Holy Cross celebrates springtime ordinations to the priesthood

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — April 10 was a joyful day at Notre Dame. The Congregation of Holy Cross, friends, students and family members gathered at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart for the ordination to the priesthood of Kevin G. Grove and Gerard J. Olinger, Jr. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, bishop of Peoria, Ill., and a former auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, conferred the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

“The international community is blessed to welcome these men who will bring hope and joy to many people through our ministries,” said Holy Cross Father David T. Tyson, provincial of the Indiana Province.

The liturgy began with a resounding hymn sung by an exuberant assembly led by the Notre Dame Folk Choir, followed by the Liturgy of the Word. After the Gospel, Father Tyson officially presented the candidates to the bishop. Next, some recipients of their ministry gave consent to the ordination as representatives of the people of God.

Robert and Tammye Raster and their seven children testified to the devoted ministry of Kevin Grove, who served as deacon at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend. Each member of the Raster family extolled Deacon Kevin’s service and expressed how he had touched their lives and the lives of many other parishioners. “Deacon Kevin exemplifies a priest of Holy Cross,” said Tammye Raster.

The appreciation and love of the community of the University of Portland was very evident as students, Chris Vennes and Zack Imfeld, presented Gerry Olinger who worked in campus ministry dur-
Sts. Faustina and Margaret Mary were witnesses, messengers of God’s divine love

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY
BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHODES

Divine Mercy Sunday
I am writing this column in the Detroit airport, during a short layover on my trip back to Fort Wayne from Harrisburg, where I baptized two infants, children of good friends, and where I dedicated a beautiful new St. Margaret Mary Church, a project I had worked on for five years. It was a joyful celebration on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday.

I thought it was an appropriate feast for the church dedication. Two humble nuns, one from the 20th century, St. Faustina Kowalska, and the other from the 17th century, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, each received revelations and images from Our Lord. The former was that of the divine mercy and the latter was that of the divine love. St. Margaret Mary was the disciple of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pope John Paul II, who died on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast he established for the universal Church, said that mercy is “an indispensable dimension of love” and can be called “love’s second name.” Both of these devotions express rich truths of our faith and are firmly grounded in Sacred Scripture and Tradition.

The Divine Mercy image has two rays of light emanating from Our Lord’s heart: one red and another white. The two rays, according to what Jesus told Sister Faustina, represent the blood and the water. The blood recalls the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the mystery of the Eucharist; the water recalls the sacrament of Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit. This sacred image represents Christ’s merciful love illuminating and spreading over the world.

St. Faustina and St. Margaret Mary were witnesses and messengers of Our Lord’s merciful love. The Church and each of her members, you and I, are called to be witnesses and messengers of our Lord’s merciful love. We can call this “our program of life” as Catholics. Having come to know and experience the merciful love of Jesus Christ, having been penetrated by it, we are then moved to live it, spreading the message of Divine Mercy and love by our words, actions and prayers.

Pope Benedict XVI
Let us continue to pray for our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. I asked a friend who works at the Vatican how the Holy Father is holding up amid the unjust attacks on him concerning the handling of clerical sexual abuse of minors. His reply gave me comfort. He said that it is a painful time for him, but Pope Benedict has such strong faith that he is bearing the attacks with deep trust in the Lord. Our Holy Father has worked incredibly hard for many years to combat the evil of sexual abuse of minors. One wonders why he has been the target of attacks.

Let us continue to pray for Pope Benedict and, of course, for our brothers and sisters who have been harmed by the grievous sin and crime of sexual abuse.

Easter week
The Octave of Easter was a time of joyful celebrations. On Easter Monday, I confirmed several young people at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from the following parishes: The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; St. Mary’s, Fort Wayne; Immaculate Conception, Auburn; St. Joseph, Bluffton; St. Catherine of Alexandria, Nix Settlement; and St. Joseph, Roanoke.

On Easter Tuesday, I led the Little Flower Holy Hour at the St. Theodore Guérin Chapel. This Holy Hour for priests and priestly vocations is held twice a month. Thanks to all who continue this tradition. Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is a powerful means to foster vocations to the priesthood. During this Year for Priests, I am grateful to all who have prayed for our priests and their growth in holiness.

On Easter Wednesday, I offered Holy Mass for the Widows of Prayer at St. Mary’s Church in Fort Wayne. I was quite touched by the faith and devotion of this beautiful group of women and thank them for their prayers for the Church.

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ
On Easter Thursday, I made my first visit to Donaldson. I celebrated Holy Mass for the residents of Catherine Kasper Home, many of whom are retired sisters, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. After greeting the residents after Mass, I enjoyed lunch with Sister Nora Hahn, the provincial superior, her council and Dr. Ronald May, the president of Ancilla College. After lunch, they gave me a tour of Ancilla College, a two-year liberal arts college sponsored by the Poor Handmaids. I was quite impressed by the individual attention that Ancilla College gives to its students.

In the afternoon, we celebrated the blessing of the recently completed extension to the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center. This beautiful facility, situated on Lake Gilbraith, seems an ideal location for spiritual retreats and days of recollection.

Our diocese has been blessed with the presence and ministries of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ since the first sisters arrived in Fort Wayne in 1868. The sisters have served in health care, orphan care and education in our diocese. Fort Wayne was the site of their motherhouse in the United States until it moved to Donaldson in 1923. This congregation was founded in Dernbach, Prussia, in 1850 by Blessed Mother Mary Katherine Kasper.

By the way, I must mention the Poor Handmaids’ Ancilla Beef and Grain Farm! I enjoyed the delicious beef at the lunch, but the sisters also gave me a can of Ancilla Farm chunks of beef in a gift basket to take home. It is great in chili! I mention this in case you might be interested in checking it out. It is great beef!

In this joyful Easter season, may you continue to experience the peace and joy that comes from the Risen Lord!
Vatican spokesman says pope has been rigorous leader addressing sex abuse

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican spokesman strongly defended Pope Benedict XVI as a credible leader on the issue of priestly sex abuse, saying the pope’s respect for truth and transparency stand beyond the “criticism and unfounded insinuations” of recent weeks.

The spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said in a lengthy commentary April 9 that the recent disclosures of past cases of abuse by priests had demonstrated that the wounds in the Church run deep, and require greater pastoral attention.

But he said the Church was taking the correct approach by reaching out to victims, strengthening its own procedures against offenders, encouraging cooperation with civil authorities and improving the screening of priesthood candidates.

Father Lombardi criticized the media for treating sexual abuse as if it were only a Church problem. The crisis, he said, is extensive and goes well beyond the boundaries of the Catholic clergy.

Responding to widespread criticism of the pope and the Vatican for allegedly failing to act more decisively against priest abusers, Father Lombardi said the Church’s current policies of transparency and firmness reflect the pope’s own determination to address the problem.

“Pope Benedict XVI, a coherent guide along the path of rigor and truth, merits all respect and support,” Father Lombardi said.

“He is a pastor well capable of facing — with great rectitude and confidence — this difficult time in which there is no lack of criticism and unfounded insinuations,” he said.

Church leaders can learn from Pope Benedict “the constancy necessary to grow in truth and transparency” and to respond patiently to “the slow and gradual release of partial or presumed revelations” which seek to undermine his credibility, he said.

The spokesman added that this same “patient and solid love of truth” should be shown not only by everyone in the Church but also by those in society who communicate and write, “if we want to serve and not confuse our contemporaries.”

In response to the barrage of media criticism of the pope and his aides, Father Lombardi and other Vatican officials have pointed out that even as a cardinal, Pope Benedict pushed hard for stricter measures for prosecuting and defrocking priest abusers. As pope, he has repeatedly condemned such abuse as a terrible sin and crime, and has met with sex abuse victims in the United States and Australia.

Father Lombardi said the recent events have revealed, in a striking manner, that although most of these sex abuse cases go back decades, the “inner wounds” are evidently still open.

“Many victims do not seek financial compensation but inner assistance, a judgment on their pain and suffering,” he said. “There is something that we have yet to fully understand; perhaps we need a more profound experience of events that have had such a negative impact on the lives of individuals, of the Church and of society,” he said.

While the cases may be old and the number of new allegations diminishing, he said, “for many people the road to profound healing is only now beginning, and for others it has yet to start.”

The spokesman reitered Pope Benedict’s willingness to hold new meetings with victims of abuse. And he said certain bishops’ conferences had rightly established forums for listening to these groups.

“Alongside concern for victims we must continue to implement, decisively and truthfully, the correct procedures for the canonical judgment of the guilty, and for collaborating with the civil authorities in matters concerning the judicial and penal competencies, taking the specific norms and situations of the various countries into account,” he said.

“The pope has repeatedly condemned such abuse as a terrible sin and crime, and has met with sex abuse victims in the United States and Australia.”

“I repeat the words of Pope John Paul II: ‘There is no place in the Church for anyone who has so grievously harmed. No one or should we forget the multitude of faithful priests who stand as men of integrity serving the Church. We must continue in our resolve to promote healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of sexual abuse and to protect our children and youth from anyone who would harm them. I thank Bishop D’arcy for his strong leadership in this area and I pledge to continue his efforts, working to my utmost for the protection of children and youth and for the healing and reconciliation of those who have been so grievously harmed. I repeat the words of Pope John Paul II:’There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young.’”
Archbishop of Munich speaks about ‘love and justice’ at Notre Dame

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Archbishop Reinhard Marx of Munich and Freising, Germany, was the featured speaker for the 2010 Vatican Lecture at the University of Notre Dame on April 7. While his topic of “The Social Message of the Church in the Context of Contemporary Challenges” sounded somewhat broad, the lecture focused on Pope Benedict XVI’s new social encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”).

Archbishop Marx is author of the 2009 book “Das Kapital,” the same title used by another Marx, Karl Marx, who wrote his book in 1867 criticizing private property and the capitalist system. The modern day Karl Marx discusses the value of Catholic social teaching in this globalized world and stresses that capitalism must operate with humanity, solidarity and the rule of law.

Thus, the German archbishop was very well versed in the principles behind “Caritas in Veritate,” for in that encyclical Pope Benedict XVI linked charity and truth in the pursuit of justice, the common good, and authentic human development, pointing out the responsibilities and limitations of government and the private market.

Archbishop Marx said that the encyclical is not a political program, but rather a guideline of ethical principles that should be put into action.

On first reading “Caritas in Veritate,” Archbishop Marx said he was surprised that the encyclical begins with love, because he felt that it should have started with justice. With his second reading, however, he said he understood Benedict’s new point that social justice must begin with love.

When we realize everyone is loved, then we build a society where everyone will have his place,” he said.

And where love is the framework for thinking about what is good for mankind, then the idea of globalization will have a new dynamic, with a new recognition of the notion of the family of mankind in which every one is loved by God, he said.

Archbishop Marx said, it is true that solidarity without the idea that everyone is in this communion,” Archbishop Marx said, and to achieve this, there must be a re-thinking of global issues, with Catholic social principles playing an active role.

Markets and competition are the products of civilization, and markets cannot solve by enabling human life, continued, but markets must be seen not just as a profit machine, for other people are involved in addition to the shareholders. The great learning point of the global financial crisis, he said, is that to avoid another financial crisis, institutional and political arrangements must be put together to create solidarity and global responsibility.

The good depends on a good state that is democratic and ethical, and we must figure out how to have such a state on a global level, he continued. When the pope wrote about global authority in his encyclical, that concept caused fear in many readers, he said.

However, he still stressed that building an ethical global state is necessary work to do, though he acknowledged that no one has the blueprint for how to do that yet.

Catholics must find new ways to bring our social doctrine into dialogue with society,” he concluded, saying that the Catholic university is the best place to do the thinking about how to achieve that goal.

“The future of the Church is not in our hands, thank God,” Archbishop Marx said, “but we can do a lot, and it is the great Catholic tradition to be on the level of the time in thinking, acting and culture.”

The annual Vatican lecture at Notre Dame is sponsored by Notre Dame’s Notre Institute for European Studies.

NOTRE DAME — The annual College of Notre Dame of Notre Dame Right to Life students featured four international figures as part of the annual conference, “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”).

The good life depends on a good law and good justice — what governs the economy, he said, the pope ties together to create solidarity and global responsibility.

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Cardinal George talked about the future, that aspect of the perspective of Pope Benedict XVI’s new social encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate.” While the pope did not specifically use the term “right to life” in that encyclical, he continued, but not surprising from the pope’s teaching.

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Pope says Shroud of Turin can help people in search for God

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — After the Shroud of Turin went on public display April 10, Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped the shroud would help people in their search for God.

The shroud, which many believe to be the burial cloth of Christ, was being displayed in Turin’s Cathedral of St. John the Baptist from April 10 to May 23. The last public exposition of the shroud was in 2000; it underwent scientific investigation.

The pope is scheduled to view the shroud during a one-day trip to the northern Italian city of Turin May 2.

Pope Benedict said he was happy about the exposition, which has “once again encouraged a large flow of pilgrims, but also studies, reflections, and above all an extraordinary call to the mystery of Christ’s suffering.”

The pope made his remarks after praying the Regina Coeli April 11 with pilgrims gathered in the courtyard of the papal residence in Castel Gandolfo, outside of Rome.

“I hope that this act of veneration helps everyone to search for the face of God, which represented the intimate yearning of the Apostles as well as ours,” he said.

Organizers said close to 1.5 million people have already made reservations to visit the exposition of the shroud.

According to tradition, the 14-foot by 4-foot linen cloth is the burial shroud of Jesus. The shroud has a full-length photonegative image of a man, front and back, bearing signs of wounds that correspond to the Gospel accounts of the torture Jesus endured in his passion and death.

The Church has never officially ruled on the shroud’s authenticity, saying judgments about its age and origin belonged to scientific investigation.

NEWLY ORDAINED

Newly ordained Holy Cross Fathers Gerald J. Olmiger, Jr., left, and Kevin G. Grove, right, are shown with Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, who conferred the Sacrament of Holy Orders on April 10 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.

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At the conclusion of the Rite of Ordination, a thunderous applause of affirmation emanated from those present. The over-flowing church gave witness to the many lives they have already touched.

Father Kevin celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, April 11, at St. Joseph Parish. On July 4 he will do so at Sacred Heart Church, his home parish in Hobson, Mont.

Father Gerry celebrated Masses of Thanksgiving the next day at the basilica and at Siegfried Hall, a residence hall at Notre Dame. He will also celebrate Masses of Thanksgiving at the University of Portland in Oregon on April 18 and at St. Kevin Church in Springfield, Pa., on May 23.

One of the great virtues of Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of Holy Cross, who as a child said that when he grew up he wanted to say Mass, teach classes and preach.

He told them to “be faithful to their Holy Cross vocation, to be educators in the faith and impart to everyone the Word of God that they have received with much joy.” He concluded his instructions by telling them to always live their lives in the tradition of Holy Cross whose motto is “Ave Crux Spes Unica,” which means “the cross, our one hope.”

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The deep spirit of community was evident when over 125 priests, mostly members of Holy Cross, laid hands on each candidate, asking the Holy Spirit to come down upon them.

Another touching moment was when each set of parents brought up the gifts to their sons who would consecrate them for the very first time.

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By 1976, Father D’Souza was one of a group helping poor children in India. After praying the Regina Coeli April 10, Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped the shroud would help people in their search for God.

That changed on a day when Father Lawrence Fernandes, invited him to go for a walk. The priest was on his way to administer Last Rites to a dying parishioner, and when Bob D’Souza witnessed the compassion of the priest and the peace of the one who was slipping into the next life, he too, benefited from the sacrament to the point where he had an interest in the priesthood.

In time, he mentioned this to his pastor, who suggested he take a retreat, which became the first actual step toward the seminary. By 1976, Father D’Souza was the director of India’s Boys Town in Calcutta, an institution for 600 homeless orphan boys. At the time, he was apathetic toward his priesthood, a mood recognized by Mother Teresa when she visited him.

She told him that she could see that he was troubled and asked how she could help. Father Bob described his unhappiness with his vocation and that he considered dropping out.

Mother Teresa asked him if he spent time in personal prayer each day and he admitted that he did not. She told him that his lack of personal prayer allowed him to escape from God, and advised that he spend an hour a day in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament realizing that his priesthood was a gift and that he should ask for a new understanding of what the Lord wanted him to do with his life.

Since that time, the daily hour of prayer has become part of his spiritual regimen, allowing the gift of his priesthood to grow as he shares it with others.

And he shares it in a way that connects with the deathbed visit that directed him toward priesthood. Since 1997 when he arrived in Fort Wayne and became associate pastor at St. Jude Parish, Father has been Catholic chaplain at Parkview Hospital where he visits 40 to 50 Catholic patients daily dispensing Vitamin C in the form of Comfort, Communion, Confession, as needed.

He finds this work deeply restorative personally as well as to those he serves, especially to patients who have drifted away from the faith and are receptive to a return to the sacraments.

Father D’Souza recalls a different kind of hospital he visited years ago; this one was a leper colony in Shantinagar. He went there every Sunday to say Mass for the sisters, but was reluctant to have contact with the lepers until one day when Mother Teresa told him that, “These lepers need you. They want to talk to you.” After that, he was able to visit them without fear.

Mother Teresa’s example of how she treated the poor, the sick and the dying are imprinted in the heart of Father D’Souza, who reveals that whatever he does as a priest is influenced by her wonderful admonition, “Do something beautiful for God.”

YEAR OF OUR PRIESTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

eexperienced a healing, a spiritual healing, by her advice and example.

Bob D’Souza was one of a family of nine in India. There were morning and evening prayers in the home and his parents took the religious instruction of their children seriously.

Looking back, he credits his priestly vocation with their example, although at college age he was prepared to study engineering.

That changed on a day when his pastor, Father Lawrence Fernandes, invited him to go for a walk. The priest was on his way to administer Last Rites to a dying parishioner, and when Bob D’Souza witnessed the compassion of the priest and the peace of the one who was slipping into the next life, he too, benefited from the sacrament to the point where he had an interest in the priesthood.

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Friendly shores: Rousing welcome expected to greet pope in Malta

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope Benedict XVI lands in Malta for a two-day trip April 17 he is expected to receive the same warm and hospitable welcome as his predecessor, John Paul II, who enjoyed a five-day visit in 1990. According to the official schedule, the 26-hour visit will hit the essentials. He will meet with the country’s bishops and Maltese President George Abela in separate encounters. And he will meet the faithful, including young people. He will probably use those occasions to highlight how Christianity’s moral and spiritual values help build a more peaceful and just society and a more fulfilling life.

Pope names bishop for New Jersey-based eparchy for Syrian Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named a Los Angeles pastor, Chorbishop Youssif Habash, to head the New Jersey-based Eparchy of the Sacred Heart Syrian Church in Newark, N.J. Habash, 58, has been pastor of Sacred Heart Syrian Church in Los Angeles since 2001. He was elevated to chorbishop in 2008.

Polish prime minister seeks answers, pope sends condolences after fatal crash

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Poland’s Catholic prime minister has urged fellow citizens to see the death of Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 others in a weekend air disaster as a “dramatic challenge” to build “a fuller community” at the national level and with neighboring states. “We are all asking ourselves the same painful question — how was this possible?” Archbishop Henryk Muszynski of Gniezno said at an April 11 Mass in his archdiocese. “Why has a new drama been added to the greatest drama of the last war in the innocent deaths of our nation’s political and religious elites?” he asked. “Can we expect the causes of this tragic accident to be explained directly in the future? But the wider question will no doubt stay unanswered, along with the pain and sadness not just of close families but also of all Poles.” The plane carrying Kaczynski, top government and military officials and religious leaders crashed in heavy fog April 10 while attempting to land at the Russian airport of Smolensk.

Bishops support START treaty; pledge to urge U.S. Senate to ratify pact

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops welcomed the signing of a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and Russia and promised to urge the U.S. Senate to ratify the pact in a letter to President Barack Obama. “Based on a moral imperative to rid the world of nuclear weapons, the conference of bishops will be a steadfast supporter of strong and bipartisan action on the new treaty as an important and essential step toward a nuclear-free future,” Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago wrote April 8 to the White House. “We will urge members of the U.S. Senate to come together across party lines to ratify the new START treaty,” Cardinal George said. Citing the Church’s teaching on just war and its long-standing opposition to nuclear weapons, Cardinal George said the road to a world free of such weapons will be difficult, but that the pact between the world’s primary nuclear powers is another step toward greater global security. The letter also outlined some of the steps necessary toward eventual nuclear disarmament including verification of reductions in both countries’ nuclear stockpiles; ratification and implementation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to stop all nuclear weapons testing; reducing America’s reliance on nuclear weapons for security; securing nuclear materials from terrorists, which is the topic of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington April 12-13; adopting a treaty to prohibit produce of weapons-grade material; and strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency to monitor nonproliferation efforts and ensure access to peaceful uses of nuclear power.

Sessions on marketing, religious education among NCEA highlights

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — The annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association April 6-8 in Minneapolis featured keynote speakers and workshops tailored to address different Catholic school interests including marketing, administration and religious education for the 8,500 Catholic educators and leaders in attendance. Mary Bray, principal at St. Joseph School in Prescott, Wis., said that she attended the convention for the opportunity to be in solidarity with other Catholic educators and to be on “the cutting edge” of education, both in technology and curriculum. St. Joseph, which has kindergarten through sixth grade, has 177 students and seven teachers. All the teachers attended, Bray said. “It’s a great place for our teachers to hear national speakers and gain access to information they don’t get in our tiny school,” she told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Derrick Gordon, a physical education instructor at St. Ignatius Loyola School in New York, said that he hopes to share what he learned at the convention with his colleagues and students especially on the topic of bullying and harassment which was addressed by several presenters during the convention. Gordon does not see bullying as a current issue in his 500-plus-student school, but by learning more about it, he believes he could easily recognize and address its signs before it grew into a problem, he said. Dominican Sister Joan Sorge, from St. Agnes in Springfield, Ill., attended the convention to receive a distinguished principal award during an April 6 banquet. She said attending the convention gave her a feeling of unity in faith and work among educators.

New film can shed light on Pius XII’s wartime efforts, says pope

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — A new film on Pope Pius XII can help people, especially younger generations, understand the period of time that is often forgotten, said Pope Benedict XVI. The made-for-television, two-part miniseries, titled “Under the Roman Sky,” stars U.S. actor James Callis as Pope Pius XII and covers events from July 19, 1943, when Allied planes heavily bombed parts of Rome, to June 4, 1944, when Allied forces liberated Rome from German control. It also reconstructs Hitler’s plan to kidnap the pope. Pope Benedict said he saw an impromptu celebration waiting on that day at the port of Valletta overlooking the Grand Harbor. “It will hit the essentials. He will probably use those occasions to highlight how Christianity’s moral and spiritual values help build a more peaceful and just society and a more fulfilling life.”

Local residents gather April 9 to show their support for 29 coal miners who were killed and four who remained missing after an April 5 explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in Montcoal, W.Va. Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston said the safety of the state’s miners must be a priority. “We offer this Mass for the 29 miners who lost their lives this past week,” Bishop Bransfield said at the beginning of the Mass he celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling April 11. “We pray today for them and for their families.” Life must be protected from birth to natural death, Bishop Bransfield said.

Kansas bishops urge governor to sign bill regulating late-term abortions

MERRIAM, Kan. (CNS) — The Kansas bishops have urged Catholics to ask Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson to sign into law a bill that would require doctors who perform certain late-term abortions to stipulate why the procedure was medically necessary. “In short, HB 2115 would require abortionists to follow the law as it was originally intended,” said an April 7 statement from the Kansas Catholic Conference, the bishops’ public policy arm. Under current law, abortions may be performed in Kansas after the umbilical cord is able to survive outside the womb only when the failure to have an abortion would result in grave danger to the life of the mother. “Yet for years, Kansas has been the destination of choice for anyone seeking a post-viability abortion for any reason whatsoever,” the conference statement said.
Saint Mary’s College announces commencement speaker

FORT WAYNE — Saint Mary’s College announces that marine biologist Sylvia Earle will deliver the 2010 Commencement address and receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree from the college.

Sylvia Earle will also recognize Lois Lowry, author of young adult fiction books, with an honorary doctor of humanities degree.

The honorary degree recipients reflect the majors of this year’s co-valedictorians, Audrey Marrah, a biology major, and Carly O’Connor, an English literature major. Commencement will take place May 15, at noon on Le Mans Green.

“I feel an honor to welcome Sylvia Earle and Lois Lowry to our campus,” said Carol Mooney, president of Saint Mary’s College. “Doctor Earle is a passionate advocate for the survival of our planet. Her work to save our oceans is legendary and I know our graduates will be inspired by her dedication to this important cause. The majority of our graduates probably counted Lois Lowry’s books among their favorites when they were growing up. We are delighted to be able to recognize her body of work.”

Dubbed “Her Deepness” by the New York Times, Sylvia Earle has been an Explorer-in-Residence at National Geographic since 1998, the year Time magazine named her its first Hero for the Planet. She has logged more than 6,000 hours underwater with the completion of more than 60 expeditions. Earle was the first female chief scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). She has also played a key role in establishing marine protected areas, both globally, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Monument — 140,000 square miles of ocean that is home to more than 7,000 kinds of marine life.

Earle is the author of more than 175 publications including her first book, The Ocean, in 1970. In 2002, she was named a National Geographic Society Explorer of the Year. Earle was also awarded the National Geographic Society’s plate medallion by the society’s chairman in 2002, and she was honored with the 2006 Race to Protect the Oceans Award by the International Dairy Federation.

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Lowry, an acclaimed author of young adult fiction books, will also be recognized with an honorary degree at commencement. She is the author of the popular Anastasia Krupnik books and was the recipient of the Newbery Medal for the books “Number the Stars” and “The Giver.”

Lowry says that she tries, through writing, to convey her passionate awareness that we live intertwined on this planet and that our future depends upon our caring more for each other.

University, Stratotrasr Systems and Most Precious Blood School, hosted a balloon launch on Thursday, April 15, at 12:15 p.m. at Hamilton Park near campus on Cherokee Road.

The balloon will travel to near space (99 percent absence of atmosphere) at about 100,000 feet and will be carrying five different payloads/experiments that have been designed by University of Saint Francis and Most Precious Blood students. In addition, the balloon will carry GPS tracking equipment and will collect live-streaming data (temperature, pressure, acceleration, etc.). It can be tracked live via the Web at http://aprs.fi using call signs KB9ZNZ-1 and KB9ZNZ-3.

United Religious Community hosts prayer breakfast

SOUTH BEND — The United Religious Community (URC) of St. Joseph County will host the Annual Community Prayer Breakfast, on May 6, at 7:30 a.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn. The breakfast coincides with the National Day of Prayer. This year’s theme will be “Sharing at God’s Table.”

During the breakfast, the URC will present its Hearts Afire Awards to adults nominated by the area’s various interfaith communities, and it will distribute 2009 CROP Hunger Walk proceeds to the following organizations: Broadway Christian Parish, serving breakfast to anyone in need; Christian Community Food Pantry, Waltonton’s only food pantry; Clay Church Food Pantry, serving all of St. Joseph County; First United Methodist Church Soup Kitchen, for over 30,000 meals served yearly; Food Bank of Northern Indiana, food pantry that serves the 46601 zip code; Hope Ministries, daily meals served to anyone in need; Little Flower Catholic Church Food Pantry, food pantry service for all of St. Joseph County; and Penn Township Food Pantry.

Tickets for the breakfast are $25, and tables of eight cost $180. To register, please call the URC at (574) 282-2397 or e-mail at urc@urcusc.org.

USF to host Holocaust Symposium

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Earl Kummer, professor of philosophy at the University of Saint Francis, will moderate a panel discussion on the theological significance of the Holocaust for Jewish-Christian relations today on Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. in the North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St.

Panelists will include Dr. Elliot Bartky, assistant professor of pastoral science at Indiana University-Purdue University; Dr. John Bequette, assistant professor of theology at the University of Saint Francis; Doris Fogel, Holocaust survivor and director of the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation; and Franciscan Sister Marie Morgan, expert on the spirituality of Edith Stein.

This free symposium is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and Theology and the School of Arts and Sciences of the University of Saint Francis.

For additional information, contact Angie Springer at (260) 399-8066 or aspringer@sf.edu.

Saint Mary’s College ‘pens’ its hopes on Rebuilding Together

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College students, faculty and staff will roll up their sleeves on Saturday, April 17, to spruce up a Saint Mary’s-sponsored home as part of Rebuilding Together 2010. Rebuilding Together is a national program that restores selected houses belonging to elderly, disabled or low-income homeowners.

In South Bend the project focuses on a different neighborhood each year, improving up to 25 homes selected through an application and screening process. This year’s homes are on the city’s northwest side.

The College’s Office for Civic and Social Engagements (OCSE) is sponsoring a home on the 1600 block of North Brookfield Street, which belongs to a single mother. Saint Mary’s is the only higher education institution in the area to sponsor a house and has sponsored at least one home every year since 2006.

In order to sponsor a home Saint Mary’s must raise $3,500, which covers the costs of major repairs that could include materials for roof repairs, electrical work, plumbing, new doors/windows, paint, and upgrades to heating/cooling systems.

In addition to taking donations from the campus and South Bend communities, this year the OCSE staff and students are making house pins and selling them for $5. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the House Pin Project will fund the repairs at the Saint Mary’s-sponsored house.

Pins are on sale through April 16 in the Student Center during the lunch (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and dinner hours (5-7 p.m.) as well as Lula’s Café in South Bend on the corner of State Road 23 and Edison.

For information on the pins or to make a donation to Saint Mary’s project, e-mail OCSE at ocse@saintmarys.edu or call (574) 284-4573. To see the pins visit www3.saintmarys.edu/ocse/calendar/about-house-pins.

End of Life Perspectives workshop to take place April 17

FORT WAYNE — The Allen County Right to Life, Three Rivers Educational Trust, Fund and Fort Wayne Luthers for Life are proud to present “End of Life Perspectives” on Saturday, April 17, from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in the Kachmann Auditorium, located at 7950 W. Jefferson Blvd. in Fort Wayne.

This informative, Christian-based half-day workshop will focus on ways to enhance the quality of care given at the end of life. The program will include palliative care, ministering to the dying, hospice care, human organ donation and grief issues.

This workshop will feature Rev. Lewis Stier of St. Paul-Gar Creek; Rev. David Misner, director of A Hope Center; Karen Kosberg, Parkview Hospital Hospice Care Counselor; Melissa Skalb, Indiana Organ Procurement Agency Coordinator; and Fred Everett, co-director of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office of Family Life.

This unique training is available for the low rate of $5 due to the generous funding of The Lutheran Foundation. Registration is required. To register, please call (260) 471-1849.
Bishop Rhoades blesses retreat center addition

BY DENISE FEDOROW

DONALDSON — A vision that had been in the works for approximately four years became reality as the Lindenwood Retreat Center extension was dedicated and blessed by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Thursday, April 8, in Donaldson.

Sister Nora Hahn, provincial of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, welcomed the bishop on his first visit to Donaldson.

Director of Lindenwood Loretta Peters quoted an Apollo mission saying, “I believe this will be our finest hour.”

She said that staff foresaw back in 2006 the facility would need more space in order to continue to serve the needs of those who used the facility.

“Here we are today poised on the threshold,” Peters said. “In this beautiful, natural environment.”

She thanked all those who made the project possible, the architect who couldn’t be present but sent along some thoughts to share, the builders, project manager and gave special thanks to the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and the PHC family.

“We’ll endeavor to be humble servants to all who enter these doors,” she said.

Bishop Rhoades’ visit

Bishop Rhoades spent most of the day in Donaldson — first celebrating Mass with the sisters at the Catherine Kasper Home, then throughout the facility blessing the new offices at the Lindenwood Retreat Center.

During the homily, Bishop Rhoades said it was “a wonderful image for a retreat center.” He also said the Gospel that recalled Jesus’ “great service of love, great act of His redemptive love” had a co-relation to the retreat center.

“What do we do at Lindenwood? We come to encounter Christ, to experience anew repentance and are continuously converted to Christ,” he said.

“May all who come here to this peaceful location be strengthened to be witnesses to Christ.”

Blessing

The bishop went throughout the facility blessing first the painting, then all the rooms both public and for staff use.

He prayed, “Created in the spirit of Blessed Catherine Kasper and based on the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ values of community, openness to the Spirit, simplicity, and dignity and respect for all, may it be a place of ministry, Lord God, where your love is witnessed in the life of each person who comes here. May it be a place of ministry, Lord, where those who come may leave strengthened as living signs of your love and messengers of the Gospel. Just as Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, may all who come to Lindenwood be refreshed and renewed in their journey of life.”

A reception was held after the dedication.

Bishop Rhoades shared his thoughts on the day: “It’s been such an enjoyable day. I’ve learned all the different ministries of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ — it’s very impressive, they do a lot of good work. It was a great way to start the day by celebrating Mass at the Catherine Kasper Home with the sisters, residents and lay people and to be here now, blessing this extension that provides such a great service — it’s been a great day!”

DID YOU KNOW?

The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ is an international congregation of apostolic women religious within the Roman Catholic Church. They minister with the poor, the sick and children in the United States, Mexico, Germany, England, the Netherlands, India, Brazil, Kenya and Nigeria. With prayer and community living as their foundation, they minister in rural, urban and inner city settings in the Midwest.

Focused on partnering in the work of the Spirit, they invite others to join them in various facets of education, pastoral and social work, neighborhood-based health ministries, spiritual guidance and care for their environment.

American PHC history

In 1868, Mary Catherine Kasper, foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, at the request of Bishop John Henry Luers, sent eight sisters to the Fort Wayne Diocese from their foundation in Dernbach, Germany. They were to staff a school and care for the sick in Hessen Cassel, Indiana. In October 1868, Bishop Feehan of Chicago asked for the sisters’ help. Some moved to Chicago and soon to southern Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and other areas in Indiana, establishing schools, homes for the aged, orphanages and hospitals as well as caring for the sick in their homes. By 1913 there were 41 missions in the U.S., caring for mostly German immigrants.

The motherhouse, home to the American Sisters, was located in Fort Wayne from 1868 to 1922 when it was moved to Donaldson, 90 miles east of Chicago and 55 miles southwest of South Bend.

Ministries on campus

Ancilla Beef and Grain Farm, Ancilla College, Catherine Kasper Life Center, Earthworks — an environmental educational center, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center and Moon Tree Community.

Off campus ministries


For more information on the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ visit www.poorhandmaids.org.

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The God Question’ debated at Notre Dame

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Interest in the April 7 debate between atheist author and columnist Christopher Hitchens and Catholic apologist and author Dinesh D’Souza was so high on the University of Notre Dame campus that the event sold out 90 minutes after tickets became available. The mostly student audience of 900 was enthusiastic but polite as Hitchens and D’Souza conducted a lively discussion of the question “Is religion the problem?”

Hitchens is considered to be a leader of the “New Atheist” movement, along with Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and Daniel Dennett. The title of Hitchens’s 2009 book accurately sums up his attitude toward God and religion: “God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything.”

D’Souza is a leading authority on international issues and was a policy analyst in the Reagan White House. Recently he has focused on responding to the arguments of the “New Atheist” movement. His 2008 book, “What’s So Great about Christianity?” is a response to several recent books touting atheism.

Hitchens presented his case first, and almost right away, his quick wit and intellectual acuity of the past and present violence and evil in the world on religion, citing the Palestinian-Jewish conflict and the Jihadist movement, as well as the Inquisition. He also took a quick verbal swing at the Catholic Church for abusing deaf children.

D’Souza said his remarks would meet Hitchens on his own ground and would be built on reason rather than revelation, Scripture or authority. When Hitchens speaks about evolution, D’Souza said, he doesn’t explain the presence of matter, merely the transition, which does not account for life itself.

“Evolution requires a cell. So how did we get it?” D’Souza asked, saying it was “preposterous” to claim that life evolved out of random molecules in a warm pond. Nor does evolution explain the fact that humans have a moral conscience, unlike animals, whose instinct is self interest.

“The god explanation” is much better, D’Souza said, for the cell reflects intelligent design, and the universe shows rationality. And if religion is the primitive thing, Hitchens claims it to be, D’Souza asked, why hasn’t it disappeared instead of enjoying the revival it is having in the 21st century?

In his rebuttal, Hitchens said he did not find the revival in religion to be a good thing, claiming that Jesus “operates on the fringe on mythology and history,” with no proof that he ever lived or rose from the dead.

D’Souza responded that religion is not incompatible with science, just different, asking different questions that science doesn’t have an answer for, such as: “What is the purpose of our life? Where are we going? What happens after we die?”

In the question-answer period after the debate, some members of the Michiana Skeptics — an organization for atheists, agnostics and other so-called “questioning” people — managed to get to the microphones before students, so most of the questions posed in the limited period were to D’Souza about his arguments. The result — perhaps unintended — was to give D’Souza more time to further explain the classic Judeo-Christian concepts about God and religion.

According to member comments on their Web site, the Michiana Skeptics enjoyed dinner, drinks and conversation with Hitchens after the program ended.

The debate was sponsored by more than 10 Notre Dame departments and organizations. Michael Rea, director of Notre Dame’s Center for Philosophy of Religion, served as moderator and explained the beginning of the program that the idea for the debate came from students. Wray said that the center is a think tank for Christian philosophy, but recently has been looking for ways to promote more serious debate. It was his hope, he said, that Notre Dame students would ask their theology and philosophy professors to discuss with them some of the issues that came up at the debate.

BISHOP CELEBRATES MASS WITH WIDOWS OF PRAYER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass with over 35 members of the Widows of Prayer group on April 7 at St. Mary’s Parish in downtown Fort Wayne. The Widows of Prayer is a prayer apostolate comprised of Catholic widows who are committed to the ministry of prayer for priests and others in Church leadership, as well as compassionate support of other widows in need. In his homily the bishop thanked the women for their prayers saying, “Yours is a noble and holy mission. ... Your apostolate of prayer is a blessing to us. It gives the Church the power and energy to do what the Apostles did.” Following Mass the bishop joined the women who came from prayer communities in Fort Wayne, Saint Anne and Huntington, for refreshments and fellowship at a reception held in St. Mary’s Parish hall.

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Was Jesus a tree hugger?

BY LINDA FURGE

Opening prayer

O God, You call us to act as Your stewards of all creation on our fragile and beautiful planet. You bless us abundantly. All that we have comes from You. Help us to live our lives simply and with gratitude and to grow ever more aware that our everyday actions have consequences that reach far beyond us. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Commentary

I bet the title above got your attention! It sure caught mine and was from an article by Jim and Susan Vogt, Everyday Commentary, April 2008. Whether you are amused (or not) by their choice of words, it certainly asks a provocative question — one still very much of interest and conflict today, given the recent disclosures about data usage in the global warming debate.

In theory, being good stewards of creation are easy words with which we can all agree. However, this kind of stewardship may not always be so easy to put into practice. Here are some examples. We drive cars and other motor vehicles. It is a well-established fact that this behavior has a huge impact on our environment. So we make a resolution to carpool or ride public transportation. While this is an environmentally sound decision, in real life it means that time is taken away from other good choices, like spending time as a family or getting necessary chores done. For those of us living outside of the city, driving is simply the only practical way we can get around!

Growing a garden is good stewardship, saves money, gives us exercise and refreshes the soul. We once had an orchard and large garden and wanted to give away our extra produce to friends and local food kitchens. We discovered very quickly that fruits and vegetables not perfect in every way were simply thrown away — or not even accepted in the first place. When we tried to donate our extra produce, we were told food kitchens were not allowed to use fresh produce from local gardens. The only way we could ensure perfect fruit and vegetables was to use pesticides — not exactly an environmentally sound solution!

One final example: all our children live far away; one even lived in Japan. Some of our family relatives live in Germany. Airfares are expensive, and air travel uses lots of fossil fuel. Does being good environmental stewards mean we should not drive or fly to visit those we love? Or travel to learn and appreciate other cultures when the opportunity arises?

First, we can live our lives with awareness and gratitude for all we have. We can make a difference! People will have getting into heaven; we are the rich people of our time.

... with generosity

Thirdly, we can live generously sharing our resources and gifts with others from a Christian sense of justice and love. Americans are known for their generosity. We need to continue that tradition and seek additional ways to share what we have with those less fortunate.

... with awareness and advocacy

Finally, we need to become advocates for responsible earth stewardship. Awareness of how our actions impact others and simplifying our lives accordingly is a good first step. There is much each of us can do to make a difference. The most fundamental motive for our actions should be the knowledge that we share in God’s creation. Living that out in our daily lives by what we do and say helps us become more whole and more holy. We can make a difference! We can fill our world with Christ’s spirit of love, charity, justice and peace through our actions as responsible earth stewards. As Pope Benedict says in his message for World Day of Peace 2010, “If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation.”
She passed the flower beds, she Deiser would walk the grounds leading practice at St. Jude School, while her daughter was at cheer-into the groundskeeping position.

That it was her habit of pulling weeds as punish-

ment.

Weeds as punish-

ment.

made Deiser pull weeds as punish-

ment.

As Deiser says, they don’t real-

ly have an official organization, “we just do it.” The Garden Club includes Jim Fosythe, a horticulturist at Canterbury Green; Brian Wiegman, an area landscaper; and tireless vol-unter Carol Blauvelt. The team, who has been together for seven years, usually meets in February to plan what is required for the upcoming season, while walking the grounds discussing what various garden beds need. The Garden Club has given each bed a name, usually in honor of a teacher or parish personnel who have offices nearby. One of Deiser’s favorites is the Drive-Thru Bed, which earned its name after someone in a hurry to get out of the parking lot drove right through it.

Of course, parish pastor Father Tom Shoemaker has a say in the efforts; but overall, the grounds are left to the Garden Club.

Deiser says most of their big projects are completed, but there is always talk of adding something new. The four-team members do most of the work themselves with lots of help from family. They also ask for volunteers from the parish to help with big projects, such as spreading 25 to 28 yards of mulch needed each spring.

Deiser is proud of the fact that St. Jude’s Garden Club is totally self-supporting, requiring no funds from the parish. The group received money each year from Verizon through a program that donates funds for employees’ volunteer hours. Both Carol Blauvelt and Deiser’s husband Jeff are Verizon employees. The group used the funds thoughtfully and conservatively, always keeping a bit for next year. But, as the econo-my has changed, the donated funds may be cut. While the money is there to cover this year’s costs, Deiser isn’t sure where they will get money for next year. But she is confident that “God will provide.”

Optimism and humility are qualities that quickly become apparent when talking to Deiser. She is hesitant to take praise for her efforts and quick to point out the contributions and hard work of others.

“I’ve been the organizer and motivator, but all the credit goes to the team. There’s a lot of stuff that wouldn’t have gotten done if they didn’t just pitch in and do it,” she says.

Deiser also talks a lot about what the seemingly thankless job has given her. “Gardening is very therapeutic for me,” she says. “Getting my hands in the dirt gives me time to reflect and relax my mind. Plus, it gives me the oppor-tunity to give back to my parish. It’s a real labor of love.”

When asked how she and her team keep up with the grounds with such busy schedules, she laughs and says she isn’t sure, “but somehow those weeds just get pulled!”

She claims that she would stop outside and let someone else take over if they were interested, but says she will always “stop and pull weeds while I’m walking. Old habits die hard.”

The Garden Club has given each bed a name, usually in honor of a teacher or parish personnel who have offices nearby.

St. Jude’s Garden Club in Fort Wayne is a volunteer parish organization that maintains the grounds at the parish.
St. Pius X Parish garden promises a rich harvest

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — The community of St. Pius X gathers for spiritual nourishment at Mass during the celebration of the Eucharist. With the establishment of the new garden area at the church, parishioners will be able to experience physical nourishment from the produce they harvest, and sensory pleasure from the smells and sights of the beautiful foliage that is planted.

The concept of a church garden began two years ago with ideas from Master Gardener and St. Pius X parishioner Fran Gerbasich. With the assistance of fellow Master Gardener and parishioner Mike Skoczylas, several designs were prepared for the garden.

In September of 2009, a design was selected and approved by pastor Msgr. Bill Schooler.

The 80 x 60 garden (a total of 4,800 square feet) was first cleared of debris and then staked out. Fill dirt was brought in by a local nursery and leveled twice by parishioner Joe Podrocy. Next came the building of the 36 raised garden beds with the assistance of fellow St. Pius X parishioners David Bullard and Bill Weiger.

Gerbasich notes the benefits of raised garden beds, “Raised beds improve drainage, the soil warms up faster and is less compacted, there is less bending, it is a better use of space, and it is easy to terrace to any height with fence or climbing device.”

Bullard recalled the reasoning behind what size each bed should be, “We went with eight feet by four feet. With eight feet you don’t have to cut anything. We made the raised beds four feet wide because it’s ergonomic for humans to reach two feet into the raised bed. We went 10 inches high instead of 12 because 10 inches was cheaper. You have to think about stewardship.”

After the treated lumber was stained, the process of putting the pieces together began. Weiger recalls that the first day of the process was slow with only six wooden bed forms being completed. The remaining 30 were completed with an “assembly line” operation to finish the project within three or four work sessions.

Before putting the bed frames in the garden, fabric weed barrier was placed over the entire garden area and secured. After the frames were positioned, top soil was placed in 23 of the beds to secure the weed barrier. With the help of parishioners Andrew and Kelly Roy, pea gravel was placed around the bed frames for the same purpose.

Additional pea gravel and top soil for the remaining bed frames will be added before seeds are planted in the spring. Parishioner Samuel Horvath is starting vegetables from seeds in his home prior to the spring planting in the church garden beds. The seed plantings are part of Horvath’s work towards his Ad Altare Dei religious award for Boy Scouts.

“My have about 100 seedlings for the garden started. There are several varieties of tomatoes, peppers, broccoli and cauliflower in the mix.”

SAMUEL HORVATH

St. Pius X parishioner Samuel Horvath waters vegetable seeds in his home prior to the spring planting in the church garden beds. The seed plantings are part of Horvath’s work towards his Ad Altare Dei religious award for Boy Scouts.

“I have about 100 seedlings for the garden started. There are several varieties of tomatoes, peppers, broccoli and cauliflower in the mix. I started planting them in mid February. The seedlings need to be checked and watered about three times a day,” he says.

Flowers can be planted with vegetables in the garden beds.

Gerbasich stresses growing flowers along side vegetables optimise space and are beneficial to neighboring plants. Additionally, the cut flowers from the garden can be used to decorate the altar.

In support of the vision statement for a sustainable Saint Mary’s, there was a controlled burn of the prairie west of the sisters’ cemetery on March 18.

Sisters of the Holy Cross help prairie survive with controlled burn

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — In support of the vision statement for a sustainable Saint Mary’s, there was a controlled burn of the prairie west of the sisters’ cemetery on March 18.

“We see creation as a precious gift of God. It is part of our mission and our moral responsibility to care for the earth as a fragile and sacred trust,” said Holy Cross Sister Joan Marie Steadman, president of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

“Continuing to restore the prairie we have right in our backyard is one way we are demonstrating our commitment to practice and promote ecological sustainability.”

Managed by J.F. New and Associates, the burn was a safe, environmentally sound strategy to reduce the number of nonnative invasive plant species thereby allowing native prairie vegetation to survive.

“The process releases only as much carbon dioxide into the air as the natural decay of the plants would. In addition, a burn heats the soil, providing a head start for native plants to begin growing. “This is the third year for the prairie and before spring starts is the best time to do a burn,” said Tom Simpson, grounds manager. “It’s before the osprey come back and before the plants start growing.”

Right after beginning the burn it was determined the winds were not ideal and the process was halted. An hour later the weather improved and the men systematically continued the 90-minute job. All of the 14 acres was not burned at once. Instead, fuel was applied to sections of the prairie so that the result was a mosaic or patchy burn. This approach provided a refuge for temporarily displaced animals during the burn, but, according to Simpson, he didn’t see any animals in the area.

Although there was smoke and occasional cracking of the fire, the flames were low and narrow. A line of flames burned quickly toward another line of flames and when they met the fire fizzled out. This process was repeated until the job was complete.

Linda Diltz, an employee of the sisters, who watched the process, said, “Now we will have to watch the new growth.”

Ecological sustainability is a priority of the congregation throughout the United States and the seven countries where Sisters of Holy Cross serve. Locally, the sisters recently adopted a vision statement for a sustainable campus. In addition, the four congregations of Holy Cross sisters, brothers and priests last fall released a joint statement on climate change.
Engineers begin assessing ways to rebuild destroyed Haitian parishes

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Traveling along the dusty roads in the mountains southwest of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, Maryland engineer Larry Newman tried to imagine what the future might hold for thousands of Haitians left homeless by January’s massive earthquake.

Newman’s focus was on helping Haitians regain a sense of belonging and comfort. With guidance from the Haitian Catholic bishops’ conference, the way to do that, it was suggested, was through their parishes. The question remained: How?

“The whole idea is to re-establish the Church as community down here,” Newman told Catholic News Service by phone April 8 as he traveled from Port-au-Prince to the coastal community of Jacmel to the south as part of a weekend trip to assess local needs. “The bishops are trying to guide us in terms of where they think the Church needs to rebuild.”

Newman, president of Spatial Systems Associates Inc., in Columbia, Md., was among a group of representatives from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, including Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., Catholic Relief Services and the Haitian bishops’ conference traveling throughout the earthquake-ravaged region of the Caribbean nation.

The entourage was in Haiti the week of April 5 and visited several parish sites identified as key locations by Port-au-Prince, Leogane, Jacmel and the nearby mountain villages near the epicenter of the magnitude 7 quake southwest of the capital. In each case, little of a church or school remained standing, but a significant parish community remained where local priests continue their ministry and celebrate Mass regularly under tarp or in the open.

The visit was arranged by the Haiti Advisory Group of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America. The advisory group has been working since shortly after the earthquake on ways to best meet the needs of the Church and the Haitian people.

“One of the things the Church needs is to rebuild the large numbers of churches, parish centers, chapels and Church-run schools severely damaged or destroyed by the quake,” said Oblate Father Andrew Small, director of the Collection for the Church in Latin America for the U.S. bishops.

To get some rebuilding under way, the advisory group drafted a proposal that concludes that the Church needs to rebuild with emphasis on the “cash for work” concept to build the structures in each community.

A proposal was prepared in cooperation with the Haitian bishops’ conference and Archbishop Bernardito Auza, papal nuncio to Haiti. While not a formal reconstruction plan, the document offers a basic framework through which the U.S. and Haitian churches can begin to address the massive reconstruction needs of parishes in the earthquake zone.

“The idea is to get several key parishes up and running as quickly as possible and to get schools functioning so young people can begin to experience some normalcy in their lives and where people can gather in a safe place in weather emergencies, the document said.

“This is about gaining momentum focused on Church communities that have been battered and decimated and also imperiled as far as the living of the faith is concerned,” Father Small told CNS.

The proposal also calls for each construction project to be similar in design so each parish or chapel site can be completed quickly and with a sense of reimagining the structures in Haiti.

Haitians would be hired under the “cash for work” concept to build the structures in each community.

“In answer to a question from the press about Opus Dei, Archbishop Gomez said the prelature’s emphasis on the universal call to holiness had helped him to grow in his spirituality. He noted that Opus Dei was considered a “liberal” group in its early years and, since the Second Vatican Council has been perceived as “conservative.”

Regarding his priorities for the archdiocese, he said he would stress religious education to help Catholics better understand the faith. He also said he supported Cardinal Mahony’s commitment to collaborative ministry, nurturing, utilizing and appreciating the gifts that all Catholics — lay, ordained and religious, men and women — bring to the service of the Church and community.

He said he had not spent much time previously in Los Angeles, and was looking forward to learning more about the local Church and its people. He also said he planned to keep in touch with Cardinal Mahony in the months ahead.

Archbishop Gomez also admitted that he needed prayers “for conversion.”
A pastor and a shepherd
Here is an unsigned editorial titled “A pastor and a shepherd,” which appeared in the April 8 issue of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese.

During his homily at the papal Mass at Nationals Park in April 2008, Pope Benedict XVI’s voice became sorrowful as he said, “It is in the context of this hope born of God’s love and fidelity that I acknowledge the pain which the Church in America has experienced as a result of the sexual abuse of minors. No words of mine could describe the pain and harm inflicted by such abuse. It is important that those who have suffered be given loving pastoral attention.

Then after leaving the crowd of nearly 50,000 people after the Mass, the Holy Father was true to his words. With no media present he met with five abuse survivors at the apostolic nunciature. They had a chance to speak with Pope Benedict personally and he prayed with them, listened to their stories, and offered them words of hope and encouragement as a pastor would. A Vatican spokesman said later that the meeting was emotional, and some were in tears.

In recent weeks a relentless media campaign has been under way in Europe and now the United States, criticizing the leadership of Pope Benedict XVI. These unfair attacks are against a man who has done more than anyone to strengthen the Church’s child protection policies and implement strong measures against abuse and to do so for the well-being of future generations.

The bishops noted that they know from experience of Pope Benedict’s deep concern for those hurt by sexual abuse, and they added, “We continue to intensify our efforts in the environment for children in our parishes and schools. Further, we work with others in our communities to address the prevalence of sexual abuse in the larger society.”

Context is often lacking in the media coverage of the sexual abuse of children, which is a societal problem that affects all religions, all demographic groups and most often occurs in families. The Catholic Church has adopted stringent child protection policies ... As Pope Benedict also said at Nationals Park, “Great efforts have already been made to deal honestly and fairly with this tragic situation, and to ensure that children — whom our Lord loves so deeply (cf. Mark 10:14) and who are his greatest treasure — can grow up in a safe environment. These efforts to protect children must continue.”

Each case of abuse is a cause for sorrow and shame, and the Catholic Church needs to do all it can to bring healing and hope to the survivors of abuse. The specific cases being reported on in the media also need to be put in context, because incidents of abuse that occurred decades ago happened in a time when our society, our legal system, professional therapists and the Church were not as aware of the problem of sexual abuse that we have today. Vatican officials have pointed out that in the case of a Wisconsin priest who allegedly sexually abused deaf children, the Vatican was informed of the case more than two decades after the alleged abuse had occurred. No Vatican officials had notified charges. By that time, the priest was elderly and in poor health and had expressed repentance for his actions. Four months later the priest died.

Pope Benedict’s visit to Washington offered us a glimpse of the man who leads our Church, and that, too, provides context that is lacking in much of the current media coverage. After personally meeting with the Holy Father at the apostolic nunciature in Washington, one abuse survivor said later, “My hope was restored today.”

The theme of Pope Benedict’s April 2008 visit to the United States was “Christ Our Hope,” and he spoke that message and lived it during his homily at the papal Mass. He said later, “My hope was restored today.”

Kudos to you, sir! In as much as I’m certain many will write to softly correct the misstatement that cursing “is not one of the Ten Commandments,” I encourage the following research: Exodus 20:7 in our Bible; Ezekial 36:23; Malachi 4:2; and in the New Testament (in respect to cleaning up our language in general) Ephesians 4:29 and 5:4. God’s blessings on you, son.

Su Hohman
Angola

Bruised, but not broken
The pro-life movement recently suffered a discouraging setback during efforts to provide-life-affirming health care to millions of uninsured Americans. The Catholic bishops and others fought hard for many months to retain conscience rights and the long-standing ban against federal funding of elective abortions. The final healthcare reform law, passed narrowly against the weight of the nation’s first amendment rights. This holds true for all Americans whether on the Internet or as street protesters.

Appropriately, sister may be unaware of the anger and regret experienced by pro-lifers after months of pleading (or begging) Congress with marches, letters, e-mails, phone calls and town hall meetings, then failing to get pro-life language in the bill. Of course, “pro-life” Congressman got a meaningless executive order to cover himself and moderate Democrats. It is not inconceivable that the some (not all, as sister implied) would vent their anger with excessive vitriol. Also, her comment, equating the protest incident at the capitol with an act of “despicable racial violence” when there was no soliloquy that it happened, was an exercise in hyperbole.

Finally, the reference to Cardinal Francis George, speaking of the USCCB’s disappointment that the legislation failed to provide adequate protection of the right of conscience and protection of federal funding of abortion services was a gross misstatement of the core of the pro-life protest. Where do we go from here?

Gilbert A. Cipriano
South Bend

Bible passages on cursing
Please allow me to commend the young writer, Warren Travis, for dutifully stepping out on a limb in an attempt to witness to his fellow classmate in his non-parochial school.

Kudos to you, sir! In as much as I’m certain many will write to softly correct the misstatement that cursing “is not one of the Ten Commandments,” I encourage the following research: Exodus 20:7 in our Bible; Ezekial 36:23; Malachi 4:2; and in the New Testament (in respect to cleaning up our language in general) Ephesians 4:29 and 5:4. God’s blessings on you, son.

Su Hohman
Angola

Healthcare debate continues
I am disappointed with Sister Mary Ann Walsh’s comments published in the April 4 Today’s Catholic editorial page regarding the healthcare reform legislation passed by Congress. The article reflected a disingenuous attitude surrounding the passage of the law and an abject surrender to a fait accompli.

While I agree the current use of the Web at times goes beyond the pale of reasonable and sane discourse, it is also protected by the nation’s first amendment rights. This holds true for all Americans whether on the Internet or as street protesters.

Appropriately, sister may be unaware of the anger and regret experienced by pro-lifers after months of pleading (or begging) Congress with marches, letters, e-mails, phone calls and town hall meetings, then failing to get pro-life language in the bill. Of course, “pro-life” Congressman got a meaningless executive order to cover himself and moderate Democrats. It is not inconceivable that the some (not all, as sister implied) would vent their anger with excessive vitriol. Also, her comment, equating the protest incident at the capitol with an act of “despicable racial violence” when there was no soliloquy that it happened, was an exercise in hyperbole.

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Gilbert A. Cipriano
South Bend

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. Word length may not exceed 250 words. Address letters to: Today’s Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

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The miracle of linking objects

Each loss we experience brings us to a new and unique journey of grief, on which we face myriad questions concerning how life is supposed to unfold now that our loved one is gone.

One common question that occurs in the months following the loss of a loved one is: “When do I distribute his/her things?” This can include possessions such as clothing, personal items, awards, cars and jewelry—all tangible expressions of the precious existence of our loved one.

These material items or linking objects become for some of us the last real connection we have with our loved ones. Or so we think.

I have learned that the answer to the sometimes overwhelming question of whether and when to give possessions away is as unique as the individual who asks it. Each of us must decide how we will remain linked to our loved one long after his/her physical presence is no longer ours to share.

There are those, like my dear mother, who see possessions as holding little sentimental value other than their practical use. The week following my father’s burial, my mom called her six grown children to her home and systematically divided his things among them. Her pragmatic perception of life led her to empty the house of my father’s presence and redecorate. That, for her, was the course she claimed for her survival after 49 years of marriage to a man who was her life companion. And it worked for her.

However, six months later, when my own husband died, I learned that I needed to keep everything in my home the same as before Trent died. With my less pragmatic personality, I found that my survival became based on what little shred of “normal” I could find. And my physical presence with me, I at least could touch those things he held dear.

So those linking objects become the physical connection we have to our deceased loved one. For me and others, keeping our loved ones’ clothing for a while can be a consolation, as we not only see and touch the fabric, but we can also wear it—just as we wore it together.

Salvation accomplished by Christ

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday of Easter
Jn 21:1-19

As throughout the Easter season, the Church this weekend begins the Liturgy of the Word with a reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Actually, it is a continuation of St. Luke’s Gospel. This Gospel is alone among the four in providing a certain sequel to the actual events that involved Jesus. The underlying lesson here is that the salvation achieved by the Lord Jesus did not end with the Ascension.

The presence of Jesus in the world did not end with the Ascension. He ascended into heaven before the very eyes of the Apostles, absent the dead Judas, but continues to live in the Christian community.

This reading reports a conflict between the Sanhedrin, led by the high priest Judas, and the Apostles. The Sanhedrin was the official ruling council of Judaism at the time of Jesus. Its agenda was primarily religious, but its authority touched virtually every aspect of life.

In this argument, as elsewhere in Acts, Peter is the spokesman for all the Apostles.

Despite being ordered to stop preaching about Jesus, the Apostles boldly insisted that indeed they would continue to proclaim what they had learned from the Lord. Indeed, they said, Jesus had commissioned them to spread the Gospel.

As was the case in readings earlier in this season, Peter presents an abbreviated story of the life and mission of Christ.

The Book of Revelation is next. Probably no other book of the New Testament, and few in the Old Testament, so deeply leaves readers wondering as does Revelation. (Revelation is not the more ancient, nor literally precise, term.

The older, and better, term is Apocalypse. However, most English-speaking biblical scholars have adopted the better known name of Revelation.)

Yet Revelation is clear. It is an overpowering reference to the fact that Christians stand with one foot on earth, the other in heaven, for they stand in and with Christ, Son of God and son of Mary, a woman.

A sublime revelation, it again and again depicts Jesus as the sinless Lamb of God, the title used by John the Baptist for the Lord.

St. John’s Gospel supplies the last reading. It is a Resurrection Narrative. It is wondrous and consoling. Jesus, risen from death, appears to the Apostles as, without lack, they are fishing on the Sea of Galilee. At dawn, recalling the time of the Resurrection, Jesus comes into their midst. He tells them exactly where in the lake to cast their nets.

They obey, and a huge catch follows. The beloved disciple recognizes Jesus, but Peter is central to the story. He rushes to Jesus. Then, at a meal, Jesus asks Peter if Peter really loves Jesus. Jesus puts the question to Peter three times.

Each time. Peter answers affirmatively. In ancient Jewish symbolism, three repetitions represented what was complete, final and absolute. To each answer, Jesus commissions Peter to love the Good Shepherd’s flock.

Reflection

It would be difficult indeed to find three readings from the New Testament that individually are so beautiful, and so expressive, and that together teach such a marvelous lesson.

The very combination of Acts with Luke’s Gospel reminds us that the salvation accomplished by Christ still lives. It was with the early Christians in the Apostles. It is with us still in the Apostles’ successors, and in the Church. The trial before the Sanhedrin reminds us that Peter’s fervor beside the sea, as Peter saw Jesus risen from the dead, never ended. After the betrayal, forsaken by Christ, Peter is worthy in his faith and love. We can rely upon his testimony and his guidance.

Finally, the reading from Revelation reminds us that disciples indeed live with one foot on earth, but the other in heaven.

Nowhere else is this reality better seen than in the Eucharist.

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HOPE IN THE MOURNING

KAY COZAD

husband’s possessions were the only unchanged thing left in the life that had been turned upside down with his death. Though I could no longer have Trent’s physical presence with me, I at least could touch those things he held dear.

So those linking objects become the physical connection we have to our deceased loved one. For me and others, keeping our loved ones’ clothing for a while can be a consolation, as we not only see and touch the fabric, but we can also wear it—just as we wore it together.

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Campilloss

Now that Easter Sunday has passed, we all need to figure out to do with our dozens of colorful hard-boiled eggs. Shell we eggsmear this oval symbol?

1. The book of Deuteronomy in Chapter 22:6 makes this specific rule concerning eggs:
   a. Eggs are not ever kosher and shall not be eaten.
   b. Eggs that a bird is sitting on, cannot be removed from a nest.
   c. Eggs may not be mixed with other foods.

2. Job accuses the ostrich of being a bad mother because
   a. she leaves her eggs on the ground where they can be trampled
   b. she does not sit on them
   c. she does not keep the father nearby

3. Proverbs regards the cock as showing pride because it walks this way:
   a. hopping
   b. strutting
   c. flapping

4. Isaiah lists as boastfulness the claim that
   a. I can cook untold eggs without breaking any yolks
   b. I can suck eggs without piercing shells
   c. I once takes eggs left alone, so I took in all the earth

5. Let’s not forget the eggs’ dad. In Mark’s Gospel Jesus tells Peter
   a. before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times
   b. the rooster will crow before you rule the Church.
   c. Judas will betray me before cockcrow.

6. And indeed Peter says this immediately before cock crowed:
   a. Let me have one of those sausages; they look good.
   b. It wasn’t me but it must be my brothers Simon or Kephas.
   c. I do not know this man about whom you are talking.

7. Although this may refer to an actual bird song, the NAB notes that
   a. cockcrow was a metaphor for the rise of Islam
   b. cockcrow was the third Roman division of the night, lasting from midnight to 3 a.m.
   c. cockcrow symbolized to the Jews the beginning of the Sabbath

8. According to Isaiah what does a hoot owl do after hatching its eggs?
   a. It devours its young.
   b. It gathers its young in its shadow.
   c. It seeks out rats to feed them.

9. Isaiah 59 complains about unjust people who hate these
   a. adders’ eggs
   b. plots
   c. raw eggs

10. He adds that this fate awaits anyone who eats these
    a. they will burst from eating plots of land
    b. death
    c. they will become hard and scaly and have bad skin

11. Job 6 asks a rhetorical culinary question:
    a. Can anyone make omelets without breaking eggs?
    b. Is there flavor in the white of an egg?
    c. It is better to eat the shell and throw away the meat of an egg?

12. Luke 11 asks, in similarly rhetorical vein:
    a. What father would not give his son egg yolks to buff him up?
    b. What good are eggs without shells when making a seder meal?
    c. What father would hand his son ... a scorpion when he asks for an egg?

13. Matthew’s Gospel laments how Jerusalem kills the prophets even though the Lord a. yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings
b. gave new life to the city like a hen does to an egg
c. cracked the foundation of the temple as easily as a man cracks the shell of an egg

14. In Christian (and pagan) mythology the egg symbolizes rebirth as it is apparently lifeless and then gives forth life. For Christians it is linked mostly with:
   a. winter
   b. meat sacrifices
   c. Easter

15. One legend is that this follower of Christ showed an egg that changed color to the Roman Emperor Tiberius:
   a. Elbebt the Saint
   b. Mary Magdalene
   c. Omelets, Prince of Denmark

ANSWERS

1b, 2a, 3b, 4c, 5a, 6c, 7b, 8b, 9a, 10b, 11b, 12c, 13a, 14c, 15b
N
otre Dame spring practice is in full swing, and the optimism over head coach Brian Kelly and what he brings to the football program hasn’t been this high since Lou Holtz took over for Gerry Faust following the 1985 season.

That’s not to say that Kelly arrives at Notre Dame with the same résumé as Holtz’s. Holtz had taken programs at North Carolina State, Arkansas and Minnesota — schools from the ACC, the SEC and the Big Ten — and turned them into success stories. He then solidified his spot in the College Football Hall of Fame by going 100-30-2 with the Irish, which included the 1988 national championship.

For most Irish fans, the change from Charlie Weis to Kelly is a step in the right direction. Weis arrived in South Bend from his stint as offensive coordinator of the New England Patriots. But after winning 19 games in his first five seasons at Weis lost 21 times over his last three. He also may have set a record for most people offended in a five-year span.

And so the mixture of losing and acerbic behavior led to change, which is always the buzzword when a head coach is fired. Kelly changed the off-season conditioning program to prepare the Irish for the rigors of a no-huddle, spread offense. He changed a no-huddle, spread offense. He prepared the Irish for the rigors of a five-year span.

But more important than change with the arrival of the Kelly regime is the need for Kelly to follow form. You see, everywhere Kelly has gone, he has won. Every team he has touched has turned to gold.

Kelly got his start as a head coach at Grand Valley State, a Division II school that won 100 games in a row and most college football fans wouldn’t know it. He was 18-35-2 in 13 seasons, including 41-2 over the last three in which the Lakers won two Division II national titles and appeared in a third championship game.

At Central Michigan, he took over a program that had lost 34 times in the four years prior to his arrival. By his third season in Mount Pleasant, the Chippewas won nine regular-season games. That landed him the job at Cincinnati, a program that hadn’t won more than eight games in a season during the decade. Kelly promptly won 34 times in the next three seasons, landing back-to-back BCS bids and nearly claiming a spot in the national championship game in ’09 with a 12-0 regular-season mark.

Simply put, the man wins. His career record as a head coach is 171-57-2.

Unfortunately, there is no guide book on how to grieve well. When to distribute possessions and other answers to questions we all must face in grief are ultimately a personal choice we each must undertake. There is no right or way only to be linked to our ones that we loved. But I believe if we listen to our hearts, we will discover the right path to take with those precious possessions.

Some learn that those treasured links are something we need to remain a part of their lives, while others begin to let go of that which made easier the transition of their relationship with their deceased loved one from one of physical presence to one of the spirit.

As I look back over the 20 years since my husband’s death there has been a slow and steady relinquishing of my initially intense need to keep Trent’s possessions. Of course, I thought, I must keep all of his possessions just in case.

Now after 20 years and countless purgings, I cherish a few of Trent’s favorites as well as his wedding band and a plethora of photos so dear to my heart. But the rest is gone, distributed over the years, when the time seemed right.

Those possessions that were useful or pleasurable to my husband are now someone else’s to enjoy. But my link to Trent is not less diminished by that distribution, because the memory of his spirit resides in its rightful place now deep in my heart.

May Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and news editor of Today’s Catholic. She can be reached at kczoaz@todayscatholicnews.org.
Eagles snare ICCL girls’ basketball tournament

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — A large crowd equipped with face painted seventh and eighth graders gathered in the friendly atmosphere of Marian High School to witness an absolute thriller in the finals of the Inter-City Catholic League Girls’ Championship game.

The matchup pitted the St. Martin DePorres Champion St. Joseph (Mishawaka) Wildcats against the undefeated St. John Bosco Champion St. Joseph (South Bend) Eagles.

The game started as all do in the ICCL, with the league’s prayer. This time it seemed as though all of the spectators prayed in unison and were for the time being, speaking with one voice.

Even the head girls’ coaches, Adam Kroemer from Saint Joseph’s High School and Pat Catanzarite from Marian High School were in attendance and braced for the epic battle of champions.

The teams took two different tracks to the championship game. The Wildcats averaged two of their three regular season losses to reach the game against the only team they did not have a victory against, St. Joe (South Bend).

The Eagles, however, were holding the top spot and were being led by their head coach, Sid Corrigan.

The Eagles’ forward Ketcham hit one of two from the line with 1:53 left and then duplicated the feat with 33.8 ticks on the clock to pull the teams to even 25-25.

The Wildcats posted the ball with all eyes on Weaver, the best team in the league. With all eyes on Weaver, the crafty point guard found center Sid Tagin Schultheis rallied feverishly back to hold a three-point margin at half-time.

The pace of the game was deliberate as a Bobby Fisher/Boris Spassky chess match with each and every possession being played with tact and precision.

While the Eagle press was wearing down the Wildcats, they still held a third quarter lead of 23-21 entering the final stanza.

With 4:23 left in the fourth, the Eagles close to even and then with two minutes to go in the game Weaver scored to give the St. Joe (South Bend) squad a two-point cushion.

The Wildcats’ forward Ketcham hit one of two from the line with 1:53 left and then duplicated the feat with 33.8 ticks on the clock to pull the teams to even 25-25.

The Eagles possessed the ball and were holding for the last shot, with all eyes on Weaver, the crafty point guard found center Sid Corrigan behind the Wildcat defense for the winning bucket with 12 seconds left as the crowd erupted.

“We went to a five out set hoping to draw them out and Sid got lost at the right time,” stated an exasperated head coach, Brian Weaver.

“Our girls have really worked hard this season to achieve this championship.”

“How could you not be so proud and happy with the performance of the girls,” commented Wildcat Coach Tom Schultheis.

“Our congratulations go to the Eagles they were well coached and very talented. What a game.”

The final tallies had Weaver with 16, for the Eagles and Schultheis with 16 for the Wildcats.

In the consolation game, the Christ the King Colors team defeated the combined team from St. Jude and St. Monica, 23-18, with Shannon Hendricks posting 10 points for the victors.

CYO track revs up for the spring season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Track and field competition for the Catholic Youth League (CYO) teams is gearing up for the 2010 spring season.

Long-time CYO powerhouse and the reigning boys’ track and field champions, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, who have won six out of the past 10 city meets, and in 2006, 2007 and 2008 for the girls’ lists around 45 young athletes on their roster this year.

With over a decade at the helm, the Raiders are once again coached by Greg Lawrence. He and his assistants Greg Wiebe, Scott Voelker, Clair Lenegacher, Wade and Linda Heddens, Stephen West and Kayla Zink will have a very young team this season with nearly half of the squad checking in as fourth graders.

Point scorers returning for the Raiders include members of the boys’ relay teams along with Ellie Kayser, a fifth-grade miler.

“But with such a young group and very few eighth graders, it will be a rebuilding year,” explained Lawrence.

But despite the inexperience from the newcomers, Lawrence is hopeful, “We show a lot of potential for this season and future years along with solid leadership from our eighth graders. They are a great bunch of kids to work with.”

On the girls’ side, it was all St. Jude in the 2009 city track meet. The Eagles outscored the second-place team from St. Charles, 109-88. St. Jude and the rest of the CYO runners will start up action for the 2010 season on April 22.

Kevin Donley, University of Saint Francis agree on new contract through 2016

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis (USF) has entered into a new contract with Head Football Coach Kevin Donley, which will extend his term at USF through 2016.

Donley, the founder of the USF football program in 1997 and two-time NAIA National Coach of the Year, has a remarkable record at USF with 121 wins and only 26 losses — an .823 winning percentage. He has been named the Mid-States Football Association (MSFA) Coach of the Year seven times in the past nine seasons. Under his tenure, the Cougars have captured nine MSFA Mideast League championships. His teams have advanced to the NAIA “Final Four” in six of the last seven years. For his remarkable efforts at USF, Donley was awarded a Red Coat by the Mad Athonys.

“We write the Kevin Donley story and put it in the ‘fiction’ section,” explained Donley.

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CYO Camp Rancho Framasa is located in Nashville, IN.
DONLEY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

of a bookstore, and no one would buy it because it’s almost unbelievable,” said Mark A. Pope, USF director of athletics.

“But the simple fact is, all of it’s true. His success on the field is unparalleled at any level of intercollegiate football. However, Kevin’s greatest asset is how he continues to influence the lives of our student-athletes after football. I’m thrilled that Kevin will continue to guide our program for many years to come.”

Prior to taking the head-coaching job at Georgetown College, where he captured a national championship title in 1991, he had four successful seasons at Anderson College. In 1981, he led the Ravens to a 9-2 record and a berth in the NAIA Division II playoffs, as well as Hoosier-Buckeye Collegiate Conference championships in 1980 and 1981. While at Anderson, Donley’s teams compiled a 28-9 (.757) overall record during his four-year stay. He was named conference coach of the year while at Anderson, and on nine occasions while at Georgetown.

Donley-coached teams have had an impressive track record for moving the football through the air and scoring points. Donley’s teams have set national offensive records in points per game (59.5), rushing touchdowns (69), total touchdowns (102), yards gained per play (7.4), and total offense per game (541.4). His offensive teams have averaged 40.8 points per game. He owns the title of most points scored in a season (744) by any college team in the 20th century at all collegiate levels and earned a display in the College Football Hall of Fame in 1992.

“I am truly grateful to the entire Saint Francis community for this opportunity to continue to coach football,” said Donley. “We started this program 12 years ago with a mission to develop quality young men into meaningful contributors to our community and to win some games along the way. I think we’ve been able to do that — but we still have goals to accomplish.”

Donley, a native of Springfield, Ohio, will begin his 32nd year as a head coach on Sept. 11, when USF travels to Iowa Wesleyan. The Cougars open their home schedule on Sept. 18 at noon, against St. Ambrose on Donley Field at D’Arcy Stadium on the Saint Francis campus.

The Annual Blue-White Spring Game takes place at Bishop John D’Arcy Stadium on Sunday, April 18, at 1 p.m. and will pit last year’s winning coach, Keith Busse, against newcomer Jim Shields. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the Tom Jehr Football Complex.

NEW YORK (CNS) – Following are capsule reviews of theatrical movies recently reviewed by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Date Night” (Fox)

This well-intentioned but ultimately wayward mix of the romantic comedy and action genres sees an ordinary suburban New Jersey couple (Steve Carell and Tina Fey) caught up in an underworld blackmail scheme after being mistaken for the cohabiting lowlifes (James Franco and Mila Kunis) who are out to sell the damaging evidence. As written by Josh Klausner and directed by Shawn Levy, the pair’s nocturnal Manhattan odyssey — during which they flee a duo of thugs (Common and Jimmi Simpson) in the employ of a mob boss (Ray Liotta), and turn for help to a James Bond-like intelligence agent (Mark Wahlberg) — though its travails aid them to rekindle their flickering love for each other, eventually leads to an underground sex club where they briefly find themselves forced to entertain a powerful patron with perverse tastes. Considerable, though bloodless, action violence, partial rear nudity, much sexual humor, including gags about casual sex, masturbation and aberrant practices, at least one use of profanity and of the F-word, some crude and crass language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Le Miserables
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers performing arts department will present a spring musical, “Les Miserables,” April 29 through May 1, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $10. Call (260) 456-1261 for tickets.

The 16th Day movie showing Warsaw — A movie about Our Lady appearing in Fatima will be shown Sunday, April 18, at the Sacred Heart Parish hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., movie from 6-8 p.m. Refreshments available for all free or offering. All proceeds will benefit World Youth Day pilgrims.

Adult night out Decatur — St. Joseph School will have an “Adults Night Out” dinner dance/auction on Friday, April 23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m. to noon. A $3 bag sale will be on Saturday. Baked goods for purchase along with an assortment of clothing and household items. St. Joseph is located at 11337 Old U.S. 27 South.

Family trivia night South Bend — Little Flower Parish will host a trivia night Friday, April 23, from 7-10:30 p.m. Cost is $10 per person. RSVP to Kirmen Sorenson-Brugh at (574) 255-1466 by April 20. Teams may bring snacks for their table and beverages will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit the mission trip to Ecuador.

Creole/Cajun crawfish boil South Bend — A Cajun dinner sponsored by St. Augustine Parish will raise funds for the IUSB Civil Rights Heritage Center on West Washington. Dinner will be cooked by Burt Kemp of Jambalaya and Co., Louisiana, on Friday, April 23, from 6-9 p.m. Tickets are $20 and includes crawfish, gumbo, jambalaya, potatoes, corn, drink and dessert. To purchase tickets call (574) 232-4837 or e-mail michianaCrawfish@gmail.com.

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will have a spring rummage and bake sale Friday, April 23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m. to noon. A $3 bag sale will be on Saturday. Baked goods for purchase along with an assortment of clothing and household items. St. Joseph is located at 11337 Old U.S. 27 South.

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Position Opening
DIRECTOR OF STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

St. Joseph Parish, a vibrant, Catholic, faith community of over 1000 families and a large, K-12 grade school in South Bend, Indiana, seeks a Director of Stewardship and Development. This position furthers the mission of the Parish by promoting the concept of Stewardship as a way of life in accordance with the U.S. Bishops’ pastoral letter, Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response. The position also oversees Parish Development efforts, including fostering relationships with parishioners, school alumni and other friends of St. Joseph for the purpose of finding and cultivating partners to financially support St. Joseph Church and School in the living out of its mission.

Qualified applicants will be practicing Catholics and demonstrate a commitment to the concept of Stewardship as a way of life. Applicants must possess a bachelor’s degree and have at least two years of experience in a field requiring high organizational skills and computer skills. The successful candidate will also have strong communication skills and the ability to work well with others.

Number of hours/week negotiable. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. For a complete position description, please visit the parish website: www.stjeparish.com.

Questions may be directed to Fr. John DeRiso, CSC, Pastor, at (269) 734-1314, ext. 20.

Visit www.diocesefwsb.org for a calendar of events.

REST IN PEACE

AROCO
Betty J. Walker, 86,
St. Patrick

Avilla
Lawrence Henry Heinly,
89, St. Mary

Clear Lake
Thomas J. Eckrich, 72,
St. Paul Chapel

Fort Wayne
William E. Fadus, 80,
Queen of Angels
William J. Heidenreich,
72, St. Jude
Lucille A. Hirn, 85,
St. Peter

New Carlisle
Ruth Huston, 86,
St. Stanislaus

New Haven
Clementine M. Cheviron,
78, St. John the Baptist

Granger
Mary H. Dewsey, 96,
St. Peter

Michawaka
Thomas F. Humm, 76,
Queen of Peace

St. Joseph
St. Joseph

South Bend
Jefferson C. Bailey, 56,
St. Joseph

Mishawaka
Monty L. McFarren,
St. Joseph

Little Flower
Lorelene F. Niemeth, 71,
St. Joseph

South Bend
Louis N. Pinter, 90,
Our Lady of Hungary

Fort Wayne
Stephen Z. Krzyzanik, 87,
Holy Cross

Our Lady of the Annunciation
Bert C. Zielinski, 87,
St. Anthony de Padua
Christina Grabowski,
86, Holy Family
Corrine Hoffman, 82,
Holy Family

Lowell — Msgr. Schulte is rector of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Mary Eleanor Till, 89,
St. Peter
Mary Jo Michael, 72,
St. Jude
Mary Eleanor Till, 89,
St. Vincent de Paul

Crystal V. Gwozdy, 77,
St. Therese

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat Weekend Notre Dame — A Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat will be held July 31-Aug. 2 for anyone suffering from the aftermath of an abortion. This is a healing retreat weekend that includes discussions, spiritual exercises, a memorial service, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass. It is a strictly confidential weekend. Contact Sue at nwsds33@hotmail.com or at (260) 683-2229. Cost is $150 which includes room, all meals and lodging materials. Partial financial assistance is available.

Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center hosts open house Donaldson — The Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center will host an open house Sunday, April 18, from 1-4 p.m. Guests will tour the renovated bedrooms, the new meeting rooms and office spaces. Refreshments will be served. The center is located at 9601 Union Rd.

“Autumn Leaves’” Tour Visits Historical East 15 Days from $1099*
Your Catholic Chaplain...Father Daniel Generex

Depart October 16, 2010, travel with Father Generex and other Roman Catholics; combine a New England & East Coast historical tour with fall foliage. Start in Philadelphia. Your guided Philadelphia city tour includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the 1700’s “city center”. Travel on your comfortable motor coach through the mountains, offering spectacular and colorful vistas. There’s included sightseeing in New York City, Milford, and New Haven. You’ll visit gorgeous mansions of Newport, RI; tour Boston including the Old North Church, The Boston Common, Bunker Hill and USS Constitution. There is even one free day in Boston with an optional tour to historic Concord, Lexington, and “beheading” Salem. Next, travel through the White and Green Mountains to French Canada: Quebec and Montreal, both with city tours, and travel along the St. Lawrence in “upper NY” to Niagara Falls. YMT will also take you to Corning, NY (tour Corning Glassworks); Harrisburg, PA; Hershey World (see chocolate making up close and taste the samples); tour Gettysburg National Military Park and Amish Country. Fly home from Philadelphia. Father Generex is pastor of St. Thomas The Apostle Parish in Wilmington, Delaware. He has also been chaplain numerous times aboard Holland America Line cruise. *Prices, per person, double occupancy, start at only $1099 plus $140 tax, service, gov’t fees. Airfare is extra. Call our friendly travel consultants for all the details.

For information, reservations, itinerary and letter from Father Generex with his phone number, call 7 days a week: YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300
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Salute the Class of 2010!

Heather Johnson
BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations Heather, on your hard work for the past 12 years... and best wishes at Harvard.
Mom and Dad

“grad-ad” sizes and prices:
- 4 inches wide x 2 inches deep - $50
  (1/8 page)
- 4 inches wide x 4 inches - $100
  (1/4 page)
- 6 inches wide x 5.5 inches deep - $150
  (1/2 page)
- 10.25 inches wide x 6.5 inches deep - $300
  (1/4 page)

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will prepare your ad at no additional charge.)
All ads will appear in black and white.

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The Class of 2010!

TODAY’S CATHOLIC pull-out keepsake section to be in homes on May 23, 2010

BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

Heather Johnson
BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations Heather, on your hard work for the past 12 years... and best wishes at Harvard.
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36-HOUR LINE-UP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, April 21</th>
<th>Thursday, April 22</th>
<th>Friday, April 23</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am Bishop Kevin Rhoades</td>
<td>Women’s Care Center Dr. Andy Landrigan</td>
<td>immaculate Conception, Auburndale Fr. Phil Widmann</td>
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<td>8:00 am Allen County Right to Life Northeast Indiana Catholic Educators St. Peter StMary Fr. Phil Widmann</td>
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<td>9:00 am Bishop Luers High School Bishop Dwenger High School Vincent Village</td>
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<td>10:00 am St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fr. Jon Shafer St. Jude Fr. Tom Shoemaker The Tippmann Hour John Tippmann</td>
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<td>11:00 am St. Vincent Magg. John Kauzmich Sr. Peter &amp; Paul, Huntington Fr. Ron Radler Sr. Patrick, Arcola Jim Bottem &amp; Roberta Davis, DRE</td>
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<td>Noon St. John, New Haven Fr. James Seculoff Our Sunday Visitor Vocations to Priesthood Fr. Drew Curry</td>
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<td>1:00 pm World Apostolate of Fatima Jim Fitzpatrick Fr. Cyril Fernandez St. John, Fort Wayne St. Charles Magr. John Sacerdore &amp; Fr. Tony Steinacker</td>
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<td>2:00 pm St. Mother Theodore Guerin Community Fr. George Gubert St. Mary, Avilla Fr. Ed Edelking Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Magr. Bob Schulte</td>
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<td>3:00 pm St. Joseph, Rosnoke St. Catherine, Nix Fr. Jon Freiburger Christ Child Society</td>
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<td>4:00 pm Most Precious Blood Fr. Joe Gaughan Our Lady of Good Hope Magr. Bruce Pechocki Redeemer Radio Sports Hour</td>
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<td>5:00 pm Bishop John D’Arcy Worldwide Marriage Encounter Fr. Pat Mahoney St. Vincent’s Rekindle the Fire</td>
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<td>6:00 pm Stay tuned! Stay tuned! The Gratitude Hour</td>
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RETREAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

example, “What is the Church doing locally to help Hispanic Catholics?”

“We always want to do more for our people,” Bishop D’Arcy said as a preface. He advised the youth to provide feedback and consider what they can do to become more active in their respective parishes.

On a more serious note, the bishop was asked about the controversial topic of the Church’s response to abuses in the priesthood. He said the Church is undergoing a “dark time” and needs to move forward.

“Evil comes to us from the beginning,” he said. However, “Jesus came to forgive evil and help us overcome it. The Church has taken on the enormous task to overcome abuse.”

The bishop said Catholics must realize the Church is in the process of purifying itself and that the faithful can find Jesus through the Church. In his words, “We need to be purified to be holy.”

Other questions related to the fate of the soul after death.

“When one dies, does the soul come back to the world,” a young woman asked. The bishop’s response: the soul goes to heaven if the person is saved. Eventually the body and soul are united.

“Death is not the end,” he affirmed.

With regard to reincarnation, Bishop D’Arcy clarified that the Church does not believe in this concept because it “takes away from the joy of when we die.”

Additional questions related to immigrants’ inclusion in the Church, the call to vocations and the ethics of same-sex adoption.

The talk concluded with a buffet dinner. The remainder of the weekend consisted of a reconciliation service, social time and Mass.

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Bishop-emeritus John M. D’Arcy answered questions from young adults who attended the annual Bishop’s Retreat, held at Potawatomi Inn in Angola, April 9-11. This year’s weekend retreat took place with a theme “In the Meantime... Trust.” The question-and-answer session Saturday afternoon was an opportunity for some one-on-one time with Bishop D’Arcy and to consult with him on relevant issues in the Catholic Church. The retreat hosted 104 participants.