places where he filled in for a month, or two months, or sometimes over a year, settling the waters, bringing people together, restoring trust in the diocese and the bishop, always putting his own will in second place; a healing, loving, pastoral hand.

- St. Aloysius, Yoder
 - St. Michael, Waterloo
 - St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend
 - St. Jude, South Bend
 - Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne
 - St. Joseph, Fort Wayne
 - St. Patrick, Fort Wayne
 - St. Therese, Fort Wayne
 - Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne, for the second time
 - St. Joseph, Fort Wayne, for the second time
 - St. Adalbert, South Bend
 - St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville
 - St. Mary, Fort Wayne
 - St. Patrick, Fort Wayne, for the second time
 - Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne
 - St. Therese, Fort Wayne, for the second time
 - St. Vincent, Elkhart
- In most of these parishes, he

was appointed as administrator, bringing his sharp intelligence and gracious style.

No priest, and I include myself, has done more for this diocese than Msgr. Bill Lester. It could be said of him what St. Paul said of Christ. He was never no — he was always yes. Yes to Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is someone chosen by his diocese to spend an extra year at Catholic University and receive a master's degree in philosophy. But he was happiest in this diocese, totally devoted to his brother priests and to the people. What a joy it was to meet him. His clock always seemed at high noon. His gifts

were extraordinary and he used them for others.

You know, in the ceremony for the ordination of a priest, there are places which touch on the sacrifice that a priest is asked to make.

For example, after the priest is called forth by the bishop he stretches out — face down — on the sanctuary, as Msgr. Lester did 65 years ago in this very cathedral. Pope John Paul II used to call that gesture "evocative." Evocative; namely, it evokes meaning and truth. It expresses the totality of the gift and the Litany of Saints is sung over the priest asking for their intercession before the throne of God.

Also, in the instruction, the priest is told to place first the concerns of Christ and not his own.

A third beautiful moment. When the bishop gives the priest the chalice filled with wine and the paten with the host, symbolic of the privilege of offering Mass, he says to the one being ordained, "Understand what you are doing, imitate what you handle, and model your life on the Lord's cross."

All these things signify sacrifice and unselfishness.

Yet, I do not think Msgr. Bill Lester ever thought of his life as a great sacrifice. He loved it. His song was the song of Mary. As he said of the cathedral — it can be said of him — his whole life was a song to Mary, a song of thanksgiving. "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name."

He was never no — he was always yes.

Walker Percy, writer and philosopher once said to seminarians, "My hero is the parish priest." Bill Lester is my hero. These priests are my heroes. Yours, too, I think. Let us pray that God gives us more like him and like these priests who are here to pray for their beloved brother.

Safe home, dear Bill, safe home. May the angels lead you into paradise, may the martyrs receive you at your coming.



TIM JOHNSON

Students from St. Aloysius School, Yoder, stand and pray as the funeral procession passes the church. Msgr. Lester was pastor of the parish from 1985-1986.

EDITORIAL

Senior happiness

For many older citizens, thoughts of aging are fraught with fear and uncertainty. Some may be unprepared for life without the responsibilities of a job or raising a family. Others may feel threatened by people of their generation who appear to have more money, better health, increased opportunities for travel and leisure activities. Just name it and there always is someone who is anxious, insecure or envious about their situation.

But nearly everyone can create a rewarding and challenging older adulthood through an honest approach to aging, some planning and faith in God.

A positive self-image may be the main ingredient to living well as an older adult. Feelings of a lack of accomplishment or low self-worth are common. While one may or may not be needed in the same manner as before, discovering new and meaningful activities with family and friends can be fulfilling. Life is not a competition! You cannot be happy and envious at the same time. In fact, one of the greatest secrets to happiness in life is learning how to eliminate envy. Real satisfaction comes from doing your best.

"Each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason to boast with regard to himself alone, and not with regard to someone else." Gal 6:4

Trust that God has a plan just for you in life, which means you do not have to try and imitate someone else's lifestyle. If you strive to be the person God called you to be, that is when you will find real meaning, purpose, fulfillment and satisfaction in your life, regardless of how old you are chronologically. Even if circumstances make it difficult for you to appreciate your uniqueness, find happiness or live in safe surroundings, again, have faith that God will take care of your needs. He promises to bring good out of every circumstance, misfortune and tragedy.

"Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows." — Lk 12:6-7.

Certainly, the loss of independence can deal a big blow to one's self-image, especially when it involves the freedom to make one's own decisions about how and where to live, retaining control of personal finances, and coming and going as one chooses. That is why a social network is extremely important as we get older. Social relationships enable us to be actively involved with the world.

Dealing with loss is a common challenge during the senior stage of life. The loss of a spouse, family or friends can create a terrible void. Meeting new people may require special efforts such as joining a group, initiating a get together with new acquaintances, reaching out to others and volunteering.

Healthy habits should be everyone's goal, not just senior citizens. That means taking responsibility for your health needs. And it's never too late to begin a program of regular exercise appropriate to your needs that can be sustained as you age. But check with your physician before initiating any exercise program. Healthy eating habits can determine whether you have the energy to do the things you choose. You may want to discuss nutrition with a physician, nurse or a registered dietitian. The simple realization that you're in control of your life is the foundation of stress management. This means taking charge of your thoughts, emotions, schedule, environment and the way you deal with problems. The ultimate goal is a balanced life, with time for what needs to be done, relationships, relaxation and fun — plus the resilience to hold up under pressure and meet challenges head on.

Appreciate and enjoy the present and look forward to the future. Cherish the rich fabric of your past without dwelling on that period as the only joyful time of your life. Value and respect experiences that have made you the person you are today. Be flexible. As we age we often discover that familiar patterns of behavior cease to provide the satisfaction they once did. Try something new, take a class or start a different hobby.

Be willing to take risks to feel better about yourself. Your happiness is worth it.

Finally, focus on making God number one in your life. Remember, He has a plan for you.

Today's Catholic editorial board is Kay Cozad, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Msgr. Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.

COMMENTARY

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Democratic say

If Dr. Landrigan is looking for anti-life fervor, as he wrote to *Today's Catholic* on Feb. 21, he'd find it not in the Democratic party, but deposited in Republican nominees, affirmed by the U.S. Senate, who served on the U.S. Supreme Court

An American woman's constitutional right to abortion was declared in 1973, not by Congress, but by a 7-2 vote by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*. Five of those justices in the majority were nominated by Republican presidents. Again, in 1992, in *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*, by a 5-4 vote, the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the essential holding of *Roe*. All five of those Justices in the *Casey* majority were nominated by Republican presidents

Congress had no say on a woman's constitutional right to an abortion. The closest they came was in the U.S. Senate. When a Republican president put forward a nominee, carefully vetted by the party in power, Republican Senators could have voted to reject it.

Is the Democratic party the chief depository, as alleged by Dr. Landrigan, of anti-life fervor in the U.S. Congress? If so, why in 1980 did Congress legislate not to fund Medicaid abortions. If so, why didn't President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, veto it? If so, why in 2009, was Democrat President Obama's first nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court a Roman Catholic woman?

Perhaps Dr. Landrigan avoids noticing the Republican party spoke, and speaks, out of both sides of its mouth.

James F. Walsh
Culver

Church attendance is for all ages

Booooo! Mr. George Weigel be prompted to reflect on, "Rediscovering the Sounds of Silence," your thoughts that appeared in the commentary section of *Today's Catholic*, Feb. 14. What are you thinking? The church is for its people, all of them, young and old. It is a place of gathering in worship of God the Father through Jesus Christ. It is a place of family not isolated in a crying room but rather the family of God, gathered as Jesus requested, "... do this in memory of me." living up to the expectations of the Church.

Wonder about the delight God may see in a crying child, tears in its eyes speaking as only a child can. Presume nothing about the parents. Wonder about their struggles, the burdens they shoulder, the hardships they endure. Wonder how God sees the parents who bring their

children to church, how He may see their intentions.

Should you be more bothered about the discourtesy of not being welcome or welcomed, the ignorance of extraordinary ministers of Communion who after the consecration refer to the contents of the chalice as "the wine" rather than the precious blood of Christ? Should you be more concerned over the mumbling of the words of the creed or the recitation of the Our Father merely following the lines in the Mass booklet rather than the punctuation that would lead to thoughtfulness.

The prescribed Catholic vitamin is B-1, tolerant and understanding, perhaps love one another even while entering or leaving through the church passageways and even while making your way in the parking lot. That would make "the Catholic Difference."

Lastly, consider ear plugs.

Daniel J. Dyman, Ed.D.
Elkhart

What a gift is a friend, a priest friend

There are many who have paid generous tribute to the late Msgr. J. William Lester, and rightfully so. Whatever the setting, Msgr. Lester was always pleasant and courteous. Above all, he seemed to me to be what might be called "the priest's priest" because of his dedication to vocation and quickness to say "yes" to whatever was asked of him by superiors. He was an excellent role model for clergy of every generation.

However, my main reason for writing is to say that in the recent years, he, too, was blessed to have a good and faithful priest friend who was available to help when others were not. This individual, who shall remain anonymous here because, I believe, that is what he would prefer, was "there" for Msgr. Lester, particularly at times of need ... taking him to medical appointments and to the hospital, and responding when he quickly needed a friend when illness suddenly befell him. This friend also persuaded him to take brief respite "time outs" to soak up sunshine and made travel arrangements to make these all-too-seldom vacations come true. He was truly a friend in need and deed to Msgr. Lester.

Words of tribute by friends are necessary. But what a gift is the friend who is faithfully by one's side in times of significant need, who shows, through compassionate actions, an aspect of genuine friendship we all could ideally emulate. None of us knows what God has in store for us in the final years, months or days of our life — but I believe God truly blessed Msgr. Lester in this regard by prompting

a good and faithful priest friend to see him through many of the difficult times of his later life. May we all be so blessed to have such a friend — and to be one as well.

Sharon Little
Fort Wayne

Pro-life Democrat befuddled

I also "read with befuddled amusement" a letter in the commentary section from Andrew Landrigan, M.D. concerning High Noon for Healthcare Reform. It contained so many opinions stated as facts that it seems the letter could have been written by Karl Rove or Rush Limbaugh. Example: A pro-life Democrat is a rarity. I don't know what that was based on, but many Democrats are pro-life, all the time, not just in election years. Since the *Roe v. Wade* decision by the Supreme Court, there have been five Republican presidents and two Democrat presidents (not counting President Obama, because his term is not over yet). I know that Republicans controlled Congress in at least 10 or 11 years under Bush and Clinton, and no effort was made to counter *Roe v. Wade* except talk at election time.

Regarding the 2004 presidential campaign, I think the diocesan officials made the right decision not to let the Republican Party pass out brochures at church telling Catholics who to vote for. As you know, the Republicans won anyway, and were able to add several thousand more American casualties in a useless war in Iraq. Also adding about \$2 trillion more to the national debt. You might also note that after the election, the abortion rate didn't decrease.

I might add that I am a Democrat against abortion, but like the old adage, you don't throw a five pound bag of apples away because of one bad apple in the bunch.

Carl Weber
Mishawaka

Msgr. Lester was an 'all star'

I worked on several diocesan commissions with Msgr. Lester, and his cheerful ways always made that experience very positive. Not only was he upbeat and encouraging, he also was very smart and very much aware of the pastoral needs of the people.

I teased him about being a "utility infielder" because of the variety of assignments he covered in his so-called retired years, but everyone who had the privilege of knowing Msgr. Lester considered him to be an "all star," and he will be greatly missed.

Ann Carey
South Bend

Clericus Cup inspires ethical play

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — It was a weekend of hard-earned wins for Team USA.

In Vancouver, the U.S. Olympic hockey team beat traditional rivals Canada in a 5-3 victory Feb. 21.

And miracles don't just happen on ice. The Clericus Cup priestly soccer series in Rome got off on the right cleat Feb. 20 when the U.S. team beat the Brazilians, 5-4, in a tie-breaking shootout.

What made the Pontifical North American College's victory stand out even more was that the team was not only without its leading scorer from last year, but that same star player had signed up for the opposing squad. Brazilian forward Joao Kalevski, who netted the NAC Martyrs 11 goals over 10 games in 2009, now plays for a newly formed team from the Brazilian College.

Now in its fourth season, the Clericus Cup continues to challenge players to put their Christian values on the line every game and offer the world a more ethical role

model in sportsmanship.

Victor Ingalls, a second-year seminarian from Montgomery, Ala., who plays stopper for the Martyrs, said sport is the best training ground for putting to the test Christ's call to love everyone, even one's enemies.

The unity and joy the players seek to build with everyone even when they win or lose are "the greatest testimony that we can give to the world," he said in an interview with Catholic News Service Feb. 18.

"That's something that's really attractive. That's something people want to be part of: that despite all things you can still come together, be joyful with one another, celebrate the things you have in common, work on the things that are wrong or you don't have in common," he said.

But it's not easy, even for men dedicated to holiness.

Stats from last year showed that despite all good intentions, some of the 386 players involved in

THE VATICAN LETTER

CAROL GLATZ

Clericus Cup series got carded 68 times over the course of the season's 64 games. The yellow card for a foul or unsportsmanlike conduct was brandished 62 times and the red card, which results in expulsion from the game, was wielded six times. Only one player last year got the soccer series' unique "sin bin" blue card, which is a five-minute expulsion for players who get carried away and need time to cool down.

The Martyrs' coach, David Santos, is a second-year seminari-

LETTER, PAGE 16

Repent in Lent



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday of Lent Lk 13:1-9

The Book of Exodus, the source of the first reading, is important because in general it provides an account of the Hebrews' flight from Egypt, with all the misery that they endured there, to the land promised them by God.

In particular, this reading is important inasmuch as it tells of the event when God spoke to Moses at the burning bush and gave to Moses the Ten Commandments, that became the basis of Judaic, and of Christian morality.

God came as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. There was no mistake about identity. God speaks the divine name to Moses. It was a supreme revelation. In the Hebrew tradition, names carried the very being of the person. To know a person's name was to be given access to the person's identity. God entrusts Moses, and the people, with this crucial key to the divine reality.

Critically, throughout the experience remembered as the Exodus, and at this moment, God, always with the people, knew of their plight. He was never unfeeling or vengeful. The commandments were for their good.

The First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second

reading. Corinth's Christian community challenged Paul since the city was a reservoir of excesses and moral outrages, and Christians were vulnerable.

Nevertheless, Christians had to follow the Gospels despite the pressures to do otherwise. Paul warned them, encouraged them, taught them, and sought to inspire them. This reading is typical of his effort in these regards.

He gives the history of God's people. Without God's guidance, without the nourishment provided by God, the people will die. What they had from earthly resources will not protect or sustain them. St. Paul tells his readers, the Corinthian Christians, that God alone is the source of true life.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. This reading gives one of the rare glimpses of Pontius Pilate in the Gospels outside the Passion Narratives. It is not complimentary to him. The Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to death was ruthless and unmerciful. He also had no regard for the God of Israel, or for the religion of the people who worshipped the God of Israel. (An ancient tradition is that he was recalled to Rome because of his brutality, a brutality too vicious even by accepted standards of Roman imperial governance.)

Jesus then referred to an accidental disaster, when 18 people killed by a falling tower in Siloam. He noted that they too were innocent.

However, everyone mentioned by Jesus in the end died, innocent or not. Death is inevitable, regardless of how it comes. While these people could not control evil decisions of others or mishaps of nature, people can control their own ultimate fate. Jesus warns the audience to reform, lest they face

doom.

Then, Jesus tells the parable of the barren fig tree. The owner wants to destroy the tree, but the vinedresser pleads for another year, for enough time to nourish the tree in the hope that it will bear fruit.

Reflection

The Church in these readings is very frank. It tells us that abandoning God reaps a whirlwind of calamity, sweeping into its wake even the innocent. Thus were killed the victims of Pilate's outrage. Others accidentally die. We cannot control everything.

So, when humans rely upon themselves alone, they may leave themselves open to eternal disaster as well as earthly peril. God only is the source of truth and genuine wisdom. True life means eternal life.

So, using the words of Christ in the Gospel, the Church calls us to repent in Lent. We are like the fig tree. God is patient, but one day will be our last on earth. We can reform. Lent is for this purpose. It is up to us.

READINGS

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 Lk 13:1-9

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b Lk 18:9-14

CATEQUIZ'EM

by Dominic Camplisson

This quiz looks at the Church in Haiti.

- The country of Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with a country named for a saint; who is that saint?**
a. St. Martin (Marten) b. St. Croix (Cross) c. St. Domingo (Dominic)
- The western part of the island, Haiti, for most of its colonial history belonged to this Catholic country**
a. Portugal b. France c. Spain
- This was one of three founding dioceses and eventually, for a time, the only one:**
a. Santo Domingo b. Haute Haitian c. Concepción de la Cuba
- Early missions in the island were led mainly by these two orders**
a. the Byzantines and the Maritimes
b. the Dominicans and Capuchins
c. the Essenes and the Cajunites
- The majority religion is Catholicism. In addition to Protestant groups there is a widespread adherence to**
a. Voodoo b. Shinto c. Patois de Dieu
- The Church was fairly stable in Haiti until this event, which rocked the colony's mother land**
a. the war of the Spanish Obsession
b. the French revolution
c. the Franco-Prussian war
- Then there was a slave uprising led by a man with a name that conjures up images of All Saints. Who was he?**
a. Toussaint L'Ouverture
b. Alle Santen Du Ciel
c. Eduoard Saints Dieu
- Violence got so bad that one leading churchman, Pere Viriot, who was the apostolic prefect was**
a. recalled to France
b. enslaved as a lesson to other whites
c. murdered
- Eventually an agreement between the Haitian government and the Catholic Church settled matters down considerably. This, and agreements like it, are often referred as**
a. papal bulls b. concordats c. encyclicals
- This agreement gave the Church the special protection of the state, but had this compromised position on influential Church positions.**
a. The president would nominate the bishops, but the pope could always refuse them canonical institution.
b. The archbishop of Port Au Prince would nominate the bishops, but the president of Haiti could refuse to install them.
c. The president would present three anonymous candidates and the pope would choose by random vote.
- One more recent enemy of the Catholic Church in Haiti was François Duvalier. He was better known as**
a. antichrist b. Ian Paisley's French nephew c. Papa Doc
- He was one of the few heads of state to suffer this ultimate ecclesial sanction.**
a. He was named Big Fat Loser of the Western Hemisphere.
b. He was excommunicated.
c. He was denied burial until he was actually dead.
- The highest ranking cleric to visit Haiti in the 20th century was**
a. Msgr. Canif et Fourchette, leader of Peres San Frontiers
b. Pope John Paul II
c. Baby Doc who had become a Jesuit
- Although the dergy are urged not to seek elective office, this priest was elected president in 1990.**
a. Jean Bertrand Aristide
b. Cure D'Ars
c. Father Baby Doc Duvalier

ANSWERS

1.c, 2.b, 3.a, 4.b, 5.a, 6.b, 7.a, 8.c, 9.b, 10.a, 11.c, 12.b, 13.b, 14.a

Keeping the faith

“Ann” shared with me a concern regarding her young adult children. Although raised in a committed Catholic home, they have recently been left feeling “cold” with the hypocrisy they see in the parish they attend. The son works in a club and regularly sees a lay church leader acting un-Christian-like in the bar — hitting on women, using profanity, and then sitting in the front pew at Church on Sunday and lecturing him on why he didn’t see him at Mass more often. The daughter feels painfully scrutinized at every move. She told her mother that “religious people are the most judgmental people I’ve ever encountered.” Another college student felt frustrated at being preached at and condemned for some minor offense, by a person who didn’t know all the (justifying) circumstances surrounding it. This was done all in the name of “faith” of course. And it really turned the young adults off, as one could understand.

“Ann’s” children’s dilemma and frustration is a common one, and it is not new. Ever since the Pharisees in Jesus’ time there have been hypocritical religious people. This is not a “faith-problem.” It’s a “people-problem,” an implementation of faith issue. We all struggle with it, to some extent, because we are all sinners.

And a judgmental attitude, even among those who are not hypocrites, is still also prevalent today, as it has existed for centuries. Those who have found great solace and strength in their religious faith can still be tempted to intolerance of others. It’s difficult for all people when they feel unfairly judged. However, the late teens and early 20’s crowd seem particularly adept at recognizing this hypocrisy and sensitive to harsh judgment. This can easily turn them away from the perpetrators and sometimes even the faith.

What is the remedy?

First, we must recognize the importance of being specifically encouraging and interested in this group of people. The age from 18 to 24 is when young people are evaluating their early family experiences, primarily defining who they are going to be as adults, and choosing to embrace or reject the values with which they were raised. It’s a critical time for encouragement in the faith.

Second, we can take positive steps that will help ease the frustration and aid in faith-life growth. Simply talking to our young adult children is a good start. When they point out hypocrisy, recognize their astute perception. Jesus Himself admonished the action of hypocrites. (See Mt. 23). Then discuss how we all fall short of an ideal at some time, but that we are to stay in the race, which is a marathon, after all, and not a sprint. Forgiveness is a key concept here, but only after a validation of the feelings of justified frustration. We can remind them that our purpose of worshipping God each Sunday is not to impress or please others, but to be God-oriented. The sacraments provide all we need. We focus on our own path to holiness and not be concerned with what others think of us or how they are living or not living up to virtue themselves.

Like an athlete with his eye on the goal line, we need to “just keep going” despite annoyances and distractions, and problems with others struggling, like us, in their faith. An article entitled “The Young Catholic Church: Roots and Wings” by Robert McCarthy in *Church Magazine* indicates that the number one influence on the faith of young people is the faith life of their parents. That’s good and bad news. The good part is that if we “just” live our faith well ourselves, our children have an excellent chance of retaining it despite any “people problems”

they often attend the same classes and events as part of their seminary studies.

Whenever a team wins or loses, it’s easier to “just continue with life as normal” because of those bonds of friendship, said Santos.

The goal of the soccer series, he said, is to show that people from all over the world can come together, compete fairly, and “be able to just recognize that somebody has to win, but at the end we’re all brothers and there’s definitely more important things in life.”

But that doesn’t mean players still don’t have their eye on victory.

The Anglo-Celtic Colleges United — a new team made up of priests and seminarians from the Beda, English, Irish and Scots colleges — have brought in two Italian coaches, one of whom trained a major-league soccer team in Lithuania. The returning coach for Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian



Theresa A. Thomas

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

they encounter later on. The bad part of this piece of news is that living our faith well is easier said than done. It takes daily effort and constant vigilance to make sure our youngsters learn the creeds and tenets of our faith, are exposed to the traditions and sacraments regularly, and live in a home where faith-life is vibrant, joyful and ever-present. Fortunately, families all around us show this is possible!

Mother Teresa said, “If you judge people you have no time to love them.” “Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.” And, “Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.” This is all good food for thought ... and implementation.

We can’t prevent our young adult children from seeing hypocrisy in life. We can’t shield them from harsh judgment. And ultimately, they have to digest everything they have been given in youth and make their Catholic faith their own. As they are doing this, however, we can certainly aid them by offering love, encouragement and by living a good example. And we are doing a special kindness when we offer other people’s children this love as well. A smile in church, an encouraging word, demonstrating interest in their lives and pursuits, will all go a long way in helping them become mature Catholics and make it easier for them to make the choice to stay faithful.

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

University’s team is the former head of a minor-league Italian soccer team, and the Polish College has its star player returning, Michel Abe, who played major league soccer in Cameroon in the early 1990s.

Even without pro players and coaches, the NAC Martyrs were undefeated last year up until the final match when they came in second behind the team from the Neocatechumenal Way’s Redemptoris Mater seminary.

Santos said the Martyrs’ winning combination of “dedication, perseverance and skill,” as well as the desire to bring the championship cup home, will add up to “a really successful season” in 2010.

Ingalls, who is also a team captain, said he hopes not only to win the tournament, but more importantly, to bring the men at his seminary and others even closer together.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 7, 2010

Luke 13:1-9

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: a parable about the patience of the Lord. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| GALILEANS | BLOOD | PILATE |
| MINGLED | REPENT | PERISH |
| EIGHTEEN | TOWER | SILOAM |
| JERUSALEM | PARABLE | FIG TREE |
| PLANTED | FRUIT ON IT | FOUND NONE |
| THREE | CUT IT DOWN | WELL AND GOOD |
| IF NOT | | LUKE |

TREE LESSON

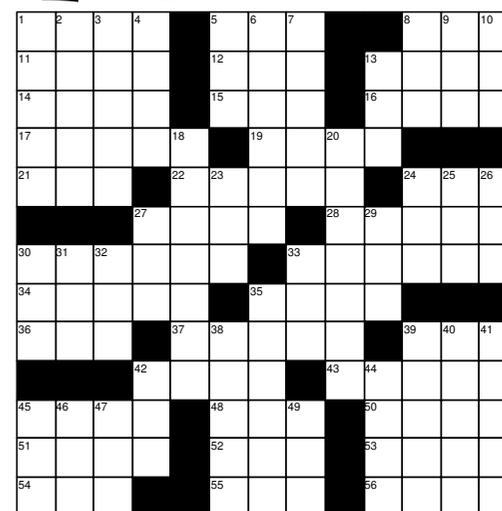
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E N S N A E L I L A G X
I W E F O U N D N O N E
G O E J O P L A N T E D
H D R L K I P I I A H F
T T H U L L T N A N S D
E I T K M A O L I S I M
E T O E D T N E P E R I
N U W L I E F D O B E N
D C E U P L I E G L P G
P A R A B L E L L O I L
P F I G T R E E A O O E
J E R U S A L E M D F D
    
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The CrossWord

March 7 & 14, 2010



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Ex 3:1-8, 13-15; 1Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9; Josh 5:9-12; 2Cor 5: 17-21; Lk 15: 1-3 (5th and 6th Sundays of Lent)

ACROSS

- 1 Noah’s son’s
- 5 Stage of life
- 8 Toll
- 11 Double-reed instrument
- 12 God heard their ____
- 13 Cob vegetable
- 14 Face part
- 15 Luau dish
- 16 Back from the ____
- 17 Water retention
- 19 Troop
- 21 Okay
- 22 Forehead covering
- 24 Computer part
- 27 Desert condition

DOWN

- 28 Christian writer C.S. ____
- 30 Ball-shaped
- 33 Anglo-__
- 34 One magi gift
- 35 Fasting season
- 36 Ball holder
- 37 Leading
- 39 “To the right!”
- 42 Haze
- 43 ____ of music and dancing
- 45 Merry
- 48 Father did when son came home
- 50 Placed on son’s finger
- 51 Yes

- 52 Terminal abbr.
- 53 Mary’s color
- 54 The Lord’s ____ (Sunday)
- 55 Lepers did
- 56 Uproar

DOWN

- 1 Milk and ____
- 2 Dwelling
- 3 Saw burning bush
- 4 Look
- 5 American Catholic Press (abbr.)
- 6 Holy ____
- 7 Looking at
- 8 Enemy
- 9 Epoch
- 10 The ____ of the ages
- 13 Central daylight time
- 18 Isaac’s father
- 20 Isles
- 23 Cause of sickness
- 24 Cash with order (abbr.)
- 25 Attach
- 26 Ship initials
- 27 Abridged (abbr.)
- 29 Extension (abbr.)
- 30 Greenwich Time
- 31 Caustic substance
- 32 Unrefined metal
- 33 Israel passed through
- 35 Ambassador
- 38 Mountain of God
- 39 Shame
- 40 Listlessness
- 41 Garden tool
- 42 Tell them
- 44 Globes
- 45 The Lord ____
- 46 Also known as (abbr.)
- 47 Not ordained
- 49 Pester

Answer Key can be found on page 19

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

an from Kearny, N.J., who plays center midfield. He told CNS that playing sports his whole life has helped him “hone the competitiveness that’s inside of us.”

“When you get a bunch of guys on the field and you’re playing together, you get a little hot and real competitive and so you learn (how) to treat each other like brothers,” he said.

Tempering those aggressive instincts, he said, are critical “human skills you’re going to need as a seminarian and eventually as a priest.”

One thing that helps players keep it all in perspective is that many of them are friends with players from other teams since

Sports

St. Pius, St. Vincent, St. Joseph take the diocesan basketball championship

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — Teams from around the diocese gathered for their annual dual as the Inter-City Catholic League hosted the Fort Wayne CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) boys' basketball league champs at the winter home of the Marian Knights.

The first game matched up one of the oldest schools in the diocese, founded in 1882, the St. Aloysius Gators from Yoder against the newest school, founded in 2008, the St. Pius X Lions of Granger.

The travel weary Gators got off to a slow start as the host Lions opened a sizable lead early. One thing was for certain as the two teams exchanged baskets, is that champions play like champions.

The lopsided first quarter was the undoing of St. Aloysius as they couldn't dig themselves out of the early hole as St. Pius prevailed, 52-26.

Greenan Sullivan paced the Lions with 18 points as Eric Mossey added 14 for the victors. The Gators were led by 13 from Braden Thiele.

The second game of the day saw the St. Joseph, South Bend, Eagles square up against the pride of Fort Wayne, the St. Vincent Panthers.

The game summary was identical to the first action of the day with the exception that the visitors dominated the first quarter and sending

the Eagles back on their heels.

In the first, the well schooled Panthers systematically picked apart the Eagle defense and put together a 22 point outburst. Once the Eagles found their rhythm, the two champions matched almost point for point down the stretch but they succumbed to St. Vincent, 48-23.

The Panthers were paced by Michael Fiacable's 19-point performance and the Eagles were lead by Tommy Clark with 14.

In the final stanza, the Squires of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel would face the undefeated St. Joseph, Mishawaka, Wildcats in what would turn out to be a thriller.

The big men of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel would wreak havoc on the smaller Wildcats as they won the battle of the boards and scoreboard early.

The Squires seemed to be in control and handled the pressure on the ever pressing Wildcats and built a slim lead with about a minute to go in the third quarter and that's when it happened.

The Wildcats tightened up their full court defense and befuddled the visiting Squires, turning the once held margin into a deficit the guests were not able to respond to.

St. Joseph, Mishawaka, triumphed in the matchup of the day by beating the Squires, 34-23, behind a balanced attack and 14 points from Michael Markis. Bradley Scott paced the St. Joseph Hessen Cassel team with 11.



JOE KOZINSKI

The St. Joseph, Mishawaka, boys' Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) champs also won the ICCL-CYO invitational on Feb. 28 and were the ICCL St. Martin DePorres League champions. In the photo are the following: front row, Michael Voelker, Conner Bilancio, Michael Rice, Josh Derse, John Herman and RJ Norris; second row, Michael Makris, Jack Ravotto, Evan Fras, Zack Morton and Dominic Ravotto; and back row, Head Coach Steve Ravotto and assistant coaches, Tony Troiola and Wayne Troiola.

LADY KNIGHTS VIE FOR ANOTHER STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP After beating Winamac, 57-44, on Feb. 27 at the state semi final in Warsaw, the Bishop Luers girls' basketball team will vie for a state Class 2-A championship March 6 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. The 12th ranked Knights (18-7) will play No. 2 Austin (25-2). Luers has won seven semi-state championships. A medal recognition rally for the team will be held Monday, March 8, 2:30 p.m. at Bishop Luers' gymnasium.

CYO girls basketball champions crowned

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The 74th annual Catholic Youth League (CYO) tournament kicked off in grand style with all new champions crowned on the girls' side, Saturday, Feb. 20, at St. Charles.

For the White League, or seventh-grade teams, the Eagles from St. Jude capped off a perfect 6-0 regular season by winning their third straight CYO championship. The Eagles beat St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth, 28-22, after getting by St. Vincent in their first round. The Panthers were led by Michelle Adgaianis with 9 points while St. Jude's Haley Henline topped the charts with 13 for the victors.

In the small school division, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel claimed the title slipping by St. Therese in the final game, 41-37, to end their undefeated Blue League season.

Linda Luegring's Lady Saders gave the Squires a battle from start to finish keeping things even in the first quarter, 8-8.

Hessen Cassel's Hannah Beckman, who led all scorers with 14 points, scored six of her points in the second quarter to put the Squires up, 22-15, at the half. But a feisty St. Therese group threatened in the third sparked by another try from Taylor Luegring as they tried to close the gap.

The battle continued into the fourth when the Saders outscored the Squires, 15-14, thanks to impressive free throw shooting and three-point baskets. Briana Wood hit a pair of free throws with 2:40 remaining to bring the Crusaders within three, 30-33, but Taylor Tobe's gutsy play underneath and her six fourth quarter points helped the Squires hang on. Luegring and Mackenzie North finished with 12 a piece in the loss, while Beckman and Tobe combined for 26 points for Amy Knapke's girls.

CYO tournament winners

Girls

Large School — St. Charles
Small School — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel
Fifth Grade — St. Vincent

Boys

Large School — St. Vincent
Small School — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel
Fifth Grade — St. Vincent



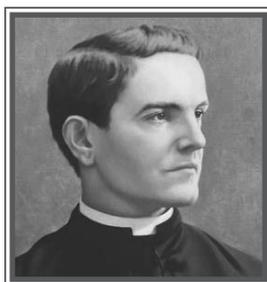
PROVIDED BY ST. JUDE

The St. Jude Eagles are the 2010 White League CYO Champs. The team includes Hannah Berghoff, Hannah Feipel, Haley Henline, Erin Kilbane, Cassandra Kindler, Madeline Obergfell, Audrey Sanfrey, Alexandra Schroeder, Madelyn Stewart; Coaches Jason Kindler, Pat Henline and Jane Wolff.



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH-HESSEN CASSEL

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Squires are the 2010 Blue League CYO Champs. The team includes the following: front row, Lydia Oberley, Aubrey Feipel, Cara Schaadt, Taylor Tobe and Miranda Malott; back row, Coach Maria Parsenow, Claire Stuerzenberger, Mercedes Matter, Hannah Beckman, Kendall Knapke, Samantha Muldoon and Coach Amy Knapke.



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St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel claims Blue League CYO title

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In the small school league, the Blue League undefeated season champs, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel claimed a three-peat. For the third year in a row, Jim Knapke's unit received the coveted CYO first-place medals. This year's roster included Jake Bosler, Jake Girardot, Robert Ottenweller, Adam Beard, Joe Minnich, Andy Bauer, Harrison Diedrich, Bradley Scott, Jonathon Knapke, Jacob Burns, Nick Strack and assistant coaches, Mike Scott, Tom Ottenweller and Jim Bosler.



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

This photo shows the 2010 CYO Blue League Champs, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel.

Earning a bye, the Squires defeated St. John, New Haven in the semi-finals before facing their league rival, St. Aloysius, for the championship. The two evenly-matched teams battled from tip-off until the final whistle blew. The scrappy Gators jumped out to a 12-4 start in the first quarter, then went on to control things in the second taking a 19-11 lead into the locker room at half time.

However, the ball started going the Squires' way in the last periods. They took the third quarter, 10-5. Both teams fought and fought and the Squires came back to win, 35-27.

Knapke admitted, "We were lucky to be down only eight at

the half. St. Al's played tough. It was just a great championship game between two great teams."

Braden Thiele played a wail of a game for Tony Sorg's Gators scoring 14. Adam Beard and Bradley Scott combined for 24 points for Hessen Cassel.

In the seventh-grade battle, St. Jude took the 2010 White League title defeating the number one seeded, St. Charles, 47-31. Leading the Eagles offensively were Ryan Christman with a game high — 17 points — and John Michael Petrie who added 9. For St. Charles, Andrew Gabet scored 10 points while William Blume contributed 8.

David Westendorf's young

Eagles had numerous accomplishments this season including: taking second place in both the Queen of Angels holiday tournament and the Hoop Fest tourney. They finished in the runner-up position in the White League with a 5-1 record. Their overall season record was 24-6.

Winning members of the team as listed in the official CYO program included Nathan Abel, Christman, Jared Deininger, Nick Franke, Jacob Greer, Connor Haxton, Chris Osburn, Petrie, Marcus Stepp, Charlie Stoner, James Terrell, David Westendorf and Joey Wolff. The coaching staff was made up of Westendorf, Mike Christman and Mark Stoner.

St. Pius Lions weathering the storm in ICCL play

BY CHUCK FREEBY

GRANGER — Starting the season with a 1-2 mark didn't exactly raise the hopes of St. Pius girls' basketball coach Jim Welsh. Losing one player to a broken foot and another to a broken nose in the first weeks of the season didn't buoy his spirits either. However, four straight wins by the Lions are certainly raising some eyebrows in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL).

"It has been a challenge for me as a coach," says Welsh. "I think our team has improved because we have spent a lot of time practicing the fundamental basketball skills. As a result of being more confident in their ability to do the fundamentals, the girls have become less tentative during the games."

St. Pius collected a weekend sweep with triumphs over Queen of Peace, 24-10, and St. Bavo, 36-30, to stay just a game behind St. Monica/St. Jude in the Martin DePorres Division. The Lions are 5-2 on the year, a terrific start for a program in just its second year of varsity competition.

"Every player on our roster has scored this season, but our leading scorers are Kelly Welsh, Daly Sullivan and Jasmine Stahl," com-

ments Coach Welsh. "Also, we have emphasized the importance of defense and rebounding."

The Lions needed the win to keep pace with St. Monica/St. Jude. The Comets stayed unbeaten in division play with a 25-15 triumph over Christ the King (Colors). The Young twins, Cassie and Jamie combined for 12 points to lead the way, while Lucy Presnal tallied eight for the young Kings.

St. Joseph, Mishawaka, remained tied for second with St. Pius in the division. The Wildcats used a 44-point weekend from Tagin Schultheis to prevail in wins over St. Anthony (Colors) and St. John/Our Lady.

In the John Bosco Division, St. Joseph, South Bend, remains perfect for the season, downing second-place Holy Family, 33-16. Corpus Christi forged a three-way tie for second-place in the division, with a 30-27 triumph over St. Matthew. Mary Freeby netted 12 points for the Cougars.

Holy Cross and Christ the King also enjoyed unbeaten weekends. Coach Anthony Douglas' Crusaders downed St. Anthony, 28-6, while Kevin Kruggel's Kings toppled St. Thomas, 27-14.

For all of the weekend's results, check the girls basketball section at icclsports.org.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Square dance planned

Roanoke — St. Catherine Parish (10 miles south of Columbia City on State Road 9) will have a square dance on Saturday, March 27, with music by Bill Werling and Breakaway. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. with dancing from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person with snacks and soft drinks included.

Legion of Mary Acies

South Bend — Active and auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary will have the Acies ceremony at Holy Family Church on Sunday, March 21, at 3 p.m. For information call (574) 259-6215 or (260) 483-1001.

Breakfast buffett

Yoder — The St. Aloysius Athletic Booster Club will have a breakfast buffet Sunday, March 7, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the activity center. Free will donations will benefit athletic expenses for sports teams of the parish.

Card party and deluxe salad bar

New Carlisle — The Altar and Rosary Sodality of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish will have a card party with a salad bar Sunday, March 14, at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 and must be purchased in advance. Call (574) 654-3364 or (574) 289-2986 for tickets. Proceeds are used for church items.

Square dance in Arcola

Arcola — St. Patrick Church will host a square dance Saturday, March 6, from 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person.

Sponsored by the St. Patrick Youth Group.

Benefit scheduled for injured student

Yoder — A benefit to defray medical costs for St. Aloysius parishioner Shelby Gruss, who was injured in a recent accident, will be held Saturday, March 27, at St. Aloysius Activity Center. The benefit begins at 2 p.m. with a dinner at 6 p.m. There will be a silent auction, Guitar Hero competition, Corn Hole tournament and children's activities. For information call (260) 622-4491.

Lenten Cantata performed

Fort Wayne — The St. Charles adult choir, along with guest soloists, present "Once Upon A Tree," a Lenten Cantata — words and music by Pepper Choplin — on Thursday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. in church. St. Luke the Evangelist narrates the story of Jesus' last days on earth.

Natural Family Planning classes scheduled

South Bend — An introduction to Natural Family Planning will be held Thursday, March 11, at the St. Anthony de Padua meeting room from 7-9 p.m. Presenters include Janet Bettcher, RN, director of NFP of St. Joseph County, and Rick Becker, RN, MSN, nursing faculty at Bethel College. For those wishing to continue learning the method, another session will be held on March 25. To register, please call (574) 234-5411.

Gorkie Zale at St. Adalbert

South Bend — Gorkie Zale or Lenten Lamentations are sung in Polish on Wednesdays of Lent at 5 p.m. at St. Adalbert Parish.

Spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, March 11, from 4-6 p.m. Adults \$7, children ages 5 to 12 \$2.50.

FISH FRIES

Jonah Fish Fry

South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar on Friday, March 12, from 4-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and carry-out, \$3 for children 6-12, and free for children 5 and under.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 12, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$7.50, children 5-12 \$3. Chicken strips for \$7.50 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 5, from 5-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fries

Granger — The Knights Council

REST IN PEACE

Angola

Donald A. Rauner, 97, St. Anthony of Padua

Avilla

Rosealma M. Helmkamp, 81, St. Mary/Assumption

Churubusco

Robert V. Saylor, St. John Bosco

Elkhart

Angela Fischer, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

Imen Bojrab Sr., 97, St. Charles

Michael Lee Green, 28, St. Therese

Geraldine C. Kline, 88, St. Jude

Olga A. Michaels, 91, St. Vincent de Paul

Valda I. Butler Heinkel, 86, Our Lady of Good Hope

Mildred I. Dunn, 81, St. John the Baptist

Alice M. Gillem, 79, St. Jude

Granger

David E. Hojnacki, 75, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

George W. Weber, 81, St. Joseph

Albert Cannoot, 93, St. Bavo

Notre Dame

Gail L. Walton, 55, Basilica/Sacred Heart

South Bend

Evelyn M. Falda, 92, Christ the King

Helen J. O'Parker, 87, St. Matthew Cathedral

Rose Ann Andrysiak, 84, Holy Family

Lucy M. VanOverwaele, 92, Holy Family

Martin A. Bergeson, 70, Little Flower

Lucille P. Kujawski, 88, Little Flower

Patricia J. Kovach, 84, St. Jude

Lucille Murdock, 95, St. Joseph

4263 will have a fish fry Friday, March 5, from 4-7 p.m. in the St. Pius X gymnasium. Adults \$7.50, children 6-11 \$3.50 and children under 6 free.

Lenten Fish Fry

New Haven — The St. John the Baptist Holy Name Society will have a fish fry Friday, March 5, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12 and children under 5 free.

Fish fry

Clear Lake — St. Paul Chapel, 8780 E. 700N, will have a fish fry Friday, March 12, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the community room. Macaroni and cheese available for non-fish eaters. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12 and free for children under 5. Sponsored by the St. Paul Boosters.

Fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will have a fish fry Friday, March 12, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Knights hall, 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and children under 5 free.

Fish fry

South Bend — St. Catherine of Siena Parish at Sacred Heart will have a Lenten Fish Fry Friday, March 19, from 4-7 p.m. Adults and carry-out/drive thru \$8, children 6-12 \$3 and children 5 and under free.

St. John the Baptist Tyner 100 fish fry

South Bend — St. John the Baptist will have a fish fry on Wednesday, March 10, from 4-7 p.m. at Holy Family parish center. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$3.50 for children 5-12. Carry-out available.



St. Mary Catholic Church HUNTINGTON Parish Mission

March 14, 15, 16, 17, 2010

"Here I Am Lord"

Sunday, March 14 - 7pm: VOCATIONS Msgr. Bernie Galic
Monday, March 15 - 7pm: FAITH Mary Glowaski
Tuesday, March 16 - 7pm: RECONCILIATION Father Dave Ruppert
(Reconciliation available with multiple priests)
Wednesday, March 17- 7pm: EUCHARIST Bishop John D'Arcy

Morning Sessions Mon., (8:45) Tues., Wed., after 8:00 am Mass
 Morning sessions are in Assumption Hall...conducted by Jennifer Kohrman, Associate Director for the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization. Coffee & Donuts.
Baby Sitting in Assumption Hall: Sun., Mon., & Tues evenings
 (No baby sitting Wednesday Evening)
 Bishop D'Arcy will celebrate Mass Wednesday evening, followed by reception in Assumption Hall (St. Patrick's Day)

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The CrossWord

March 7 and 14, 2010



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Notice of ANNUAL CLEANUP at Catholic Cemetery

The Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne will conduct their ANNUAL CLEANUP of decorations from March 15 thru March 26.

Please do NOT place any decorations during this entire time. If you wish to save your decoration, please have it removed **BEFORE** March 15 or call the Catholic Cemetery Office, 426-2044, by March 12, and we will hold it for you no more than 30 days. Decorations may be placed **AFTER** March 26.

We thank you for your cooperation.

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

PRINCIPAL OPENING St. Thomas the Apostle School Elkhart

St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart seeks an experienced spiritual and educational leader for grades K-8 to provide vision and leadership to its school community. Candidate must be a Catholic in good standing with an absolute commitment to Catholic education.

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EOE

LESTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On Feb. 25, following a brief visitation, the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, which was filled to capacity with mourners from all walks of life, there to honor the good Monsignor. The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Rhoades, Bishop D'Arcy and Bishop Felipe Estevez, the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Miami, who was one of the Cuban boys that Msgr. Lester mentored and was a "father and mother" to in the 1960s at St. Vincent Villa. Concelebrating the funeral rite were about 70 priests, clad in gold and cream vestments, from across the diocese.

In his homily Bishop D'Arcy spoke of his dear friend. It was a pleasure, said Bishop D'Arcy, to work with "the good Monsignor, seeing his goodness ... his high intelligence and his zest for life."

"To see his joyfulness and energy he brought to his ministry ... I grew to trust him and love him." He went on to say that it was appropriate to bring Msgr. Lester back to the cathedral where he was ordained and had had such a hand in restoring.

"He was a priest for all seasons," said the bishop. "He understood what he was doing always." He likened the beautiful historic stained glass windows of the cathedral to a priest, saying, "A priest is a sign of the presence of Jesus Christ. A priest is asked to be a kind of stained glass window in which we see the Good Shepherd. We look through this priest (Msgr. Lester) and see Jesus Christ."

Bishop D'Arcy spoke highly of his friend and recalled his joyfulness, total caring and visibility. He said, "We need to grasp again the beauty of the priesthood that was made visible to us in the unique way of Bill Lester."

Bishop D'Arcy considered Msgr. Lester "a rock ... filled with compassion and understanding ... devoid of smallness or meanness," with advice that benefited all. His heartfelt homily went on to cite the personal side of the good Monsignor as he spoke of the Monsignor's love of the White Sox and all diocesan high school sports. He related how Msgr. Lester was frequently seen attending football games — both at Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers. It was another part of him making present Christ to others, said the bishop.

He went on to recall how the Monsignor was always open to his calling. "He thought his vocation was extraordinary — he always said 'yes!' ... Christ sent us his

best," he said.

"Msgr. Lester was my hero," Bishop D'Arcy continued. "All these priests are my heroes and yours too I think. Pray today that there will be more like him (Msgr. Lester) to live this wonderful life." And in a genuine show of friendship Bishop D'Arcy concluded, "I loved him with my whole heart. ... Safe home Bill."

To read Bishop D'Arcy's eulogy homily, see page 12 of this issue.

In his concluding remarks at the end of the Mass of Christian Burial Bishop Rhoades offered his personal condolences to Msgr. Lester's family and friends. He expressed his gratitude for Bishop D'Arcy's heartfelt homily and Bishop Estevez's presence at the Mass as well as the great show of support by the presbyters. "God's love and grace has touched so many lives through Msgr. Lester's ministry," said Bishop Rhoades.

Msgr. Lester was buried at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton. Family members told *Today's Catholic*, it is the cemetery that was laid out by Monsignor's maternal grandfather.

En route to the cemetery down State Road 1, school children and staff from St. Aloysius, Yoder, a parish where Msgr. Lester was pastor from 1985-1986, gathered near the road in silent prayer as the funeral procession traveled past the church and school.

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

This month's featured selection:

"A Saint on Death Row" By Thomas Cahill

Reviewed by Kay Cozad

"A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green." By Thomas Cahill (Doubleday, ISBN: 978-0-385-52019-5)

This month's book club choice is a sobering story of a young man unjustly accused of murder and how his imprisonment transformed his life and the lives of so many others. "A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green," was written by *New York Times* best-selling author Thomas Cahill, who met with the imprisoned Green throughout his final year on death row.

The 144-page tome begins with a painful description of the unimaginable horrors that young Green endured as a youth with his alcohol and drug addicted parents. Eventually he found himself a young homeless teen struggling with the law, with only his innate goodness to guide him as he fought to protect his two younger brothers from the violence and neglect of their home life.

A strange turn of events lands Green, then 18, in jail, accused of robbery and eventually of murder. The details outlined by the author of the insufficient testimony and unbelievable ineptness of Green's court-appointed counsel during court proceedings shines light on the darkness of not only the injustice of racism, but of the seriously flawed United States judicial system.

The bulk of the remaining chapters journey through the final 12 years of Green's life on death row, including his ineffectual appeals process; the victim's family's response to the injustice of Green's incarceration and eventual execution; the involvement of the Community of Sant'Egidio, an international religious community, in

his appeal; the historic visit of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and much more.

The pages are sprinkled with letters and poems written by Green himself providing a deeply personal look at the heart of this tortured soul. His simple eloquence belies his true character though in the tales of his care and concern for others.

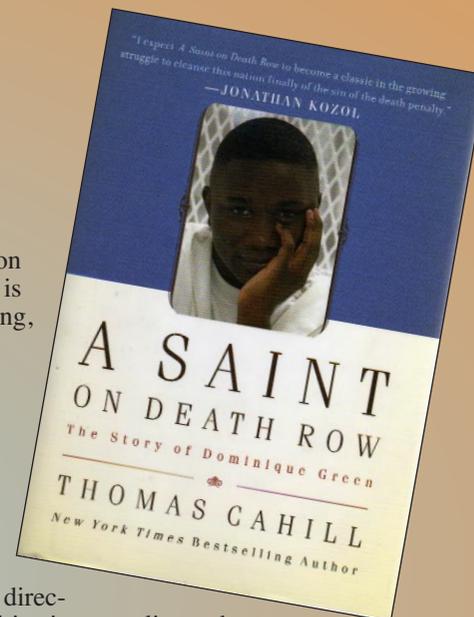
Details of his "inventive variety of ploys" to raise the spirits of his fellow inmates — even as they suffer in solitary confinement — offer a sense of his wit, intelligence and leadership. Though the book commands the readers' attention, its content jumps from unpleasant to ridiculous in its injustice, and forges a trail of dismay.

But redemption comes by getting to know Green, who on this horrifying journey not only quells his deep seated rage but finds purpose in educating himself and others on the merits of mercy and forgiveness. Building his character and his belief in the good of man and God in solitary confinement was evidenced in the ways he reached out to others in prison and on the outside.

And in the end when all else had failed this young man of faith, so inspired and inspiring, comforted those who had stood by him in his quest for justice. The injustice of his execution by lethal injection wrenches the heart and cries out for retribution, yet among his final words were, "I am not angry, but I am disappointed that I was denied justice."

Finally, the author offers food for thought in three areas of social life that require review; protection of children, the end of the death penalty and the humane reform of prisons.

"A Saint on Death Row" is an eye opening, riveting read — though sometimes difficult to stomach. A must read for those who might require a nudge in the direction of social justice, equality and faith.



Questions for discussion

- Many are broken by traumatic events experienced in childhood. How did Green overcome his past while on death row? What is holding you back from achieving deeper faith and forgiveness?
- How did God use the people in Green's life to show him His divine faithfulness? How did he use Green to show others His mercy? How does God manifest in your life?
- What is your belief on the death penalty? How has Green's story impacted your belief?

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