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, for 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 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.”

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 missioner, 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...”
Msr. J. William Lester

Last week, in this column, I wrote about the death of an exemplary and beloved priest of our diocese, Msr. 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 Mgr. 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, Mgr. 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 presence 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 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 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-
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 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.

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.

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 tremor. 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.

NOTRE DAME students and staff safe after quake in Chile

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.

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.

BY JOHN THAVIS

Pope prays for victims of massive earthquake in Chile

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 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.

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.
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
1:15 p.m. — Workshop Session One: Introduction to the Theology of the Body, Lisa Marino; Dealing with Infertility in Marriage, Dave and Sary Younger; Marriage and Finances: Setting a Solid Foundation, Harry Verhelyi; 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 Sliorksi; La Teología del Cuerpo, Margarita Rodriguez
3:35 p.m. — Break
3:40 p.m. — Workshop Session Three: Theology of the Body: What the Pope Couldn’t Say, Father Bob Lesperich; 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 Stobiwerski; 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. 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 and CD. Today’s Catholics recently interviewed Smith in anticipation of her upcoming visit to the dioce.

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 contraception and support of NFP. Every year seminarians are more zealous about the life issues and sexual morality.

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 unnerv. The evidence that hormonal contraceptives harm 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 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 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 contact the Notre Dame Conference Center at (574) 631-6691 or the Office of Family Life (574) 234-0687.

PROVENA Sacred Heart Home

Our experienced and professional staff is dedicated to providing the highest quality of nursing care.

• Daily Mass
• Medicare Certified
• Secured Neighborhoods for Alzheimer Care
• Physical, Occupational, & Speech Therapies
• One and Two Bedroom Assisted Living Apartments
• Independent Living Patio Homes
• Independent Living Patio Homes

For Information, Call: (260) 897-2841
515 N. Main Street, Avilla, Indiana 46710
Provena Health, a Catholic health system, builds communities of healing and hope by compassionately responding to human need in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Visit us at www.provena.org/sacredheart

Hall’s Catering

You can choose one or all of our special events. Hall’s has been in the business of making people happy for over 60 years. You can trust us to do it just right.

Fort Wayne’s Most Complete Wedding Service.

Banquet Rooms
Hotel Rooms
Rehearsal Dinners
Catering Service
Wedding Cakes

For more information contact Hall’s Guesthouse at:
(260) 489-2524 • www.DonHalls.com

March 7, 2010 TODAY’S CATHOLIC

[Image 76x40 to 277x321]

Visit us at www.provena.org/sacredheart

Hall’s

You can choose one or all of our special events. Hall’s has been in the business of making people happy for over 60 years. You can trust us to do it just right.

Fort Wayne’s Most Complete Wedding Service.

Banquet Rooms
Hotel Rooms
Rehearsal Dinners
Catering Service
Wedding Cakes

For more information contact Hall’s Guesthouse at:
(260) 489-2524 • www.DonHalls.com

March 7, 2010 TODAY’S CATHOLIC

[Image 76x40 to 277x321]
WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Democratic and Republican leaders gathered in Washington for a healthcare 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 the USA and from a coalition of Christians, Muslims, Buddhists and Jewish leaders, including many Catholics.

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 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 Doerrflinger, 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.”

“We do not delay healthcare justice any longer,” they wrote.

“This is your moment for real 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.

---

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 healthcare 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 the USA and from a coalition of Christians, Muslims, Buddhists and Jewish leaders, including many Catholics.

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 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 Doerrflinger, 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.”

“We do not delay healthcare justice any longer,” they wrote.

“This is your moment for real 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 Oders 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 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!

All Saints Religious Goods

NOW OPEN!!!

3506 South Calhoun Street
Fort Wayne (Across from South Side High School)
(260) 486-9173

First Communion and Confirmation Gifts, Books, Bibles, Crucifixes, Rosaries, Statues
**PIERCE CARRIES BODY TO BE BURIED AT MASS GRAVE SITE**

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.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**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 other 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 Hilgenauer, 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 Zdrojos, 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 Muhutia Makumbia 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.

**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 from the state’s attorney general stating that state agencies should recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. "We urge our legislative leaders and the people of Maryland to work together to change this oppressive situation," the bishops said in a statement. "Every gay couple who believes in God and who comes to his blessing to find peace, even if they don’t use the same name for God as we do," Born Alfred Besnette, 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.

**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 seeking in relationship 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, where they will spend this year as a Salesian Father Enrico dal Covolo. The priest offered talks and meditations on the priesthood in the 21st century.

**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, following 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.
AROUND THE DIOCESE

GAME NIGHT POPULAR AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

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.

St. Bernard Parish offers Lenten mission

WABASH — St. Bernard Church, corner of Casas 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 even 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.

Ostrognai 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 2013. 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 PHIC 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 university 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

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.

They were very concerned about the harmful affects the undocumented alien bill, Senate Bill 213, would have had on countless families and children that it could have affected," said 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 reason- able, 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.”


International students who need 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. 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 applicant’s 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 grant- ed 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 citi- zenship, 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 November 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 undocumented face in their attempt to become legal citizens.

“People have begun to see the need for immigration reform not because of eloquent words, but because they have met someone who had no hope of changing their immigration status,” said Benedectine Sister Karen Durlat, director of Guadalupe Center in Huntington, 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 bro- ken 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 sur- vive.

“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 a last valid visa,” said Sister Durlat. “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 lan- guage. Yet, they are graduating from schools without the hope of obtaining a driver’s license or getting a job,” said Sister Durlat.

“We need immigration reform that will en- able immigrants without docu- ments 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 Durlat. “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 immigra- tion reform. “We need realistic, long-term solutions at the federal level,” said Adams. “State law- makers should not be involved itself in comprehensive immigra- tion reform. We need realistic, long-term solutions at the federal level.” She explains that part of the problem with the immigration law is “the law itself prevents people from doing the right thing.”

Adams said changes in immigra- tion law, which address a solution to the problem, would include: 1) eliminating the visa backlogs; 2) improving enforce- ment at the border; 3) allowing immigrants with qualifying fami- ly 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, profes- sional workers.

In June, 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 bish- ops’ Justice for Immigrants cam- paign go to www.justiceformimi- grants.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.indi- anacc.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

Free Book

You’ve seen the movie, now read what Jesus says about the meaning of His Passion as dictated to Catalina Rivas. This 48 page book has the “Imprimatur” and is recommended for meditation. Mrs. Rivas was featured in the recent FOX-TV special, “Signs from God” that was broadcast worldwide.

To receive this book, send your name and address with $2 for shipping and handling to:

Love & Mercy Publications
P.O. Box 1160 • Hampstead, NC 28443

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIDGIO CURTIS AYER

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 at 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 Boppard, Heidenheim Mainz and Rotenburg/Neckar in the summer of 1991. In the sum- mer 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 duet 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 stu- dents and in the worshipping 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, director of music at Basilica of the Sacred Heart, dies

“A perfectionist, Gail would settle for nothing less than the best, not only in her own organ playing and in that of her stu- dents, but also in the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir which sings regu- larly 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 numer- ous couples in preparing their marriages, assisted grieving fami- lies with funerals of loved ones and provided music for numerous liturgies for the Congregation of Holy Cross, such as final profes- sions of vows, ordinations, jubilees, and the burials of priests and brothers.

This bright, articulate and gracious woman, whose enthusi- asm, 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.

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF INDIANA

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIDGIO CURTIS AYER
BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY
RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE

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

Vesper Chorale performs with guest artists, the University Arts Chorale of Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Saturday, March 20, 2010 · 7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church; 333 W. Colfax Ave., South Bend

TICKETS: $15 Adults, $12 Seniors, $8 Students/children
Tickets available at www.VesperChorale.org and at the door.

Opportunities for every lifestyle

Fort Wayne (260) 447-1591
Kendallville (260) 347-2256
www.lutheranlifevillages.org

In your car, in your kitchen, and online around the world

Visit TodaysCatholicNews.org
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 be thankful for the gift of our priests.

Prayer for Priests “Are Called” (No. 718)

Comprehensive, No. 659); “We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You, for You have redeemed us.” — Mk 8: 34b–35

The priest, in the vow of obedience, joins his life for the sake of Christ, Christ’s people and the 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 nothing, 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.”
- 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 humility and obedience. Again, we can contrast humility in the eyes of the world (“equality with God something to be grasped”) with humble- ness in the eyes of God (“He humbled Himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!”)

Closing prayer

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?

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!
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’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 recto 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, family, friends, and beloved parishioners.

“To me he deserved to be called ‘Father’ for he excelled in self-giving — 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 blessed to have Msgr. Lester and his family in our diaconate Fatima Apostolate.”

Father Schmitt adds, “The school song Monsignor sang for several years at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., was Psalm 133: ‘How good and joyful it is to have brothers dwell in unity’ — this is 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 Ucker, Father Tim Hoban and myself. Needless to say Monsignor was an inspiration to us all.”

He adds, “As principal of Central Catholic High School and later superintendent of education for the 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 his lectures, books and 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 at St. Patrick Church, being cantor for Msgr. J. William Lester at St. Patrick Church, celebrating Mass in the church.

Mr. Lester will be cheering on the two would go to Chicago for games.

Msgr. Lester was a “parent figure” to the boys who lived at St. Vincent’s Home in the early 1960s.

Msgr. J. William Lester is posed with the Cuban boys in the early 1960s.

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 the Diocese of Dillsboro. Dad was also custodian of the grade school. On one occasion he was chatting about Father Lester with 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, homemade grown corn on the cob, fresh vegetables from the garden and his favorite, butterscotch pie!”

Linda Manske Poata worked at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in the mid 1980s when Msgr. Lester and Msgr. Wolf were co-church 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 priest, she says.

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, his concern for the Church, and his fellow citizens continue 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.

Msgr. J. William Lester was a “parent figure” to the boys who lived at St. Vincent Villa.

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 more so than with any other people — priests from whom I would ask so much, whom I would come to love as friends and sons, which would be a key to 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 friend. 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, but it surely was upon him.

And so it has come, much later than I first expected. We bring him back to the cathedral where he was ordained priest — 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 do one speak of a priest friend? The tears came in a tear of mind and heart; the words — slowly and with great difficulty.

What can I say about this singing 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 sacramental Church, the visible is important to us. We see in this beautiful, 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 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 the shepherd and who does not own the sheep is not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away. And the wolf scatters them. It is this because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd, and I know my sheep, and they know me. Just as the Father knows me and I will lay down my life for the sheep.” — John 10. The hired man also was no hired man. He embraced his vocation to make visible the Good Shepherd. Just as we are called to carry 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.

Catholics are of love. Total, caring, visible, unselfish even to laying down one’s life must be made visible — and the salvation of some who have sinned in the 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 the beautiful words about two priests: St. Paul and St. John Vianney. We gather one day later to ponder the life of a good shepherd and to present the generous heart of Christ.

And for all of us who knew and loved him, whom he served, we are asked to grasp and refresh the beauty of the priesthood of the Good Shepherd the Good Shepherd, made visible and present to many in a unique and personal 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 imagery continues the life and activity of Christ, Himself. Here lies our identity, our true dignity, the
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 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 society give him its 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 predecessors, 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. In his ordination 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 the assigning of parishes, he 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 baseball 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 Central Catholic? 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 was pastor of the parish from 65 years ago in this very cathedral parish; here are the happy times over a year, settling the affairs to the people. What a joy it was 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.

As an introduction to the instruction, the priest is told to place before 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 repeated 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 has mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.” He was never no — he was always yes. To Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need. 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 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
• St. Aloysius, Yoder
• St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville
• St. Mary, Fort Wayne
• St. Patrick, Fort Wayne
• St. Joseph, Fort Wayne, for the second time
• St. Therese, Fort Wayne, for the second time
• St. Adalbert, South Bend
• 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 to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.

As a young seminarian, he was a Basselin Scholar, that is to say a scholar, that is to say a man of love, one beloved of Christ. Yes to his bishop. Yes to those in need.
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 and more opportunities to 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 things to do can lead to the life you thought only the young could enjoy.

The need to stop the care of someone you love and 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 discomfort of not being welcome or welcomed, the ignorance of extraordinary ministers of Communion who after the consecration refer to the Eucharistic 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 Our Father merely following the lines in the Missal book rather than the pronunciation that would lead to thoughtfulness.

The prescribed Catholic vitamins are B-1, tolerant and understanding, perhaps love another even while entering or leaving through the church passing on or off to work while making your way in the parking lot. That would make “the Catholic Difference.” Lastly, consider ear plugs.

Daniel J. Dyman, Ed.D.
Elkhart

Pro-life Democrat befuddled

I also “read with befuddled amusement” a letter in the “editorial” section from Andrew Landrigan, Msgr. speaking Hugh Noon for Healthcare Reform. It contained so many opinions stated as facts that it seems the letter could have been written by someone above or behind 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 in the Supreme Court, there have been five Republican presidents and two Democratic 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 fox pound bag of apples away because of one bad apple in the bunch.

Garl 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 very knowledgeable 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

Church attendance is for all ages

Boofoo! Mr. George Weigel is 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 the Father through Jesus Christ. It is a place of family not isolated in a crying room but rather the family, gathered by Jesus as requested; “...do this in memory of me,” living up to the expectations of the Church.

Wonder about 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

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 would remain anonymous here because, I believe, that is what he would prefer, was “there” for Msgr. Lester, particularly at times of illness, taking him to medical appointments and to the hospital, and responding when he could.

None of us know 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 diffi-
cult 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

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 11661 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@tw diocesesfwb.org

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
March 7, 2010

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
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 proudly 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 player had signed up for the opposing squad. Brazilian forward star player had signed up for the scorer from last year, but that same was not only without its leading

1. The country of Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with a country named for a saint; who is that saint?
   a. St. Martin (Martin)  b. St. Croix (Cross)  c. St. Domingo (Dominic)

2. The western part of the island, Haiti, for most of its colonial history belonged to this Catholic country
   a. Portugal  b. France  c. Spain

3. 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

4. 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 Eisses and the Cajunites

5. The majority religion is Catholicism. In addition to Protestant groups there is a widespread adherence to a. the war of the Spanish Obsession b. the French revolution c. the Franco-Prussian war

6. 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

7. 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. Edouard Saints Dieu

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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.

11. One more recent enemy of the Catholic Church in Haiti was François Duvalier. He was better known as a. anticrist  b. Ian Paisley’s French nephew  c. Papa Doc

12. He was one of the few heads of state to suffer this ultimate ecclesiastical 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.

13. 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

14. Although the derry 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

**LETTER, PAGE 16**

Clericus Cup series got carded 68 times over the course of the sea- son’s 64 games. The yellow card for a foul or unsportsmanlike con- duct 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-
Keeping the faith

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 your 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 worshiping 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 the 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” — have definitely more important things in life.”

But that doesn’t mean players still don’t have their eye on victory. “It’s always difficult to get young people to play together, he said.

One thing that helps players keep it all in perspective is that many of them are friends with players from other teams since they often attend the same classes and events as part of their seminary studies.

Returning coach for Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian 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 Representatives Mater seminary.

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

Inglis, 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.

An 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.)
28 Christian writer
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 Marty
47 Not ordained
49 Poster

Answer Key can be found on page 19

SCRIEUPTURE SEARCH

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

A CROSS
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
28 Christian writer
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 Marty
47 Not ordained
49 Poster

Answer Key can be found on page 19
LADY KNIGHTS VIE FOR ANOTHER STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

After beating Winamac, 57-44, on Feb. 27, 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.

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.

Greenman 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, Panthers systematically pick 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 led 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.

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 led 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.

The Panthers were paced by Michael Fiacable’s 19-point performance and the Eagles were led 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.

CYO girls basketball champions crowned

FORT WAYNE — The 74th annual Catholic Youth League (CYO) tournament kicked off in grand style with all new champions crowned on the first day. 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 trey 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.

BY MICHICHE CASTLEMAN

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 Oberfell, Audrey Sanfrey, Alexandra Schroeder, Madelyn Strewart; Coaches Jason Kindler, Pat Henline and Jane Wolff.

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

The St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Squires are the 2010 Blue League CYO Champs. The team includes 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.

Knights of Columbus

IN SERVICE TO ONE ® • IN SERVICE TO ALL

• Helping the needy • Supporting the handicapped
• Promoting a Culture of Life

This is the Knights of Columbus of today
Join us and live your FAITH!
ANSWER THE CALL

Contact Indiana Membership Director
Dale Waters • 219-663-4679 • membership@indianakofc.org

In Service to One • In Service to All

• Promoting a Culture of Life

The St. Joseph, Mishawaka, boys’ Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) champs also won the ICCL-CYO invitational on Feb. 20 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.

Knights of Columbus

IN SERVICE TO ONE ® • IN SERVICE TO ALL

• Helping the needy • Supporting the handicapped
• Promoting a Culture of Life

This is the Knights of Columbus of today
Join us and live your FAITH!
ANSWER THE CALL

Contact Indiana Membership Director
Dale Waters • 219-663-4679 • membership@indianakofc.org

Knights of Columbus

IN SERVICE TO ONE ® • IN SERVICE TO ALL

• Helping the needy • Supporting the handicapped
• Promoting a Culture of Life

This is the Knights of Columbus of today
Join us and live your FAITH!
ANSWER THE CALL

Contact Indiana Membership Director
Dale Waters • 219-663-4679 • membership@indianakofc.org
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.

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 lead in the first quarter, 10-5. Both teams fought and the Squires came back in the last quarter going the Squires’ way in the last quarter taking a 19-11 lead and keeping it for the remainder of the game and the win, 35-27.

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. Jonathon Knapke, Jacob Burns, Mary Freeby netted 12 points while William Blume contributed 8.

Braden Thiele played a wall of defense for Hessen Cassel. This photo shows the 2010 CYO Blue League Champs, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel.

The 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, Christian, Jared Denninger, 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,” comments 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, downsing 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. Monica/St. Jude. 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.
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 Welting 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 buffet
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 Society 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.

Square dance in Fort Wayne
Fort Wayne — 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.

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 Betchter, 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.

Fish fry
St. Joseph — The St. Joseph Parish 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 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $3 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, $3.50 for children 12 under and Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fries
Gospel — The Knights Council 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.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a fish fry 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 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a fish fry 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 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, $3.50 for children 12 under and Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fries
Gospel — The Knights Council 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.

Knights plan fish fry
St. Joseph — The St. Joseph Parish 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.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a fish fry 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 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, $3.50 for children 12 under and Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fries
Gospel — The Knights Council 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.

Knights plan fish fry
St. Joseph — The St. Joseph Parish 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.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a fish fry 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 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, $3.50 for children 12 under and Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fries
Gospel — The Knights Council 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.
eventual execution; the involvement of the Community
his ineffectual appeals process; the victim's family's
of not only the injustice of racism, but of the seriously
unbelievable ineptness of Green's court-appointed coun-
outlined by the author of the insufficient testimony and
ers from the violence and neglect of their home life.
Eventually he found himself a young homeless teen
selling author Thomas Cahill, who met with the impris-
“Dominique Green,” was written by
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 Rhodes, 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 rites 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.”
“See his joyfulfulness and en-
ergy 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
liked the beautiful historic stain
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 joyful-
ness, 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 ...
void 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.
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 concluded. “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 friend-
ship Bishop D’Arcy concluded, “I
loved him with my whole heart. …
Safe home Bill.”
To read Bishop D’Arcy’s eulogy
honor, see page 12 of this issue.
In his concluding remarks at
the end of the Mass of Christian
Burial Bishop Rhodes 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 Rhodes.
Msgr. Lester was buried at
Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton. Fr.
Estvez and all diocesan clergy and
Bishop Estevez’s presence at the
cemetery that
was laid out by Monsignor’s
teacher, his father.
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.

Statement 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
see the Good Shepherd. We look
through this priest (Msgr. Lester)
and see Jesus Christ.”

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
see the Good Shepherd. We look
through this priest (Msgr. Lester)
and see Jesus Christ.”

“A Saint on Death Row” is
an eye opening, riveting read — though
sometimes difficult to
stomach. A
must read
for those
who might
question the
right direction
in the direc-
tion of social justice, equality and
faith.

“A Saint on
Death Row” is
an eye opening, riveting read — though
ten 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 plays” to raise
the spirits of his fellow inmates — even as they suffer in
solitary confinement — offer a sense of his wit, intelli-
gen 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 out-
side.
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
injection 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 chil-
dren, the end of the death penalty and the humane
reform of prisons.

“A Saint on
Death Row” is
an eye opening, riveting read — though
ten 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 plays” to raise
the spirits of his fellow inmates — even as they suffer in
solitary confinement — offer a sense of his wit, intelli-
gen 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 out-
side.
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
injection 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 chil-
dren, the end of the death penalty and the humane
reform of prisons.