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TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Schiffli named principal of Bishop Dwenger High School

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades May 10 announced at an assembly of Bishop Dwenger High School students that Jason Schiffli will be the new principal of the high school in north Fort Wayne, succeeding J. Fred Tone who will retire at the end of this school year.

Schiffli, who has served as an assistant principal at Bishop Dwenger for the past six years, will begin his new assignment on July 1.

Bishop Rhoades said Schiffli was a man of “great faith” and was strongly committed to the mission of Catholic education. Schiffli was the first choice of the nine-member search committee, he said.

“My visits to Bishop Dwenger and to all of our high schools have been some of the best experiences so far for me here in the diocese,” Bishop Rhoades said recently. “I am really grateful to see the strong faith formation that is evident to me as I speak with the students and enjoy their company,” he added.

With an enrollment of 1,050 students, Bishop Dwenger is the largest Catholic high school in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and one of the largest Catholic high schools in the state.

Originally from the Butler area, Schiffli grew up in Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn, and attended Butler Elementary School. He graduated from Eastside High School in Butler and worked at farming and at Franz Nursery in Hamilton for many years, eventually enrolling at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in secondary education. His first teaching assignment was in 1995.

YEARS OF PRIESTS

FATHER BRANDON NGUYEN

He has a common characteristic of the Vietnamese; for many, the facial features deny aging. Only the traces of white hair at his temples are a tip-off, but these are service stripes of life under communist tyranny, the stress and danger of life as a

Chastity advocate Jason Evert speaks to diocesan teens

BY KAY COZAD

“Chastity is good news. It’s not a neurotic and repressive attitude toward sexuality, but a liberating virtue that frees you to fall in love for all the right reasons,” says internationally-known author, speaker and founder of Pure Love Club Jason Evert.

The high energy presentations, two among the over 150 Evert offers each year, were based on the issues and topics the teens hold dear, all wrapped in the truth of chastity, “The teachers are the teens themselves,” says Evert, who meets with students personally after each assembly. “This inside knowledge really helps me to know how to address the students, and how to make them feel understood, respected and loved.”

Evert holds a master’s degree in theology and has ministered to teens across the globe through the auspices of Catholic Answers for 12 years. His participation in
Mother’s Day

I am writing this column on Mother’s Day, having returned from a Confirmation Mass at St. Michael Church in Plymouth. It was a sunny, yet chilly day. Happy (belated) Mother’s Day to all the mothers of our diocese! I hope you had a wonderful Mother’s Day. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God and our spiritual mother, intercede for you with her maternal love! It is good to remember the goodness of our mothers and to thank them for their self-giving love. Today I remembered my own mother, to whom I am deeply grateful for the gift of my Catholic faith. She died in 1994. If I were home, I would have tried to visit my mom’s grave, but she told me before she died that it would be more important to her that I remember her in my prayers, especially at the altar of the Lord in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. At the Confirmation Mass in Plymouth and also last evening in Little Flower Parish, South Bend, we prayed for both our living and deceased mothers. Prayer is always an act of love. Praying for the living and the dead is a spiritual work of mercy.

On my way back to Fort Wayne today, I called my sister to wish her a Happy Mother’s Day. I was happy to hear that my brother-in-law, my nephew and nieces spoiled her a bit today, treating her to dinner, a homemade DVD, flowers and candy. I am looking forward to seeing the family next month when I return home for my nephew’s high school graduation en route to St. Petersburg, Fla., for the spring assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Indiana Catholic Conference

This past Tuesday, Bishop D’Arcy and I traveled together to Indianapolis for a meeting with the bishops of Indiana, dinner and the governor, and then a meeting of the Indiana Catholic Conference on Wednesday. The meetings went well. What I enjoyed most was the travel to Indianapolis with Bishop D’Arcy, since it gave us an opportunity to get caught up about the diocese and our ministries. I always appreciate Bishop D’Arcy’s wisdom and insights, as well as his enjoyable company. We always get along very well unless we talk about baseball!

Dioscean review board

On Wednesday evening, I had my first meeting with our Diocesan Review Board. This consultative body of lay people advises the bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of a cleric’s suitability for ministry. It reviews our diocesan policies and procedures for dealing with sexual abuse of minors. I counted on the review board’s advice in the Diocese of Harrisburg and appreciated their expert counsel. I was greatly impressed by the members of the review board here in our diocese and am very grateful for their assistance. They help me and the diocese to ensure the protection of our children and young people and to promote the healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of sexual abuse of minors.

Directors and coordinators of religious education

It was a pleasure to meet many of our devoted parish directors and coordinators of religious education at their conference in Syracuse this past Thursday. Our diocesan Office of Catechesis sponsored this day-long conference. Though I was there for only part of the day, I enjoyed hearing about the good programs of religious education throughout our diocese and listening to the DRE’s and CRE’s share their ideas and experiences. I shared with the group my own hopes for the future and a major concern of mine: The need for continuing the catechetics of our young people in public schools after they receive Confirmation.

I am saddened that many of our public high school youth do not receive further religious education after their Confirmation. Some do, through parish youth ministry programs or through high school religious education. I am afraid that most do not. I encourage all of our public high school students to enroll in high school religious education and/or youth ministry. As I said to the DRE’s, the sacrament of Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation, not “termination.” There is so much more of the faith that our young people need to learn after they complete grade school. We would never even consider that their education in other subjects is complete with grade school graduation. And what subject is more important than the study of the faith?

Catholic Cultural Diversity Network Convocation

I was happy to attend the opening session of the Catholic Cultural Diversity Convocation this past Thursday at the University of Notre Dame. At that session, I was honored to introduce the apostolic min-
Church diversity explored at Notre Dame convocation

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — The universality of the Catholic Church and the cultural diversity of the Church in the United States were on display here May 6-8 in the person of 300 Church leaders with cultural heritages that span the globe. The Catholic Cultural Diversity Network Convocation 2010 produced a joyful energy as laity, priests and religious discussed how to build unity in this diversity to enhance Catholic identity.

The convocation was the first step toward developing and disseminating intercultural competency guidelines in the U.S. Church, a priority set by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The 18 bishops who came to listen included five members of the Bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, which sponsored the convocation, along with the University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Church Life.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend welcomed the group and reflected on the “beautiful diversity of this diocese.” He noted that the first preaching of the Gospel here was by French missionaries to the Potawatomi Indians. Then came French, German and French-immigrants, followed by African-Americans, Eastern Europeans and Hispanics.

“Our unity in diversity is both a gift and a challenge,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Our different cultures are a blessing and should be mutually enriching.”

In opening the convocation, Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity, explained that it is time to engage the culture in order to live the Gospel to its fullest. However, the Church can’t engage the culture without working with the diverse cultural communities, which he called “the hearts, hands, eyes and talents, vision and vitality of the whole Body of Christ.”

Bishop Soto told the gathering that the bishops were there to listen to the voices of the diverse cultures and to dialogue with them, assuring the people that “We are determined to restore a social respect for the dignity of the human person, as well as foster a solidarity for those most vulnerable in our society, from the unborn to the immigrant, from the incarcerated to the war-ravaged refugees.”

Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Pietro Sambi was the first to convey the blessings and love of Pope Benedict XVI. The nuncio noted that the convocation reminded him of what the first Christian community was like, for its welcoming of people from many different places. And he called for a renewed effort to develop Catholic leaders from all cultures, which he said was necessary for the growth of the entire Church.

The 300 leaders invited to the convocation were asked to identify with one of six cultural “families,” which were quite diverse themselves: African American, Asian Pacific, European American, Hispanic, Native American and people served by the bishops’ sub-committee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers (PCMRT). People falling under the PCMRT umbrella include immigrants, traveling people who have left their home countries, migrant workers, seafarers, airport/airline workers and circus and carnival workers.

At the start of the convocation, a spokesperson for each “family” gave a “witness” statement about who the people in that family were, the blessings they’ve enjoyed, the obstacles they face, the opportunities they embrace, and their vision for the future. Many people seemed surprised but comforted to learn that they shared many common experiences and concerns with people in other cultural families.

Some of those common experiences were a strong faith maintained in diversity, but also a sense of invisibility or even exclusion in the Catholic Church, a lack of priests and Church leaders from their own cultures, and a lack of resources at the national and diocesan level for pastoral outreach to their communities. Most of the groups also were concerned that their young people were being torn between their cultural and religious values and practices, and the way the larger society values American society.

Speaking for the African American family, Therese Wilson Favors of Baltimore noted an experience of racism and lack of affirmation of the value her people bring to the Church in the U.S., and she drew applause when she expressed the hope that “the Church may be what she says she is: Catholic, culturally diverse, with all God’s children working in His vineyard and united at the Eucharistic table.”

The European American spokesman, Joyce Francois of Detroit, said that the robust Catholic culture her family once enjoyed has vanished, and most of their people have lost their specific ethnic identities. In the Church, their cultural dominance is waning, which she said was a healthy thing for the Church, but sometimes was not understood and thus mourned by some of her people.

At the end of the convocation, a panel of eight bishops reflected on the meeting and took questions. One question that seemed to resonate with the entire assembly was about how to transfer back to the home dioceses the very positive experience of the convocation, where multiple cultural groups interacted freely and bonded through their shared experiences and ideas.

Bishop Gerald Barnes of San Bernardino, a member of the Bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity said that the witness statements of the families were so powerful that he would like to see them be used for group discussion at the parish and diocesan levels. Bishop Soto announced that the Committee on Cultural Diversity was developing a manual for cultural competence that will help train people at the regional and diocesan level. A blueprint for that effort was distributed at the end of the convocation and the attendees were invited to reflect on that blueprint and send comments and ideas to the committee’s secretariat by June 15 for deliberation by the committee.

Pope: Sex abuse crisis is ‘terrifying’ example of Church failings

BY JOHN THAVIS

ABROAD THE PAPAL FLIGHT TO PORTUGAL (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said the priestly sex abuse scandal is a “terrifying” crisis that comes from inside the Church — not from outside attack — and requires purification and penance to overcome.

The pope made some of his strongest remarks to date on the sex abuse cases during an in-flight press conference May 11 on his four-day visit to Portugal for a four-day visit that was to include the Marian shrine of Fatima.

Asked if the message of Fatima, which foresaw times of trials and suffering for the Church, could be applied to the sex abuse crisis, the pope indicated that, in a general way, it could. The vision of Fatima foresaw the need for the Church to undergo a “passion,” which continues in various ways until the end of time, and which requires a response of continual conversion, he said.

“Among the new things that we can discover today in this message is that attacks on the pope and the Church come not only from outside but from the Church itself,” he said.

“This, too, we have always known, but today we see it in a really terrifying way, that the biggest persecution of the church doesn’t come from the enemies outside but is born from sin inside the Church,” he said.

“And so the Church has a profound need to relearn penance, to accept purification, to learn one hand forgiveness but also the necessity of justice. And forgiveness does not substitute justice,” he said.

“We have to relearn these essentials: conversion, prayer, penance,” he said.

The pope, who helped explain the third secret of Fatima when it was published in 2000, said the Fatima messages extend in time to apply to the Church’s continuing journey, which is accompanied by suffering.

The pope also spoke about the economic crisis that is shaking Portugal and the rest of Europe, saying it illustrates the need for a greater infusion of ethics and morality in the market.

“I would say this economic crisis has a moral dimension that no one can fail to see,” he said. “The events of the last two or three years have demonstrated that the ethical dimension must enter into the world of economic activity.”

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES APPOINTS DEACONS

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointments:

• Deacon Matthew Coonan to summer diocesan ministry at Most Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne.
• Deacon Terrence Coonan to summer diocesan ministry at St. Michael Parish, Plymouth.

PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

• Monday, May 17: 10 a.m. — Eighth-grade graduation Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
• Monday, May 17: 6:30 p.m. — Catholic Schools Night at Silver Hawks Baseball Game, South Bend
• Tuesday, May 18: 10:30 a.m. — Luncheon at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Fort Wayne
• Tuesday, May 18: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne
• Wednesday, May 19, 11 a.m. — Presbytery Council Meeting at Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw
• Wednesday, May 19, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Warsaw
• Thursday, May 20: 11 a.m. — Diocesan Investment Committee Meeting, Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, Fort Wayne
• Thursday, May 20: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Good Hope Church, Fort Wayne
• Saturday, May 22: 10 a.m. — Ordination of 23 permanent deacons, St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg, Pa.
Leniency proposed for some protesters at 2009 Notre Dame commencement

BY CHAZ MUTH

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A year after the fracas over the University of Notre Dame’s decision to invite President Barack Obama to be its commencement speaker and give him an honorary degree, some protesters still face charges.

However, a majority of the demonstrators arrested while protesting Obama’s commencement address at the Indiana school have been offered the option of a pretrial diversion program, which, if successfully completed, would lead to dismissal of the charges.

Holy Cross Father John J. Jenkins, president of Notre Dame, applauded the decision by St. Joseph County Prosecutor Mike Dvorak, calling the potential outcome “balanced and lenient.”

Many Catholics had said Obama was an inappropriate choice for an honorary degree at the nation’s most recognizable Catholic university because of his support for keeping abortion legal.

While some have argued that campus police showed bias by arresting only pro-life protesters, and leaving alone pro-Obama demonstrators who support keeping abortion legal, Father Jenkins said only people who disobeyed the university’s protest policies were charged.

“They were given repeated warnings by law enforcement officials, and then, when they persisted, they were arrested and charged with criminal trespass,” he said in a statement released April 30.

Thomas Brejcha, president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Society, a public-interest law firm, told the national Catholic weekly Our Sunday Visitor that he believes there is evidence that Notre Dame engaged in “viewpoint discrimination” and singled out some of those arrested “for especially harsh treatment.”

The university requires all campus demonstrations be organized by a student, faculty or staff member, receive approval from the Office of Student Affairs, and be peaceful and orderly, Father Jenkins said.

“Those who were arrested last spring met none of these criteria and, in particular, were led by individuals who threatened peace and order by promising upheaval on our campus,” he said.

“Several pro-life demonstrations that met our criteria were held on campus before and during commencement. Those now charged with trespass could have joined these protests without interference or arrest,” Father Jenkins said. “They were highly publicized, easily accessible and well attended.”

Catherine Wilson, a spokeswoman for the St. Joseph County Prosecutor’s Office, said a majority of the 106 protesters arrested were eligible for the pretrial diversion program offered by Dvorak. Those who waive trial, have no criminal record and stay out of trouble for one year will avoid a criminal conviction, she said.

Those with a criminal record will not be eligible for this program, Wilson said.

As of April 5, three of the Notre Dame protesters have agreed to enter the pretrial diversion program, she said.

“While Notre Dame has in the past banned from campus those who have been arrested for trespass, the university will waive that penalty for those who complete the pretrial diversion program, are acquitted of charges or plead guilty,” Father Jenkins said.

He said the university’s position on abortion was misinterpreted during the heated debate surrounding Obama’s presence on campus.

“We at Notre Dame embrace the Catholic position on the sanctity of life,” Father Jenkins said. “We oppose abortion, and support laws that protect life from conception to natural death. In this respect, we fully agree with the protesters.”

He also said the university supports public debate on and off campus and encourages students to voice their opinions. But Father Jenkins said the university has procedures that must be followed to ensure demonstrations are safe and peaceful, and those who were arrested didn’t follow proper protocol.

“We must insist on maintaining the order that allows students, faculty and staff to learn, inquire and conduct the business of the university,” he said. “It is this dual commitment to free expression and public order that has guided us in this case.”

Contributing to this story was Ann Carey at Notre Dame.

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SCHIFFLI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School, Fort Wayne, where he taught history, science and theology at the junior-high level for four years.

In 2000, he was named principal at Huntington Catholic School where he says it “was a great training ground to learn how to be a principal.”

In 2004 he was appointed an assistant principal at Bishop Dwenger where he serves as the curriculum director.

Schiffli said he is excited about his new assignment. One of his first duties will be to hire someone to succeed him as the assistant principal in charge of curriculum, identifying student needs, overseeing staff development and assuming responsibility for school accreditation compliance.

“Fred (Tone) did a wonderful job,” he remarked, “and I hope to keep things running smoothly.”

One of my strengths is in the area of collaboration between teachers, staff and the administration and I am excited to have this opportunity in this area,” he added.

Although his education was in public schools, Schiffli said he loves the environment of Catholic schools. He said his father, Max, was responsible for his strong Catholic faith. As a youngster and a participant in football, Schiffli said he used to follow the football program at Bishop Dwenger, clipping articles from the newspapers and wish he could play for Andy Johns, the former football coach at Bishop Dwenger.

When he assumed the assistant principal position he said his late mother, Kay, said, “You’re finally a saint!”

Schiffli and his wife, Elizabeth, have been married for 15 years and are the parents of four children, three who attend St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School; Ethan, age 12, a seventh grader; Audrey, 10, in fourth grade; Seth, 5, in pre-school; and Avery, age 3. The family attends St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

“I’ve had the pleasure of knowing Jason Schiffli for many years; he is very well respected by our parents, faculty, staff and students,” said Mark D. Myers, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. “Bishop Dwenger High School has been blessed with extraordinary Catholic building leadership under Fred Tone, and Jason Schiffli is a strong, forward-thinking, instructional and spiritual leader who will add greatly to the Catholic identity of our Bishop Dwenger family; we could not be more pleased.”

Speaking of Fred Tone, Bishop Rhodes remarked, “He has served at Bishop Dwenger for 42 years, the past 16 years as principal. He has truly done an outstanding job,” he said. “Everyone I speak to shares with me their admiration for Mr. Tone’s leadership and example of faith. He will certainly be greatly missed, yet his influence has left a lasting mark on this community and in the lives of thousands of young people.”

Bishop Rhodes concluded.

Tone, a 1963 graduate of Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, recently oversaw a $13-million building campaign and renovations at Bishop Dwenger, which included a new cafeteria, small gymnasium, new library, new lighting in the building and landscaping.

“We’re all into this together,” Tone said of both the students and the administration, adding that it’s a family environment where everyone takes ownership.

He said he is very excited about Schiffli succeeding him as principal. “He’s generous with his time, has great management skills and dedicates himself to the kids and the school,” Tone said.

“His mission is for the students and the teachers, and they respect him,” he added. “His faith is on display each day, and he shares it with the students.”
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Life Teen program at his home church and his background in assisting with and leading teen retreats throughout high school and college, as well as ministering to women through crisis pregnancy counseling, helped shape his desire to reach out to teens.

He engages the most heart-hardened teens with humor and real life stories, as he weaves his own personal story of chastity, including his struggles in high school, through his talks on the truth about love, sexuality and the message that it’s never too late to choose chastity.

“I’m honest and reverent at the same time,” he says, relating that he married as a virgin. His message is not shame-based, he says, but rather hopeful. “It matters where they go from here,” he notes.

Evert has spoken to inner city teens as well as those in suburban and rural areas. He reports that teens have the same issues wherever he speaks. “They’re all going through the same stuff,” he says, citing challenges with eating disorders, depression, premarital sex, abortion, pregnancy and much more. The students, says Evert, are always receptive to his message. “[The students] are starved for the truth and for authentic love.”

The chastity message, Evert says, is different than abstinence education. “The term ‘abstinence’ means ‘no sex.’ Therefore, it is incomplete. ... chastity is complete. It is a lifestyle that pertains to every mannerism, conversation and thought. It is not a list of ‘thou shalt nots,’ but a transformation of the way a person views his or her entire sexuality.”

His ministry continues to expand to those he may never meet in person through his writing and DVD productions as well. Over a dozen books include writings on theology of the body, pure love, how to stay Catholic in college and “If You Really Loved Me: 100 Questions on Dating, Relationships and Sexual Purity,” in question-answer format for easy reading.

But one of the most rewarding parts of his ministry, says the young advocate, is the 5,000 e-mails he receives each year from teens whose lives have been changed by the message he offers. Like the teen who had planned to kill herself the night of his presentation, who found hope after his talk. Or the 17-year-old that removed herself from an abusive dating relationship to go on to a successful college career.

Why does this young man, who travels away from his home and family 10 days out of each month, reach out to teens with such passion and conviction?

“For the teens, for their sakes,” he says unabashedly. “I do love the teens. You couldn’t pay me to have any other job!”

And after 160 presentations to over 100,000 students each year for 12 years, Evert still is amazed at how God has used him in this ministry. “Two-thousand years ago, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. I think he still prefers that mode of transportation.”

Evert lives in San Diego with his wife Crystalina and their three children. They are expecting their fourth child soon.

For more information on Jason Evert and the chastity ministry visit www.chastity.com.
TODAY'S CATHOLIC
May 16, 2010

NEWS BRIEFS

TENNESSEE BEGINS LONG RECOVERY FROM FLOODS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — More than 15 inches of rain fell in some areas of middle Tennessee as May began, causing unprecedented flood damage in the area and killing at least 19 people. Among those who perished in the floodwaters was 88-year-old Joseph Formosa, father of Bishop David R. Choby’s secretary, Mary Margaret Lambert, and his wife, Bessie Formosa, 78. The floods have swallowed area neighborhoods, washed away roads, knocked out electricity and surrounded downtown landmarks such as the Country Music Hall of Fame. Poor counties have been classified as national disaster areas, and Nashville residents are under mandatory order to conserve water, as water treatment plants have been threatened by the floods. Many families throughout the Diocese of Nashville have been affected and are working to clear out their waterlogged homes and assess the damage to their businesses. For the most part, diocesan schools and parishes, including the most historic ones, escaped the floods unscathed except for minor damage. The chancery office had water damage on the first floor and had to pull out all the carpets, but no archives or valuables were damaged. All Nashville-area diocesan schools were closed May 3, and individual ones were reopening throughout the week as they were able.

Josephinum vice rector named first auxiliary bishop of Phoenix

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Eduardo A. Nevares, who is vice rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, has been named by Pope Benedict XVI as the first auxiliary bishop of Phoenix. The appointment was announced May 11 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Nevares, 56, is a native of San Antonio who studied with the LaSalette Missionaries and was ordained for the order in 1981. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, in 2007 and was named vice rector of the college of liberal arts at the Josephinum in 2008.

Immigrant Church must lead the way on immigration reform

NEW YORK (CNS) — Catholic leaders and universities should “come out of the shadows” and take a significant role in educating those who are ambivalent or undecided about the issue of comprehensive immigration reform, according to Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles. “We are an immigrant Church ourselves since the founding days of the republic,” the cardinal said in a May 3 presentation at Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York. “The immigrant experience is our own,” he added. “We should be front and center in leading the charge for immigration reform not only because it is a matter of justice, but also because it is part of our identity as a Church.” Cardinal Mahony said Christ Himself “was an itinerant preacher with no place to lay his head” and “a refugee who fled the terror of Herod.” When we welcome the newcomer, we welcome him. We need to do more to ensure that we do not become a nation that treats those who look foreign as suspect and to be investigated, even arrested, merely on the basis of their appearance.

Mourners celebrate life of murdered lacrosse player, urged to forgive

Baltimore (CNS) — Hundreds of friends and family gathered at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore May 8 to celebrate the life of Yearley Love, a senior lacrosse player at the University of Virginia and a 2006 graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory School in Towson. Love was found dead May 3 in her off-campus apartment, the victim of what police called an apparent homicide. Fellow teammates from the University of Virginia were among the many mourners who attended the 22-year-old senior’s funeral, as were Notre Dame Prep students who wore their blue-and-white school uniforms and saddle shoes. At the family’s request, media were not permitted to enter the cathedral, still adorned with black bunting from the recent death of retired Baltimore Archbishop William D. Borders, for the nearly two-hour liturgy. Father Joseph Breighner provided a copy of his homily to The Catholic Review, Baltimore archdiocesan newspaper. “Two thousand years ago,” Father Breighner said, “a young Jewish rabbi named Jesus died a senseless, violent death. All he did and preached was about love. This week a young woman died a senseless, violent death. Her name was Love and love is what her life is all about.” Father Breighner noted that Love’s sister, Lexi, told him that Love always put other people first. “She never made fun of any-one,” he said. “She always wanted others to feel good.”

Poll says abuse scandal now impacts US Catholics less than 2002 crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The current clergy abuse scandal in Europe has not had the same impact on the U.S. Catholic Church as the 2002 reports of clergy abuse that focused on U.S. priests and bishops, according to a new poll. The New York Times/CBS News poll — released May 3 — shows that U.S. Catholics view the current wave of scandals as a “far-off storm” that has had “no effect” on Mass attendance, financial contributions or parish participation. Many in the Catholic respondents in the telephone poll conducted April 30-May 2 said they have seen a change in how the Church is handling the abuse crisis. The poll questioned 1,079 randomly selected adults and included 412 Catholics. According to the poll, only one in 10 Catholics say the current abuse scandal causes them to consider leaving the Church, unlike the one in five who, in response to a 2002 Gallup poll, considered leaving the Church during the height of abuse allegations in the United States. While the abuse scandals in Europe made headlines worldwide in recent months, Vatican officials and U.S. bishops responded by criticizing the media for unfairly characterizing the Church. In the poll, slightly more Catholics agreed that the news media had “blown the issue out of proportion” than those who said the issue had been accurately reported. Most said the news media had been harder on the Catholic Church than on other religions.

Cardinal Rigali calls creating sacred spaces an ‘exalted mission’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Presenting the “the esteemed heritage and promising future” of church architecture, Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali said architects who create sacred spaces have “a vocation and a mission” and perform “important work that serves to express our response to God.” Artists and architects who work on church projects “open themselves to the light of sacred tradition,” the cardinal said. Such work, when created “in the light of faith,” becomes “an exalted mission,” he said. Cardinal Rigali was the keynote speaker at a two-day symposium, “A Living Presence: Extending and Transforming the Tradition of Catholic Sacred Architecture,” held April 30-May 1 at The Catholic University of America in Washington. The symposium was presented by the Partnership for Catholic Sacred Architecture, a collaboration between the schools of architecture at Catholic University and the University of Notre Dame. Cardinal Rigali said “a mystery both timely and timeless,” Cardinal Rigali said architects of sacred space help the faithful gather for “prayerful reflection in God’s presence.”

Church seeks to help Louisiana fishing community

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Inside St. Bernard Church May 2, parishioners who depend on the fishing industry and who endured and overcame the battering of Hurricane Katrina five years ago had a difficult time focusing on Father John Amone’s homily. Their minds shifted to the video of South Louisiana crude oil spewing from a rupture in the British Petroleum pipeline a mile deep in the Gulf of Mexico. The Gospel account from John was about the necessity of Christians proving their love of God by loving their neighbor. Or, as Father Amone told his congregation, “by putting words into action” and gathering together in times of peril and challenges. “The spill has really affected them,” Father Amone said. “We spoke about the oil leak and about how we had been through Katrina, and we said we could face this challenge as well. We have to love one another by putting our words into action.” In the hours before Hurricane Katrina made landfall, the images of an advancing monster storm gave people the opportunity to prepare and evacuate, but it also healed the community. In the same way, the images of the BP disaster and the monster oil spill have triggered unwanted flashbacks for people whose Katrina scar tissue remains raw.

STUDENT Cleans DAMAGED ITEMS IN NEIGHBOR’S HOUSE

Rose Borum, an eighth-grader at St. Henry School in Nashville, Tenn., helps clean damaged items out of a neighbor’s house in Bellevue, Tenn., May 4. Heavy rains caused water to pour over the banks of Nashville’s Cumberland River May 3, flooding neighborhoods and killing at least 28 people in Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky.
SOUTH BEND — Sponsored by the National Honor Society, the annual blood drive on April 28 was the best in recent years. A letter of appreciation from the South Bend Medical Foundation thanking the National Honor Society and the students at Saint Joseph’s for the significant impact this blood drive had on the community, included statistics from the drive and provided a comparison to last year’s effort. This year 70 donors gave blood compared to 51 last year, with the number of units of blood collected climbing from 25 to 40.

Office of Worship offers Afternoons of Reflection for lay ministers

Afternoons of Reflection will be offered for lay ministers — extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and proclaimers of the Word — on Sunday, June 13, from 1:30-4 p.m. at three locations across the diocese.

Afternoons of Reflection will be held at St. Jude Church, 2130 Pemberton Dr., Fort Wayne, 46805; St. Anthony de Padua Church, 2120 E. Jefferson, South Bend, 46617; and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church 225 Gilliam Dr. Warsaw, 46580, where the workshop will only be offered in Spanish.

Saint Joseph's High School seniors Angela Watkins and Caleb Cobbin have been awarded the Lilly Endowment Scholarships, a full-four year tuition and fees scholarship, including an $800 book stipend. Cobbin plans to attend the University of Notre Dame in the fall, majoring in psychology with a minor in Spanish. Watkins will attend Purdue University to study neurobiology, physiology and psychology.

Saint Joseph’s High School conducts blood drive

SAINT JOSEPH’S SENIORS AWARDED LILLY SCHOLARSHIP

NOTRE DAME — Each year, Saint Mary’s College awards the St. Catherine Medal to a sophomore or junior who has demonstrated high standards of personal excellence and scholarship and has contributed to the College community in the spirit of Christian leadership. This award commemorates St. Catherine of Alexandria, the patron saint of scholars and especially of women scholars. Kappa Gamma Pi, the National Catholic Honor Society, sponsors the award.

The 2010 St. Catherine Medal recipient is Jingqiu Guan 2011, an economics and French double major. Guan is an international student from Chengdu, China, whose achievement stems from her strong work ethic and seriousness of purpose.

Guan is also active in extracurricular activities, serving as an officer of several clubs, a representative on the Student Academic Council, and a conscientious and responsible student worker. She also plays piano and is an accomplished dancer in many traditions.

Guan received the award at honor convocation on Sunday, May 2. Students, faculty and staff nominate candidates for this award and the Academic Affairs Council makes the final selection. The name of the recipient is not revealed until the convocation.

NOTRE DAME — The Notre Dame Band made history on May 11 as it made its concert debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The concert was an exclusive presentation of the University of Notre Dame and more than 90 Notre Dame student musicians from nearly every academic discipline at the university were featured in the program. The students shared the stage with several guest artists, including: Phil Smith of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra; Stephen Lancaster of the Notre Dame Department of Music; and television personality, entertainer and Notre Dame alumnus Regis Philbin.

The concert was a musical milestone for the Notre Dame Band and will leave a legacy of new music. Renowned composers Joseph Turrin and Samuel Hazo were both commissioned to write new works for the occasion.

Turrin’s “Fanfare and Prelude” and Hazo’s “Souvenir September” each had their premiere performances at Carnegie Hall by the Notre Dame Band.

Performing at Carnegie Hall is an accomplishment more than 165 years in the making for the Notre Dame Band and this concert was a celebration of Notre Dame’s talented student musicians, and the loyal sons and daughters of the university that have sustained the band of the Fighting Irish for the past century and a half.

Proceeds from the Carnegie Hall performance benefited Salvation Army music programs in the New York area and the BandLink program in South Bend.

BandLink is a collaboration between the Notre Dame Band and the Salvation Army through which Notre Dame students and staff provide instruction on brass and percussion instrumentation to students through the Salvation Army’s facilities in downtown South Bend.

The performance at Carnegie Hall was the final stop on the band’s spring concert tour. The band was also scheduled to perform in Cortland, Ohio on May 7; Easton, Pa., on May 8; Suffern, N.Y., on May 9; and Ramsey, N.J., on May 10.

Dating back to 1845, the Notre Dame Band is the oldest college band in continuous existence in the United States and was honored as such by being declared a “Landmark of American Music” by the National Music Council and the Indiana Music Educators Association.

Our Lady of Hungary returns People Fest to community

SAINT JOSEPH’S SENIORS AWARDED LILLY SCHOLARSHIP

NOTRE DAME — The Notre Dame Band made history on May 11 as it made its concert debut at Carnegie Hall.

Correction

In the May 9, 2010 issue of Today’s Catholic, “Women to woman in parish ministries,” the story lists the annual event for diocesan women. Although the story noted that the event is free, there is a nominal fee to cover costs of the speaker and lunch. The day will be Saturday, Oct. 2.
Twenty Brothers of Holy Cross to celebrate jubilees at Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME — The Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross will honor 20 brothers who are celebrating a jubilee of religious vows on Saturday, June 19. Joining the jubilarians will be Brothers of Holy Cross from the province and around the world along with friends and relatives. The Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in Sacred Heart Basilica on the campus of the University of Notre Dame at 2 p.m. Following the Mass there will be a dinner for invited guests in the North Dining Hall.

The following 19 brothers have or are now ministering in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

70-year jubilarians

• Holy Cross Brother Wilbert Leveling taught world history at Saint Joseph’s High School, South Bend, from 1954-69. During that period he also worked with the Holy Cross candidate formation programs. He lived at both Columbia Hall, Notre Dame, and the faculty house of Saint Joseph’s High School. He has been assistant director of the Holy Cross Brothers’ Archives since 1982. He resides in Schubert Manor, Holy Cross Village.

60-year jubilarians

• Holy Cross Brother John Benish has served in the Holy Cross missions in Lima, Peru for the past 20 years. From 1974-78 he was rector of Alumni Hall at the University of Notre Dame. From 1975-78 he served as director of student activities at Notre Dame. From 1974-78 he also taught at Holy Cross Junior College. From June to September 1997 he lived at Columbia Hall while on leave from Peru.

• Holy Cross Brother Ronald Christiansen spent most of his religious life as a missionary in Bangladesh. He lived at Columbia Hall on the Notre Dame campus from June to September 1992 while on leave from the missions. Since November, 1998, Brother Ronald has been retired at Columbia Hall but volunteers at the Brothers of Holy Cross Archives and the University of Notre Dame Archives.

• Holy Cross Brother Joseph Chvala spent 40 years as an English teacher at St. Edward’s High School in Lakewood, Ohio. He retired to Columbia Hall in 2006, and a year later went to live at Schubert Villa in Holy Cross Village. He still tutors at the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

• Holy Cross Brother Frederick McGynn spent 31 years from 1965-98 as a missionary in Ghana. Besides being a gifted mathematician, teacher, Brother Frederick also served as a headmaster, local superior and district superior in Ghana. In 1998 he retired to Columbia Hall and in 2002 he moved to Schubert Villa in Holy Cross Village.

• Holy Cross Brother James Sullivan lives in Chicago. He is a tutor at the Agnas Literacy Center and a member of the Chicago Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. Brother James was a member of the Saint Joseph’s High School faculty from 1955-57.

• Holy Cross Brother Edward Waucher was a librarian at St. Edward’s High School in Lakewood, Ohio, from 1976-95. In 1995 he retired from St. Edward and came to live at Columbia Hall in 2002 where he currently resides.

• Holy Cross Brother Kenneth Hayward is a member of the South-West Province of brothers. He came to Columbia Hall to retire in 2001.

50-year jubilarians

• Holy Cross Brother George Klawitter is the author of 13 books, including three poetry collections. From 1981-83 he was on the faculty of Holy Cross Junior College and a provincial counselor. For a year in 1982-83 he was also assistant rector at Grace Hall on the University of Notre Dame campus.

• Holy Cross Brother Donald Kuchenmeister has been a missionary in Santiago, Chile, since 1982 with the exception of two years he had a sabbatical and renewal program. The year 1962-63 he was on the vocation staff of the brothers at Notre Dame.


• Holy Cross Brother James Newberry served as the Superior of Columbia Hall, Notre Dame, from 1991-97. He lived at Columbia Hall again from 1998-01. Brother James retired to Columbia Hall in 2003. Brother is involved in a number of volunteer programs in the area.

• Holy Cross Brother Thomas Moser served as provincial of the brothers from 1985-94. From 1975-85 Brother Thomas was involved in various formation programs of the brothers. Since February of 1995, Brother has been on the staff of the Holy Cross Novitate in Cascade, Colo. This fall he will be moving back to the South Bend community.

• Holy Cross Brother Charles Smith has been at Glimour Academy in Gates Mills, Ohio, for the past 15 years. Since 1999 he has been the coordinator of the physical plant. He also served for three years as assistant headmaster and for two years as the director of student residences. He was the personnel director for the brothers from 1985-95 and director of the Office of Life Development from 1985-94.

• Holy Cross Brother Don Stabrowski, a South Bend native and graduate of Saint Joseph’s High School is the Provost of the University of Portland, Portland, Ore. For 14 years beginning in 1974, he taught at Holy Cross Junior College. From 1976-79 he was the religious superior of the Holy Cross Brothers’ Center at Notre Dame. Brother Donald went to the University of Portland in 1988. He was appointed provost in 2002. Besides being a member of the history department he was also academic dean, and vice-president for academic affairs.

• Holy Cross Brother Gregory Teodecki served as a skilled electrician and maintenance man for his entire religious life. On two occasions he served at St. Joseph Farm in Granger for a total of eight years. He then served nine years at Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame before he retired at Columbia Hall in 2005.

• Holy Cross Brother Raymond Trottman has lived his entire vowed life in Columbia Hall at Notre Dame. From 1960-96 he was a typewriter and proofreader for the Ave Maria Press. Since 1996 he has been on the staff at Columbia Hall. From 1997-00 he served as assistant superior at Columbia Hall.

25-year jubilarians

• Holy Cross Brother James Reilly is a member of the South-West Province. He has served as a nurse’s aide and volunteer at Dujarie House, Quinn Memory Care Center and Helen Schubert Villa in Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame for the past 20 years. He is a resident of Columbia Hall.

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Finding a job, keeping the faith

**TWENTY SOMETHING**

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

It is a curious thing to receive bad news from a chipper person. There’s a point at which the facts crack the cheery façade, and no degree of optimism or exclamation points can keep it from crumbling.

The other day, for example, a twenty-something couple e-mailed an update on their job search. “We’re now applying to jobs nationally,” the wife wrote. “So wherever you are, we’re open to relocating for full-time positions!”

“We’re now applying to jobs nationally,” the wife wrote. “So wherever you are, we’re open to relocating for full-time positions!”

The jovial aside — “We might just move to your town!” — didn’t mask the unwritten downside — just move to your town!” — didn’t mask the unwritten downside —

As 2010 has marched on, the number of Americans who have been unemployed for at least half a year has steadily climbed, now reaching 6.5 million. They’ve faced fierce competition, job seekers outnumbering job openings five to one. Technically, that means you have better odds of getting into Northwestern University, where the average freshman’s ACT score exceeds 30.

Then again, it’s no longer clear a prestigious education will pay a flicker of familiarity, a hint of connection, something to grab onto.

And volunteering up the wazoo, praying to St. Joseph with every submitted résumé. I know what it’s like to feel butterflies when you click send. As a freelance writer, I cast a steady stream of pitches and bids into the cyber abyss, which feels vast and soundless.

It may be the special lot of the recessionary twenty-something to keep putting herself out there, to try hard to live as if what she’s doing matters. It is a dramatic paradigm shift for the job seeker, rightfully concerned about cell-phone and car-insurance bills that can’t quite be shelved to eternity. But it is a mantra to keep you plugging away: “I am loved, I am necessary. God has a plan for you, though it doesn’t match your timeline, stands to be noticed in the totality of history.”

So take a deep breath and the long view. The master’s plan is unfolding right now.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at christina.capecchi@gmail.com.
Seventy years of music ministry and still going strong

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Warsaw — Sometimes life’s twists and turns take us back to where we started and that’s how Dorothy Sweeney of Warsaw feels about returning to play the organ at the parish where she first played at Mass 70 years ago.

Dorothy played organ for Mass for the first time in June 1940 at the age of 13 at St. Anne’s in Harrisville, Mich., the church her family attended in the summers. On May 15, she’ll be returning to St. Anne’s to play for her sister and brother-in-law’s Mass of Christian Burial at the request of her niece.

Sweeney, a Sacred Heart, Warsaw, parishioner was born March 25, 1927 — the feast of the Annunciation into what she describes as “a large, loving and prayerful family.”

She took her first music lesson in 1935 at the age of eight. Her mother and sisters all sang and she said she came from a musical family. One of the nuns in first grade told her mother, “You have to do something with this child; she has some kind of talent.” So when Dorothy was in third grade she started taking piano lessons.

However she said before taking lessons she played piano by ear. She explained during the Depression years there were 13 people living in the house and for entertainment they played games, went to the library or had sing-a-longs. Dorothy said she loved her music lessons as a child and then added mischievously that she got out of her share of household chores by telling her sisters she had to practice.

In high school she accompanied the boys’ choir for weekday Masses at St. Cecilia’s in Detroit. When she was 16, she received a call on Christmas Eve that the organist from a neighboring parish had been taken to the hospital for emergency surgery and they wondered if Dorothy could play for midnight Mass. She did and became the sole organist at St. Luke’s in Detroit for the next four years.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters and Dorothy’s parents were very supportive of her. Dorothy said they scheduled the rest of her senior year of high school and four years of college so she could afford to attend Marygrove College in Detroit. Every day she rode seven busses to church and school. Funds were meager at home and she earned enough money playing the organ to completely pay her way through college and pay $10 a week board at home. She was the first one in the family to go to college. She earned a bachelor’s degree in music with emphasis on organ and piano and a master’s degree in music from Ball State University.

While working through college she earned $35 a week — “That was a lot of money at that time,” she said.

During World War II she was permitted to attend the Liturgical Institute at Sacred Heart Seminary where she was told that females were allowed to play at that time in Catholic churches since the men were drafted into the service but would not be allowed to play when the men returned home.

“I’m still waiting for the men,” she quipped.

After graduation she married and raised three children and one adopted son. She took her eldest child works for a school and has a master teacher designation. She has three children. The second oldest, Chuck, was adopted from Catholic Social Services — he died five years ago, Chuck had three children, one is deceased and the youngest boy lives with the Eykholt’s other son, Jerry. Jerry is married with three daughters and teaches religious education classes at St. Martin de Porres in Syracuse. His younger child, Margie, died of cancer 10 years ago.

Dorothy continued to play the organ but was a stay-at-home mom until the children went to school. Her husband had a job offer in Warsaw and the family moved to the area from Detroit in 1950. She said two weeks after they moved she became organist at Sacred Heart Church in Warsaw from 1950-1986.

“We now have a wonderful liturgist and music director who allows me to play Mass on weekends and Monday and Thursday evenings,” she said.

Dorothy also taught music for many years to students from kindergarten through graduate school. Jerry, now 65, taught music one day a week at Sacred Heart School. Dorothy was also a real estate broker for 10 years.

After 37 years of marriage her first husband, Don Hogan passed away. She met her current husband Louis Sweeney at a Beginning Community Schools for 21 years and evenings at the University of Saint Francis. She also, at one time, taught music one day a week at Sacred Heart School. Dorothy was also a real estate broker for 10 years.

She still meets friends from a bowling league for lunch and has training in counseling. She said she’s always loved to travel and has visited all 50 states and 32 countries. Her present hobbies are music and reading, doing puzzles and playing cards. She does music programs at nursing homes.

She still meets friends from a bowling league for lunch, “even though we haven’t bowled in 25 years.”

She shared that when her arm was in a cast from surgery she didn’t miss any time on the organ. But, she joked, “I used to play the Minute Waltz in a minute, now it takes me five.”

Dorothy said more than once she believes she’s lived a blessed life. “I’ve been blessed with everything — a wonderful family, a wonderful life. There have been ups and downs — losing kids and a husband, but I’ve been blessed.”

Dorothy said playing the organ or piano at Mass is “such a joyful thing to do, it’s so satisfying. I feel like it’s complete worship; it’s like praying twice.”

Her parting thoughts are, “Everybody has a gift, you just have to discover it.”

Retirement doesn’t slow down musical couple

BY MARY KINDER

FORT WAYNE — The word retirement means different things to different people. To Dick and Louise Eykholt, it appears to mean only a slightly less busy schedule. This devoted husband and wife team recently retired from the music ministry where they have been active in for more than 50 years. Dick has spent the past 23 years as music director and organist for St. Henry Catholic Church on Fort Wayne’s south side where Louise usually joined him in the choir.

However, since a replacement has yet to be named, on most Saturdays and Sundays you’ll find the pair continuing to sing and play the organ at the church — which is just the way they like it.

Dick Eykholt learned to play the organ at the University of Notre Dame where he majored in music and played trumpet in the marching band. After graduating, he entered the seminary. After several months, he decided the priesthood was not for him. However, his time at the seminary gave him his strong, lifelong love of Church music.

Dick’s first job as an organist was at Christ the King Church in South Bend. The church had an opening because the organist there, Louise, was leaving to enter the convent. But it was not meant to be. She left after 18 months, longing to get married and have a family of her own. Before long, she would again meet the organist who took her place. Both devout Catholics and music lovers, these two seemed meant to be. She left after 18 months, longing to get married and have a family of her own. Before long, she would again meet the organist who took her place. Both devout Catholics and music lovers, these two seemed meant to be.

They married in 1954. After traveling to several cities, the pair eventually settled in Fort Wayne. Dick played organ for St. Charles and gave piano lessons while Louise stayed home with their 10 children. He also worked for several years at St John the Baptist Church in New Haven. But, after being released sooner than expected, Dick found himself out of a job. He had talked to the pastor at St. Henry’s, but they had just hired Dick and Louise Eykholt pose with father Dan Durkin at St. Henry Church in Fort Wayne at Dick’s retirement party. Dick has spent the past 23 years as music director and organist for St. Henry Church on Fort Wayne’s south side where Louise usually joined him in the choir.
an organist. Then, seemingly out of the blue, the pastor called Dick to say their organist had left and offered Dick the job. That was in August of 1986. He’s been happy to call St. Henry’s home ever since.

Dick says the music ministry had given him many rewards. He says it’s a “great gift” that keeps him closer to Church. He says he’s been honored to hear the sermons and Scripture at so many Masses through the years. For more than 50 years, he has played the organ or sang in the choir for one Mass on Saturday night and three more on Sundays. Often he and Louise crossed town from one church to another, playing organ or singing in multiple locations in a single weekend. It seems they’ve played at just about every Catholic church in the city at one time or another.

Dick took his job as music director very seriously, selecting songs that he knew people simply liked. When asked to name his favorite song, he looks a bit hurt that anyone would ask such a question before answering, “There’s just too many to choose from.”

Today the couple has moved into a smaller home, but there’s still room for a piano. Both say they still play every day and still minister at St. Henry’s on weekends. Louise now plays the organ while Dick sings in the choir. She learned to play when she was 12 and also teaches piano from time to time. She quietly asks him if he likes her playing, and with a big smile he says, “Yes. She does a great job.”

When not playing piano himself, Dick says he enjoys listening to classical music. He and Louise are also avid listeners of Redeemer Radio, a Fort Wayne Catholic radio station. They keep in touch with their children, 19 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. But they seem to enjoy each other’s company most of all, often looking at one another with great affection as they speak.

Although their life has slowed a bit and they must struggle with health issues, Louise points out their blessings, saying, “God has been so good to us.”

When the day came for Dick to officially retire, St. Henry’s threw them a big party. Dick and Louise sat in the front pew and listened to someone else sing and play. When asked if they ever planned to stop playing Church music, both said no: “We’ll play as long as they need us,” Louise adds.

Father Daniel Durkin, pastor at St. Henry’s, is happy to have them as part of his parish. He describes the Eykholts as generous and kind people who are always willing to help. He says, “I believe Dick and Louise won’t stop singing the Lord’s praises until they are making a joyous noise in His presence in heaven.”

A strong immune system helps seniors live healthy lives

(ARA) — An emerging health trend where a relatively simple illness leads to a number of physical and lifestyle changes is impacting seniors around the country, say immune system researchers from Embria Health Sciences, co-founders of the Nourish America Senior Health Project. They’ve dubbed this trend the Senior Sickness Snowball Effect, which impacts the overall quality of a person’s daily life and follows this recurring cycle:
• Loss of appetite
• Inadequate nutrition
• Decreased energy
• Decreased independence
• Limited social interaction
• Increased potential for depression, stress
• Weakened immune system
• Continued illness

“The today’s older Americans are active and often have major responsibilities that require them to be in good health,” explains Stuart Reeves, Ph.D., director of research and development for Embria Health Sciences. “Unfortunately, as a person ages, their immune system becomes weaker and there is greater need for support, not just during cold weather seasons, but also throughout the year.”

“By maintaining good immune health now, seniors may avoid experiencing the Senior Sickness Snowball Effect firsthand,” says Dr. Reeves. “The immune system is an important part of the body’s immune defense against germs and pathogens — keep it in check and the rest will follow.”

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Three St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers clock 164 years of service

BY DONNA BROOKE

FORT WAYNE — Joe Buchtman, Marlow “Pete” Gump and Bob Liehr are three St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers who have served their community well for many years — each over 50 years, with a combined total of 164 years.

Joe Buchtman, 83, became a Vincentian in 1951 at the age of 24 when he joined the St. John, New Haven Conference of the Fort Wayne St. Vincent de Paul Society. In his tenure there, he held the office of treasurer. In 1974 he joined the St. John Bosco conference. He helped with the inception of their pantry in 1978, which he helps staff, and also takes Holy Communion to the homebound as well as instructs the children to serve Mass.

Buchtman thanks God for his parents, wife, children and the opportunity to let him serve Him through the conference and the Church. “What you do to the least you do for me,” he says, adding, “Who knows if it was the Lord that you just helped?”

Marlow “Pete” Gump, 86, has been a Vincentian for 55 years. He is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne. He held the title of District Council President for four three-year terms. In this position he chaired two Mideast Regional Meetings and has attended many Mideast and national meetings making many friends all over the country.

Gump also served one term on the National Disaster Committee. He helped with the inception of the Care-Van program and delivers bread to the thrift store on Clinton Street two days a week presently, cutting back from five days. For the last 10 years he has been on the thrift store committee. He is still very active and with his wife of 63 years, Jean, makes at least one home visit per week where he helps with a myriad of needs and prays with those in need.

Gump believes that the St. Vincent de Paul Society is the greatest organization that anyone can belong to in doing God’s work and as long as he is good health he will continue to serve.

Bob Liehr, 85, has been a Vincentian for 50 years serving all conference offices at St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, where he was a member from 1960 to 1985. He switched to St. Vincent Parish, Fort Wayne, in 1985 where he is still an active member. He currently serves on the thrift store committee and retired six years ago as District Council Treasurer after serving in that capacity for 26 years. He also spent six years as the conference treasurer at St. Vincent’s. Liehr notes that it is very humbling to make a home visit to those in dire need and he thanks God for his blessings.

Donna Brooke is the president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Allen County, Inc.

Meet Robert and Lois Byer

We moved to Harbour Assisted Living because I had open heart surgery and was unable to return home. We did not want to burden any of our five children by moving in with them.

What I like most about living here is how very kind the workers are; all of them! Of course, I love having my laundry, cleaning and meals planned and prepared for me; who wouldn’t? And I love the new friends we have made here!

— Lois Byer

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Prison mentoring ministry gives hope to parolees

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — At 70, Besancon native, Mick Lomont keeps plenty busy both on and off his family farmstead. Still very involved in the day-to-day activity of his grain operation just east of New Haven, Lomont may consider retiring one day. However, when it comes to serving on the board of directors for the Faith-Based Mentoring Ministries (FBMM), Lomont feels his work has just begun.

“Things are really taking off,” beams the lifelong member of St. Louis Parish.

FBMM’s main mission is assisting Allen County felons being released back into society by providing employment opportunities, housing options and tools for connecting to other community groups providing assistance.

The group also strives to mentor each participant in growing their relationship with God, their families and ultimately, themselves. Referring to the fact that the nonprofit organization recently received their first federal grant monies or that they are currently running inaugural workshops for incarcerated inmates are big reasons FBMM is finally getting off the ground.

In 2007, Lomont invited a small group of men to his family pond to discuss his vision of what he felt was a growing need in the community. After over a decade of volunteering at the Allen County jail as a book cart attendant and in other roles, Lomont continually heard inmates lament about having no place to go once they got out of jail.

“It hampered me on week after week to hear the same story and weighed heavy on my heart to see big strong men in the prime of their life, basically, rotting away in jail,” admitted Lomont. Lomont witnessed firsthand the hardships incarcerated persons face when they are released from inside jail cells to the outside world — families distant themselves, landlords don’t care to rent to someone with a record and employers don’t want to interview felons. Society, in general, tends to shy away from words like jail, prison and felony.

FBMM founder Lomont also witnessed firsthand many inmates who truly wanted to turn their lives around, truly wanted a relationship with God, truly deserved a second chance.

The process started slowly, but in January of 2009, the group hired a part-time executive director, Tomi Cardin, who Lomont describes as the perfect “cheerleader.” The passionate Cardin, along with a committed group of directors and key advisory board members, have been instrumental in moving Lomont’s dream forward. By July 2009, FBMM, who is blessed to be housed in the Associated Churches office, were coined with their 501(c)3 status and had applied for numerous grants.

Cardin explains, “We are being molded as we go. We are narrowing our vision from not only recruiting and training, but matching mentors who help ex-offenders achieve another chance in life, enabling them to transition from inside to out. Other organizations out there assist with housing, some agencies focus on employment opportunities, but in addition to these important steps, FBMM also makes spreading the Gospel and leading the inmates to Christ a high priority.”

Lomont is afraid the average felon won’t make it on his own. “Without follow-up, someone has to support them and stick with them, and bringing God into their lives, their chances are slim,” he adds.

Allen County averages 860 inmates on a daily basis. Cardin points out another astounding statistic — nearly 80 percent of these inmates return to the “system” within six to 12 months of their release. This has a huge financial impact costing Allen County $43 per day per inmate and the Indiana Department of Corrections right around $35,000 per year. When instead of causing such a costly burden on society, these same individuals could be gainfully employed, paying taxes and supporting the local economy, and most importantly, being reunited with their families and becoming fathers again.

FBMM’s goal is to cut this recidivism rate to 25 percent. While it sounds lofty, Cardin knows of successful programs that have done even better. “We don’t need to reinvent the wheel. There are a lot of great wheels out there already. We just want to attach our wagon.”

Partnerships with employers are a crucial factor in making reentry a success. Because they believe a direct correlation exists between gainful, sustained employment and the ability of a former inmate to remain crime-free, the FBMM brochure states that quickly getting offenders into full time employment upon release is good for employers, offenders, their families and everyone involved in renouncing the state of Indiana.

Some of the first projects FBMM are focusing on are character building workshops and on-the-job training programs. Through these, participants are not only given the skills and the courage they need to become the best they can be, but mentors and volunteers can experience the joy and blessing of helping a brother or sister in Christ in their desire to change.

The first phase includes inviting incarcerated men at the Chain O’ Lakes Correctional facility in Albion to attend a workshop with hopes of building an early relationship prior to release. Prisoners are currently transported to the Stillwater Retreat Center in Yoder once a week for a morning of training, a home-cooked lunch and an afternoon of spiritual guidance. With increased funding, FBMM hopes to increase the visits to two to three times per week for enhanced effectiveness.

Cardin details, “Out of pure fear, many ex-offenders do not even attempt to navigate their way through a simple food pantry. We can teach them how. We can show them ways to fill out applications, teach them computer skills. We can be their friend.”

Lomont concludes that a fellow board member, Bob Wearley, summed it up precisely, “These chaps just need a father.”

FBMM is currently seeking volunteers to serve as mentors, drivers to provide transportation and of course, financial support from both businesses and individuals on a one-time or regular basis. Both the Sojourners Group and Rekindle the Fire program at St. Vincent de Paul Parish have been contacted, while others across the diocese are also jumping on board.

For more information contact Tomi Cardin at 602 E. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802 or at (260) 446-2205.

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**Commentary**

**Bible and sin, in the Church as New Israel**

**By Gary A. Anderson**

The current crisis in the Catholic Church over the abuse of children in parishes and schools across North American and Europe has been very difficult for the lay people to come to grips with. In my own case, I happened to have been living in Boston when the stories began to surface and I can testify that the effects were catastrophic. Happily in my present diocese, the bishop has been exemplary and the problems within local parishes have been minimized, but hardly eliminated. The question is, of course, what do we make of persons put in such positions of authority and responsibility behaving in such a way? Not just priests who abused, but those in supervisory roles (such as Cardinal Law in Boston) choosing to look the other way.

What compounds the problem in the eyes of many is the nature of the sin. As Julían Carrón has nicely framed the matter — what amount of punishment could ever make up for the damage that has been done? Is there anything that could satisfy our thirst for justice? There is much that could be said about this angle of the problem and Father Carrón has done an exemplary job in calling the Church to wrestle with this problem in light of the Christological mystery. In what follows, I would like to pursue a slightly different tack and ask what we are to make of this scandalous behavior in light of the promises Christ has made to His Church. And to begin, let us turn to the Bible.

The tragedy of human sin is the way in which its effects linger over time. And though it is certain- ly true that the results of the current crisis will be with us for some time to come, it is salutary to note that it has Biblical precedents. Last Advent, while preparing for a parish Bible-study, I was reading Father Raymond Brown’s fine book, “A Coming Christ in Advent.” His discussion of the Gospels began with a detailed consideration of the genealogy of Jesus that sits affront the opening of Matthew. The first third of this text lists the patriarchs who pre- ceded King David while the remainder of the text concerns the lineage of this esteemed king.

Of the 14 kings that Matthew lists between David and the onset of the deportation to Babylon (587 B.C.), only two could be consid- ered faithful to the standards of their office. The rest, Brown notes, “were an odd assortment of idol- izers, murderers, incompetents, power-seekers and harem wasters.”

When my students pore over these texts from the Old Testament they often ask in amazement what we are to make of this odd list of characters? Should we focus our gaze on just the good guys in this list? David, Hezekiah and Josiah represent a rather high level of moral achievement and present the reader with many things to admire and mimic. (Though, truth be told, David’s own life has numerous internal contradictions and is often a better witness to the power of divine forgiveness than sustained human virtue.) But if we chose only to study the saints, what do we make of the extended treatment the Bible gives of the sinners?

Father Brown goes right to the heart of the matter when he directs our attention to one of the most stunning texts of the entire Christian Bible. In 2 Samuel 11:11b-16 God gives David and his lineage an eternal promise: “The Lord reveals to you that He will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heirs after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. . . . I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.” And if he does wrong, I will be a father to the son of men and with human chastise- ments. But I will not withdraw my favor from him as I withdrew it from your predecessor Saul, whom I removed from your presence. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forev- er.”

And this eternal promise proved to be quite durable. Though the history of the Northern Kingdom (which separated from the tribe of Judah after the death of Solomon, David’s successor) was subject to numerous novel royal lines (for God had given them no such promise), the tribe of Judah would be ruled by just one family. The perdurance of David’s lineage in the face of the human proclivity to sin and rebellion cannot be judged as anything less than a miracle. How else do we understand the fidelity and authority in the story of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel? Had God not made an eternal promise to the line of David, they too would have gone away like all flesh.

The reader of the book of Kings cannot but be surprised at the way in which the throne of David was occupied by persons unworthy of that honor. But equally one cannot avoid the feeling of surprise that though it all, God remained true to his promises. Brown conclud- es his discussion by suggesting that Roman Catholics who must be loyal both to the divine promise and to the human DNA we share with the rest of the Creation might find considerable consolation in the genealogy of the ancestors of Jesus. As St. Augustine well knew, when God called the Church into being, he did not alter the moral law. We share with the rest of the human community the same basic DNA.

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.
The healing cocoon

There seems to be a general consensus in our culture today that those who lose a loved one must spring back into normal life activities directly after the funeral service. And those who wish to support their bereaved loved ones many times offer an abundance of activities to assist them in deflecting the pain of grief. “Keep busy,” they say, “It’ll keep you from thinking about it.” Unfortunately, after the funeral there is a natural need to slow down and draw inward as grief begins to settle over one’s heart.

Navigating loss can be exhausting. Following the immediate flurry of activity surrounding the planning and execution of my husband’s funeral, my heart took a stand and wouldn’t let me move much further. I found myself, in the aftermath of his sudden death, slowing down to conserve what little energy I had, just to survive each day.

I did the best I could to care for my two little ones as the weeks and months went by, all the while feeling suspended in the sheer terror of my loss. I withdrew from much of my regular outside activities and sought refuge in my home where I was not held to any outside standard of normal behavior. This need for solitude felt right to me even as my loved ones persistently offered alternatives to my grief — those urgent invitations to rejoin the couple’s world I had been recently ripped from. Right or wrong, I had no part of it.

Now years later, I empathize with Joyce, a member of a widow’s group, who recently confessed that she felt the need for rest and solitude as she sought healing, but felt discouraged by her well-meaning friends who insisted she get on with it.

“Have you turned any heads yet?” asked one acquaintance, only six months after her husband had died a slow painful death. This woman’s energy was focused inward as she navigated the necessary changes occurring in her life — not on finding a new spouse. She sought comfort in the quiet of her own home. Joyce, like so many who have suffered a loss, found it essential to remove herself from some of the regular comings and goings of life.

Jesus lives still in the Church

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN E. CAMPION

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
Lk 24:46-53

T

he date for celebrating the feast of the Ascension of the Lord is optional in this country. The decision is made by bishops of each province, for their province. These reflections are upon readings when the feast is celebrated on what otherwise would be the seventh Sunday of Easter.

The Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading, a story of the Ascension of the Lord from earth into heaven. This passage begins Acts.

As with the Gospel of Luke, Acts seems to have been composed for one person whose name was Theophilus. It is not known if this was a proper name, or if it were a title. (In Greek, “Theophilus” means “friend of God.”)

Regardless, Acts opens with a powerful message. Resplendent is the ascension of Jesus to heaven, or the lifting of Jesus from earthy space and time to return to heaven. This act of ascending, not of being assumed, reveals, as the Resurrection, that Jesus came from God, is with God, is eternal, and possesses the power of God.

Other points are important. The reading gives the credentials of the Apostles. Jesus chose them, a divine act. The Holy Spirit came upon them.

Jesus taught the Apostles as no one else was taught. Jesus guided and directed them. They obeyed him. They witnessed the Ascension. They were especially trained because they had a unique mission. Yet, they were humans and confused. But, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would give them insight and wisdom. Indeed, the Holy Spirit came to them, as the Church celebrated on Pentecost.

To underscore the divinity of Jesus, and the Apostles’ mission, angels appear after the Ascension telling the Apostles to go forward with their mission to preach the Gospel and to bring into the world the mercy, love and presence of God in Jesus.

The Epistle to the Ephesians, the source of the second reading, is a beautiful prayer, asking God to give the followers of Jesus wisdom and perception. God’s wisdom and strength, the reading states, will be “distributed among the members of the Church.” It counsels believers to put everything under the feet of Jesus, the “Head of the Church.”

St. Matthew’s Gospel, the last reading, also offers an Ascension Narrative. Jesus leads the Apostles to a place near Bethany. (The Mount of Olives, traditionally said to have been the site of the Ascension, is near Bethany.) Jesus tells the Apostles that the Scriptures have been fulfilled. This too is proof of the identity of Jesus.

It also is proof of God’s communication with people through the centuries, and of God’s mercy.

Matthew further establishes the Apostles as the chief witnesses, and primary students, of the Lord. The Apostles watch the Ascension of Jesus and then return to the city, determined and committed, to pray in the temple constantly and to proclaim the praises of God.

Reflection

The readings powerfully testify that Jesus is God. He rose again to life after being crucified and dying, literally. Jesus ascended to heaven, breaking the bonds of earth, with the power of God. However, Jesus did not forsake the people of the earth, then or in all the subsequent years.

The readings are strongly ecclesial, stressing the identity of the Apostles, who learned from Jesus. The Spirit would come to guide them.

Important for us today, and for the continuing unfolding of salvation, the Apostles formed the Church, of which true believers are part. Through the Church, in Christ, God lives and touches us still.

The Easter story, and the story of salvation, are approaching their climax. Jesus lives still in the Church. He has not gone from us.

CATEQUIZ’EM

By Dominic Camplisson

On May 16, we mark the Ascension of the Lord. This quiz looks at the place to which he ascended.

1. In Christian theology, who lives in heaven?
   a. God and the angels
   b. God and the angels and those who have been saved
   c. God, the angels and all humanity

2. In the Bible, what did “the heavens” often refer to?
   a. The physical sky, thought to be a dome
   b. The depth of coves
   c. Rain when it lasted 40 days or more

3. Even before the Jews fully developed the notion of an afterlife in heaven, they believed this prophet had been carried off to heaven in a whirlwind:
   a. Moses
   b. Elijah
   c. Astra

4. According to 1 Kings 8:27, “even heaven and the highest heavens” could not contain this:
   a. All the sea in China
   b. The excitement of the people when Moses’ team won against Pharaoah
   c. God

5. According to Catholic doctrine, where do those who die needing purification go before entering heaven?
   a. Limbo
   b. Purgatory
   c. Cyberspace

6. What is the relationship of this place (answer to No. 5) to hell?
   a. They are the same, but some people are only assigned there temporarily.
   b. It is a completely different place.
   c. They are fairly different, but both decorated by Christopher Lowell.

7. What biblical support is there for this idea of purification after death?
   a. None, that is why the reformers rejected it
   b. The Book of 2 Maccabees
   c. The Book of Exodus

8. Catholics regard heaven as:
   a. An actual place, though beyond the constraints of physics
   b. An allegory for state of mind reachable through contemplation
   c. A convenient description for a concept long since made obsolete by science

9. Who does the Apostles’ Creed list as the creator of heaven?
   a. God, the pillar of fire
   b. God, the Father Almighty
   c. W.H. Jones and Co, celestial contractors

10. According to the Nicene Creed, where in heaven does Jesus “sit”?
    a. On the throne of God
    b. In the judgment seat
    c. At the right hand of the Father

11. Which New Testament figure was, according to the Church, elevated body and soul into heaven?
    a. Paul
    b. Stephen, the first martyr
    c. The Blessed Virgin Mary

12. What type of vision do those who make it to heaven enjoy?
    a. 20/20
    b. The Beatific Vision
    c. Angelic Vision

13. According to the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” (CCC), heaven is:
    a. The state to which all Catholics arrive by virtue of being in the Church
    b. The ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longing
    c. Almost West Virginia

14. What, according to the CCC, happens to the Christian’s identity in heaven?
    a. He or she loses it in Christ
    b. He or she finds his or her true identity
    c. He can finally realize his dream and golf like Arnold Palmer

ANSWERS
1.b, 2.a, 3.b (2 Kng 2:11), 4.c, 5.b, 6.b, 7.b (2 Mac 12:46), 8.a, 9.b, 10.c, 11.c, 12.b, 13.b (CCC, 1023), 14.b
Fatima debate: Some say ‘third secret’ is still secret

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ten years after the Vatican divulged one of the Church’s best-kept secrets — the third part of the message of Fatima — a small band of skeptics and critics are still questioning the official explanation.

More than 100 of them gathered at a hotel not far from the Vatican in early May for a weeklong conference on such topics as “Fatima and the Global Economic Crisis,” “The Present Need for the Conservation of Russia” and “Is There a Missing Text of the Third Secret?”

For those in attendance, the answer to that last question is a no-brainer.

“The evidence points to only one conclusion: that something has to be missing,” said Christopher A. Ferrara, a U.S. attorney and Catholic commentator who spoke at the conference.

Ferrara pointed to what he described as a series of incongruities and inconsistencies in the Vatican’s version. Among people truly familiar with the events at Fatima, he said, only a minority “cling steadfastly to the notion that an ambiguous vision of a bishop dressed in white outside a half-ruined city is all there is to the third secret.”

That’s the heart of the question for people in the “Fatima Challenge” movement: They argue that the third secret of Fatima was a prophecy so traumatic and dire that the third part of the message of Fatima was not made public in 2000, as the Vatican claims.

The conference took place a few days before Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to Fatima, and organizers went out of their way to invite the pope and Vatican officials. None showed up.

The pope’s Vatican aids consider the “Fatimists” a fringe element that is best ignored.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, has said one of the reasons the third secret was made public in 2000 was that people were spreading “abundant thesees” about catastrophic events or heresies at the top levels of the Church.

Cardinal Bertone, who was personally involved in the publication of the third secret, said he was puzzled that some still think the Vatican is hiding something. In 2006, an Italian journalist wrote a book titled “The Fourth Secret of Fatima” that laid out a Vatican conspiracy theory, prompting a new round of publicity.

The way there’s good reason to believe the third secret wasn’t just about the Church battling outside forces, but about Satan working in the Church — at the highest levels. Some have deduced that the secret foresaw the changes of the Second Vatican Council, especially in liturgy and ecumenical dialogue, as part of the “great apocalyptic” which Church leaders refuse to acknowledge.

Most recently, several of these “hard Fatimists” — as a Vatican official once described them — have suggested that the priestly sex abuse crisis in the Church is a clear sign of the crisis of faith and pastoral negligence prophesied, they say, by Mary at Fatima.

The conference was held in an ambience of the “New Israel.” Most Church members refuse to participate in those activities of the “Great Antipope,” as part of the “great apostasy” which Church leaders refuse to acknowledge.

In 2007, Cardinal Bertone wrote his last book, “Fatima: The Legends,” which reiterates the official version of the Fatima messages and secrets and was a great disappointment to the “Fatimists” who expected the cardinal to show a more sympathetic understanding of the secrets.

The Fatima messages are not dogma, and the Church does not impose belief in the messages or interpretations. That seems to ensure that the “Fatimists” will continue to broadcast their theories to whoever will listen.

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

In 2007, Cardinal Bertone wrote his last book, “Fatima: The Legends,” which reiterates the official version of the Fatima messages and secrets and was a great disappointment to the “Fatimists” who expected the cardinal to show a more sympathetic understanding of the secrets.

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BIBLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

our fallen natures.

What is divine about the Church, however, is not the moral character of its office holders but the eternal promise that God has bestowed upon it. The Church has weathered ignorance in the past that is more than equal to our present crisis and is still standing. As in the Old Testament, so in the age of the New, the question is whether God will continue to trust His promises to His Church, a promise he made to St. Peter himself. If Matthew’s genealogy is any indication we have good grounds for hope.

In closing, it might be worth mentioning an insight I learned at the feet of George Lindbeck, the renowned theologian who taught at Yale. He remarked that there is much to learn from the Bible’s declaration that the Church is the “New Israel.” Most Church members are inclined to see this designation solely as an honorific — we are heirs to the promises made to Israel’s ancestors. (Though without canceling out the promise made to Israel according to the flesh.) But the other side of the equation is that we are also heirs to the bitter critique of Israel’s prophets. As Pope Benedict once remarked, it is a sobering thing to ponder that the Kingdom of God is just as much an eschatological hope now as it was two millennia ago. Human nature remains what it was. The Church understood as the “New Israel” could learn a lot from its elder sibling in the faith.

One could easily read the Old Testament and conclude that God chose the wrong nation. And one could read the contemporary media and conclude the same about the Roman Church. It is true that one can find numerous reasons to take umbrage at how the press has handled this whole affair. But perhaps the higher truth is that God will be true to the Church He has founded. For though God promised David that his line would stand forever, He did not say that they or his misdeeds would be ignored. Those sins, God declared, would be punished with “the rod of men.”

Perhaps the feeding frenzy we currently are witness to in the media is nothing other than that divinely appointed “rod of men.” After all, the punishment of David and his heirs always came through the agency of less than virtuous figures. If so, we ought to heed the advice of the biblical prophets and not complain about the nature of the rod God has wielded in judgment (Is the contemporary press worse than the king of Babylon?) but rather bend the knee in contrition. For hearts and minds humbly turned toward heaven will always be honored by God.

Gary A. Anderson is a professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. This commentary first appeared in www.ilsussidario.net. A link to the home page of the English section is www.ilsussidario.net/ News/English-Spoken-Here.

HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

with hopes of doing so without reprisal or shame. She chose only those activities that were beneficial to her healing during this critical time.

Of course, we must continue to participate in those activities of our choosing. Some structure in life helps us maintain a bit of sanity as we experience the pain of grief. But it is in the stillness that we gain new insights into life and loss. And in this isolated state as we face our fears and loneliness we can begin to heal and be transformed — much like a caterpillar cocoon.

A caterpillar instinctively forms a cocoon, in its season, to protect itself from predators and the outside world. In this safe place, it undergoes a transformation such that it emerges, after great struggle, into a bright future as a new creation — a butterfly. Following the quiet time of cocooned isolation a new purpose develops as the butterfly takes wing. And so it is with grief.

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and the news editor/writer of Today’s Catholic newspaper. She is also the author of “Prayer Book for Widows.” Our Sunday Visitor, 2004. She can be reached at kcozad@todayscatholicnews.org.

Scripture search

Gospel for May 13 or 16, 2010

Luke 24:46-53

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the feast of the Ascension. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SUFFER REPENTANCE (HIS) NAME WITNESSES CLOTHED LED THEM BLESSED RISE FORGIVENESS ALL NATIONS STAY POWER BETHANY HEAVEN DEAD OF SINS BEGINNING CITY ON HIGH HIS HANDS GREAT JOY

Take up to heaven


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Commentary

May 16, 2010

16
LACROSSE ELEVATED TO USF MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH  University of Saint Francis Director of Athletics Mark A. Pope announced May 4 that Chad LaCross, 31, has been selected as the next USF men's basketball coach. LaCross has served as USF associate head coach the last two seasons and completed his seventh season as either an associate or assistant coach. He has served as USF head men's and women's golf coach the past five years and started the women's program. He will relinquish his duties as head golf coach. “I’m excited about this tremendous opportunity,” LaCross said. “There’s no other place I’d rather be.”

St. Jude shines at CYO track and field meet

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — St. Jude outscored St. John, New Haven, St. John, Fort Wayne and St. Therese/St. Aloysius on both the boys’ and girls’ side of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) track and field action at Bishop Luers High School in the April 29 meet.

CYO coordinator, Jason Draper reported that the Eagles took first place by scoring 61 points for the girls. St. John, New Haven was not far behind with 54.5 points, while St. John, Fort Wayne tallied 47.5 and the fourth place finish went to St. Therese/St. Aloysius who were led by Mollie Shutt in the shot put.

The Eagles were paced by first place finishes in four out of the 12 events including: 100-meter hurdles (Alexes King), 800-meter run (Erin Kilbane), 400-meter dash (Hannah Sanders) and the 4x200 meter relay (Kilbane, Mary Momper, Madelyn Stewart and King).

St. John, New Haven, won the mile (Ellie Kayser), the high jump and 200-meter dash (Alexa Cook) and the sprint relay (Cook, Katie Burnham, Olivia Groves and Cassidy Ley). Kate Eifrid (long jump, 100-meter dash) and Georgia Baldus (discus) earned blue ribbons for St. John, Fort Wayne.

On the boys’ side, St. Jude placed first in every event but one to total 93 team points. St. John, New Haven, came in second with 70 points, St. John, Fort Wayne, ended up third and St. Therese/St. Aloysius finished fourth. Luke Palmer and Gus Schrader shined for the Eagles with four blue ribbons each. Palmer was lead-off for the winning 400-meter relay and took the shot put, discus and 100-meter dash. Schrader anchored the relay and won the long jump, 100-meter hurdles and 400-meter dash. John Kelty was a double winner in the distance events.

The other individual winner for St. Jude was Nathan Ellert in the high jump. Ellert was also part of the winning 800-meter relay team for the Eagles. With his 28.30 second effort in the 200-meter dash, Luke Current took home the lone blue ribbon for St. John, New Haven.

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Bishop Dwenger High School salutatorian of the Class of 2010 Alex Yaney was recently awarded the Lilly Scholarship. As a Lilly recipient, Yaney will receive full tuition, fees and an $800 book stipend for four years. He plans to attend the University of Notre Dame to pursue a biology degree. At left, Alex Yaney’s family congratulates him during a surprise reception. Pictured are Tony, Carole, Alex, Andrew and Chris Yaney.

Bisnopr VagemOMISTHHENVENRTBNCECVERS

DWENGER ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
Against a smarmy rival industrialist (Sam Rockwell) with the on-going, off-again help of his former military liaison (Don Cheadle) and the steady support of his frequently exasperated executive assistant (Gwyneth Paltrow). In his second adaptation of a popular comic-book series that originated in 1963, director Jon Favreau crafts an almost entirely gore-free, though steadily clash-laden, cautionary tale about the two-edged potential of modern munitions. Considerable, though virtually bloodless, action violence; some sexual humor and references; some sexual content; and occasional crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

At the 1953 Emmy Awards, the legend goes, when Archbishop Sheen received a trophy in the now-defunct category of outstanding new personality (beating out, among others, Arthur Godfrey and Jimmy Durante), for his program “Life is Worth Living” on the tiny DuMont network, his acceptance speech ran, more or less, like this: “So many others tonight have given credit to their writers that I think it only fitting I thank mine: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.”

The truth: Archbishop Sheen wasn’t at that Emmy banquet; the award was picked up by Los Angeles Mgr. Anthony Brouwers. Archbishop Sheen instead made the remark on Dec. 21, 1955, while receiving his third consecutive Look magazine TV award for best religious program, on a live evening broadcast on ABC (his network at the time). Sister Connie Derby, director of archives and records for the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., which holds Archbishop Sheen’s papers, says they don’t contain any form of scripted acceptance remarks and very little about any of the TV awards Archbishop Sheen received.

As the documentary explains, Archbishop Sheen’s conversational manner of talking directly into the TV camera influenced the preaching style of an entire generation of priests, and echoes still. Fame, and how Archbishop Sheen coped with it, dominates the crisp narrative, produced and directed by Jason Salyers. It also covers Archbishop Sheen’s early life in Illinois, his priesthood there, his teaching career at The Catholic University of America in Washington in the 1930s and 1940s, and his death in December 1979.

New DVD documentary examines life, ministry of Archbishop Sheen
TODAY’S CATHOLIC

WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

School carnival
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School will have a school carnival Friday, May 21, from 5-8 p.m. in the school activity center. Games, prizes, food, raffles and fun for all.

St. Monica prayer and support group to meet
Fort Wayne — A prayer and support group for family and friends who have fallen away from the Catholic faith will meet at St. Jude Saturday, May 15, after the 8:15 a.m. Mass in the parish center, room B. For information contact Angela at (260) 482-3331.

Choral evensong for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Elkhart — A choral evensong will be presented Sunday, May 30, at 7 p.m. at St. John Episcopal Church, 226 W. Lexington Ave. The combined choirs of local Elkhart and Mishawaka Roman Catholic and Episcopal parishes will be featured. This event is free and all are welcome. Call St. Vincent de Paul Parish at (574) 293-8231 for more information.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Msgr. Owen Campion will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel on Tuesday, May 18, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Msgr. Campion is the associate publisher of the Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division in Huntington.

Fatima movie to be shown
Fort Wayne — The World Apostolate of Fatima will host a showing of “The 13th Day,” a movie based on Sister Lucia’s memoirs and independent eyewitnesses Friday, May 28, at St. Patrick Lyceum, 2120 Harrison St., Doors open at 6:45 p.m. The film starts at 7 p.m. Admission is free; registration is required as seating is limited. Call (260) 625-5281 for reservations.

Garage sale
Warsaw — Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 125 N. Harrison St., will have a garage sale on Saturday, May 22, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Sacred Heart’s twin parish in Hatt, St. Nicholas.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A Day of Reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, May 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “The Gospel of Luke.” Please bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $15 and includes lunch. Register by May 21 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-3427.

Spaghetti dinner planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus, Santa Maria Council 553, will have a spaghetti dinner Friday, May 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Carry-out available.

Corpus Christi procession, fiesta
South Bend — On Corpus Christi Sunday, June 6, at 1 p.m., Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate a Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral. Immediately following the Mass a 1/2 mile procession will take place, followed by a fiesta celebration with music, dance and food. All are welcome. The diocesan office of Hispanic Ministry is coordinating this diocesan-wide event.

Vegas Night planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus, Santa Maria Council 553, will have a Vegas Night with free beer, pop and food Saturday, May 22, from 6-10 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Food available from 5-7:30 p.m. Black Jack, dice, poker, Texas hold’em tournament and more at the Knights hall, 553 E. Washington St. Admission is $15 per ticket and enters you in a reverse raffle. Call Steve at (574) 220-1212 for information. Proceeds go to Council 553 scholarship funds.

NFP class to begin
South Bend — A Natural Family Planning class series will begin on Monday, May 24, from 6-8 p.m. in the Physician’s Lounge (ground floor) at the South Bend Clinic, 211 North Eddy St. The program offers instruction in the Ovulation and Sympto-Thermal Methods of family planning as well as assistance in women’s health issues. This information can be used to achieve or postpone pregnancy.

RENEWAL OF LIFE LIFE SEMINAR
South Bend — A Renewal of Life/Life Seminar will take place at the Sacred Heart Seminary, 41297, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is required. Call Father Terry Dennis, (574) 268-4923.

MANTENO — Father Paul Smith, O.P., postulant at the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, Mount St. Joseph, Kentucky, will begin a series of two-week, weekend sessions at 7 p.m. Monday, May 17, at the Manteno Catholic Church, 32007 E. State Road 16. Father Smith is a native of La Grange, Illinois, and worked as a social worker and counselor for 12 years. He is a pre-associate of the Dominican Sisters. The program is open to all men ages 21 and older who are seriously considering the religious life and who want to experience the Dominican way of life. For more information, call Father Smith at (217) 947-4278.

LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC CHURCH seeks qualified Maintenance/Custodian to work full time. High school diploma or equivalent is required. Previous related experience preferred.

To request job description and application come to the parish office located at 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend, IN or email littleflowerchurch@sbcglobal.net

Visit www.dioecesefwsb.org for a complete calendar of events.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

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Position Opening
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church (South Bend) seeks a part-time Director of Youth Ministry. This position furthers the mission of the Parish by directing a comprehensive youth ministry program to high school and, to a lesser degree, junior high school students, in accordance with the U.S. Bishops’ document, Renewing the Vision. Youth Ministry at Saint Joseph Parish aims to bring young people closer to Christ and his Church. Programming includes Sunday evening gatherings (thematically structured around catechesis, community-building, and reflection/discussion), prayer and liturgy, retreats, service opportunities, and a summer mission trip.

Qualified applicants will have a love for the Church and demonstrate a commitment to its teachings and mission. Applicants must possess a bachelor’s degree (or be on track to receive a bachelor’s degree) and have at least one year of related ministry experience. The successful candidate will also be open to the questions and concerns of young people, will have an enthusiastic and engaging spirit, will be committed to works of charity and service, and will have the capacity to carry out administrative tasks. Hours are flexible and include evening and weekend meetings and events. Qualified candidates should send a letter of introduction and resume to:

St. Joseph Parish
220 N. Hill Street
South Bend, IN 46617

Questions may be directed to Fr. John DeRiso, CSC, Pastor, at (574) 234-3134, ext. 20.
For Mike and I are both graduates of Catholic grade schools and Central Catholic High School. Our children, Mark and Anne, graduated from St. Therese and Bishop Luers. We feel blessed by our Catholic educations; the excellent academics and the guidance that helped us grow in love of God and service to God’s people.

Since we believe that Christian values start with parents, we sent all six of our children to Bishop Dwenger High School not only because of the excellence of the teachers, the curriculum and the faith formation studies, but because Dwenger provided an environment of peer support for the values that our children had acquired at home. All of our Fort Wayne grandchildren have or will attend Dwenger.

“Our Catholic schools have a noble and holy mission and are a great gift to the community. The formation of children and young people, body, mind and spirit, is vitally important. Our Catholic schools, known for their academic excellence, moral and spiritual formation, and commitment to service of others, are very important to me and to the Church. I heartily encourage all to support our Catholic schools.”

Bishop Kevin Rhoades - Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend