Pope John Paul miracle nears final recognition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A presumed miracle needed for the beatification of the late Pope John Paul II reportedly has reached the final stages of approval.

The miracle, involving a French nun said to have been cured of Parkinson’s disease, has been approved by a Vatican medical board and a group of theologians and is now awaiting judgment from the members of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, according to Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli.

If the congregation accepts the healing as a miracle attributable to the late pope’s intercession, then Pope Benedict XVI still would have to sign a decree formally recognizing it before a beatification ceremony can be scheduled.

Tornielli, who covers the Vatican for the newspaper Il Giornale, wrote Jan. 4 that the process is so far advanced that Pope John Paul could be beatified sometime in 2011.

Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre attends a 2007 news conference in Aix-en-Provence, France. A miracle, involving the French nun said to have been cured of Parkinson’s disease, has been approved by a Vatican medical board and a group of theologians and is now awaiting judgment from the members of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told Catholic News Service Jan. 4 that the final step before beatification requires the pope’s approval and that the pope is free to make his own decision on the matter.

According to Tornielli, at the end of 2010, the presumed miracle passed the first three stages in a five-step process that involves medical experts, a medical board, theological consultants, the members of the congregation and, finally, Pope Benedict.

In 2005, Pope Benedict set Pope John Paul on the fast track to beatification by waiving the normal five-year waiting period for the introduction of his sainthood cause.

The initial diocesan phase of the cause was completed in April 2007. After a team of theological consultants to the Congregation for Saints’ Causes studied the 2,000-page “positio,” the document that makes the case for beatification, Pope Benedict formally decreed in December 2009 that Pope John Paul had heroically lived the Christian virtues and was venerable.
Reflection on first anniversary

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

This past week, I gave an interview to a local television station on my first year as Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend. It was a very pleasant interview as the reporter asked many good questions which provided an occasion to review my experiences this past year. At the end of the interview, the reporter asked me to sum up my feelings after one year as bishop here. I had a hard time thinking of one word to sum up my experience. Thinking about this the next few days, one word clearly came to mind. That word is gratitude.

As the first anniversary of my installation as your bishop approaches, my heart is filled with gratitude to the faithful of our diocese for their warm welcome and kindness the past 12 months. I truly feel at home here, thanks to the goodness of so many, beginning with Bishop D’Arcy, my predecessor. Thinking back to this time last year, I remember how gracious Bishop D’Arcy was as I prepared to begin my episcopal ministry here. His kindness and graciousness have continued throughout the year.

I am deeply grateful to the priests of our diocese who are our wonderful coworokers in pastoral ministry. I have enjoyed every presbytery gathering and also my frequent encounters with our priests in my office and in parishes throughout the diocese. These hard-working and faithful servants of the Lord have been a great support. I am very grateful to our priests for their commitment to Christ and His Church. I also thank our deacons and our seminarians who are also an inspiration through their faith and devotion.

We have many religious sisters, priests, and brothers in our diocesan whom I have enjoyed getting to know throughout this past year. I am grateful to them for their kindness to me and for their example of consecrated life. They remind us all of our call to holiness in following Christ along the way of the Beatitudes.

I am deeply grateful to all the dedicated employees of our diocese and all who work in our parishes, schools, and other institutions. This cohort of workers serves the Church with much zeal and commitment. And there are many others who are very active in the Church in volunteer capacities, sharing their time and talents in serving others.

During this past year, I have met thousands of lay faithful throughout the diocese who have also kindly welcomed me. I thank all of you for your example of faith, for living the Catholic faith through active participation in the Body of Christ, the Church. So, in thinking of one word to describe my feelings on this first anniversary, I would have to say “grateful.” I thank all of you for your kindness, goodness, and love.

In reflecting on my first anniversary which I will spend doing a pastoral visit to Saint Joseph’s High School in

South Bend, I thought about my first homily here in the diocese. It was during Vespers at Saint Matthew Cathedral on the eve of my installation. I reflected on a verse from John which describes the life of the primitive Christian community in Jerusalem: They devoted themselves to the apostles’ instruction and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

In this one verse (Acts 2:42), we read four key elements of the life of the Church at its origins and throughout history. I wish to share with you what I preached about these four elements in my first homily here in our diocese since they express the key priorities of your service as our bishop:

1. They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles.

On the Church is born of, and continually nourished by, the word of the Lord that comes to us from the apostles. “From the beginning, the first disciples burned with the desire to proclaim Christ” (CCC 425). In their trial before the Sanhedrin, Saints Peter and John said: “We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20).

My brothers and sisters, as I begin my ministry among you, I wish to focus on this key mission of the Church: evangelization, the proclamation of Christ in our diocese and in our world today. I hope and pray that we will have that zeal and enthusiasm of the early Christians and have that passion expressed by Peter and John: “We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” Clearly this will be one of my first priorities since this is the Church’s fundamental mission. I invite you and all the people of our diocese to be renewed in this holy task of spreading the faith and of inviting others to enter into the joy of our Catholic faith.

I wish to affirm this evening my firm commitment to Catholic education since one of our most important duties is to pass on the faith to our children and young people. Like the first Christians, we must be devoted to the teaching of the apostles, to the mission of catechesis. Let us allow ourselves to be filled with the ardor of the apostolic preaching which followed Pentecost. As I prepare to become your bishop, I am reminded of Saint Paul’s burning conviction when he cried out: “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” (1 Cor 9:16).

2. They devoted themselves to communion or fellowship (in Greek, koinonia).

This too is an essential element of the life of the Church of all ages. We read in the Acts of the Apostles that the first Christians were of “one heart and one soul” (Acts 4:32). This unity is a gift of the Holy Spirit. We are called to be of “one heart and one soul,” to be united in a communion of love.

We must be faithful to the teaching of the apostles, united with the Holy Father and the bishops of the Church, united in truth and charity! With the help of the Holy Spirit, we must promote a spirituality of communion, one in which our profound unity in Christ is truly lived and practiced as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are called by the Lord to share one another’s joys and sufferings, to attend to one another’s needs, to be committed to practical and concrete love for every human being (Novo Millennio Ineunte 49), especially the poor and suffering in our midst. Our mission of charity necessarily includes a deep commitment to respect for the life of every human being from conception until natural death. In his first encyclical, “God is Love,” Pope Benedict reminded us that the Church is a community of love and he said that “the Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word.”

Practical love for the least of our brothers and sisters must be a decisive feature of our life as a diocese, as a community of Christ’s disciples.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

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PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

EDITOR IN CHIEF AND STAFF WRITERS: Kay Cozad

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

PAGE DESIGNER: Kathy Voirol

ADVERTISING SALES: Tex Steward (Fort Wayne area) (260) 456-2824

BUREAU OFFICE: 114 N.W. Wayne St., South Bend, IN 46601 (574) 234-0687

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Mail letters to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or e-mail: editor@diocesefwsb.org

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is shown here at St. Matthew Cathedral on Jan. 12, 2010, at the Vespers Service the evening before his installation as ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. St. Matthew Cathedral rector, Msgr. Michael Heintz, prepares to introduce Bishop Rhoades to community leaders.

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is shown here at St. Matthew Cathedral on Jan. 12, 2010, at the Vespers Service the evening before his installation as ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. It was a very pleasant interview as the reporter asked many good questions which provided an occasion to review my experiences this past year. At the end of the interview, the reporter asked me to sum up my feelings after one year as bishop here. I had a hard time thinking of one word to sum up my experience. Thinking about this the next few days, one word clearly came to mind. That word is grateful.
As Tucson mourns, victims are remembered

TUCCON, Ariz. (CNS) — With flags nationwide flying at half-staff and programming for funeral, a moment of silence Jan. 10, the victims of the Jan. 8 mass shooting in Tucson were remembered for their warmth and goodness, some for their sense of public service, and several for their involvement in their churches.

The attack during a Saturday morning meet-your-congressional-representative meeting at a Safeway shopping center left six people dead and another 14 wounded, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., who was shot in the head by Jared Lee Loughner, 22. He is accused of killing six people and wounding 14 others in the Jan. 8 shooting rampage.

A girl and her father light a candle at a memorial Jan. 9 outside Tucson University Medical Center in Arizona where victims of a Jan. 8 shooting are recovering. U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was in critical condition at the center after being shot in the head by Jared Lee Loughner, 22. He is accused of killing six people and wounding 14 others in the Jan. 8 shooting rampage.

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Reparations after rockslides partially close grotto at Lourdes shrine

BY JONATHAN LUXMOORE

OXFORD, England (CNS) — The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, one of Europe’s best-known pilgrimage sites, has been partially closed for repairs amid reports that falling rocks in its fabled grotto could signal a major landslide.

Work to secure the massive rock face above the grotto started Jan. 3 and was expected to continue through February, said the Diocese of Tarbes and Lourdes.

Despite the work, the grotto would remain “open and welcoming” during construction, the diocese said.

Bishop Jacques Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes detailed some of the work to be completed during a December news conference. He said the celebration of Mass would be canceled but that the daily rosary service would remain “open and welcoming” during construction, he said.

The project will find workers affixing loose chunks of rock, some weighing up to 15 tons, to the existing rock face. Safety nets also will be installed to catch any rocks that may fall in the future.

Lourdes, near the Pyrenees mountains in southern France, attracts about 6 million visitors annually and has been a place of pilgrimage since 1858, when St. Bernadette Soubirous experienced the first of 18 visions of Mary.

“Works is celebrated in the grotto at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France in this 2008 file photo. Repair work to prevent falling rocks began at the grotto Jan. 3 and was expected to continue through February.”

Pope sends envoy, funds for Haiti on earthquake anniversary

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI offered special prayers and a $1.2 million contribution to Haiti as the country struggled to recover a year after a deadly earthquake.

The pope, speaking at his noon blessing at the Vatican Jan. 9, announced that he was sending a top Vatican official to Haiti to express his “continual closeness and that of the entire Church” to the people of the Caribbean nation.

“At this moment of Marian prayer, I wish to reserve a particular thought for the people of Haiti, one year after the terrible earthquake, which has unfortunately been followed by a serious cholera epidemic,” the pope said.

More than 1 million Haitians continue to live in hundreds of temporary settlements that sprouted after the magnitude 7 earthquake struck on Jan. 12, 2010. At least 230,000 people were killed. Cholera has claimed more than 3,600 lives over the past three months.

The pope said Cardinal Robert Sarah, head of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, will travel to the Caribbean nation as it marks the anniversary of the earthquake. The pontifical council coordinates international Catholic charitable activities.

Cardinal Sarah was bringing funds collected by the Vatican for Haiti’s recovery: $800,000 for reconstruction of schools and $400,000 for reconstruction of churches.

The Vatican said Cardinal Sarah would read a papal message during a Mass Jan. 12. The cardinal was scheduled to meet with Haitian President Rene Preval Jan. 11 and celebrate Mass in the Terrain Acre settlement camp in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

Cardinal Sarah was also visiting with members of three religious orders that ran a hospital, a home for the elderly, a center for AIDS and tuberculosis patients and a school. All were damaged or destroyed in the earthquake. He was also to lay the foundation stone for a new church-run school.

Before leaving Haiti, Cardinal Sarah was to celebrate Mass Jan. 13 at the convent of the Daughters of Mary, where 15 sisters died in the collapse of a convent building.

In Rome, meanwhile, the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, was scheduled to celebrate a commemorative Mass Jan. 12 in the Basilica of St. Mary Major. The diplomatic corps at the Vatican and in Rome were invited to attend.

Mass is celebrated in the grotto at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France in this 2008 file photo. Repair work to prevent falling rocks began at the grotto Jan. 3 and was expected to continue through February.
New Catholic lawmakers ready to tackle state’s challenges

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christ, the king of the world, is not found on the throne of power or in the hallways of learning, he is found defenseless among the poor and humble, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“At times, power — including that of knowledge — blocks the path to encountering that child,” the Son of God, the savior of the world, he said.

“God does not manifest himself in the power of this world, but in the humility of his love, that love that asks us, in our freedom, to welcome it so that we may be transformed,” he said.

The pope made his remarks at a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica Jan. 6, the Epiphany.

In his homily, the pope highlighted the journey of the Wise Men or Magi who were in search of something more — “the true light that would be able to indicate the path to follow in life.”

Following the star, the Magi met King Herod in Jerusalem. Herod, a man of power, considered Jesus, the promised king of the Jews, to be a rival and wanted to kill him.

Even today, God can seem like a “particularly dangerous rival who would want to deprive people of their personal space, of their autonomy and their power,” the pope said.

“We have to ask ourselves, is there perhaps a little bit of Herod in us as well?” Perhaps we, too, sometimes see God as a kind of rival” who needs to be removed so we could have unlimited power to do whatever we want, the pope said.

However, letting God into one’s life “does not take anything away and does not threaten anything; rather he is the only one capable of offering us the possibility of living to the full and feeling real joy,” he said.

In Jerusalem, a city of power and learning, the Magi met with scribes and theologians for guidance, he said. But the Jerusalem-based scholars did not embark on the journey to seek out the Christ child, preferring instead to stay put and continue to study, examine and discuss the Scriptures.

“Again we can ask ourselves, is there not also in us the temptation to see theology, religious study — this extremely rich and vital treasure for the faith of the church — more like something for specialists to study and discuss rather than like the book that indicates the path to take in life?” the pope asked.

In the end, the star brought the Magi to the small town of Bethlehem and “led them among the humble in order to find the king of the world,” said the pope.

The Magi, like many people today, had expected to find the savior of the world “in places of power and culture,” he said.

Many would imagine that if God was coming to save the world, he would have displayed his might by “giving the world a more just economic system in which everyone could have everything he or she wanted,” the pope said.

Yet that kind of power would have been “a kind of violation of humankind because it would have deprived people of the fundamental elements” of being human, he said, such as their free will and capacity for love.

God wants people to exercise their freedom and love, and so he comes as a child and displays not earthly power, but “the apparent helplessness of his love.”

After the Mass, Pope Benedict gave his Angelus address from his studio window to thousands of people gathered in the Epiphany, a national holiday in Italy, is largely dedicated to children, and the square was full of young people.

The pope said everyone is called to be like the star of Bethlehem and lead out to Jesus with his light. Christians “must shine like children of the light, to attract even the non-believers and the children of the kingdom of God,” he said.

On the eve of the Epiphany, the pope visited children in Rome’s Gemelli hospital “to be a little like the Magi,” he told them.

The pope brought stuffed animals, boxes, books and candy for the children, many of whom were receiving care for the birth defect spina bifida.

The pope greeted and blessed the children, and they gave him small statues of the three kings and drawings they had made for the occasion.
POPE GREETS INFANT DURING VISIT TO ROME HOSPITAL

POPE GREETS INFANT DURING VISIT TO ROME HOSPITAL

Pope Benedict XVI greets an infant during his visit to Rome's Gemelli Hospital Jan. 5.

The pope brought stuffed animals, music boxes, books and candy for the children, many of whom were receiving care for the birth defect spina bifida.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Pope: Threats to religious freedom abound, including in West**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Religious freedom and religious diversity are not threats to society and should not be a source of conflict, Pope Benedict XVI told diplomats from around the world. The pope asked the representa- tives of 178 countries, as well as of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the European Community and the Knights of Malta, to examine how well their own countries respect the right of individuals to believe, to act in accordance with their conscience, to gather with other believers for worship and to carry out the educational and social projects their faith inspires. Pope Benedict met Jan. 10 with diplomats accredited to the Holy See and continued his Christmas-season focus on the connection between religious lib- erty and peace, and on threats to full religious freedom in Western democracies as well as in coun- tries notorious for violating human rights. Once again he denounced recent attacks on Christians in Iraq, Egypt and Nigeria and expressed concern about the recent renewal of Chinese government restrictions on Catholics there. Condemning the murder Jan. 4 of Salman Taseer, the governor of Punjab in Pakistan, the pope said the coun- try must overturn its blasphemy law, which makes insulting the Prophet Mohammed or the Quran punishable by death. Taseer sup- ported the move to abrogate the law, which the pope said often “serves as a pretext of acts of injustice and violence against reli- gious minorities.”

**Haitians cope with post traumatic stress disorder in a variety of ways**

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) —** For many Haitians a week after the January 2010 earthquake, Holy Cross Sister Marie-Pierre Saint Amour heard the night-time cries of children crowded into the con- vent's driveway and garden. Although they had sought shelter with the nun, because of the aftershocks the children were reluctant to spend much time under the sisters’ study roof. Of course, they were troubled and traumatized, said Sister Marie- Pierre Saint Amour. She did not need help training in psychology to tell her that; she saw the angry face of the devil in their drawings. Since then, Sister Marie-Pierre has come to realize her whole country is suffering from a sort of mass post-traumatic stress disor- der. She has been busy trying to treat the young people, but how do you administer psy- chotherapy to a nation? Everyone’s trauma is focused so much on the medical, but forgetting the psycholog- ical,” said Father Michel Martin Enguere, a Holy Cross priest and psychologist from Haiti. There are fewer than six psychiatrists in all of Haiti, said Dr. Peter Kelly, pres- ident of the Crudum Foundation, which runs Sacred Heart Hospital in the northern town of Milot with the support of the Order of Malta and Catholic Relief Services. Kelly and other volunteer doctors in Haiti after the earthquake observed widespread post-trau- matic stress disorder. They also saw that most Haitian medical staff were reluctant to diagnose depression or the disorder. “I believe it has something to do with their culture, as well as the fact that they have faced so many hardships throughout their history that they accept it as normal and move on with their lives,” Kelly wrote in an e-mail.

**Court says cross on San Diego hillside violates Constitution**

**PASADENA, Calif. (CNS) —** A federal court has ruled that a cross on a San Diego hillside, as “presently configured,” conveys a message of government endorse- ment of religion and violates the Establishment Clause of the Constitution. The order sends the case back to lower courts to decide whether the cross can remain on the piece of land now owned by the federal government and administered by the Defense Department. The Jan. 4 ruling by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals acknowl- edged that “no broadly applied resolution is possible because this case represents the difficult and intractable intersection of religion, patriotism and the Constitution.”

**Twenty-one US bishops could retire for age reasons in 2011**

**WASHINGTON (CNS) —** Five U.S. cardinals and 16 other U.S. bishops could retire because of age this year. There are 12 active U.S. bishops, including three car- dinals, who have already turned 75. Two cardinals and seven other bishops will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2011. At age 75, bish- ops are requested to submit their resignation to the pope. Cardinal Bernard F. Law, archpriest of St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome and a cardinal since 1985, turned 75 Nov. 4, 2006. He was archbishop of Boston from 1984 until his res- ignation from that post in 2002 in the wake of controversy over his handling of cases of clergy sex abuse there. He was named to his Rome post in 2004. Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia turned 75 on April 19, 2010. He became archbishop of St. Louis, holding that post until his appoint- ment as archbishop of Philadelphia in 2003. Philadelphia-born Cardinal John P. Foley, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher since 2007, turned 75 Nov. 11. A former editor of The Catholic Standard & Times newspaper in Philadelphia, he was president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications at the Vatican for more than 23 years. Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles turns 75 on Feb. 27 and Coadjutor Archbishop Joseph H. Gomez already has been named to succeed him when he retires. Cardinal William J. Levada, for- mer archbishop of San Francisco and Portland, Ore., and a former auxiliary bishop in Los Angeles, will be 75 on June 15 but is expected to continue as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, a post he has held since 2005, until Pope Benedict XVI names his successor.

**New York parishioners face possible hepatitis A exposure from Communion**

**NEW YORK (CNS) —** The Nassau County Department of Health on New York’s Long Island is offering immune globu- lin or hepatitis A vaccine to parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Massapequa Park who might have been exposed to hepatitis A when receiving Communion at two Masses in December. Mary Ellen Laurain, a spokeswoman for the department, said an individual involved in the “Communion process” had tested positive for the hepatitis A virus but would not say whether any parishioners who attended the 10:30 a.m. or noon Masses Dec. 25 had contracted the virus. “We pray that no one comes down with this virus,” said Sean P. Dolan, director of communica- tions for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, in a Jan. 3 statement. He said the diocese and the parish were “cooperating fully” with the health department and urged any individual who attended either of the two Masses to contact the department, which planned to offer the vaccine and immune globulin to parishioners who attended either of the two Masses to the two Masses to the two Masses to contact the department, which planned to offer the vaccine and immune globulin to those who attended either of the two Masses. The department said in a Jan. 3 statement that anyone exposed to hepatitis A “should receive immune globulin or a hepatitis A vaccination within two weeks of exposure from someone who has the disease.” The disease can be spread “by consuming food or drink that has been handled by an infected person” or by “giving or putting something in the mouth that has been contaminated with the stool of a person with hepatitis A.”

For more information, visit CNSWeb.com
Office of Worship offers trainings for new lay ministers

The Office of Worship is offering training programs for new extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, new proclamers of the Word and new extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to the sick. These programs are offered in order to help parishes provide the required training for new lay ministers.

These sessions are training for new lay ministers and not designed for those currently serving in these ministries, although they are welcome to attend.

The one-time only new minister trainings offered by the Office of Worship for 2011:

- New proclaimer of the Word, lector, training will be Saturday, Feb. 5, at St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne, beginning at 9 a.m., and on Feb. 12, at 9 a.m., at Christ the King Church in South Bend.
- New extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion training will be held Saturday, Feb. 5, beginning at 9 a.m., at St. Pius X Church, Granger, and Saturday, Feb. 12, at 9:30 a.m., at Queen of Angels Church in Fort Wayne.
- New extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to the sick training will be Saturday, Feb. 19, beginning at 10 a.m. at Corpus Christ Church in South Bend and Saturday, Feb. 26, at 10 a.m., in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne. Those attending this training must be already trained as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

All trainings will end by lunchtime.

Forms and information are available at www.diocesefwsb.org and linking to the Office of Worship or by calling (260) 399-1401, or contacting Terry Broberg-Swangan at tbroberg-swangin@diocese-fwsb.org.

Payment must accompany all registrations. The registration fee for all trainings is $15 per person per training session. There is no registration at the door.

The only format to register for training sessions is via U.S. Mail. Registration and payment for all training sessions for new ministers must be received at the Office of Worship by the Wednesday before the training to ensure proper processing.

Saint Mary’s College announces 2011 Aquinas Symposium speaker

NOTRE DAME — Father Robert Barron, a prominent theologian and Catholic evangelist, is the speaker for the 14th annual Robert E. and Laura Varnum St. Thomas Aquinas at Saint Mary’s College. He will give his lecture, titled “Thomas Aquinas and Why the Atheists Are Right,” at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 25, in the Student Center Lounge. The public is invited to attend. Barron explained his lecture this way: “New atheists have emerged as student critics of religion. I have found that more often than not I agree with them, for the God they deny is one that I would deny as well. I want to explore this curious situation with the help of St. Thomas Aquinas. I will look especially at Thomas’ treatment of the noncompetitive relationship between God and the world.”

Father Barron reaches millions of people through his global media evangelization called Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, www.wordonfire.org. According to the website, Word on Fire’s purpose is to draw people into or back to the Catholic faith using advanced and emerging technologies. Posted on the website are Barron’s weekly video clips, commentaries and radio sermons and an audio archive of over 300 homilies. In addition to the website, Father Barron appears on EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network), national radio, and YouTube. He also writes a column in Our Sunday Visitor and Today’s Catholic.

He has also published numerous books, essays and DVDs.

Father Barron, who lectures extensively in the U.S. and abroad, is the Francis Cardinal George Chair of Faith and Culture at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Ill. — the nation’s largest Catholic seminary. He has taught Systematic Theology at the seminary since 1992. He was a visiting professor at the University of Notre Dame in 2002. The Aquinas Symposium is held each year to honor St. Thomas Aquinas on or around his feast day (Jan. 28) and is sponsored by the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology.

Information is available by contacting Barb Westra, staff assistant in religious studies, at (574) 284-4534 or by visiting www.saintmarys.edu/aquinas.

USF adds an RN-BSN completion program

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis (USF) is adding a registered nursing to bachelor of science in nursing (RN-BSN) completion program to its list of offerings. Associate and diploma nursing graduates will now be able to earn the RN-BSN. The university is now accepting students into the program, with classes scheduled to begin during the fall 2011 semester.

“The demand remains high for nurses who wish to expand their education goals and help expand their career options,” said Amy Knepp, chairperson and assistant professor in the Department of Nursing at USF.

The RN-BSN program will be offered in a 20-month, accelerated online format. Classes will last eight weeks each. The online program is unique in the northeast Indiana area, department officials said.

“The curriculum will provide a flexible program of study, recognizing the registered nurse’s previous knowledge and clinical expertise. Students will attend class regularly in an online format wherever they have access to a computer and the Internet. Online classes will maintain the rigor and quality, as well as the interaction, participation and networking with peers of the traditional classroom setting,” said Knepp.

The program will build from a liberal arts foundation, integrating nursing knowledge with the humanities and behavioral and social sciences. Registered nurses also choose to complete the degree will be prepared for career advancement in the clinical setting of their choice. Course content in research, leadership and management and community health nursing will introduce students to leadership and management roles and nursing positions in the community. Graduates will be prepared to make an impact on the current and future health care of society.

The bachelor of science in nursing program is accredited by the Indiana State Board of Nursing and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The USF Department of Nursing is a leader in nursing education, offering ASN, BSN and graduate degrees. Information is available by contacting the USF Office of Admissions at (260) 399-8000, (800) 729-4732 or admissions@sf.edu.

SAT preparation classes registering now

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School is offering an SAT preparation course on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Classes will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 18, and end on Thursday, March 3.

The 14 sessions will include the diagnostic testing, six verbal and six math sessions.

The class fee is $175 and includes the text for the course. The class will address all areas of the SAT, and is open to any high school student in the area. For more information and registration, call Bishop Dwenger High School at (260) 496-4780, or visit www.bishopdwenger.com.

Free choral music program at St. Meinrad held Jan. 29

ST. MEINRAD — The AGO (American Guild of Organists) Festival Singers will present “Awake, My Soul! A Celebration of Psalms,” a free program of choral music, on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 3 p.m. (CST) in the St. Meinrad Archabbey Church, St. Meinrad, Ind.

This diverse program of Psalms-based choral music will feature works by Poulenc, Mendelssohn, Bortniansky, Part, Purcell, Summon, Ives and Sowerby. It will include music from the Anglican, Orthodox and Roman Catholic liturgical traditions.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jeanne Meunacher at (812) 357-6501.

Saint Mary's College to host march in memory of Martin Luther King Jr.

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College invites the South Bend-area community to participate in a march on campus on Monday, Jan. 17, in memory of Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. This event takes place every year on Martin Luther King Day and is sponsored by the Multicultural Services and Student Programs office, Campus Ministry and the student club Sisters of Nefertiti.

The event will start at 6 p.m. in the atrium of the Student Center and include reflections on King’s life as well as prayer, song and discussion on how King’s message still resounds today.

“MSSP is focused on providing multi-cultural education and outreach to the campus community and we extend that outreach to the South Bend community as we remember Dr. King,” said Stephanie Steward-Bridges, director of multi-cultural services and student programs. For information, contact Stephanie Steward-Bridges, director of MSSP at (574) 284-4721 or sshrtridge@stmarys.edu.

Around the Diocese

FATHER DEVOLDER INSTALLED PASTOR OF SACRED HEART

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is shown with Father Phil Devolder at a reception following the Mass of installation of Father Devolder as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw on Dec. 18.
FORT WAYNE — While some schools and businesses take a day off to pay tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, the University of Saint Francis (USF) will take the opposite approach — a day "on."

USF will recognize national Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 17, with "Acting on the Dream: A Day On, Not a Day Off.,” which gives students, faculty and staff a chance to lead children’s activities and participate in service projects across campus and Fort Wayne.

The university will suspend classes so students can participate in the faculty organized and led projects. Other on-campus commemorative activities and displays open to the public will take place Jan. 17 through Feb 4.

Service projects Jan. 17

From 9 -11:30 a.m., students and faculty will play games and read to children at Charis House, which cares for homeless women and children, providing shelter, food, education and life skills. While the children are entertained, their mothers will receive hand care in the form of massages and paraffin dips by Masters of Club, and hair styling, makeup and nail care by Masters of Club, and hair styling, makeup and nail care by Masters of Club.

From 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30-4 p.m., USF’s Photo Club will provide professional-quality on-site family portraits for residents of Vincent House and Vincent Village, which serves homeless families, at 2827 Houlton Ave.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., USF students will serve as docents at the African American History Museum at 436 E. Douglas Ave. From noon to 4 p.m., the women’s soccer team will be reading, playing games and interacting with patients in the children’s wing at Lutheran Hospital at 7950 W. Jefferson Blvd.

From 1-4 p.m. include: USF groups will dust and vacuum rooms, clean toys and bake cookies for families staying at Children’s Hope House at 7922 W. Jefferson Blvd., which provides a temporary, low-cost home-away-from-home for families whose children are being treated for serious illness, injuries or birth defects at area hospitals.

At St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store at 1600 S. Calhoun St., volunteers will tidy up and sort clothing for the store, which serves the needy.

Another group will be storing donations for Vincent Village, which serves homeless families, at 2827 Houlton Ave.

Service projects from 1-4 p.m. include: USF groups will dust and vacuum rooms, clean toys and bake cookies for families staying at Children’s Hope House at 7922 W. Jefferson Blvd., which provides a temporary, low-cost home-away-from-home for families whose children are being treated for serious illness, injuries or birth defects at area hospitals.

From 1:30-3:30 p.m., USF volunteers will sort food and perform general cleaning for the Associated Churches, 802 E. Wayne St., which supports the local food banks.

Activities open to the public on Jan 17

At 11 a.m. on Jan. 17, a prayer service will be conducted in Gunderson Auditorium, Achatz Hall.

From 1-4 p.m. Celebrate the Dream: We Can All Play Together, will be an interactive activity with University of Saint Francis sports teams and education majors. A football toss, softball throw, basketball free-throw, place bugio and bracelet-making are planned for kids of all ages in the North Campus gymnasium. As part of the event, Explore Your Dreams through Art will allow kids to express ideas with air-dry clay to take home. Additional materials will also be available to combine with clay and work with creatively. Parents are required to stay with their children during the events. For more information, contact Dr. Ann Hernandez in the School of Professional Studies at ahernan- dez@sf.edu or (260) 399-7700, ext. 8413.

Volunteers will make fleece, no-sew blankets as part of Project Linus, and art projects to provide blankets for children in northeast Indiana who are seriously ill or traumatized. The blanket-making will be in room 141 at the USF North Campus on Jan. 17 from 1-4 p.m.

From 1-4 p.m. From Feb. 4, collections will take place campus-wide for the following charities: eyeglasses for the Lions Club; clothing for St. Vincent de Paul; food for Associated Churches; and food boxes for the NeighborLink Fort Wayne. Collection boxes will be in all USF buildings.

On Tuesday, Jan. 18 a reading of poetry by African-American writers will take place in the atrium of Achatz Hall at 7 p.m. Jazz music and a slideshow of art by African Americans will accompany the poetry reading. A discussion of the poetry and artwork will follow. Seating is limited.

On Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. in Gunderson Auditorium, Achatz Hall, an interdisciplinary panel of USF professors will discuss topics relevant to “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Man, the Times, the Ideas.” Robin Brown, a member of the board of trustees for the African American Historical Museum, will speak.

On Jan. 27, the USF Student Nurses Association will assist Red Cross workers with registration and demonstration at a public blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the North Campus gymnasium. Community members can sign up for time to give blood by contacting rdepew@sf.edu.

A dedication of a document from Martin Luther King Jr. and hand-written speech notes by King, all on loan from the Karpelis Manuscript Library, which houses a rotating collection of unique documents and artifacts, are on display in the Lee and Jim Vann Library on the second floor of the Pope John Paul II Center.
FORT WAYNE — During his first pastoral school visit of the new year Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades traveled between the two campuses that make up St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School in Fort Wayne on Tuesday, Jan. 4. His first stop was to the St. Joseph campus on Brooklyn Avenue.

St. Joseph School was established in 1918 by the Sisters of St. Agnes. The current Brooklyn Avenue building opened in 1953 and provided a quality Catholic education for students kindergarten through eighth grade until the burgeoning St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish on Aboite Center Road constructed a catechetical center that expanded the school to two campuses. It was in 1997 that kindergarten, first- and second-grade classes moved to the St. Elizabeth campus creating the joint school. Third and fourth grades followed in 2007 with another expansion to the St. Elizabeth campus.

At the St. Joseph campus, following a brief visit with office staff, Bishop Rhoades, along with St. Joseph pastor Father Tim Wrozek, both of whom are fluent in Spanish, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Principal Lois Widner and Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark Myers surprised the eighth-grade Spanish class with an impromptu appearance. Later in the gym the curious fifth- and sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade classes listened attentively as Bishop Rhoades spoke of his devotion to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, whose feast day they celebrated that very day.

Each grade had the opportunity to ask Bishop Rhoades questions that ranged from curiosity about his favorite Scripture to his pastoral cross and ring. One eighth-grade student stumped Bishop Rhoades with his chosen Confirmation saint, John Wall, an English cleric from the 1600s.

The sixth-grade religion students thrilled at showing off their in-class Smartboard during a review activity and the upper classmen of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School sent Bishop Rhoades off in style by presenting him with a school sweatshirt and stocking cap.

Following lunch with teachers and staff Bishop Rhoades traveled to the St. Elizabeth campus where he, St. Elizabeth pastor Father Jim Shafer and parochial vicar Father Andrew Curry met with the kindergarten through fourth-grade classes individually, offering them encouragement to pray for their own vocations, reciting traditional prayers, and answering their questions concerning such matters as his marital status and the size of his zucchetto cap. The lower grades of the school presented Bishop Rhoades with an embroidered blanket in the school’s blue. An All-School Mass at St. Elizabeth Church was celebrated by Bishop Rhoades, along with concelebrants Fathers Wrozek, Shafer and Curry. Students of the school reverently served as readers, altar servers, gift bearers and in the jubilant contemporary band and choir.

During his homily the bishop spoke of the life of St. Elizabeth Seton and his special devotion to her as they celebrated her feast day. He had attended college in Emmitsburg, Md., where St. Elizabeth is buried, for only two weeks when the celebration of her canonization occurred.

Bishop Rhoades spoke of how St. Elizabeth founded the first Catholic School in the U.S. “How fortunate you are to attend a school named after this great saint,” he said. Bishop Rhoades noted that St. Elizabeth had a deep devotion to St. Joseph and founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph. “There is a beautiful connection to have this school named for St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth.”

In conclusion Bishop Rhoades said, “We ask her for prayers for this school and parish to strive to be like her ... Strong and faithful followers of Jesus.” Bishop Rhoades introduced St. Elizabeth Parish’s first vocation, seminarian Royce Gregerson, who served at the
The accredited St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School boasts two classes for each grade, with up to 30 students in each class. Kindergarten is the exception with three classes of up to 20 students each, including full-day and progressive-day. The 60 dedicated staff members include 35 certified teachers.

Lois Widner has been principal of this two-campus school for nine years and finds little difficulty administering the two campuses. “The collaboration of the staff between the two campuses brings unity to the school,” Widner says, adding that upper classmen are paired with younger students in their spirit pals program that fosters friendships at both campuses as well.

“We have a tremendous academic program and an awesome staff,” says Widner. “Our vision statement reads, ‘Building the foundation for a successful and faith-filled life.’ That’s what we’re all about.”

In addition to daily religion classes, weekly Mass and a monthly All-School Mass, the students are challenged with not only the regular diocesan curriculum but several supplementary programs as well. St. Joseph has instituted the National Junior Honor Society that provides service opportunities as well as an all-grades Spanish program. Extracurricular activities include a variety of stewardship activities, a fine arts program that includes a guitar program, show choir and band, a peer mediator program, Scouts, CYO sports and a journalism club.

The support staff at the school is well equipped to assist the students in a variety of ways. A resource room is available for academic assistance as well as the school counselor who offers not only support groups for various needs but sports therapy dogs on campus as well.

“The support of the pastors, staff, parents and students is what makes this school a stand out in Catholic education, says Principal Widner, who encourages interested parents to call for a tour.

Father Wrozek is pleased with this joint school and says, “Our kids are really smart and good. The faculty and staff are by far head and shoulders above the rest.”

Father Shafer agrees adding, “They’re the best kids in the world.”
MISHAWAKA — The feast of St. André Bessette took on added joy for the students and parents of Queen of Peace School as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joined them for an all school Mass and school visit on Jan. 6. And it was fitting that St. André’s dedication to the poor and the sick coincided with the school’s emphasis on stewardship through service, outreach and the care of earth resources.

During Bishop Rhoades’ homily at the Mass, he spoke of how Brother André’s position as his congregation’s doorkeeper and devotion to Christ drew people to seek his advice. “A lot of people who came to see him were sick and poor and they asked for his prayers and many of them were healed,” Bishop Rhoades remarked.

Bishop Rhoades tied the feast of St. André Bessette with the Mass reading from the first Letter of John where loving God and the love for one another are inseparable. “If you really love God, you are going to love God’s sons and daughters.”

When he asked first graders at the Mass how people can show their love for God, answers included saying prayers, extending someone a hug and giving someone chocolates. Laughter from the congregation and Bishop Rhoades ensued, and afterwards he explained to the students that he used to live near Hershey, Pa., where many chocolates are made.

The school’s emphasis of stewardship was evident as Bishop Rhoades toured the school. Tina Dover, principal of Queen of Peace School, noted that service projects are carried out by individual classes, student council Spirit Days and students involved with the St. Vincent de Paul Society (affectionately referred to as Minnie Vinnies).

In the past few months the Center for the Homeless received gently used toys from grades 1-5, and new mittens, hats, gloves and scarves from middle school students at Queen of Peace. Preschoolers offered their support through a blanket drive for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Student Council sponsors a school Spirit Day at least once a month where students pay $1 to wear jeans and a Queen of Peace Puma shirt to school with the proceeds going to the Center for the Homeless.

Laurie Haverty, adult leader of the school’s Minnie Vinnie program, stated that the group distributed 35 holiday food baskets to those in need in the local community, and a food drive for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which netted 2,600 food items. In October, the group sent packages to seminary students at Mount St. Mary’s which included candy, homemade saint cards and tree of life leaves.

“The ‘leaves’ that we sent were leaf cutouts and we asked the seminarians to place a name of someone who has passed away on the leaves and return them to Queen of Peace. Each year, the school has a large ‘Tree of Life’ painted on the school’s building.”

Queen of Peace School
4508 Vistula Rd. | Mishawaka, IN 46544
Pastor: Father Daniel Scheidt
Principal: Tina Dover
Staff of 18 with 3 aides
Preschool Enrollment for 2010-2011 — 46
Kindergarten through Eighth Grade Enrollment for 2010 -2011 — 165
Telephone: (574) 255-0392
Web Address - www.queenofpeace.cc
glass by the school. The students place their own leaves (and this year those of the seminarians as well) on the tree and we pray for these people all throughout November,” Haverty explained.

Stewardship is also seen through the school’s emphasis on the sustainability of the environment. Second-grade teacher Gabriella Layman introduced her class to the meaning of the word “sustainability.”

“I explained that we are using less of something to get something more, whether that applies to using less water, turning off the faucet while they are brushing their teeth and turning off lights. We just did our New Year wishes and half of the things that they said were using ‘sustainability’ to save our earth,” said Layman.

A savings of $500 on one month’s school electrical bill was achieved by turning off one of the two light switches in class each day, she added.

Father Daniel Scheidt, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish, emphasized that keeping the Catholic identity of the school is a crucial part of the school’s mission. “Under the special patronage of Our Lady, Queen of Peace School exists to be like Mary and Joseph’s home at Nazareth, a place where children can come to know and love Jesus Christ and the truth of the world He came to save.”

As a part of keeping with the Catholic identity, an Epiphany concert featuring all of the school’s students was held on the evening of Jan. 6 to celebrate the solemnity on its actual date.

Music teacher Lynn Lambert summed up the excitement of the students for Bishop Rhoades’ visit and Epiphany concert. “Joy to the world, for He has come. The angels are rejoicing, we are rejoicing, and we want to give God the glory for this. It’s the end of the Christmas season, and Jesus is the best gift of all.”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Queen of Peace School’s Minnie Vinnies participate in the St. Vincent dePaul Society. The mural behind them was painted by parishioner Charles O’Neil.

Queen of Peace fourth-graders Lindsey Mathews and Matthew Obringer ready to present the gifts during the all-school Mass.

Preschooler Braden Oberg reflects on the Good Shepherd display in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd class.

Tracy VanSchoick’s kindergarten class greets Bishop Rhoades during their physical education period.

Some of Gina Hite’s fifth-grade class sit on core balls as they listen to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. The core balls provide balance and strengthen the body’s core muscles.
Notre Dame to celebrate the saints of the Congregation

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame’s fourth annual celebration of the feast of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, CSC, the 19th century French churchman who founded the Congregation of Holy Cross, will be observed this month during Holy Cross Week, a series of events collectively titled “Holy Cross: Faith in Our Future.”

The series of events will include Mass for the feast of Blessed Basil Moreau, on Jan. 20 at 5:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, with celebrant Holy Cross Father David Tyson; liturgy of Vespers, with celebrant Holy Cross Father Cyril O’Regan, titled “John Henry Newman: The Validity of Holiness in the Modern World,” a screening of the documentary film, “God’s in the Modern World,” 7:30 p.m. in the Andrews Auditorium of Geddes Hall by Brother André Bessette, on Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Andrews Auditorium of Geddes Hall; and an opening reception for an exhibition of photographs by Steven Scardina concerning the life and witness of St. André who founded the Congregation of Holy Cross, will be observed this month during Holy Cross Week, a series of events collectively titled “Holy Cross: Faith in Our Future.”

Wabash parishioner looks for memories

WABASH — What started out as a simple family research project has now blown into a full church history undertaking.

Micheal Thompson has been searching for any information on the history of St. Bernard Parish located in Wabash.

“I know there are past and current members out there that have some fond memories of St. Bernard’s, I’m looking to hear from them,” Thompson says. “In 2114, St. Bernard’s Parish will be 150 years old. Thompson would like to have the history complete before then.

Anyone who has any memories or pictures to share, should contact Thompson at 649 N. Allen St., Apt 2, Wabash, IN 46992 or by e-mail at m.thompson1849@yahoo.com.

USF offers FAFSA assistance

FORT WAYNE — Financial aid staff at the University of Saint Francis will provide assistance filling out the 2011-2012 free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) on Monday, Jan. 17. The public is invited to stop by the university’s Pope John Paul II Center, Room 110, between 1-4 p.m. Applicants should bring their most recent federal tax return, W2 and other income information in order to complete this online application.

All college students who plan to enroll at a higher education institution in the 2011-2012 school year must complete a FAFSA in order to be considered for financial aid. Federal, state and most institutional assistance, including scholarships, grants, loans and work-study opportunities, is determined by the results of the FAFSA.

The FAFSA may be submitted anytime after Jan. 1. However, the priority deadline to be considered for grant eligibility from the state of Indiana is March 10.

For more information contact the University of Saint Francis Office of Financial Aid at (260) 399-8003.

37th Annual March for Life
Sponsored by Allen County Right To Life

Saturday noon
January 29, 2011
SCOTTISH RITE CENTER
March through downtown
Fort Wayne at 1:00 pm
Keynote Speaker:
Father John Raphael

A “Silent No More” awareness event will follow immediately after the march at the Federal Building.

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Father John Raphael

Father Raphael is Principal of St. Augustine High School in New Orleans and a nationally known Pro-Life leader and speaker.
Witnesses to the Light

I n between the joys of Christmas and New Year’s Day, the Church offers us a reminder of the suffering that can be caused by fear. On Dec. 28, the Church celebrated the feast of the Holy Innocents. These young infants are honored as the first martyrs for Christ, witnesses to the Light. The Gospel reading for the day reminds us of King Herod’s fury when he realized that he had been deceived by the Magi. “He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity, two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the Magi.” — Mt. 2:16.

Herod was motivated by intense fear and desperation, which lead him to destroy others to preserve his position and his throne. So often today fear motivates terrible decisions, adding to the culture of death in which we find ourselves. Our culture tends to disregard hope while overemphasizing every fear to the extent that death is seen as the answer to many difficult human struggles.

Death is promoted as the answer to a difficult pregnancy. Death is often the response to an imperfect unborn child or an unhealthy newborn. Death is an accepted solution for persons who are sick, elderly, disabled, unwanted or abandoned. Death is legitimized for those in prison; and an expedited death is recommended for those near the end of their lives — and even for those who are simply depressed.

But as the feast day reading reminds us, “This is the message that we have heard from Jesus Christ and proclaim to you: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” — 1 Jn 1:5. While God came into the world to overcome the darkness of sin and death, each of us must choose daily to trust in His providence and to walk in the light. And we have a profound obligation to help others see that light when all they envision is darkness.

An abandoned mother facing a crisis pregnancy can be overcome with fear. Expectant parents of a child with a serious health challenge can be terrified of what their child may have to endure. Patients facing a debilitating disease may fear losing all control. Those near death may fear they are a burden to their loved ones. In every case, we as Christians are called upon to help those in fear step into the light. Our words, prayers, sacrifices and actions can give great courage and assurance to those who may otherwise become casualties of the culture of death.

At this time of year when many of us resolve to change our behaviors for the better, let us prayerfully consider how we might personally reach out to those around us overcome by fear. It takes sacrifice to care for the dying, to minister to the sick and to offer hope to a frightened, pregnant teen. It takes sacrifice to pray outside of an abortion care for the dying, to minister to the sick and to offer hope to a frightened and pregnant teen. It takes sacrifice to pray outside of an abortion center, to visit those in prison and to assist a family caring for a loved one with a disability. Let us be inspired by the example of so many Christians throughout the centuries, who resolved to give up their comfort, their livelihoods — and sometimes their very lives — to be witnesses to the Light for others.

Tom Grenchik is Executive Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Go to www.usccb.org/prolife to learn more about the bishops’ pro-life activities.

Gay support groups in public schools aren’t the solution

It’s hard to imagine the confusion of a teenager who is convinced that he’s gay. More understandable is the pain he must experience if he’s bullied for having effeminate characteristics. Since July, at least four teens and one college student who considered themselves gay ended their lives after being repeatedly bullied. It’s safe to assume that there were other factors that led to these suicides, but bullying certainly played a key role, and it highlights the sad reality that many schools aren’t doing enough to protect kids — and that includes kids with same-sex attraction.

The Church agrees with gay-rights activists in groups that welcome teens to say, “I must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity (and that) every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.” — Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2358. In the words of Pope Paul VI on tolerance, “The Church reproves, as foreign to the mind of Christ, any discrimination against men or harassment of them because of the same sex or life or religion.” — Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, 5. But when it comes to school bullying, most gay-rights groups go beyond protecting teens to promoting homosexual behavior. Such groups are more active in schools than parents might imagine.

Groups like GLSEN (Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network) have done extensive work to protect teens with same-sex attraction from bullying. They provide training and resources to more than 4,000 gay-straight alliance (GSA) student groups in high schools and colleges across North America. And the recent blue-ribbon report on sexual abuse of altar boys and girls went into talking points to encourage the proliferation of GSAs. The Canadian government has even recently adopted aggressive policies to ensure that such clubs find a home in Catholic high schools, though some school districts have stood with their bishops in rejecting this proposed solution to the gay bullying problem.

The good news is that GSAs have been shown to help decrease bullying. The bad news is that, enmeshed in their efforts, there are “dognas” of the gay-rights movement that are arguably as harmful as bullying, albeit in more subtle forms.

To sum up a few of these dogmas:

Sexual desire is equated with personal identity.

Since desire is identity, teens need support “coming out” and announcing their sexual preference to the world in order to fully embrace their “true selves.”

Schools, and society at large, need aggressive policies to stop “heterosexism,” that is, traditional Judeo-Christian ethics that would identify homosexuality as a moral flaw in normal sexual behavior and desire.

How are these harmful?

Regarding the belief that sexual desire is identity: If the goal of these clubs is to help people with same-sex attraction feel less isolated, making them feel inherently “different” from everyone else isn’t the way to do it. Mother Teresa, who started New York’s first AIDS hospice, refrained from calling people “homosexual,” instead she called them “friends of Jesus.” It’s helpful to remember that “the orientation of an act is homosexual or heterosexual but the person is not.” — Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops. In other words, homosexual desires and even activity do not define a human being.

The identity dogma can also end up being a gay recruitment tool.

Many well-balanced adolescents experience a passing phase of same-sex attraction. And some teens who have experienced sexual abuse or who have a deep “father wound” might be temporarily repulsed by the opposite sex until they address their wounds. I’m not saying that same-sex attraction is always passing or curable. But if adolescents make the mistake of identifying self with desire, homosexual activity might seem inevitable to them, and they’ll be at a higher risk for giving in to their desires. If they do, what could have been a passing phase for some might end up being a life choice. (I am not implying that all those who teach this dogma are intentionally recruiting to homosexuality, but it certainly is not “hate speech.”)

Equating sexual desire with identity makes homosexual activity seem natural.

You can’t help but do what you are. This belief, coupled with the dogma that “coming out” is healthy and necessary, and the “safe sex” education provided in GSAs, sets the stage for sexual promiscuity, which only exacerbates the problems these clubs are meant to address. Girls are two times more likely to be depressed, and girls are three times more likely to be depressed, with 12- to 16-year-olds being six times more likely to attempt suicide. It’s safe to assume that homosexual activity carries the same risks to a teen’s fragile emotional state.

Finally, the dogma that natural law and Judeo-Christian ethics is “heterosexual” or “homo phobia” can isolate teens from anyone who disagrees with them: “You are different and they are bigots.” And, of course, one group even consider a bigot’s viewpoint. A challenge from parents or pastors to live in sexual integrity and virtue might be dubbed “hate speech.”

Remember, the Church calls ALL people to live chastely. No doubt, the Church’s challenge for people with persistent same-sex attraction to live a chaste life is no easy path. As difficult as a chaste life is for people with persistent same-sex attraction, it’s easier than the host of emotional and psychological problems that active homosexuals are at a disproportionate risk for. Studies show that teens with same-sex attraction feel less isolated, making them feel inherently “different” from everyone else, is the way to do it. Mother Teresa, who started New York’s first AIDS hospice, refrained from calling people “homosexual,” instead she called them “friends of Jesus.” It’s helpful to remember that “the orientation of an act is homosexual or heterosexual but the person is not.” — Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops. In other words, homosexual desires and even activity do not define a human being.

The identity dogma can also end up being a gay recruitment tool.

Many well-balanced adolescents experience a passing phase of same-sex attraction. And some teens who have experienced sexual abuse or who have a deep “father wound” might be temporarily repulsed by the opposite sex until they address their wounds. I’m not saying that same-sex attraction is always passing or curable. But if adolescents make the mistake of identifying self with desire, homosexual activity might seem inevitable to them, and they’ll be at a higher risk for giving in to their desires. If they do, what could have been a passing phase for some might end up being a life choice. (I am not implying that all those who teach this dogma are intentionally recruiting to homosexuality, but it certainly is not “hate speech.”)

That response needs to include protection from bullying, but it does not need to include the encouragement of a homosexual lifestyle. There are plenty of high-quality programs available to help schools prevent bullying that are not saddled with an agenda. Such programs, rather than GSAs, are a good way to ensure that teens with same-sex attraction receive an education with safety and dignity.

Speaker and author Christopher Stefanick is director of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry for the Denver Archdiocese. Visit www.couragerc.net for more info.

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Secondhand books and recycled grace: Why good stewards share

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin’s end-of-life reflection “The Gift Of Peace” was passed from a daughter to a mother—then back to a daughter from a mother—with Goodwill in between. When I read the note inside, dated April 1998, “To Mom — All my love, Mary,” I knew a similar love brought it to me.

The new translation of the Holy Mass:

The Gloria

After examining the first part of the Gloria last week, we turn to the second half of this beautiful, ancient hymn. It is helpful once again to reproduce the entire text of the new Gloria translation:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take and seal the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in glory of God the Father. Amen.

The new translation of the Holy Mass:

The THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jn 1:29-34

The Book of Isaiah furnishes us with a wonderful prophecy of the Incarnation. It says, “A voice crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” (Is 52:13). This prophecy has been fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Matthew then adds, “And the whole crowd was1261

THE NEW MISSAL

BY BRIAN MACMICHAEL

SUNDAY:

IT IS FOR THE LORD;

THE NEW

The Gloria

The Gloria is the second part of the Gloria. It is a hymn of praise to God, the Father, and Jesus Christ. It is sung during the Eucharistic Prayer at the end of the Mass. The Gloria is divided into two parts: the first part is sung by the priest, and the second part is sung by the congregation. The first part of the Gloria is called the “Petition of Peace,” and the second part is called the “Petition of Grace.” The Gloria is an important part of the Mass because it expresses the spiritual life of the Church. The Gloria is sung in response to the bishops and clergy of the Church, who lead the congregation in prayer.

The second part of the Gloria begins with the words “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.” This is a reference to the Gospel of Luke, which tells the story of the Nativity of Jesus. The story of the Nativity is one of the most important events in the life of Jesus. It is the beginning of his public ministry, and it is the start of his mission to bring peace to the world.

The Gloria is a prayer of praise and thanksgiving. It is a hymn of praise to God, the Father, and Jesus Christ. The Gloria is sung during the Eucharistic Prayer at the end of the Mass. The Gloria is divided into two parts: the first part is sung by the priest, and the second part is sung by the congregation. The first part of the Gloria is called the “Petition of Peace,” and the second part is called the “Petition of Grace.” The Gloria is an important part of the Mass because it expresses the spiritual life of the Church. The Gloria is sung in response to the bishops and clergy of the Church, who lead the congregation in prayer.

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Reaffirming Catholic identity

Throughout his recently completed three-year term as president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Francis George, OMI, gently but firmly led his brother bishops through a reflection on their duties as defenders of the integrity of the Catholic “brand.” A deeper commitment on the bishops’ part to being the stewards of Catholic identity in their dioceses was, one may speculate, one factor in the election of Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York — a robust defender of Catholic truth — as Cardinal George’s successor in the president’s chair at the USCCB. Not everything that is labeled “Catholic” warrants that label, the bishops have come to understand; and if anyone is to do something about the problems, the bishops are going to have to be the principal agents of change.

The debate about the Catholic identity of Catholic institutions of higher education has been underway for decades, and may well take some interesting turns in the years ahead. At the moment, however, the hottest of hot buttons on this front involve health-care institutions that call themselves “Catholic” but which have acquiesced to practices approved by an increasingly aggressive secular culture — and to the lure of government dollars. On that new front in the campaign to reaffirm Catholic identity, Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix has become an important leader. Bishop Olmsted inherited a terrible situation in Phoenix: The previous bishop had been disgraced; the local legal authorities had stated publicly that they could not trust the Church to police its own house in matters of sexual abuse, and proposed to take over that function themselves. Bishop Olmsted didn’t squawk, nor did he deny that serious problems existed. Rather, he quietly and decisively set about fixing what needed fixing, so that the public authorities were soon content to revert to a more normal Church-state relationship. Then, in 2009, a “therapeutic” abortion was performed at Phoenix’s St. Joseph’s Hospital, a part of the Catholic Healthcare West system. When Bishop Olmsted wrote the president of CHW, asking what on earth was going on, CHW attempted to justify what had happened through arguments advanced by M. Therese Lyngaugh, who teaches theology at Marquette University. Bishop Olmsted was not impressed, and informed CHW that it was his duty, as the local bishop, to be the authoritative interpreter of the moral law in his diocese and the authoritative interpreter of the hospital’s guide.

Obama administration and unsympathetic state governments are likely to increase on Catholic healthcare facilities’ call for “dialogue” too often amounts to a prescription for slow-motion surrender, with the Catholic identity of health care slowly whittled away while the “dialogue” partners carry on. The Catholic integrity of Catholic educational and health-care institutions was at stake when those institutions were segregated in the 1950s and early 1960s; brave bishops like Joseph Ritter in St. Louis, Joseph Rummel in New Orleans, and Lawrence Shehan in Baltimore took a lot of heat, but did what they had to do to bring the conduct of Catholic institutions into sync with the Church’s teaching on human dignity. No less ought to be expected of the Church’s ordained leaders today, when the stakes are just as high, although the issues have changed. So full marks to Cardinal George for putting the issue of Catholic identity on the bishops’ plates, and full marks to Bishop Olmsted for giving that new commitment real teeth.

The CrossWord January 2 & 9, 2011

CAPECCHI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

determined to welcome the new year with upturned palms, as the cheerful giver God loves. When we share we are drawn into community, practical support underlined by neighborly affection.

Our year begins with Epiphany, when the Magi from the East follow the star. Along the way they share bread and blankets. Then fellowship groups and sustains them, carrying them to Bethlehem where they drop to the ground in worship of the Christ Child. “Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

We are prepared for this well-known Gospel by a short second reading, when St. Paul tells the Ephesians about “the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for your benefit.” And therein is the key to it all, that we are merely stewards of the blessings and crock pots and laptops in our homes. We do not own them; we are temporary keepers. In that spirit we do not count or collect but give freely. When we embrace the call to community and stewardship, it becomes easier to journey toward the Church. As you do, look out for the pilgrims who fall into stride with you, if even for an hour.

Christina Capcechi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

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ICCL begins post Christmas Tournament schedule

**BY MATT SOBIRELSKI**

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) started its post Christmas tournament schedule on Sunday afternoon. The game of the day featured an undefeated and first place in the eastern side of the St. John Bosco division, St. Anthony Panthers and the Kings from Christ the King, who came into the game tied for first in the western side of the bracket.

The Panthers were able to pull out to a quick advantage thanks to the athleticism of their point guard Oliver Page, who scored all 10 of his points in the third quarter, to put the Panthers up by 10 points for the winners, while Mark Madden also added 10 for the winners.

A collective scoring effort by Holy Family Trojans was not enough to top the St. Pius X Lions. The Lions won the game, 46-19. The Lions were paced by Tony Pratt’s 12 points and Jacob Mauch’s 10.

The Martin De Pores Division, the Panthers of St. Bavo remained undefeated with a win over the Our Lady of Hungary Bulldogs, 43-37. Joe Molnar netted 12 points for the winners, while Mikal Henderson tossed in a game high 14 for the Bulldogs.

A great all-around effort from the Queen of Peace Pumas was not enough as the St. John the Baptist Spartans were victorious, 47-17. The Spartans were led by Julian Collier’s 14 points, while Jake Wroblewski and Chris Bauters chipped in 13 and 10 respectively.

The Corpus Christi Cougars topped the St. Monica Comets, 46-35. The Cougars’ Dominic Ferro dropped in 11 points, while the Comets’ Alex Ganser led all scorers in the loss for Most Precious Blood with 24.

The ICCL schedule will continue its post Christmas schedule on Sunday afternoon. The game of the day includes six eighth graders and hope to make a solid run in the tournament,

Most Precious Blood battled to the very end. With 2:40 left, St. Therese finished with three players in double figures including Palmer, 13, Burrows, 10, and Cody Meyer with 11. Cameron Kahlenbeck led all scores in the loss for Most Precious Blood with 24.

On the girls’ side, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth added another win to their impressive start with a 36-18 win over St. Vincent paced by Allison Leja’s 16 points.

**CYO Twins hope for a solid run in tournament**

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth League (CYO) hoops teams rang in the new year with 20 league games at the various host sites over the weekend of Jan. 8-9, as they opened their third week of regular-season play.

Despite starting back up with a 46-21 loss to the top-ranked Squares from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel at Queen of Angels, Coach Paul Gerardot saw many good things from his St. Rose-St. Louis Twins.

“I hope we can continue to improve each game, play to the best of our ability and peak by the end of the season,” explained Gerardot.

Gerardot, who is in his second season with the Twins, began his memorable CYO coaching career in 1983 at St. Henry where he was mentored by Tom Rehm.

“My goal for every team is to teach each player to believe in themselves and teach them life lessons on and off the court,” detailed Gerardot.

Larry Castleman serves as assistant coach for St. Rose-St. Louis this season and the Twins list 11 on their roster that includes six eighth graders and five seventh graders.

“I am very pleased with the leadership from our eighth graders and hope to make a solid run in the tournament,” concluded Gerardot.

In other Blue League action at St. John the Baptist in New Haven, St. Therese and Most Precious Blood battled to the very end. With 2:40 left, St. Therese trailed, 38-30, but scored 11 unanswered points to pull off a 41-38 victory. With just 16 seconds on the clock, Matt Palmer came up with a big steal to set up the three-point play by Nate Burrows, St. Therese finished with three players in double figures including Palmer, 13, Burrows, 10, and Cody Meyer with 11. Cameron Kahlenbeck led all scores in the loss for Most Precious Blood with 24.

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**Most Precious Blood announces results of tournament**

Most Precious Blood kicked off their annual junior varsity holiday hoops tournament hosting 10 boys’ teams and eight girls’ teams on Dec. 30. Catholic Youth League (CYO) teams fared well during the four days of games. Two sixth-grade boys’ teams went head to head to round out the championship with St. Jude topping the St. John, New Haven, Raiders by a score of 30-18, while the reverse was the case on the girls’ side with St. John, New Haven, beating St. Jude, 27-14, for the title.
Knights of Columbus Councils across the state are holding their opening rounds of the 2011 annual Free Throw Championship. Council 451 on Reed Road, Fort Wayne, which represents the parishes of St. Charles, St. Jude, St. Mary, St. Peter and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception held their contest at St. Charles School on Sunday, Jan. 9. Winners that will advance to the district level competition are: front row, Grace Castleman, age 11, Lydya Oberley, age 14, Lillie Castelman, age 12 and Elyse Oberley, age 13; middle row, Will Oberley, age 10 and Jake Castelman, age 14. In the back row are Past Grand Knight John Murray and Deputy Grand Knight Bob Hinga. All winners were students from St. Louis Academy, New Haven.

Mark Twain’s autobiography renews debate: Was he anti-Christian?

BY MIKE LATONA

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — “There is one notable thing about our Christianity: bad, bloody, merciless, money-grabbing and predatory ... ours is a terrible religion.”

As this quote from his recently released autobiography illustrates, Samuel Langhorne Clemens was not one to sugarcoat his views about organized religion. Sprinkled among his novels, essays, speeches and personal memoirs are numerous remarks by Clemens — better known by his pen name of Mark Twain — that would be distressing to devout Christians. In fact, Twain quotes are often featured on atheistic websites.

Even so, Twain is among the most celebrated U.S. authors of all time. He maintained a summer residence in Elmira, N.Y., for two decades following his 1870 marriage to Olivia Langdon, penning some of his most famous works in Chemung County. Twain is buried there alongside his wife and children at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Twain was in the news quite a bit during 2010. “Autobiography of Mark Twain” (University of California Press) went on sale of his best work to be “Joan of Arc,” a reverential biographical account of a Catholic saint who lived a life of poverty and dedicated her years to helping the poor and oppressed.

Representative of his views is such novels as “The Mysterious Stranger,” in which conventional religion is attacked, and “A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court,” which takes Catholicism to task.

His writings notwithstanding, several aspects of Twain’s life actually paint a picture of a religious man. Twain makes frequent uncritical references in his memoirs to his Presbyterian upbringing; his funeral was in a Presbyterian church (the Brick Church in New York); and he counted several clergy among his close friends.

In addition, Twain considered his best work to be “Joan of Arc,” a reverential biographical account of a Catholic saint who exhibited all the human ideals Twain found so lacking in the rest of mankind.

When I go to pray...

My Chapel is down the hallway

As a community sponsored by the Brothers of Holy Cross, Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame offers ways in which you can strengthen your faith. Attend Mass and rosary, worship privately or join a group for Bible studies.

Guided by traditional Catholic values, we are a caring community eager to help you settle in and get acquainted. Our warm and inviting community offers:

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- Rehabilitation services

Holy Cross Village is an interdependent community energized by Holy Cross spirituality and hospitality, and dedicated to providing a nurturing environment focused on dignity and respect. Please call (574) 251-2235 today if you’d like to learn how you can enjoy this lifestyle.
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, RO Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocecese.fw.org. Events that require an admission charge must be announced at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocecese.fw.org.

Couple to Couple League offers classes
Wabash — Natural Family Planning offers a new “streamlined” method available through the Couple to Couple League. The series of three one-hour Power-Point-based classes begins Sunday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m. Contact Pat or Monica Klein at (765) 668-8034 or Learn NFP@yahoo.com for information and registration.

Fish fry
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 8511 will host a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 14, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the council hall. Cost is $8 for adults and $4 for children ages 6-12.

Holy Name Society fish fry
New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Jan. 14, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free.

Marriage enrichment series planned
Granger — A post-Cana marriage enrichment series: “Let’s Start Talking About Sex,” will be held one Monday a month at St. Pius X Parish Education Center, room 002. “Marriage and Sex — A Candid Discussion,” will be Monday, Jan. 17, from 7:30-9 p.m. led by Father Mark Poorman, CNC. “Encountering God’s Love in the Bedroom — Sex and Holiness in Married Life,” will be Monday, Feb. 7, led by Deacon John and Manuela Tugman and Harry and Joanne Verhiley. “What’s Love Got To Do With It? — The Relational Dimension of ‘Good Sex,’” will be Monday, March 14, led by Fred and Lisa Everett. “Living NFP — The Real Story,” will be Monday, April 11, led by couples practicing NFP. Registration is not necessary. Contact Nick and Megan Song at (540) 383-9556 sorgmegan@gmail.com or www.stpius.net/PostCana for information.

Mystery dinner theater
Fort Wayne — Knights of Columbus Council 601, 601 Reed Rd., will have a mystery dinner theater, “Dead in the Water,” Saturday, Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. Tickets are $50 per couple by calling (260) 493-1914. Reservations required.

Mystery dinner theater
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish will have a Mystery Dinner Theater Saturday, Jan. 29, beginning at 6 p.m. in the parish hall. Tickets are $25 and include appetizers, dinner and performance. Cash bar available. Call (260) 415-2900 for information.

DCCW to meet
Fort Wayne — The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will meet Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 10 a.m. in the lower level of St. Joseph Hospital. A rosary, speaker from Byroy Health Center, a short business meeting and lunch will be offered.

Manlive series planned
Pierceton — A ManAlive series on the Pope John Paul II document, “The Role of Christian Family in the Modern World,” will be held on Sundays from 6:30-7:45 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Parish through April 17. Call (260) 229-2896 for information.

Parish mission planned
Elkhart — St. Thomas the Apostle, 1405 N. Main St., will have a Parish Mission, “The People of God.” No reservations necessary. Call (260) 229-2696 for information.

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“I have vivid memories of great happiness and major challenges during the eight years of my ministry at St. John the Baptist (1961–1969). Teaching bright and energetic third graders would gladden the heart of any teacher. The challenge? I was appointed principal. Life was never quite the same! However, ‘as Providence would have it,’ an excellent faculty and supportive families with strong family values were my salvation.”

–Sister Adele Beacham (formerly Sister Joseph Therese)

Providence provided by Brother Charles McBride, CSC

Some 60 Brothers of Holy Cross from the South Bend area honored their brother saint, St. André Bessette, with a Mass at St. Joseph’s Chapel in Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame on Jan. 7 followed by a dinner at Andre Place in Holy Cross Village. Pictured is Holy Cross Brother James Leik proclaiming the first reading, with the statue and relic of St. André to the left. St. André, is the first member of the Congregation of Holy Cross to be canonized a saint.

Adjectives: Catholic, Providence, Athlete, Scholarship, Holycross

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