SOUTH BEND — The west side South Bend church of St. Adalbert marked the 100th anniversary of its founding Sunday with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Several priests from the Congregation of Holy Cross concelebrated the anniversary Mass with Bishop Rhoades including Holy Cross Father Peter Pacini, pastor of the church. The priests and worshipers were also joined by two Felician Franciscan Sisters who minister in the church and by members of their community.

Holy Cross priests have administered the parish and provided it with pastoral care since 2003, shortly after the faith community underwent a consequential change in identity.

St. Adalbert Parish was organized in 1910, following in the mission of St. Hedwig, St. Casimir and St. Stanislaus. It became the fourth parish established on South Bend’s west side by immigrants from Poland. The second priest who was assigned to the flock, Father John Osadnik, succeeded in completing a church building in 1926.

For many years the faithful of St. Adalbert’s wor-

BY JODI MAGALLANES

BACK IN THE BLACK

Pope bolsters, renews faith of Spanish

Individuals, art need transcendent values to be complete, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

BARCELONA, Spain (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI warned countries of the danger of no longer being at the loving service of their citizens as he urged the faithful to bring Christ’s message of hope to all people.

During a two-day journey to a once-staunchly Catholic Spain, the pope sought to bolster and renew people’s faith in God and convince an increasingly secular society that the Church wants dialogue, not confrontation.

The pope’s Nov. 6-7 visit, his 18th trip abroad, brought him first to one of Catholicism’s most popular and ancient pilgrimage sites, Santiago de Compostela, and then Barcelona, where he consecrated the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia.

During the Nov. 7 Mass in which he blessed and anointed the altar of the church dedicated to the Holy Family of Nazareth, he said Christians must resist every attack on human life and promote the natural institution of the family.

Under the government of Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who came to power in 2004, Spain has relaxed its divorce laws, eased restrictions on abortion, legalized same-sex marriage and allowed gay couples to adopt.

In his homily, the pope praised the technical, social and cultural progress made over the years. However, he said, a country must also advance morally.

He asked that courts, legislative bodies and society respect and defend the sacred and inviolable life of the child from the moment of conception.

“For this reason, the Church resists every form of denial of human life and gives its support to everything that would promote the natural order in the sphere of the institution of the family” based on marriage between a man and a woman, he said.

More than 6,000 people filled the church, which the pope elevated to a minor basilica...
Proclaiming the Word made flesh

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Following are excerpts of Bishop Rhoades’ speech at Catechetical Institute Day on November 6, 2010.

The Christocentric nature of catechesis

I would like to center my address today on the Word made flesh, the Incarnate Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. The focus of my address is the Christocentric nature of Catholic catechesis.

The Church’s catechesis, the teaching each one of us must be immersed in, includes the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, and the mystery of His incarnation, life, passion, death, and resurrection. Why is this? Because in Him, who is true man and true God, the Son of God, God is fully revealed to us and in Him we discover the meaning and destiny of our lives. If we are convinced with all our being that Jesus truly is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, that He is the center of the universe and of history, we must embrace the Christocentric nature of our catechetical mission. The great John Paul II affirmed this when he defined the definitive aim of catechesis as putting “people not only in touch but in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity” (“Catechesi Tradendae”).

In all the Law and do as catechists, Christ must be our focus. The Lord Jesus is the one Mediator between God and humanity, the Lord of the cosmos and the Lord of history. He is the one Savior of the world, the same yesterday, today, and forever. This message is at the center of our Catholic faith and thus the core of all catechesis in the Church.

Pope John Paul called for a Christocentric catechesis in the 1997 General Directory for Catechesis. He explained that “at the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Christocentricity means that we present with vigor and conviction in all our catechesis that Christ is the center of salvation history, indeed “the key, the center and end of all human history.” Christocentricity in catechesis also means that we transmit the teaching of Jesus, the truth that He communicates about God, man, happiness, the moral life, death, etc., without changing or diluting His teaching which comes to us through His Word and His Church. This Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, in eternal communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit. All catechesis therefore is both Christocentric and Trinitarian. One of the most important and exciting truths we are to communicate to our students is that through Christ we enter into the life and communion and love of the Most Holy Trinity. We must always be cognizant that the mystery of “the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life.” We begin to teach this awesome truth to our youngest children when we teach them the Trinitarian invitation as they learn to make the sign of the cross. And we teach our students who we are as a Church, as a Catholic community: most fundamentally we are a people gathered together in the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The ecclesial dimension of catechesis

The Christocentric nature of catechesis is also deeply ecclesial. If we center our teaching on Christ, it is impossible not to emphasize that He has a Bride, the Church. He is the Bridegroom of His beloved people and He gave His life out of love for His Bride. We cannot teach Christ without teaching about His Body, the Church. The faith we teach is not some individualistic interpretation or secret personal wisdom, like that of the fanciful and popular gnostic gospels. It is the faith preserved in its integrity, guarded and protected, received by the Apostles from Christ Himself and transmitted through the centuries under the action of the Holy Spirit by the apostolic Church. It is the faith of Peter and the apostles kept intact and proclaimed authoritatively by their successors, the Pope and bishops.

Spiritual formation in catechesis

When I think of the Christocentric nature of catechesis, I cannot help recall the words of Pope Benedict XVI in his first papal encyclical, “God & Love.” “Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” The Holy Father goes on to quote Saint John’s Gospel in describing that event: “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should ... have eternal life” (3:16). Pope Benedict also cites words from Saint John’s first letter: “We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.” I ask you an extremely important question today: Do our children and young people and adults in our schools and parish catechetical programs come to know and believe in God’s love for them? Do they encounter the Lord Jesus in a personal and not merely abstract way? Do they come to love Him and to love Him and thus become motivated to follow Him and to live according to His teaching? Do they truly discover Christ, not only in their heads, but in their hearts? Do they experience Jesus as their friend, their best friend? If they do, the moral and ethical dimensions of life in Christ will more naturally follow.

Another way to put this is in terms of spiritual formation in catechesis. If the aim of catechesis is to put the baptized in deeper communion and intimacy with Jesus, then catechesis necessarily takes on a strong spiritual dimension. Yes, we must be vitally concerned about our students’ deep and comprehensive knowledge of our Catholic faith, but it is not complete without the spiritual dimension. Catechesis should be a school of prayer as well as a school of knowledge. Pope John Paul exclaimed to young people: “Open wide the doors to Christ.” That should be our invitation to all whom we are privileged to teach. Another way to put it: are our schools and catechetical programs “schools of holiness”? Catechesis is about forming disciples and friends of Jesus Christ. It is about educating others (and ourselves) in holiness, in authentic discipleship.

Our catechetical labors should lead those we teach to conversion, to love, to friendship, and to worship. Let me say a word about worship. Are our students, in coming to know more fully the mystery of Jesus Christ, moved to praise Him and give Him glory through prayer and worship? One who truly knows and loves the Lord Jesus is led to follow the star, like the Magi, and to say with them: “We have come to worship Him.” If knowledge of Christ does not lead to love, worship, and prayer, the knowledge we impart is reduced to passive intellectualism. And worship or liturgy without good prior catechesis is impoverished and can become mere ritualism.

May all whom we teach be moved to follow Jesus Christ, to worship God in spirit and in truth, to give glory and adoration to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to grow in holiness in their journey to heaven!
Internal matters may dominate bishops’ public agenda this fall

BY NANCY FRAZIER O’BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the U.S. bishops gather in Baltimore for their 2010 fall general assembly, there will be no blockbuster topics on their public agenda, unlike in past years when clergy sex abuse or the issue of Catholic politicians who support abortion took much of their attention.

Instead, the Nov. 15-18 meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will be devoted primarily to internal matters — the election of new conference leaders, discussion of how their own statements should be produced, budgetary and structural questions and information about how they can better integrate new media into diocesan structures.

For Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, the meeting will be his last one as president. He has held the post for the past three years.

If the conference follows past practice, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., will succeed Cardinal George as president. As USCCB vice president since November 2007, Bishop Kicanas will be among 10 candidates proposed for the posts of president and vice president. Once a president and vice president is selected, a vice president will be chosen from the other nine candidates.

Even more integral to the day-to-day operations of the USCCB will be the election of a new general secretary to succeed Msgr. David Mallow in June 2011. The candidates are Msgr. Ronny Brunetti, a priest of the Diocese of Austin, Texas, who has been an associate general secretary at the USCCB since 2006, and Msgr. David Kagan, who is currently serving as vicar general for the Diocese of Rockford, Ill.

The bishops also will choose a new USCCB treasurer-elect and will vote for the chairman-elect of six committees.

Among the topics scheduled to come before the bishops for debate and vote in their public sessions are a proposed agreement on mutual recognition of baptism by the Catholic and four Protestant churches, guidelines on stipends and benefits for retired bishops, and revised regulations on USCCB statements and publications.

The common agreement, which requires an up or down vote by the bishops and cannot be amended, was drawn up over the past six years by a team of scholars from the Catholic-Reformed dialogue, and approved by four Protestant denominations.

The agreement says baptism “is to be conferred only once, because those who are baptized are definitively incorporated into the body of Christ.”

For baptisms to be mutually recognized by the five churches, the bishops in November will codify the procedures for the review, approval and issuance of USCCB statements. The procedures have been in place informally since the conference was reorganized in 2007 and require that the bishops be consulted before any statement is drafted, except in extraordinary circumstances.

The bishops also will vote on whether to draft a policy statement on physician-assisted suicide; if they agree to do so, the actual document will come before them at a later meeting.

They also will be asked to approve the 2011 USCCB budget, the 2012 assessment on dioceses to support conference work, a timeline for evaluation of the conference reorganization and a one-year break between the present and the next planning cycle.

Among the topics of oral reports expected to be presented are the church’s response following the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Defense of Marriage, ways to integrate new media into diocesan communications structures, World Youth Day and the needs of the U.S. Archdiocese for Military Services.

Another topic of discussion likely will be the new report on review and renewal of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which calls for “stronger policies and clearer mechanisms” to guide how grants are awarded to poverty-fighting groups and strengthens oversight of how funds are spent.

Although its official dates are Nov. 15-18, only 10 hours on Nov. 15 and 16 are scheduled for public sessions. The bishops are expected to spend to up to 10 and a half hours in executive session or prayer and reflection and an hour and a half in regional meetings.

The bishops as a body had been invited to participate in a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Nov. 18 for the inauguration of John H. Garvey as the new president of The Catholic University of America, but the inauguration was postponed to Jan. 25 after Pope Benedict XVI announced a Nov. 20 consistory at the Vatican to install new cardinals.

Those to be installed included Cardinal-designate Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, who as university chancellor was to be the celebrant and homilist at Garvey’s inauguration.

Calling baptism “the sacramental gateway into the Christian life,” the agreement says baptism “is to
Catechists encouraged to share with passion

BY DENISE FEDOROW

SYRACUSE — Catechists from all over the diocese gathered Saturday, Nov. 6, at Wawasee Middle School in Syracuse for the 20th annual Catechetical Institute Day. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was the keynote speaker for the event.

Besides his role as bishop of the diocese, Bishop Rhoades is active on several committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, including the committee of doctrine and subcommittee on the catechism. He also chairs several committees, is the episcopal moderator of the National Catholic Office for the Deaf and was recently appointed by the Vatican as co-chair of the International Theological Dialogue of the Catholic and Reformed Churches.

Bishop Rhoades welcomed attendees by saying, “I’ve discovered the people of Indiana get up a lot earlier than the people of Pennsylvania!”

He said he was glad to have this first opportunity to be with those who serve such an important ministry throughout the diocese. During his keynote speech he spoke to the catechists about Christocentric catechists and the importance of teaching as Christ did — through word and deed.

“You're responsible to this holy task is a great one. The people entrusted to you and your ministry as catechists depend on you for their growth in holiness, for their formation of our own hearts in His love,” Bishop Rhoades said. “I asked earlier how we teach holiness? The answer is simple — be holy.”

He said he realized that most catechists in attendance were directly involved in the teaching of and preparation for the sacraments.

“I believe that if our Catholic people truly understood and appreciated the truth and beauty of the sacraments we would have far fewer inactive Catholics and a great reduction in those who leave to join other churches or ecclesial communities which do not have the seven sacraments. Why would anyone choose to be deprived of those treasures of Divine Grace?” he asked.

In closing, Bishop Rhoades thanked the catechists for their dedication and said theirs was a “beautiful and wonderful vocation.”

“Your ministry is vital to the Church's mission. It is your love of Christ and your joy in following Him that gives you the zeal and passion you need to lead others to Christ,” he said.

Bishop Rhoades celebrated Mass with several priests who were presenters later in the day. Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of St. Anthony de Padua Church, South Bend, gave the homily and spoke about a recent trip to Rome where he visited the ancient city where St. Monica lived. He visited an ancient Christian basilica from the 4th century. “You can still make out the sanctuary and still see the signs where catechetical classes were held. It’s clear with the design of the basilica that the sanctuary and catechetical instruction went hand in hand.”

He wanted to give an encouraging word to those who might at times feel it difficult to teach young people who may come from difficult circumstances.

“You might be tempted to think the mountains are too high or the obstacles too great to teach,” he said. “Remember Jesus does not ask you to bring growth. Jesus only asks you to sow the seed. Sow the seed without fear or discouragement and trust the all powerful God to bring forth a bountiful harvest.”

Sessions

There were three sessions of workshops offered in English and Spanish with topics such as: Igniting Your Students for Confirmation; Truly God and Truly man: Understanding the Person of Christ; Understanding and Teaching Bible History; Apologetics Hot Button: What the Catholics Really Believe about Mary; Planning a Catechetical Lesson; Texting God; Teaching Teens to Pray and Getting the Most out of the Mass with the new translation of the missal.

Father Jacob Runyan, parochial vicar of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, conducted “Getting the Most out of the Mass” and explained upcoming changes being implemented the first Sunday of Advent 2011. He said the changes are a continuation of Vatican II changes and when the Mass was translated from Latin they used the more dynamic or basic translation, where a basic thought was translated with a basic thought versus a formal translation, which is more concerned with content and order of the words.

Father Runyan said two major points were driving the changes — accuracy and the development of a sacred language for worshipping God.

Mother Theodore Guérin Award

Each year the Mother Theodore Guérin Award is presented at the Catechetical Institute Day to someone who’s given outstanding service to the catechetical program.

This year’s recipient was Sister Jane Carew who served 23 years in the diocese as the director of the Office of Catechesis.

Jim Tighe, the current director made the announcement Saturday morning and also announced that Sister Carew was unable to be in attendance.

Meggan Young, event coordinator, said she believed Sister Carew was instrumental in the development of the Catechetical Institute Day over the years and might have even instigated the annual event.

Young said normally the award recipient is presented with a gift basket and a certificate but Sister Carew requested just a remembrance of the Catechetical Institute Day.

“Run for the Heart”

Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010

9:00 am: Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw, Indiana in memory of Monsignor James J. Wolf

All proceeds from “Run for the Heart” will go toward Tuition Assistance Fund at Sacred Heart School.

Fees: $12 before Nov 30
$15 after Dec. 1. Race Day: $20
Family Cap: $30
Long sleeve tee shirts guaranteed to all who pre-register.

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BY DENISE FEDOROW

Four Generations of Family Ownership

Now in our fourth generation of service, D.O. McComb & Sons has worked hard to provide the families in this community with the very best service possible. As a family-owned funeral home, we take personal pride in every service we arrange.
BELUGA: The cathedral bells tolled and tiny square to capacity and sense. A “kiss-in” protest of about 200 people happened along the pope motorcade route, as gay rights’ advocates kissed as the vehicle passed. At least 200,000 people lined the streets of the city to see the pope, according to city authorities.

The church, begun in 1882 and expected to be finished by 2026, is the masterpiece of Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi, a Catholic whose beatification cause is under way.

The pope sprinkled the main altar with holy water and rubbed chrism oil into the eyes of the first five pilgrims that entered the church. The pope then blessed the entire church.

The basilica interior was bathed in golden light as Spanish bishops anointed one of the white trefoil columns branching out to support the 200-foot-high vaulted ceilings.

The minor basilica is a splendid example of the natural synthesis of tradition and novelty as well as of faith and art, the pope said in response to journalists’ questions aboard the papal plane from Rome Nov. 6.

The “certain dissonance” between the world’s religious and religious “hurts both art and faith,” he said. Art and faith need to be brought back together again and be in dialogue, he said, because truth is expressed in beauty and in beauty one finds the truth.

He told reporters that in Spain the trend toward “anticlericalism and secularism” was especially marked in the 1930s, which created “a clash between society and faith that also exists today.”

He said faith and society must come together, too, and not be wedged apart.

While the papal trip was not an official state visit, a papal visit was greeted upon landing in heavy fog at Santiago de Compostela’s airport.

The pope’s visit to the papal residence of St. James, which occurs every time the feast of St. James — July 25 — falls on a Sunday.

“Go on pilgrimage is a chance to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God” and experience conversion, he said in remarks earlier in the day inside the city’s cathedral.

He took part in some of the traditional pilgrim rituals such as kneeling in prayer in the small crypt housing the Apostle’s tomb, walking through the holy door and admiring the immense stone and silver-plated statue of St. James that most pilgrims kiss.

The pope also lit a large silver incense burner, called a “bota- fumeiro” in Galician. Nine men pulled on ropes attached to a pulley that made the large burner swing across the church at impressive speed.

The Mass in Barcelona Nov. 7, the pope visited Obra Nen Deu, a center run by the Deu, a center run by the

The parish made a final check presentation in the parish hall to Bishop Rhoades after Mass retiring almost $1 million for the church restoration that included a narthex, additional congregational seating and other renovations.

He spoke of the evening’s Gospel: “I thought as I read it how fitting it is for us today. It is about debts and promissory notes. It is about stewardship, actually about a dishonest steward. But the dishonest steward was praised by the master for acting prudently. You have been honest stewards here at St. Joseph’s and have acted prudently. Your parish debt has been eliminated by your generous stewardship. May you continue to use wisely and prudently the gifts the Lord has given you.”

Bishop Rhoades added, “(St. Paul) was told to stand firm in the Lord... that motivates your generosity to St. Joseph Parish. This evening we give honor to the divine love, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, during this celebration of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the ‘outstanding gift of the Heart of Jesus’ (Pope Paul VI), the sacramento of love par excellence.”

St. Paul encourages the Philippian not to be misled, follow the bad example of others and not to be misled by earthly things.

“His message is vital for us today,” Bishop Rhoades said. “We are surrounded, like the Philippian Christians, by many who propagate false teachings, who have their minds set on earthly pleasures only. We must remember, as St. Paul teaches, that we are citizens of heaven and therefore called to live in a manner worthy of the saints in heaven, a life full of hope that our lowly bodies will be transformed by the Lord Jesus to be like his glorious body. This is what saves us from letting ourselves be consumed and preoccupied with earthly things and helps us to stand firm in the Lord.”

**St. Joseph Parish retires debt**

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph Parish, Hessen Cassel, celebrated a milestone Nov. 5: retirement of the parish debt.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass and paid his first visit to the rural southern Allen County parish. “This accomplishment is a testimony of your deep faith, your generous stewardship and your commitment to living in Jesus and His Church,” Bishop Rhoades told the congregation in his homily. “I thank all of you for your generosity and I thank the dedicated pastor, Father Thorn Lombardi, who leads you in the way of discipleship, in following the Lord Jesus and living your Catholic faith with such dedication. Congratulations on this joyful accomplishment of paying off your parish debt.”

The parish made a final check presentation in the parish hall to Bishop Rhoades after Mass retiring almost $1 million for the church restoration that included a narthex, additional congregational seating and other renovations.

He spoke of the evening’s Gospel: “I thought as I read it how fitting it is for us today. It is about debts and promissory notes. It is about stewardship, actually about a dishonest steward. But the dishonest steward was praised by the master for acting prudently. You have been honest stewards here at St. Joseph’s and have acted prudently. Your parish debt has been eliminated by your generous stewardship. May you continue to use wisely and prudently the gifts the Lord has given you.”

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From St. Paul’s letter to the Philippian, Bishop Rhoades spoke of how St. Paul called the Philippian his “joy and crown.” Bishop Rhoades added, “(St. Paul) encourages them to stand firm in the Lord in the midst of enemies of the Gospel of Christ. He reminds the Philippian not to be misled by earthly things.”

For over 160 years, the faithful have gathered here in Hessen Cassel to praise and thank the Lord. On Nov. 7 the pope visited Obra Nen Deu, a center run by the Deu, a center run by the

During an outdoor Mass celebrated in front of the 12th century Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela Nov. 6, the pope said when societies and governments are no longer at the loving service of all people, then arrogance and exploitation risk snuffing out true human development and fulfillment.

Only by loving and serving others like Jesus did, even with the simplest of gestures, will humanity regain a sense of happiness and hope, he said.

About 6,000 people filled the tiny square to capacity and about 200,000 more were present in the small city, lining the streets and squares, according to local authorities.

The cathedral bells tolled and pilgrims cheered and screamed “Viva el papa!”

For the past century, a growing belief has taken hold of Europe suggesting that God is an “antagonist and enemy” of human freedom, he said in his homily in Compostela’s Plaza del Obradoiro. As a result, he said, human dignity is threatened because it has been stripped of its “essential values and riches” and “the weakest and poorest” in the world are marginalized and left to die.

Even Jesus knew that when the rulers of nations no longer serve the best interests of others, “there arise forms of arrogance and exploitation that leave no room for an authentic integral human promotion,” the pope said.

The pope came as a pilgrim to commemorate the holy year of St. James, which occurs every time the feast of St. James — July 25 — falls on a Sunday.

“Go on pilgrimage is a chance to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God” and experience conversion, he said in remarks earlier in the day inside the city’s cathedral.

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The pope also lit a large silver incense burner, called a “bota-fumeiro” in Galician. Nine men pulled on ropes attached to a pulley that made the large burner swing across the church at impressive speed.

After the Mass in Barcelona Nov. 7, the pope visited Obra Nen Deu, a center run by the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart for children with mental disabilities. The pope urged Christians to keep offering financial support for charitable works even at a time of economic crisis.

“Too often the poor are the first to suffer,” the pope said. “This is because so many more people are facing economic hardship, Christians “must multiply concrete gestures of effective and constant solidarity,” he said.

New scientific and medical advancements must always respect human life and dignity, he said. Those who suffer from illness and physical or mental challenges need love and attention, not marginalization because of their limitations, he said.

The pope met in Barcelona with King Juan Carlos of Spain and Queen Sofia and held a brief private meeting with Prime Minister Zapatero at the Barcelona airport before taking off for Rome.

During a farewell ceremony on the tarmac, the pope asked that faith in humanity’s common bond be revitalized in Europe and give rise to increased solidarity toward everyone, especially those in the greatest need.

He praised the “openness and hospitality” shown him by the Spanish people and noted that the preservation of their rich spiritual heritage was a sign of their love for their nation and its history and culture.
Taxation measures, legalizing marijuana rejected by voters

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a year when tax and budget issues dominated the ballot questions before voters, Catholic leaders offered the guidance of Catholic social teaching but generally remained neutral on specific referendum topics. In states where the Catholic bishops took a strong stand on a ballot measure, voters seemed to generally follow the bishops’ advice. Fifty-four percent of California voters rejected a move to make the state the first in the nation to legalize marijuana for recreational use. Although the California Catholic Conference remained neutral on the nine propositions before voters there, Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of Oakland presented several arguments against the marijuana question in an Oct. 22 commentary. In Arizona and Colorado, the Catholic bishops had opposed a wide range of fiscal measures that they said could harm the state’s poorest citizens by cutting taxes or limiting the state’s ability to raise revenues. The proposals were rejected by solid margins. But in Massachusetts, a low-income housing initiative supported by the bishops failed, with 42 percent in favor and 58 percent opposed. The only abortion-related question on the Nov. 2 ballot was in Colorado, where voters again rejected a proposed amendment that would have defined abortion from being the moment of fertilization as a person under state law.

Vatican confirms request of five Anglican bishops to join Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Five Anglican bishops have decided to join the Catholic Church and step down from their current positions with the Church of England, a Vatican spokesman said. Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office, confirmed to reporters a statement issued Nov. 8 by the Anglican Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales welcoming the five bishops. Father Lombardi said that a “compendium” that would govern the entry of former bishops of the Anglican Communion was being studied. One year ago, Pope Benedict XVI established a special structure for Anglicans who want to be in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church while preserving aspects of their Anglican spiritual and liturgical heritage. The move was seen as a bridge to those unhappy with recent Anglican decisions on the ordination of women and the acceptance of gay clergy. Addressing the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace Nov. 4, the pope called for “renewed evangelization of the Church’s social doctrine.” Lay people, the pope said, as “free and responsible citizens,” are involved in what he termed “the immediate task of working for a just social order.” The pope made his remarks in a message to Cardinal Peter Turkson, the council president, as he welcomed council members at the beginning of their plenary meeting at the Vatican Nov. 4. He praised the council for promoting the formation of the laity through the “Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church” and Pope Benedict’s own “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”), the 2009 encyclical that addressed social justice issues. But lay Catholics cannot carry out the Church’s message alone, the pope said. “They must find priests and bishops able to offer unfailing support for purification of the conscience, as well as indispensable support for the coherent witness of the social doctrine of the Church.” Victims of injustice and inequality expect “words of hope” from the Church and signs that “Can save humanity from its radical evils,” the pope said. Pope Benedict said Catholics had their work cut out for them in a world where “lies often trap men and society” and undermine solidarity.

Church charities join fight against diseases from Pakistani floods

BANGALORE, India (CNS) — Church charities have joined the Pakistani government and other charity workers to fight growing health care problems that have gripped the worst flooding in Pakistan’s history. “The water has receded, but the flood victims are now faced with serious health problems,” said Eric Dayal, director of Catholic News Service. “We are sending our medical teams to remote areas where other agencies have not reached,” Dayal said Catholic News Service from his office in Lahore Nov. 3. More than 20million people were affected and more than 1.6million people died in floods that began in July with incessant rains in Pakistan’s mountainous north and inundated the length and breadth of the nation within a month. Due to lack of clean drinking water and breeding of mosquitoes in stagnant waters, diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, dengue and malaria have spread rapidly among the flood victims. The World Health Organization confirmed 99 cases of cholera and 300,000 suspected cases of malaria among the displaced.

Fears persist that Haiti may end up being forgotten — again

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — The trauma that struck Haiti is a sobering reminder of the tasks the country faces as it prepares for November’s presidential election. While newscasters talk about reconstruction, the grim truth is that much of Haiti needs — decent housing, water, sanitation, health care, education and economic opportunities — did not exist even before the Jan. 12 earthquake. Rural areas are even more neglected than Port-au-Prince, the capital, which has gridlocked and gridlocked capital that has been the focus of international attention since the quake. Recovery will mean not just clearing rubble but rebuilding houses, but building infrastructure, improving health care and education and investing in economic development in rural communities so farmers can stay in the countryside instead of migrating to Port-au-Prince’s slums, the United Nations said. January’s tragedy was a “disaster sitting on a much greater disaster, which is the structural disaster of dysfunction and economic development for decades and decades,” said Scott Campbell, country director for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ international relief and development agency. About half of Haiti’s 10 million people live on less than a dollar a day; another quarter live without clean drinking water. The country’s population is under age 24, but most people have completed only primary school. University graduates often leave for better opportunities, making it difficult to attract talented workers to government jobs and exacerbating slow or inept public administration.

SISTER DISPLAYS COPY OF RARE BASEBALL CARD

Sister Virginia Muller, treasurer for the Atlantic-Midwest province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, left, with Sister Kathleen Cornell, displays a photocopy of a T206 Honus Wagner baseball card during a Nov. 5 press conference at Villa Assumpta in Baltimore. Sister Muller announced that the card, bequeathed to the sisters, sold at auction Nov. 4 for $262,900. The religious community will receive $220,000.
A Round the Diocese

The St. Patrick’s youth group visited Victory Noll on Oct 30, first to attend morning Mass there and have lunch with the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. Following lunch, the youth paid their respects at the grave of recently deceased Sister Dolores Carlos, who had served at St. Patrick Parish. The youth group offered their services by raking the leaves on the rolling campus, after which they were given a tour of Victory Noll by Sister Guadalupe. To the left is Victory Noll Sister Alodia Carney.

The St. Patrick Parish youth group visits Victory Noll

ST. PATRICK PARISH YOUTH GROUP VISITS VICTORY NOLL

The St. Patrick’s youth group visited Victory Noll on Oct 30, first to attend morning Mass there and have lunch with the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. Following lunch, the youth paid their respects at the grave of recently deceased Sister Dolores Carlos, who had served at St. Patrick Parish. The youth group offered their services by raking the leaves on the rolling campus, after which they were given a tour of Victory Noll by Sister Guadalupe. To the left is Victory Noll Sister Alodia Carney.

Welcome to yesterday's Catholic
Diocese prays for deceased bishops, priests

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — The diocese remembered deceased bishops, priests and deacons at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Rhoades was joined by Bishop-emeritus John M. D’Arcy and several priests on Nov. 3, the memorial of St. Martin de Porres.

“We ask God, the eternal Shepherd, to grant to them the reward of their labors, the fullness of life promised to those who preach His holy Gospel,” Bishop Rhoades said in his homily.

Two former co-rectors of the cathedral were remembered in memoriam: Msgr. J. William Lester, who died Feb. 20, and Msgr. James J. Wolf, who died Aug. 31. A Mass was offered for them Nov. 2 at the cathedral and celebrated by Bishop D’Arcy.

Bishop Rhoades recalled the words of Psalm 27, the responsorial psalm on Nov. 3, a psalm often prayed by priests, religious and some laity in the Liturgy of the Hours: “One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, that I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate His temple.”

He spoke of Jesus’ words about discipleship in the day’s Gospel from Luke 14: “Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If someone comes to me without hating his father and mother, without hating his brothers and sisters, without hating himself, He is stressing that we must prefer them or ourselves less than Him.”

Bishop Rhoades spoke of St. Martin de Porres as an example of radical discipleship: “He carried the cross of racial discrimination. Illegitimate man of mixed race to his nation. Illegitimate and of mixed race, he suffered discrimination all his life. As a Dominican lay brother, he worked in the infirmary where he became every patient’s favorite nurse, because of his compassion and loving care. He not only cared for his fellow Dominicans, but was active in caring for the sick throughout Lima. Besides nursing the sick, he helped the poor and distributed food to them. He was instrumental in founding an orphanage and took care of slaves brought to Peru from Africa. He lived a life of prayer and penance, charity and humility. The people gave him the name ‘Martin of Charity.’”

Bishop Rhoades spoke of how St. Martin was renowned for healing people and having other supernatural gifts. He served in the Dominican community for 48 years and died Nov. 3, 1639.

“Distinctions of class and race were forgotten at his funeral,” Bishop Rhoades said. “After his funeral, the viceroy of Peru, the archbishop of Mexico and other officials confounded the prejudices of their time. They humbly carried the body of this poor, illegitimate man of mixed race to his grave. They paid him the honor that belongs to those who are great in the kingdom of God.”

After Mass, Bishop Rhoades, Bishop D’Arcy and the celebrating priests processed to the crypt of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception where several diocesan bishops are buried. Special prayers were prayed there and the priests sang the “Salve Regina.”

Goshen students participate in Day of the Dead celebration

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — Despite how the name might sound, the Day of the Dead or El Dia de los Muertos celebration is not a gloomy one but rather a joyous celebration of the lives of the departed. Going back thousands of years to Aztec times, the holiday is primarily celebrated by Mexicans and Mexican Americans.

An altar is created to honor deceased family members and loved ones and consists of photos, personal items, foods, sugar skulls, candles and marigolds. According to St. John the Evangelist Spanish teacher Lucia Ordonez, “El Dia del los Muertos is a day for us to remember and talk about our deceased family to our kids. It is a happy moment.”

Ordonez explained that on Nov. 1 children and infants are honored and on Nov. 2 adults are honored. As part of their Spanish classes, students at St. John’s participated by providing items for the altar, which was assembled in the school hallway. Kindergarten students brought candles, first-grade students provided fruit and pan de Muerto (bread of the dead), second-grade students provided sugar skulls, third graders paper flowers, fourth graders brought photos of deceased family members and fifth-grade students also brought photos of deceased family members and paper design called “papel picado.”

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Following an All Souls Day Mass in the Resurrection Mausoleum of the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne, Bishop-emeritus John M. D'Arcy joined the congregation in singing the Litany of Saints as they processed to the section of the cemetery reserved for priests where the bishop led more prayers for bishops and priests who have served the diocese. In his homily, Bishop D'Arcy described the triumph of Christ’s resurrection and its promise of life eternal for all and how, with each reception of Holy Eucharist, that promise is renewed.

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The Children of St. Angela Merici offers catechesis for those with special needs

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — In the classroom of the Children of St. Angela Merici, Father Pius is dressed in the appropriate liturgical color of the season. Named after the patron saint of St. Pius X Parish, he is more than a doll, but rather as Michele Chronister remarks, “a class mascot, a familiar face present at all our events, always ready to be held by one of our students when they need to hold him. In this way too, he emphasizes the approachability and servitude of those in the priesthood, like our own Father Bill and Father Bob, who do so much for us. Father Pius teaches the students that priests are people who they can turn to throughout their lives, in the times when they need care, guidance and reassurance.”

It is with this same comforting approach to catechesis that the Children of St. Angela Merici religious education ministry was developed for children and adults with special needs at St. Pius X. The idea behind this ministry began four years ago with Amy Schlatterbeck Boll, who was then the director of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, after she was contacted by parents in the parish who had children with Down syndrome.

After Boll moved, Linda Jensen, director of religious education at St. Pius, with the help of two of Boll’s assistants, continued the special needs class. Last year Chronister joined the St. Pius education team as an ECHO (faith formation leadership program) student from Notre Dame and expressed her desire to expand the catechesis program for special needs for both children and adults. “St. Angela Merici is the patron saint of people with disabilities so that is how we got the name of the program here at St. Pius. She was also a catechist and religious educator for little ones who would have otherwise gone without,” Chronister says.

Chronister has written the curriculum and made the materials for the classes. She has based her program from resources which include modified versions of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and St. Pius’ Children’s Catechetical Development (CCD) program. “The overarching theme of the program is giving kids with special needs as deep and as rich a catechesis as possible,” Chronister says. “I love the way the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd uses materials and actual physical things that the kids could hold on to and manipulate. But I also think the CCD structured approach is helpful to kids with special needs because they thrive under a set structure. I blended those two models to come up with this program,” Chronister explains.

There are three levels of the program, similar to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Level one traditionally is completed in one year. Level two may be repeated as many years as possible as ongoing faith formation. Level three is Confirmation preparation which traditionally lasts a year.

The curriculum of level one is sacramental preparation with the first half of the year devoted to preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation and the second half preparing to receive the Eucharist. “Michele works closely with parents in preparing the children for Reconciliation,” says Jensen. “Parents are the greatest advocates for their children and Michele wants to keep their trust and keep them informed. We have the kids write an examination of conscience ahead of time with their parents and the kids write down some of the things they are struggling with so that the priest can review it ahead of time.”

Level two explores the liturgical year and life in the Church. For example, during Lent many “hands on” materials help explain different stages of the season. “We use a Stations of the Cross storyboard (featuring pictures from the Stations of the Cross in St. Pius), we process with a crucifix when praying the stations together, we have a candle to remind us of the presence of the Light of Christ, and have a prayer box filled with various prayer and holy cards that are donated to us,” says Chronister.

Currently there are 12 children and one adult enrolled in the program.

Msgr. Bill Schooler, pastor at St. Pius X Parish, is very proud of the efforts of those working in the Children of St. Angela Merici ministry. The ministry of special needs children has a personal connection to his life. “The special needs program is near to my heart, because my youngest brother was Down syndrome. No one — not even our parish — had anything to offer for him at that time. I am glad we can make a difference now for people in similar situations.”
Stephen Elick makes dreams come true

BY KAY OZAD


In an effort to have the fragile infant baptized, the family called Father Terry Fisher to the hospital and that’s when the first miracle occurred. Shortly after the Baptism, little Stephen began to improve. And its been a life of miracles ever since.

The family was told by the doctors who provided medical care for Stephen as he developed that he would never walk or talk. But the family had bigger plans for this miracle baby. “His grandma said, ‘Let’s prove them wrong!’” recalls Aunt Elizabeth.

So Stephen’s grandparents, Tom and Annette Jones, along with his Aunt Elizabeth assisted the boy’s mother, Anita Elick, in every way they could. The Joneses, who kept the infant on overnight, alternated feedings with Aunt Elizabeth.

“I remember sleeping on the couch to take care of him. He had to be fed every four hours and with no sucking reflex we had to move his mouth for him,” she says. They worked tirelessly with him on physical development as well, including crawling and walking, and made an effort to include him in all aspects of everyday life.

Soon the little miracle boy was walking and talking. Stephen attended special classes in the Fort Wayne Community Schools system and was a kind hearted soul even in preschool.

Grandma Annette recalls when his class had a canned-food drive and Stephen insisted that he bring in a full bag of groceries each day. In kindergarten, without direction, he took it upon himself to push those students bound in wheelchairs to their classrooms from the bus. And, says Aunt Elizabeth, as a first-grader, Stephen consistently gave his gloves to students who had none.

As he grew older, Stephen participated in classes at Anthis Career Center in high school. It was a proud day when he graduated from Wayne High School in 2005.

Religious education at home was supplemented with Stephen’s participation in the religion program at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne. He received each of the sacraments with joy.

“Communion is my favorite,” says Stephen, who attends Mass faithfully with his family, as well as regularly reciting the rosary and traditional prayers of the Catholic faith.

The family’s faith continues to be the foundation of their strength and tenacity in the face of Stephen’s challenges.

Aunt Elizabeth says, “He does everything with us — parish missions, concerts — and he loves midnight Mass.”

Stephen works at Easterseals ARC five days a week and enjoys participating in weekly ceramics class with his aunt. His full life includes a variety of other interests as well, including bowling, swimming and cooking.

He offers, “I like to build model cars. And you know those airplanes that fly by the rubber bands? Well, I like to fly them too.”

Aunt Elizabeth says they cook together not only for themselves but for others as well. “We turn cooking into a service project sometimes,” she says. He loves to make sandwiches, among other dishes for the homeless.

“His dream was to hold the book for the bishop,” says Aunt Elizabeth.

Master of ceremonies Jim Fitzpatrick contacted Stephen who was then named the cross bearer and book holder for the Mass. As the anniversary Mass began, Stephen’s grandparents wondered where their grandson was only to see him processing up the cathedral’s center aisle, with the cross held high. “I was shocked!” says Grandma Annette. “It was terrific. He did a terrific job.”


For Stephen, the miracle boy, the day was another miraculous moment in his life of faith and family.
and above, and move from one age group to another as they grow. Each group serves six students, who are each partnered with a volunteer sponsor for the class. In addition there is one adult to lead the catechesis and one adult to prepare the students for each sacred session.

Weekly sessions are organized in three phases. The preparation phase welcomes each participant personally to foster a sense of belonging. The catechesis phase offers symbolism appropriate for the developmental stage of the group. In this phase the participants work with tactile activities, such as clay, water colors, partners quilting and more, to enhance the learning of religious and spiritual teachings in a sacred, prayerful environment. Preparations of the table setting, music, sharing food and clean up. Good-byes are personal and respectful.

Currently three parishioners of St. Adalbert are participating in the SPRED training in an effort to bring this dynamic program to their parish. Fley is accompanied by Felipe Galvan Diaz and Yolanda Machado on her weekend trips to Chicago. The SPRED Agency will train the volunteer sponsors on site at St. Adalbert. Fley states of the program, “It has been an incredible experience, many people drive with the same purpose — to work with special children, with a special method called ‘Method Vivre.’” The training sessions began all together but eventually the participants were split into English- or Spanish-speaking groups. “Little by little we have discovered that God is present in unexpected things and the environment in which they work, with music, flowers, symbols, words and all activities performed with children gives us a fullness of God and his grace,” she adds. Further training focused on roles and responsibilities, and how to implement a SPRED group in a parish.

Above St. Adalbert SPRED trainee Edenia Fley, foreground, poses with Ramiro Hernandez, back left, trainer from SPRED in Chicago, and St. Adalbert trainees Yolanda Machado and Felipe Galvan Diaz.

SPRED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

The three are very excited to bring this program to St. Adalbert. Diaz, who is training to be the lead catechist, says, “I hope that the SPRED community will be able to reach all of the households in which there is a person who has special needs.”

Machado agrees and adds, “I’m excited to know that I will serve God by helping His most precious treasures.”

Fley, who will coordinate the program, says of her personal involvement in bringing SPRED to her parish, “I have the greatest reason in the world, the biggest boost that a mother can have, the love for her child, which extends in a special way for special children and a desire to convey our faith to them. It resonates in my mind and my heart the words of the Gospel — ‘Let the children come to me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’”

The program, says Kopczyński, is scheduled to be implemented by fall, after securing space and funds, through fundraising efforts, to purchase the materials needed for the classrooms. She feels this program is meant to be in her community and says, “These people are aflame with the calling to do this. This needs to happen.”

She hopes as the program grows the special needs participants will be more included in Sunday liturgies. “We are there for these people. We look at them and say they are our brothers too. They need to be a part of our community in a very real way.”

Above St. Adalbert SPRED trainee Edenia Fley, foreground, poses with Ramiro Hernandez, back left, trainer from SPRED in Chicago, and St. Adalbert trainees Yolanda Machado and Felipe Galvan Diaz.

Edenia Fley stands with her six-year-old son, Christian, who is challenged with autism.

Diveeta Thompson and Officer Liza Thomas spoke to the students of Bishop Luers High School about distracted driving on Oct. 27. Thompson lost her son, Rodney, two years ago and shared her own story and experience. Thomas was the officer who was called to the accident and found Thompson’s son. Officer Thomas shared her side from a police officer’s perspective. During the presentation, Samantha Eckrich, a senior at Bishop Luers High School and president of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) / NAND (No Alcohol No Drugs) club, presented Thompson with a $450 donation toward her STANDD (Stop Texting and Driving Distracted) program.

BLHS SADD/NAND HOSTS DIVEETA THOMPSON, STANDDD
Local CCHD grants awarded in South Bend, Fort Wayne areas

The local Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the Catholic Church’s domestic anti-poverty program, has awarded grants totaling $14,850 to six local and area institutions that demonstrated an ability to attack the causes of poverty by empowering the poor.

Founded by the Catholic Bishops of the United States in 1969, the campaign is an expression of the social doctrine of the Catholic Church and as a way to help carry out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. CCHD was founded to help poor people help themselves escape poverty and address its causes by investing in their development so they can participate in the decisions that affect their families and communities.

Those receiving grants and the amount of the awards are:

In South Bend
• Our Lady of Hungary School — a $1,000 education grant for English Language Learner Instruction for students and adults
• St. Augustine Church — an $850 education grant to support its African-American Tutor Program

In Elkhart
• St. Vincent de Paul Parish — a $3,000 community organizing grant to provide leadership training

In Fort Wayne
• Catholic Charities — a $3,000 community organizing grant to support its Immigration Tutor Program
• The Brother John Lavelle, C.S.C., Scholarship recipients were Gabriel Gresch and Michael Hunkeler. Speach has chaired the Notre Dame student Right to Life conference and worked on media relations for ND Response. She is currently the editor of the Irish Rover, an independent student newspaper known for its full and fair coverage of campus and national Right to Life events and other news.

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Embryonic stem-cell research topic at RTL dinner

SOUTH BEND — “You don’t need a gun to get people to seduce themselves into believing the promise of a medical utopia,” explained Nikolas Nikas, the keynote speaker at the annual dinner held by Saint Joseph County Right to Life, Nov. 4, in South Bend.

By “gun” Nikas was alluding to the 20th century totalitarian regimes that unleashed their destructive power killing millions of innocent infants. “In his 2009 encyclical, ‘Caritas in Veritate,’ and the Church’s 2010 social encyclical ‘Caritas in Veritate’ (‘Charity in Truth’). He made the comments in a letter to parishes asking Catholics to be as generous as possible during the annual collection that is the primary source of support for the U.S. bishops’ domestic anti-poverty program.

For 2009, the U.S. Census Bureau reported a 9.6 percent spike in poverty. Overall, there were 43.6 million people in poverty — 14.3 percent of the population.

For 40 years, CCHD has funded community groups that create affordable housing, obtain fair wages and provide job training, as well as organizing projects led by low-income individuals to help people and resolve problems in their communities. CCHD-funded programs “empower the poor and marginalized to make decisions, seek solutions to local problems and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods,” according to the agency. CCHD also has educational programs to teach Catholics about poverty and creates opportunities for them to interact with the poor and reflect on a faith response to poverty.

Last year, CCHD reported, more than $7.8 million went to 223 grantees throughout the United States; 648 Catholic parishes, 39 Catholic institutions and 31 religious communities were involved in CCHD-funded groups.

The annual CCHD collection is the primary source of financial support for the U.S. bishops’ domestic anti-poverty program.

South Bend College grants awarded in $14,850 to six local and area institutions.

Leaders of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development as they prepared for the program’s 2010 annual collection, which will be taken up in most parishes Nov. 20-21.

“The time of great economic suffering, it is more important than ever for the Church in the United States, through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ ‘to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind and to set the prisoner free.’” Bishop Roger P. Morin of Biloxi, Miss., chairman of the U.S. bishops’ CCHD subcommittee said in a statement.

“It is important to further that Catholic commitment to over- come poverty, CCHD pursues the institutional path ... of chari- ty, no less excellent and effective than the kind of Catholic charity that encounters the neighbor direct- ly,” Bishop Morin added, quot- ing from Pope Benedict XVI’s 2009 encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”).

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Serving and protecting America — Not just somebody else’s job

Veterans Day used to be more of a stirring occasion than it is today, and that’s too bad. We still have the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery that honors those who died for their country, of course, and some towns still hold parades to pay tribute to the men and women who have served the colors. But local parades aren’t as prevalent as they used to be, and sometimes those in the line of march outnumber the people who turned up to watch.

You can find reasons for that without looking too hard. Robert M. Gates, the Secretary of Defense, pointed to some of them a few weeks ago when he spoke of the growing disconnect between military service and the country at large. “For a growing number of Americans,” he said, “service in the military, no matter how laudable, has become something for other people to do.”

And there are those who don’t think that serving in the military is laudable at all. Consider the colleges, for example, that have barred ROTC units, which train officers-to-be, from having any campus presence. That’s particularly true of so-called “elite” institutions, such as Harvard and Columbia. In fact, as New York Post columnist Glenn Harland Roundy noted last month, Columbia won’t allow the ROTC program on campus even as it welcomes such critics of America as Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Gates said that while those coming home from service in Iraq and Afghanistan are still being treated warmly, “for most Americans the wars remain an abstraction — a distant and unpleasant series of news items that do not affect them personally.”

Some, tragically, are affected very personally. They are the families and friends of those young people dying every day in those wars; those who will never become “veterans” because they have given their lives for their country while serving on active duty.

One of them was Navy Lt. Brendan Looney of Silver Spring, Md., who was among nine U.S. military personnel killed when their helicopter crashed Sept. 21 in southern Afghanistan. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a member of the Navy’s elite SEAL force, Lt. Looney was buried following a funeral Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. His death did not pass unnoticed. The congregation, which filled the vast church, numbered 3,000.

Among them were Lt. Looney’s wife, Amy; his parents and his five brothers and sisters. Also there were midshipmen from the Naval Academy, who were among those recalling that Lt. Looney had now joined in death his Academy roommate, Marine 1st Lt. Travis Manion, killed while serving in Iraq in 2007.

A Catholic News Service story quoted from the eulogy by Lt. Looney’s sister Bridget, who told the mourners, “When Brendan went to the Naval Academy and I saw him for the first time in his uniform, I realized this new version of our brother was important not just to us, but to our entire country.”

Brendan Looney, she said, was “an American hero, a military hero, a hometown hero.”

And, I might suggest, Lt. Looney — a hero, as his sister said, to the entire country — is one to remember, to keep in our hearts, and hold in our prayers this Veterans Day.

Supreme Court case takes aim at violent video games

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court entered the world of virtual violence Nov. 2, when the justices heard oral arguments in a case involving a California law, enacted but never put into effect, that bans the sale of violent video games to minors.

The issues at hand include just how deleterious the effects of violence are on the underage targeters, and whether First Amendment freedom-of-speech rights trump the content of the violent message.

Durcia Narvaez, a professor at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, studies the effects of experience on moral development.

“A couple of years ago, my lab did several studies comparing violent versus helping game play,” Narvaez told Catholic News Service in a Nov. 3 email. “We found that people who played the helping game were more prosocial afterwards in the task we gave them.”

Narvaez also discovered one unwanted side effect during her research: “Unfortunately, we found that everyone came in with elevated levels of aggression, suggesting that youth experience so much violence — in media or life — that they are more aggressive than in the past.”

Andersen, a psychology professor and director of the Center for the Study of Violence at Iowa State University in Ames, has been conducting research into video game violence and behavior since the 1980s.

Anderson calls himself a “gamer,” someone who plays video games, dating back to text-based games in the 1970s when he was a university student. He even recalls having one of the early versions of Pong, the video ping-pong game that seems archaic today but was revolutionar- 30 years ago in that players could get their television screens to show something other than broadcast TV.

“There are both short-term and long-term effects to playing violent video games,” Anderson told CNS in a Nov. 4 telephone interview. “In both cases, what we find is that exposure to violent video games increases the likelihood of later aggressive behavior, aggressive feelings, aggressive thinking. Such games also lead to a decrease in prosocial or helping behavior and a decrease in empathy, or what would on occasion lead to an increase in desensitization to scenes of violence and victims.”

The Supreme Court got the actionable version Nov. 2, when the jury is put out on the effects of prolonged exposure to violent video games. Far fewer than one in 10 young people, who are claiming the evidence is mixed are ignoring the vast majority of studies that are out there,” Anderson told CNS. “I’ve been a gamer for many, many years, but that hasn’t blinded me to the fact that there can be harmful effects.”

But Donald W. Greenberg, an associate professor of political science at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn., said he believes the studies will not be enough to convince the court to deny First Amendment rights.

“The only thing I think the legislature can do, and the only thing I think that works, is labeling,” Greenberg told CNS Nov. 4.

The justices would have to define, and score, a test on violence in the same manner as they do on obscenity. Greenberg recalled former Justice Potter Stewart’s quote on obscenity: “I know it when I see it.” “What’s obscene?” Greenberg asked aloud. “It’s still going to be a difficult thing to determine.”

While many hold the First Amendment sacrosanct, according to Greenberg, it is not absolute. One of the “classic” limitations on free speech is former Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes’ test: “You cannot yell ‘fire’ in a crowded theater.”

Obscenity, likewise, is not immune, Greenberg said. “Whatever it is, it’s not protect- ed speech, noted, “the court has not done anything on this in 25 years.”

One other area where the First Amendment exception is commercial speech, which does not enjoy the same level of protection as “social” or political speech. Greenberg said he didn’t know if the state of California made a sufficiently strong argument Nov. 2 that the commercial speech involved in violent video games warranted government action. “You can regulate speech or proscribe speech within a clear and present danger,” he said. “But there’s no need to go so draconian” as outright censorship.

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Vatican meeting cuts the speeches

VAatican City (CNS) — By Vatican standards, it’s a small revolution: A pontifical council is holding a major assembly without prepared speeches.

Participants in the Pontifical Council for Culture’s mid-November plenary meeting have been told to prepare for free discussion instead. The main theme of the encounter is communication and, someone decided that the old model — hours of reading prepared texts — just wasn’t working anymore.

Those who have sat through Vatican meetings will appreciate just how radical this innovation really is. Reading speeches has been the main activity at Roman Curia assemblies for as long as anyone can remember.

There is no prize for brevity, either. Being long-winded is a point of pride at these encounters. The feeling among speakers is that if you don’t go overtime, you shouldn’t really be on the rostrum.

For years, outside participants, especially those from the United States, have often complained that such overly structured snooze-fests left little or no time for real discussion. Their protests are now being taken seriously, aided in part by the digital media explosion.

Perhaps someone simply took a look around the room: At one recent Vatican meeting, as officials read their speeches, many in the audience were texting or working on their mini-laptops.

As Archbishop Cesare Celli’s Pontifical Council for Social Communications recently began looking seriously at the issue of language and made it the theme of its next plenary meeting in 2011. Mgr. Paul Tighe, secretary of the communications council, fired an opening salvo in an article earlier this year. He said bluntly that the Church relies too much on texts, often using a vocabulary that is “unintelligible and off-putting” to its audiences.

A pontifical council is a place where people feel they can speak their minds, according to a 2002 interview with the council’s then-secretary, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. But Tighe’s article also suggested that the council would be looking at language and communication in a more critical way. The council’s current secretary, Mgr. Paul Badger, has been told to come up with a plan to make the council more engaging.

The meeting will examine the characteristics of modern language and what makes it effective.

Be true to the Gospel

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN E. CAMPION

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lk 21:5-19

T

he Book of Malachi is the source of this weekend’s first biblical reading. The author’s name, contrary to what might seem to be the case, is not Malachi. Rather, the word is a title, or description, for the author. It means “Messenger of God.”

The book was not dated when it was written, but the context leads scholars to think that it was composed about 450 years before Christ.

As in the cases of all the prophets, the purpose of Malachi is to summon the people to greater religious devotion. This book was written, it is believed, in the aftermath of religious reforms. It probably was an effort to reinforce these reforms.

Such attempts involved encouraging the people. But, warnings also came, reminding people that digressions from God’s law reaped the whirlwind.

These warnings often were bleak and very much to the point. One terrible day God will come with swift and final justice. The wicked and the lukewarm will not escape.

For its second reading, the Church offers a passage from the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians in which Paul again declares how seriously he takes his
terminology to be an Apostle. He says that he works day and night to meet the obligations imposed by his vocation. Discharging his obligations is his only purpose.

St. Luke’s Gospel is the source of the last reading for this weekend. Generally speaking, in reading the four Gospels the Church teaches that we should be aware of three stages of interest. The first stage is the actual life of Jesus. The events in the Lord’s life, told in the Gospels, are important. Circumstances surrounding these events are inextricably linked to them.

The second stage is the experience of the Christian community existing when the Gospel was written, and for which the Gospel was written.

The third stage is the context that the text of the Gospel itself literally creates.

Over the course of the church’s life, they have been translated into many languages. It is the text of the Gospel itself that creates the context in which these readings are read.

Reflection

The Gospel reading from St. Luke’s Gospel is typical of other sections of the same Gospel. It is somber and almost chilling. Terrible things will happen. When the Gospel was written, quite likely at the time of Jesus, Christians were seeing their own friends and enemies turn against them. It was a frightening sight. It was to be left alone in the face of enemies.

These readings together remind us that we cannot choose our circumstances in every situation. We are at the mercy of fate and often of other human beings. Others can gather against us. Circumstances in our lives can be very perplexing.

Our task as Christians, indeed, our only option, is to be true to the Gospel. As Paul indicates, nothing else truly matters. Being with God for eternity is the only reason to live.

Pursuing this ideal of being with God requires deep and uncompromising commitment. We cannot hesitate. We cannot turn away. However, God will assist us. He will reward us, with everlasting life.

READINGS

Sunday:
Mass 319:20a Ps 96:5-9 Thes 3:7-12 Lk 12:19-21
Monday:
Rv 3:1-5 Ps 1:1-6 Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday:
Rv 3:1-5, 14-22 Ps 152:4-8 Lk 19:11-15
Wednesday:
Rv 4:1-11 Ps 150:1b-6 Lk 19:11-18
Thursday:
Rv 5:1-10 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Lk 19:14-44
Friday:
Rv 10:8-11 Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 133 Lk 19:45-48
Saturday:
Rv 11:14-12 Ps 144:1, 2-9, 10 Lk 20:27-40

A sobering thought

There was a reflection question in one of my spiritual reading books a few months ago that I have pondered off and on ever since. The author asked, “What would happen to you if God decided to take back all the things you thought you needed to thank Him for?”

That is a sobering thought! Imagine if God made a declaration that He would give us a week to decide for what in our lives we want to thank Him and He would take back all his other gifts. Further imagine that God made it easy and told us we had to limit our choices to 10 things. No doubt, whatever we would choose would tell us a lot about our values and what is really important to us.

As I reflect on this I guess the first thing I would give thanks for is the fundamental gift of life itself. It is so easy to take our lives for granted. That comes home to me every time I hear about a sudden or unexpected death, like a vivacious, fun-loving friend of mine who suddenly dropped dead recently. I could also have been aborted by my mother and never had a chance to live.

My family would also be included on my list. There are so many abandoned orphans in the world. To have a loving and supportive family is truly a gift for which I am grateful. And as I write this I pose the question to myself how important it is to express my gratitude to the members of my family.

Another valued gift for me would be the family of Holy Cross. My religious vocation and my community are precious to me. I have been touched in numerous ways by my sisters. My vocation has also given me the opportunity to do many things and to meet many wonderful people. I guess this is part of the “hundredfold” that Jesus spoke about.

Friends would be high on my list. God has blessed me with special people in my life and I cannot imagine what it would be like to not be close to anyone. We all need intimacy. It is not only important to be close to friends and family, but also to our God. If we are not close to others Circumstances in our lives can be very perplexing.

We have no control over the circumstances of our lives.

My faith is also a valued gift. As I have written before, I cannot even begin to imagine what my life would be like if I did not believe in God. I would be overwhelmed by the troubles of the world if I did not trust and hope in Jesus. He is my rock and foundation. I can count on His love

no matter what!

I am also grateful for my education and the many opportuni- ties I have had, and continue to have, to develop my mind. The ability to learn is also part of this gift. Sometimes when I am young we don’t fully appreciate school but education is a very valuable gift that not everyone has — one that many waste or take for granted.

Life in a democracy and the freedoms that come with it is a gift I value. The United States has many flaws and is not the perfect society, but I’d never want to live anywhere else. Our country has been blessed and has a responsibility to share our abundance with others.

Another gift I cherish is the ability to serve others. I think of those who are out of work, have jobs that they hate or unable to work at all. For the most part I have loved every ministry I have ever been in. That is truly a gift to God.

I would also thank God that I enjoy the basic necessities of life and more. There are millions around the world who lack food and shelter. When I was little I used to wonder what my life would be like if I were born in a poorer country of the world. Sometimes we can take for granted all that we have and forget that we really are a minori- ty. The have are fewer than the have nots and ironically many are happier than we are.

Last, but not least, I would thank God for my health, the fact that I can see, hear, speak, talk, walk, etc. Every time I meet someone who is physically challenged I thank God and ask for the grace to bear whatever will happen to me in my life.

There are many other gifts that God has showered on me but I could live without them if I had to do so, but I would surely miss my top ten!

It is good to recall every now and then all that we have comes from the generous love of our God and God deserves our thanks and praise. Don’t wait until Thanksgiving to let God know what you appreciate in life. Thank Him often.

Visit TodaysCatholicNews.org
"Qualified." It's a loaded word. It means capable, competent, skilled, trained, experienced. We look for the most qualified plumbers, contractors, builders. We interview through applicants, if we are in a position to hire, to find those most qualified for a specific job. Colleges want the most qualified students. Voters want the most qualified candidates. This is good. Excellence is important.

However, there is in life a real temptation to look at the world, to look at one another even, only through the eyes of "qualification." There's a temptation to standardize others, indeed to evaluate others, (I hesitate to say "judge") but it might be that too on the basis of what they have done, rather than who they are. Gosh, sometimes we even do that to ourselves.

Don't get me wrong. I want the most qualified plumber in my bathroom, and the most qualified repairman under my car, and the most qualified plumber in my bathroom, and the most qualified. We can even do that to ourselves.

They are. Gosh, sometimes we look at one another even, only through the eyes of "qualification." Excellence is important.

Qualified candidates. This is good. Colleges want the most qualified for a specific job. Most "qualified" for these positions, but the value of an individual human being doesn't rest on his knowledge. We will help the best recognize that, but our value as human beings doesn't rest on what we achieve externally. It's not all about awards or degrees or knowledge.

There will always be those smarter or more accomplished or more efficient than we may be, even if we try our best in every task we undertake. We shouldn't accomplishment or excellence, hearing this freed me to try my best and not be afraid. Accepting this bit of wisdom was me facing the reality that even if I tried my hardest in some endeavor I might not be the best in the world, and that that's okay. God loves me anyway. I can realize. What a relief. Hearing that quote also put a dose of humility in all my endeavors.

Mother Teresa said, "We are not called upon to be successful, but faithful." Does that let us off the hook for trying to be successful too? No. Success can be a way to give glory and honor to God. Honest work and using, as my dad would say, "the brains God gave you" is one way to say "thank you" to Him for his many gifts and to glorify him as well. But Mother Teresa's quote reminds us that what God requires is faithfulness. He'll handle the rest. Whew.

There's a phrase going around e-mail circles and Facebook pages — perhaps you've heard it: "God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called." And this is very true. God will give the help any one of us needs to accomplish tasks. He calls us to do it so we will do it by his hand. We must work hard. Reach our potential. Only settle for the best, but recognize that our value as human beings doesn't rest on what we achieve externally. It's not all about awards or degrees or knowledge.

There will always be those smarter or more accomplished or more efficient than we may be, even if we try our best in every task we undertake. We shouldn't worry ourselves with that. Besides being a temptation to envy, it can really drag us down in our daily efforts. If we feel pulled down by thoughts of our own smallness and mediocrity, feeling expendable perhaps in our daily work, we ought to remember that there is one place in our lives where we are absolutely indispensable, and that is in our families.

Many write more cleverly and more professionally. But I can rest in the knowledge that despite my qualifications or lack thereof, if I strive to be faithful daily, I am loved by God and needed by my family. My husband has but one wife: me. And God made me one mother. I may or may not be the most "qualified" for these positions, but they are the positions God gave to me, and I'm going to proceed forward in them, knowing that relying on Him is enough.

Qualified
THERESA A. THOMAS

THERESA A. THOMAS can be reached at TheresaThomasEverydayCatholic@gmail.com. Her book "Stories for the Homeschool Heart" can be ordered on Amazon.com

St. Paul visits Athens

What did St. Paul see and do in Athens?

St. Paul probably first landed by ship at Piraeus, the port of Athens in Greece some 5th century B.C. Piraeus is now the largest port in Greece. I landed and took off from Piraeus to visit the Greek islands. Baedeker says at Piraeus you can see ancient boat sheds under water, the remains of a Greek theater, the old city walls and a shipping museum.

At Athens, St. Paul saw the famous hill of the acropolis (Greek for high city). Ancient cities were often built on a hill for better defense. The most beautiful and famous structure on the acropolis is the Parthenon or temple to the goddess Athena. You can spend a lot of time staring at this architectural wonder.

St. Paul would have entered the acropolis through the Propylaea, a monumental structure consisting of three wings. The Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament says that St. Paul spoke to people from the Areopagus or Hill of Ares, the god of war. Baedeker says this rocky hill was the seat of the supreme court of ancient Athens.

St. Paul had seen many temples to pagan gods in Athens and he was upset. Someone even joked that there are more gods in Athens than people. So St. Paul spoke to the men of Athens about their temple he saw dedicated to an unknown God. Paul then said this "unknown God" is the true God who created the world. His Son Jesus rose from the dead and will judge and save the world. A modern bronze tablet here today is inscribed with St. Paul's sermon. On the northern slopes of the Areopagus are the remains of a basilica dedicated to St. Dionysius, a member of the court of the Areopagus who was St. Paul's first convert in Athens.

Other sites in Athens include the odium or theater of Herodes Atticus that St. Paul would have seen. It is said Herodes preserved that musical performances are still held there today. St. Paul would have visited the agora, or Greek marketplace, where there was an Altar of Mercy. There is the Erechtheion, a temple housing the wooden cult image of Athena from 406 B.C. St. Paul could have seen the gymnasion of Ptolemmy with a stone statue of the god Hermes. A later addition below the acropolis is the Church of the Holy Apostles built in the 11th century.

Meinardus says that every June 29, the feast of St. Peter and Paul, a vespers service is conducted upon the rock of the Areopagus. A large wooden cross is set up on the top of the rock behind a portable altar, which is flanked by a life-size icon of St. Paul. The archbishop of Athens usually performs the ceremony. Participants did not read speeches but spoke off the cuff — presumably practicing for their plenary assembly.

Richelle Roux, an official of the culture council, outlined the characteristics of what he called the "grammar of our culture." The digital age is increasingly marked by a dialogue model that favors speed, brevity, efficiency, interactivity and a convergence of image, text and sound. He said, in this context, there are naturally problems with the "informative monologue" model that often characterizes the Church's approach.

Rouse said the Church is not ready to drop its traditional language of parables, metaphors and symbols, but it needs to add new ways to reach younger generations.

Cardinal-designate Ravasi made clear that the Church is not uncritically accepting of the new model of communication today. One major concern is the "virtual" nature of digital interaction.

"Our children no longer communicate with each other through the color and warmth of the skin, through voices and through physical encounter, but through the coldness, the iciness of the computer screen," he said.

When it comes to language, Pope Benedict XVI is an interesting figure. His love of the written word is well-known, and many of his writings and speeches require study, not just a quick listen. Yet the German pontiff can speak simply, too. Often his most direct and effective talks were with children, as he demonstrated in late October at a meeting with thousands of Italian young people.

The pope spoke from his own experience. He was related to the Finzels when he was young, he was one of the smallest boys in his class, and that made him want to do something big when he grew up. That "something big" became clearer when he entered into a friendship with Jesus, he said.
TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Sports

CYO, ICLC teams fight for bragging rights at championship games

By Joe Kozinski

MISHAWAKA—A snow covered field ceremoniously invited guests from the Catholic Youth Organization’s Fort Wayne Chapter to participate in the annual diocesan battle with their foes from the Inter-City Catholic League, and the fight would be no different as the three headed Crusaders, and this game would be the snowstorm game with the slick playing conditions.

For the Crusader running back Brendan Connelly, the first offensive play from scrimmage was like a nightmare from the ICLC championship game a week earlier as the ball slipped from his fingers but was fortunately recovered. The premonition would be short lived as on the next play the resilient back raced 66 yards down the sideline to draw first blood. Connelly’s points after attempt was good making the score, 8-0. The cold and snow coupled with the slick playing conditions stunned the Panthers in the early going but when receiver Jeffrey Kalonji slipped behind his defender, quarterback Noah Coonan, the Panthers could not immediately respond with a game changing drive as they were stopped short at the 20 yard line.

The mighty Cardinals showed a great depth and speed to score on a two yard run by St. Vincent running back Connelly’s kid brother, Connelly Jr. that was good for a point. The Cardinals then used a two yard Davis run to make the score, 15-0.

The score would not change until the third quarter when Brendan Connelly, the first offensive player for the Crusaders as Petche found the end zone on a 49-yard play, making the final score, 22-0. Both teams scored on the opening kickoff.

Both squads settled in and had a lot of defense, and in the fourth quarter Patrick Petsche bolted his way for a 50-yard touchdown and with the Connelly boot being good, the score was now 30-12.

St. Vincent would however not go away as quarterback Dalton O’Boyle again found Backstrom on the middle screen for a 16-yard touchdown. Kicker Skylor Noll was true this time tightening the defense from Samantha Muldoon kills from Kendall Knapke, setting from Hannah Beckman, kills from Ashley Plummer and a very proud of yourselves.” A touched Palmer was so impressed with the display of what CYO sports is truly about.”

The Panthers would break the defensive trend when on fourth and 11, Bohn was unable to find an open receiver and tucked the pigskin running over and dragging three would-be tacklers down the sideline for a drive saving play. It wasn’t long after that when backtafter Common Worong took an inside hand-off and bounced it left and then darted 21 yards for a score. Bohn connected with Page on a conventional conversion making it 19-8, with just 2:23 left in the game.

The Cardinals would not say quit. Miller again found Pearson for a big play, this time of 45 yards and into the red zone. After a big time sack by defensive lineman Alex Jones, Miller threw deep to the middle screen for a 16-yard touchdown and with the Connelly boot being good, the score was now 30-12. As the second half opened the Crusader’s Ryzma, took a hand off and sprinted 54 yards for pay dirt equally as well finding Oliver Page on a 35-yard pass play and then hitting wide out Bremont Kocher on a 34-yard touchdown strike. Their points after attempt was no good ending the half 6-26, Crusaders.

The Cardinals began the second half as they started the game with another solid drive but on a fourth and 11 Miller found Brendan Pearson for a big gain into the red zone only to be whistled back for a procedure penalty. On the ensuing series, Panther Oliver Page faked a handoff and then sped down the field 48 yards for the go-ahead touchdown. The PAT was no good making the score 12-8, Crusaders.

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Squires finish perfect season

By Michelle Castleman

FORT WAYNE — Unbeaten for the 2010 season in Catholic Youth League (CYO) volleyball play for the small-school division was St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel.

The Lady Squires entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed and took home the 2010 title under Coach Shawnette Metzger, in her rookie season.

Metzger was very pleased with the solid performance of her team during the tournament. “We had a lot of good energy and a lot of good teamwork,” she explained.

Metzger praised the solid play of her eighth graders noting their overall play and specially services like serving from Maddie Strack, setting from Hannah Beckman, kills from Kendall Knapke, defense from Samantha Muldoon and serve receives from Aubrey Feipel.

This particular class accomplished an astounding task — they had a perfect record. The eighth-grade Lady Squires finished their CYO careers without losing a single match over their four years — not in pre-season, regular season or tournament action, not even at scrimmage or practice games.

Metzger also felt her seventh graders came off the bench and really contributed in the run. “I couldn’t have asked for a better, more positive group of girls,” she concluded. In the championship, the Squires beat St. John, New Haven, 25-6, 25-17.

Coached by Linda Heddens, St. John, New Haven, advanced to the final round after a close match-up against St. Therese/St. Aloysius, 25-17, 25-16.

St. Therese/St. Aloysius team which went three games. Both Heddens and St. Therese/St. Aloysius had a tough rematch after going three games against St. Charles during the regular season.

Coach Julie Lukemire explained, “We had a good group of girls who worked really hard. Our focus was fundamentals and having fun.” In her third year at St. Vincent, Lukemire was joined this season by Rhonda Winkeljohn, the former junior varsity coach from Bishop Dwenger, who challenged the team to go undefeated. The Panthers did just that and finished with an impressive 14-0 record. We really gelled at the right time,” summarized Lukemire. Kristin Beamon also served as an assistant coach for St. Vincent.

West Region Administrator

Catholic Charities seeks a dynamic, self-starting individual to oversee the agency’s operations in a five county area, based in South Bend, Indiana. Responsibilities include researching, writing and submitting grant applications for Federal, State and Local funding, promoting the agency and its services, and maintaining relationships with parishes, community organizations, and community leaders. This individual will also be responsible for overseeing the Food Pantry which will include direct client service.

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**Qualifications** include a High School education or G.E.D. with at least twelve months of related experience. Excellent people skills with those outside the agency along with staff and volunteers. Open and direct communicator with a clear, pleasant phone voice. Must be able to work with a diverse population. Knowledge of Microsoft word, Excel and Outlook with excellent written and verbal skills.

Word processing speed of 60-65 WPM.

**Salary Range:** $7.73 - $14.94/hour. Please send resume with salary requirements by November 18, 2010 to:

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315 East Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802
email: jsmith@ccfwsb.org
EOE

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**Book focusing on US priest’s training as exorcist being made into movie**

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rare is the priest in the United States who holds the title of diocesan exorcist.

Rarer still is the priest who is the focus of a book on his training as an exorcist, not to mention that the book has inspired the making of a feature film called “The Rite” — starring Anthony Hopkins, no less.

But that’s all become part of the life of Father Gary Thomas, a priest of the Diocese of San Jose, Calif., who is pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Saratoga, Calif.

When some of his fellow priests were discussing that another priest had declined an offer from the bishop to serve as diocesan exorcist, he thought to himself, “I could do that.”

Not that it was easy. Father Thomas said. For one thing, he could find no U.S.-based course of study for priests to be trained as exorcists. He wound up taking a three-and-a-half-month sabbatical to go to the Rome seminary of the Legionnaires of Christ and get training from a priest based there.

His experiences are recounted in the 2009 book “The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist” by Matt Baglio.

But Hollywood being Hollywood, when reality isn’t good enough for the big screen, it invents a new reality. “In the movie, I don’t start out as a priest. I start out as a seminarian who has a faith crisis,” Father Thomas said in an Oct. 18 telephone interview with Catholic News Service. “I am ordained eventually before the end of the movie. In the book, I’m already a priest and I’m not having a faith crisis.”

Hopkins plays a priest-mentor to the seminarian, who anchors the story.

Father Thomas explained that “two months before Pope John Paul II died, he issued a directive

exorcism is a rarely used rite in the Catholic Church. Under canon law only those priests who receive permission from their bishop can perform an exorcism. A priest, performing the rite wears a purple stole. A crucifix and holy water are among the religious items used in the rite.

through Cardinal Ratzinger’s (now Pope Benedict XVI) office that every bishop train and appoint an exorcist.”

With no U.S. training available, Father Thomas studied three days a week during his sabbatical. “Partially, I made up my own curriculum,” he said.

A priest for 27 years, Father Thomas has been San Jose’s exorcist for the past four years. In that time, he said, he has conducted exorcisms on five people.

“One is ongoing and has been successful, but has not been completely delivered,” Father Thomas told CNS. “Two decided not to continue after a time because they lost patience. And the other two, the persons are dramatically better.”

But those are just the five whose cases he’s taken. “I get calls from all over the United States and e-mails, and I try to direct them to their own local Church. It’s difficult to diagnose these things over the phone,” Father Thomas said.

Father Thomas said he served as a consultant on the set of “The Rite,” with an anticipated release date of Jan. 28.

“I’m very excited about the release of this movie,” he said. “I think the movie is very authentic about the topic. I was very impressed with Anthony Hopkins and Colin O’Donoghue (who plays the seminarian) and their portrayal of the ministry of exorcism as accurate ... as was the scene that specifically involved exorcism.”

Mark Tufty, a co-producer of “The Rite,” said of Father Thomas, “I think he’s a great guy.”

Father Thomas said he is certain that demonic possession exists. He noted that one theme in common with his five exorcism clients is “they had opened doorways to the demonic, either through witchcraft or going to witch doctors or other people having gone to witch doctors on their own.”

Asked about the case of Republican U.S. Senate aspirant Christine O’Donnell of Delaware, who has dabbled into witchcraft, Father Thomas replied, “I think that incredibly troubling that a person who had taken part in witchcraft would run” for office.

O’Donnell made the comment in an appearance on a 1999 television show. The segment had never aired until the host of the show, Bill Maher, aired it during the election campaign.

“I think that immediately disqualifies her from public office (as it would for) anybody who engages in witchcraft or engages in any new age activities,” the priest said. “It opens doorways to the diabolical. I think it impairs people’s judgments.

“There’s a difference between witchcraft,” Father Thomas said, “and somebody who goes and has their palm read.”

With no American training for exorcists available, Father Thomas said he had given orientation sessions to other priests. “But spending a day and a half with me is nothing compared to the three and a half months I spent in Rome,” he added.

The U.S. bishops and priests, including diocesan exorcists, are scheduled to meet Nov. 12-13 at a closed-door conference, prior to the annual fall general meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“I’ve been pushing that (training) at the local seminary without success,” Father Thomas said. “We hope something will emerge (in Baltimore), but we have nothing at the present.”

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**Catholic Charities**

**Salary Range:** $7.73 - $14.94/hour. Please send resume with salary requirements by November 18, 2010 to:

Alt: Human Resources - Catholic Charities
315 East Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802
email: jsmith@ccfwsb.org
EOE

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EOE
**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, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: flogan@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.

**Craft Bazaars**

**Holiday bazaar**
Bristol — St. Mary Parish, 411 W. Vistula St., will have a holiday bazaar Saturday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Dismas House Holiday Open House**
South Bend — The Dismas House, 521 South St. Joseph St., will offer music, cookies, punch and Dismas Design jewelry made by Dismas residents Tuesday, Nov. 30, from noon to 6 p.m.

**Kris Kringle craft show**
South Bend — A Kris Kringle craft show will be Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Little Flower Church. A bake sale, raffle tables and lunch available. Nonperishable food and cash donations to the food pantry will earn a chance to win a $25 Martins Supermarket gift card.

**Arts and craft fair**
South Bend — Sanctuary at St. Paul’s, 3602 S. Ironwood Dr., will have an arts and craft fair Saturday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shop craft, jewelry, gift baskets and more. Call (574) 299-2250 for information.

**St. Jude Christmas Boutique**
Fort Wayne — St. Jude Parish will have a Christmas Boutique Saturday, Nov. 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church hall and school auditorium. Food will be available.

**Misc. Happenings**

**Pay-What-You-Care Sale helps families**
Waterloo — St. Michael Church, at 1098 County Rd. 39, will have a sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, in the parish hall. Clothing and household items will be available with no set prices — you can discreetly leave a donation for your purchases. This is a service project — not a fund-raiser — sponsored by St. Michael’s Youth Group. Any money collected will be used for a local family at Christmas.

**Sunday breakfast at St. Pius X**
Granger — The Knights of Columbus 4263 will have a breakfast Sunday, Nov. 14, after the 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses at St. Pius X. Adults $5, children 6-12 $2.50.

**New vigil Mass at Christ the King**
South Bend — Effective Saturday, Nov. 13, Christ the King Church, 52473 State Road 933, will move the Saturday evening vigil Mass from 5:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Little Flower Holy Hour**
Fort Wayne — Father Andrew Badzinski will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Father Badzinski is the associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne.

**Women’s fertility workshop offered**
Fort Wayne — The CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare™ System about women’s cycles and standardizing monthly record keeping can be used by women with regular cycles, PMS, postpartum depression, irregular cycles, PCOD, endometriosis, infertility and as a means of family planning. NaProTECHNOLOGY is being presented at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Nov. 20 from 9-10 a.m. in the Mother Teresa room. Single women, engaged and married couples should contact Theresa Schortgen CFCP at (260) 749-6706 or at chardaily365@frontier.com. Reservations are required.

**Thrift stores offer half price sales**
South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store at 2302 South Bend Ave., in the Greenwood Plaza Shopping Center, is having a 50 percent off sale Saturday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The store at 3408 Ardmore Trail will be having a 50 percent off sale on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sales do not include large appliances, electronics or cars.

**Catholicism Revisited**
Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Parish announces Catholicism Revisited Monday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. on Nov. 15. “Naked and Ashamed” will be presented by Lisa Marino, RCIA director at St. Matthew Cathedral.

**Living Healthier series sponsored by University of Saint Francis**
Fort Wayne — The Living Healthier series will continue Monday, Nov. 22, with “Men’s Health,” from noon to 1 p.m. at the North Campus, 2702 Spring St. Nonperishable food item donations accepted.

**Knights plan spaghetti dinner**
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Nov. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Carry-out available.

**Knights plan senior citizen Thanksgiving Dinner**
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus 4263 will have a Thanksgiving dinner planned Thursday, Nov. 18, at 6 p.m. in the St. Pius X chapel. Mass will be followed by a pre-Thanksgiving dinner in the Holy Cross Room. Tickets are $10 per person. On Friday, Nov. 19, the Knights will have a Thanksgiving turkey potluck at 6 p.m. in the Holy Cross Room. Call (574) 271-7853 for information.

**Mystery dinner theatre at St. Therese**
Fort Wayne — St. Therese Parish will present “Clue — The Musical,” Nov. 19 and 20 in the parish hall. Dinner and theatre tickets are $25. Doors open at 6:15, dinner and the show at 7 p.m. Cash bar available.

**Victory Noll Center offers service work**
Huntington — Individuals are invited to Victory Noll Center every Thursday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to make no-sew blankets that will go to local charity organizations. Call (260) 356-0028 for information.

**Turkey and ham dinner planned**
New Haven — St. Louis Basilica will have a turkey and ham dinner Sunday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the parish hall. A country fair will also be offered with silent auction and quilt raffle. Tickets are $7 for adults, $5 for children 5-13 and free for children under 5.

**Patis Vitae**
Elkhart — High school teens can attend a weekend retreat Friday, Nov. 12, to Monday, Nov. 15, at St. Vincent de Paul Church. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/VM.

**Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center**

**Advent Series**
Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2010 3:00-5:00 p.m. EST
Based on the book The Unsheltered Heart
Sessions will include sharing, prayers, songs and witnessing from Poor Handmaids involved in ministries of social justice.

Lindenwood is located 40 miles from South Bend and 75 miles from Fort Wayne on Donaldson in Lake Gilbraith. Call 574-935-1780 or visit www.lindenwood.org

A Ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

**Today’s Catholic**
November 14, 2010

**Watch TV Mass Schedule for November**

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<tr>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Feast Day</th>
<th>Fort Wayne 10:30 a.m. WISE-TV, Ch. 33</th>
<th>South Bend 10:30 a.m. WNDU-TV, Ch. 16</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>32nd Sunday In Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Rev. Jason Freiberger Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception</td>
<td>Rev. Neil Wack, CSC, Christ the King South Bend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>33rd Sunday In Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Rev. Edward Erpelding St. Mary of the Assumption Avilla</td>
<td>Rev. Pat Maloney, CSC, Notre Dame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>Feast of Christ the King</td>
<td>Rev. Dave Voors St. Mary of the Assumption Decatur</td>
<td>Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>1st Sunday In Advent</td>
<td>Rev. John Michael D’Arcy Bishop Emeritus</td>
<td>Rev. Mark Gutner St. Anthony</td>
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Canadians celebrate newest saint with prayer, cheers, symbols

LAURA IERACE AND BROTHER CHARLES MCBRIDE, CSC

MONTREAL (CNS) — Olympic Stadium, usually home to football games and trade shows, was converted into the largest place of worship in the country as Canadians celebrated their newest saint. More than 30,000 people — including religious and political leaders — from across the country and the U.S. gathered in the stadium Oct. 30 for a more than two-hour Mass packed with elements significant to the life and mission of St. Brother André, Alfred Bessette, a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Brother André, who founded St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal, was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome Oct. 17, but Canadians delayed their local celebration.

During the extended entrance procession, the assembly prayed a litany of Canadian-based saints and blessed. The litany closed withCanada’s newest saint: Brother André. At the mention of his name, the assembly applauded twice with Canada’s newest saint: Brother André. Near the altar at the celebration for St. Brother André Bessette, a Mass was held at the Olympic Stadium in Montreal Oct. 30 to honor St. Brother André Bessette. Near the altar at the celebration for St. Brother André were the old, the young and infirm.

The entrance procession carried a new reliquary containing a sliver of the heart of St. Brother André’s heart. The concelebrants venerated the relics before they were placed at the foot of the altar. The offerings included one of Brother André’s little black suitcases, which he would take on his many trips; large votive candles, representing the many candles lit by pilgrims at the oratory and other sanctuaries around the world; St. Joseph’s oil, which the new saint used to bring hope, comfort and healing to the sick and the infirm; flowers, representing the many artists who have brought beauty to the oratory; and crucifixes, representing all those who were healed at the oratory through the intercession of St. Joseph.

Montreal’s Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte’s homily was greeted with applause and the waving of white scarves eight times.

The celebration continued Saturday night with the Oratory of St. Joseph hosting some 250 Holy Cross religious for a community meal and celebration. The Holy Cross religious from throughout the world represented one congregation of men and three of women.

There were 25 Sisters of the Holy Cross from across the United States attending the Montreal celebrations. The sisters sent 12 sisters to Rome for St. Brother André’s Beatification and 22 for the Mass.

The real devotion to St. Brother André could be seen at the Oratory on Oct. 31, as hundreds of pilgrims waited in line in total silence to touch, leave flowers, petition notes and pray for a few moments at the tomb of St. Brother André Bessette.