



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Men of the diocese challenged to handle the truth

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — “You and I are called to be men of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are called to be men of the Eucharist. We are called to live the truth in charity. In a word, we are called to be saints.” These words of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during his homily at the Mass that concluded the first Diocesan Men’s Conference on Saturday, Feb. 19, summed up the message that was heard by 1,300 men gathered from across the diocese and beyond.

The first Diocesan Men’s Conference with the theme, “Can You Handle the Truth,” was sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Rekindle the Fire men’s ministry, prominent at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, which was active in the promotion and presentation of the conference, including a display of stage fireworks at the opening of the event.

Throughout the day, W. Keith Moore, a Catholic singer-songwriter from Nashville, Tenn., and Oxford, Miss., shared his music and told his story of conversion from being an Evangelical Protestant and Methodist to finding the Catholic faith.

He asked the men gathered at the Fort Wayne Memorial Coliseum Exposition Center to “dig” and not become complacent in their faith.

Moore also encouraged the men to get to know the

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JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates Mass with the 1,300 men gathered for the first Diocesan Men’s Conference with the theme, “Can You Handle the Truth.” The conference was held in the Fort Wayne Memorial Coliseum Exposition Center on Feb. 19.

VIEW OF CIRCUS MAXIMUS IN ROME



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

The site of the Circus Maximus, an ancient racecourse, is seen in the foreground of the ruins of the imperial residences in Rome Feb. 18. A prayer vigil will be held at the Circus Maximus the night before the May 1 beatification of Pope John Paul II.

Bishop encourages students to spread the Good News

Bishop Rhoades celebrates all-schools Mass at Notre Dame

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — In an arena better known for thrilling basketball finishes, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made a slam-dunk with the thousands of South Bend area Catholic school children and teachers gathered for Mass Feb. 17 at the University of Notre Dame Joyce Center.

Representing schools from northern Indiana and southern Michigan, 23 priests joyfully processed toward the altar. Students carried banners and gifts as the children’s choir led the singing of “All Creatures of Our God and King.”

As he began his homily, Bishop Rhoades said how proud he was of all the area Catholic schools and expressed his hope to

personally visit each one over the next few years. He gave special thanks to the students, teachers, principals and staff members of Mishawaka St. Bavo, St. Joseph and St. Monica.

“These three great schools that have been in existence for many decades are going to come together next year as one new Catholic school,” said Bishop Rhoades, referring to the new Mishawaka Catholic School. “It’s not easy to move from being your own parish school to coming together as one new Catholic school in Mishawaka. But I want all of you to know that you have our support and our prayers and we know, and we believe, that Mishawaka Catholic is going to be a shining example and a great new school.”

Light of Learning Award winner Marti Merrick, who has taught at St. Bavo for 15 years, was happy to hear from Bishop Rhoades.

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

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Web site: www.todayscatholicnews.org

Published weekly except the fourth
Sunday in June, second and fourth
weeks in July and August, the first week
of September and last week in
December by the Diocese of Fort
Wayne-South Bend, 1103 S. Calhoun St.,
P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801.
Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne,
IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort
Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or e-mail:
kvoirold@diocesefwsb.org.

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort
Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260)
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BUREAU OFFICE: 114 W. Wayne St., South
Bend, IN 46601. Telephone (574) 234-
0687. Fax: (574) 232-8483.

News deadline is the Monday morning
before publication date. Advertising
deadline is nine days before publica-
tion date.

LETTERS POLICY: Today's Catholic wel-
comes original, signed letters about
issues affecting church life. Although
we cannot publish every letter we
receive, we strive to provide a balanced
representation of expressed opinions
and a variety of reflections on life in the
church. We will choose letters for publi-
cation based on reader interest, timeli-
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ions. Letters must not exceed 250
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include a phone number and address
for verification. We reserve the right to
edit letters for legal and other concerns.

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

ISSN 0891-1533
USPS 403630



Rekindle the Fire



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the text of the homily that Bishop Rhoades delivered at the men's conference on Feb. 19 at the Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne:

"Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God am holy." The Lord instructed Moses to speak these words to the whole Israelite community. Similarly, Jesus instructed his followers in the Sermon on the Mount: "Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." As we come to the end of this diocesan men's conference, these words of instruction sum up what today's conference has been all about: a gathering of men seeking to respond to the Lord's call to holiness. You and I are called to be men of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are called to be men of the Eucharist. We are called to live the truth in charity. In a word, we are called to be saints.

"Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God am holy." "Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." If we want to be holy, if we want to be saints, we must look to the source of holiness. That source is not in ourselves. The source of holiness, the source of true love, is in God, our heavenly Father. How could we ever hope to live Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount by our own power? Naturally speaking, who among us is eager to turn the other cheek when someone strikes us? Aren't we more comfortable with the saying "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?" Who would naturally be inclined to love his enemy? Are we not much more comfortable with loving our friends and hating our enemy? Who is eager to pray for his persecutors? How difficult it is to live these teachings of Jesus! We may even try to water these teachings down. My brothers, we need to stand before the truth of the Gospel, not water it down. We may not want to hear the more difficult teachings of Jesus. We can be tempted to render them empty and innocuous because they are so difficult to put into practice. They demand a deep and radical conversion.

When we are offended or hurt, the natural psychological impulse is to seek revenge, not to turn the other cheek. To love our enemies seems to exceed our human capacities. So how do we do it? We must go to the source of love, to the fount of holiness, to God whose very being is love, to the most Holy Trinity. In God, there is an everlasting exchange of love between the Father and the Son, and this love is not an energy or a sentiment, it is a person: the Holy Spirit! If we desire holiness, we have to go to the source, the Holy Spirit and pray: "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth." That's what we pray today. "Kindle in us the fire of your love!" Or, using the words of this conference's title, "Lord, rekindle the fire!"

To learn holiness, to learn how to love, we not only ask for the help of the Holy Spirit. We also look to Him who is the full revelation of divine love, to the Son of God who became man. In Jesus of Nazareth, we come to know love in all its magnitude. The divine



JERRY KESSENS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades delivers his homily at the Mass concluding the Diocesan Men's Conference on Feb. 19.

love is manifested totally and perfectly in Him, and most vividly in His passion and death on the cross. There we see what it means to turn the other cheek, to love our enemies, and to pray for our persecutors. Jesus did not resist when he was betrayed by Judas, arrested in the garden, scourged at the pillar, crowned with thorns, struck by the soldiers, stripped of his garments, and nailed to the cross. He prayed for his persecutors: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The cross is the fundamental symbol of Christianity. There we begin to perceive the depth and intensity of the mystery of God's love, the love which redeems and saves. On the night before he died, Jesus asked us to imitate his love. At the Last Supper, He gave us the new commandment to love one another as He has loved us. And, at that same supper, he gave us the sacrament of love, the Holy Eucharist, which educates us in love and gives us the power to love as He has loved us. The Eucharist is the great school of love where we enter into the mystery of the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord. It is the gift of Himself, his body broken for us and his blood poured out for us.

To love as Christ loves is to love everyone, even our enemies. As difficult as this is, it is not impossible since he communicates to us the grace to do so, especially in the Holy Eucharist. The passion and death of Jesus, made present in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, reveals to us the power of love, the only force capable of changing human hearts. It is through love that Jesus Christ vanquished sin and hatred. His love, victorious in the resurrection, has also conquered death. As brutally violent as the crucifixion was, it was transformed into love because Jesus freely accepted this horrible death through an act of total self-giving love. He transformed violence into love and he transformed death into life.

You and I are here today because we want to become better disciples of Jesus Christ. We

desire holiness. But there is no holiness apart from the cross of Christ. "If you wish to be my disciples," Jesus says, "you must take up your cross and follow me."

When we are tempted to think that the teachings of Jesus, especially those in the Sermon on the Mount, are not realistic, we need to remember the power of the cross and the power of the Eucharist. Speaking of the Sermon on the Mount and the command to love our enemies, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict said the following: "Actually, Christ's proposal is realistic because it takes into account that in the world there is too much violence, too much injustice, and therefore that this situation cannot be overcome except by countering it with more love, with more goodness. This "more" comes from God: it is his mercy which was made flesh in Jesus and which alone can "tip the balance" of the world from evil to good, starting with that small and decisive "world" which is the human heart. "

My brothers, evangelization and building a culture of life and civilization of love begins in our hearts. The great Pope John Paul II so often said: "Be not afraid!"

Believe in God's power to work in your lives! Believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of the sacrament of Penance, the power of the Holy Eucharist! Be so convinced of the power of God and the power of His love that you are not afraid to tackle evil with just two weapons: truth and charity!

Saint Paul tells us in our second reading today that the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God. He says: "if any one among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool, so as to become wise." For the wise of this world, the event of Jesus of Nazareth is seen as foolishness: God becoming man, dying on a cross, rising from the dead. This was so at the time of Saint Paul and this is so today. Saint Paul writes that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." Jesus shows us who God is, a force of love which went so far as the cross to save humanity. This totally gratuitous love is true wisdom.

If we wish to be holy and perfect as our heavenly Father is holy and perfect, we must enter into his power, the power of the cross of his Son. The cross is a scandal and a folly to many people today. But for those who are truly wise, it is the way to glory since Christ rose from the dead. As the Catechism teaches, "the way of perfection passes by way of the cross" (CCC 2015). The cross is not just some theory or a nice ornamentation around our necks or in our churches. It is the power and wisdom of God. It is the path to holiness and the ladder to heaven.

To be holy, to be perfect, as our heavenly Father is holy and perfect, in the midst of this world, is to live with faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us. It is to embrace the cross by which he has redeemed the world. I hope that this day has helped you to take some of the steps of that ladder to heaven, to live the truth in charity, to be men of the Gospel and men of the Eucharist.

May the Holy Spirit rekindle the fire within you, the fire of divine love!

MASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're so proud of St. Bavo's," she beamed, "and it was so nice of the bishop to recognize that we were three schools. But we're so excited about being one consolidated school."

Bishop Rhoades drew on personal experience as he delved into the first reading and what happened after the great flood. As a 14-year-old boy, Bishop Rhoades said he witnessed firsthand the devastation of a flood when Hurricane Agnes brought storms to his Pennsylvania town of Lebanon.

"We had a big river in Harrisburg, where I used to be bishop, called the Susquehanna River ... bigger than the St. Joseph River," Bishop Rhoades said. "With all this rain, the river flooded and where I was living we had creeks. The creeks also flooded. The water was terrible ... destroyed thousands of people's homes."

He shared images of his school gym being destroyed, people evacuating their homes and boats sailing down the city streets to rescue people. Others drowned in the raging waters.

"Now, when I read about Noah and the flood, I always think back about the flood of 1972, back home in Pennsylvania," explained Bishop Rhoades. "When we read in the book of Genesis about the great flood, which was actually much worse than the flood I experienced during Hurricane Agnes, this flood covered the earth."

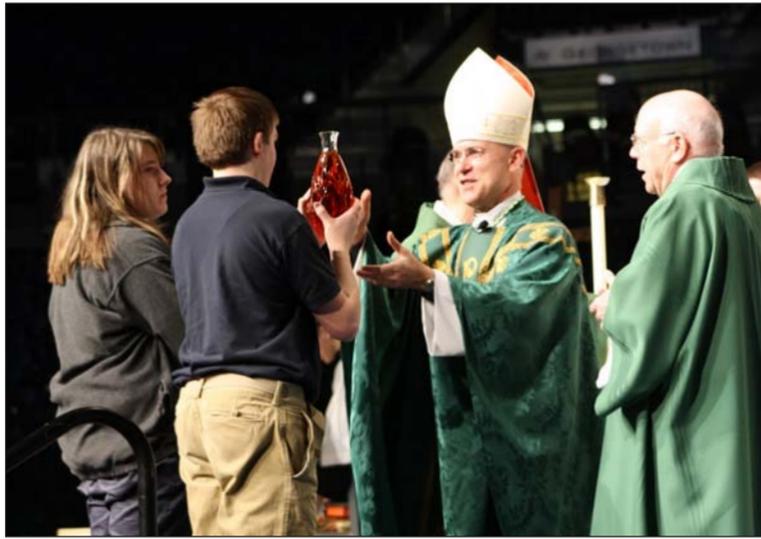
Bishop Rhoades talked about the covenant God made with Noah after the flood, and the covenants He made with others throughout history. While God always held up his end of the bargain, the bishop explained how the people continued to sin.

"So God made a new Covenant," continued Bishop Rhoades, "and it would be the most perfect Covenant, the definitive Covenant and the eternal Covenant. There wouldn't need to be any more Covenants. There would be a perfect Covenant. Can anyone tell me about that new Covenant ... the perfect Covenant that God established?"

A student near the front row correctly answered, "Jesus Christ!"

Bishop smiled and nodded, then explained how the Catholic Church was created, making us the people of the new Covenant. Bishop Rhoades went on to connect the story of Noah and the flood with the sacrament of Baptism. He pointed out that the same waters that can cause such destruction can also be a sign of new life.

"That's why it's so important to stay in the boat," explained Bishop Rhoades. "You jump out of the boat, you're in danger. It's the same with the Church. We need to stay within the Church where we receive so many blessings that God gives us. We receive the seven sacraments, especially the



PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

Casidy Albright, an eighth grader from Holy Cross School, and Timmy Mackowiak, an eighth grader from Corpus Christi School, present gifts to Bishop Rhoades during the South Bend Area Catholic Schools Mass.



Bishop Rhoades interacts with the South Bend area students gathered together for Mass at Notre Dame's Joyce Center. The bishop was impressed when a second grader correctly identified St. Peter as the Apostle who made the "great profession of faith" in the Gospel reading.

Holy Eucharist. We receive the Word of God in its fullness ... all the truth Jesus wanted to communicate to humanity He does through the Church. The Bible, the Scripture, the Tradition ... it's such a great gift to belong to the Catholic Church, to belong to the people of the new Covenant."

Bishop Rhoades encouraged the young people to spread that good news, and to invite other people to come into the boat.

"It's my job as bishop to spread the faith. It's the job of our priests. It's the job of all of you, including all of you who are children and young people, to live your faith and to spread the faith by being a good example to others and inviting people to believe in Jesus and to become His followers like you are."

Calling the Holy Eucharist "the greatest sacrament," Bishop Rhoades reminded everyone exactly why it's so important to go to Mass every Sunday.

"We receive the body and blood of the Lord Jesus, the Bread of Life, so we are strengthened to live our faith so we can be faithful to our part of the covenant of God. The Eucharist strengthens us to love one another as Christ has loved us."

Jacob Bishop, a fourth grader at

St. Matthew, said he loved how Bishop Rhoades personalized the story of the great flood by sharing his own experiences. He also supported the bishop's request after Mass that everyone prays to know their vocation.

"Everybody should listen to him!" exclaimed Jacob.

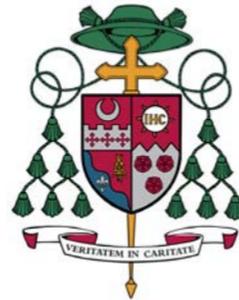
"Everybody has a certain vocation, and they'll find it out when they're old enough if they just keep on praying."

Father Bill Sullivan, who is pastor at St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart, said he loved the way the students participated in Mass.

"It was absolutely beautiful!" he smiled. "I love it when the children raise their voices to praise God! I enjoy seeing the reality of all the parents who made the sacrifices to send their kids here. It shows a great love for their children!"

Our Lady of Hungary fourth-grader Gabriel Byrd was impressed by the sheer numbers. "We get to see a lot of schools, and we get to see a lot of priests from different schools and it was really exciting!"

"It was cool!" reiterated Nolan Szymanski, a third grader from St. Joseph in South Bend. "But it was a little more quiet than when I was here for a basketball game!"



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Feb. 27, 1:30 p.m. — Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church, South Bend
- Tuesday, March 1, 1:30 p.m. — Blessing of Rose Home, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, March 2, 2 p.m. — Episcopal ordination of Most Rev. Christopher Coyne, Auxiliary Bishop of Indianapolis, St. John the Evangelist Church, Indianapolis
- Thursday, March 3, 11 a.m. — Meeting with Vicars Forane, Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw
- Friday, March 4, noon — Luncheon Meeting with Task Force on Reorganization of Diocesan Curia, Archbishop Noll Center
- Saturday, March 5, 5:30 p.m. — Saints Alive event at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne

FIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Blessed Mother. Getting to know Mary helped Moore to know Jesus.

Father Donald Calloway, a priest of the Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception from Steubenville, Ohio, spoke about the sacrament of Reconciliation. He stressed the importance of frequent Confession. He used an analogy of parents changing a baby's diaper. Parents do not delay in cleaning the child who has soiled himself. When we spiritually soil ourselves, Father Calloway said, "you will need a spiritual 'diaper change.'" And because we sin so often, and "sin stinks," we need to frequent the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Throughout the day, long lines were the norm as many men took time to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

In the afternoon session, Father Calloway told the compelling story of his conversion. The conversion story from a runaway teen with drug addictions to a Marian priest is told in his book, "No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy."

Through the reading of a book about the alleged apparitions of the Blessed Mother in Medjugorje and then follow-up with a parish priest, Father Calloway experienced a radical conversion. His humor and curtness of his own disordered passions and sins hit a nerve with many of the men at the conference drawing long lines outside his booth in the lobby for autographed copies of the book and to briefly chat with the priest.

Catholic theologian, author and professor of philosophy at Boston College Dr. Peter Kreeft spoke about his book, "Jesus Shock," and what about the name of Jesus is so shocking in the world. He said the Church has two tasks: to comfort the afflicted; and to afflict the comfortable.

He spoke of how Jesus shocked everyone He ever met. Whenever, for example, the Pharisees would try to "pin Him down," they never got their way.

He encouraged the men to spend more time listening in prayer, and less time talking.

Kreeft spoke of beauty in the Church, which was why, he said, he was drawn to Catholicism. He recalled as a child, before his conversion to Catholicism, he visited St. Patrick Cathedral in New York. He recalled the church's magnificent beauty. He asked his father, who could not provide an answer, if the Catholics have it wrong, how can they build something so beautiful?

He encouraged the men to partake of Eucharistic Adoration. Every man, Kreeft said, is a cathedral — made in the image of God — and our prayer should be that we have eyes to see beauty in Jesus.

Kreeft's afternoon session was on cultural warfare. He encouraged men to give God 15 minutes every single day in prayer. "It will transform your life," Kreeft said, but added it would not be easy, that even with all the technology that is supposed to make life easier and save time, it actually consumes time.

Martin Wheeler, a member of Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne, told *Today's Catholic*: "What I will take with me from Rekindle the Fire is just that — I am not alone, we are not alone, we have never been abandoned or left alone to fend for ourselves in this world. Jesus is more alive today more than ever. All I need to do is ask Him for help."

Brian Frecker of St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder, said, "It was a good day. I liked W. Keith Moore, his conversion story and how he lives his faith."

Jim Cole of St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton, said, "It was beautiful. Rekindle the Fire was an inspiration."

Cole's son Bret of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, said of the day, "It exceeded all expectations."

A Conversation with Greg and Julie Alexander

Presenters at the March 12 Diocesan Marriage Conference

BY LISA EVERETT

FORT WAYNE — Registration and preparations for the 2011 Diocesan Marriage Conference on Saturday, March 12, are well underway. EWTN's Greg and Julie Alexander will be the main presenters at the conference which will take place at the North Campus of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. In a recent telephone interview with the Alexanders to introduce them to readers of *Today's Catholic*, they share their amazing personal story and the dynamic marriage ministry that has come out of it. The Alexander House, an international Catholic apostolate focused on marriage, is the direct result of Greg and Julie's own marriage bouncing back from the brink of divorce.

Many years ago, emotionally distant and increasingly disillusioned, Greg and Julie had decided to call it quits and told their two

young children, who were understandably devastated. The Alexanders made an appointment with a priest to find out how to best proceed with their plans. Instead of answering their questions, he asked them one of his own: Do you know what God's plan for Marriage is?

The thought that God might have a plan for Marriage had never crossed their minds, and the priest urged them to discover God's plan for Marriage before making a final decision about the fate of their own. Greg spent the next two days devouring Scripture, the catechism and various Church documents on the subject. He soon found himself not only enlightened but excited about the Church's vision of Marriage, and he shared his new knowledge and enthusiasm with Julie.

Greg recalls, "At that time, we had been together for 13 years and had never prayed together." That night, they prayed from the heart

as a couple for the first time: "We tried marriage our way, we tried it society's way, and we failed."

Greg recalls telling the Lord that night. "Now we entrust our Marriage to you. If you restore our relationship, we will commit the rest of our lives to some kind of marriage ministry."

That prayer was the turning point in their relationship with one another and with God, who not only saved their Marriage, but made it the starting point of a much-needed ministry to other married couples.

Greg and Julie began giving a few informal talks on Marriage at their parish, and soon someone at a neighboring church asked if they had a workshop they could put on. As they began presenting workshops over a wider area, couples would come up afterwards and ask if they could also provide personal mentoring.

Soon the Alexanders had started a full-fledged ministry to married couples and submitted their Articles of Incorporation in May of 1999. Two weeks later, they received their nonprofit status, a lightning-speed result that confirmed for them that God's hand was upon this work. This experience of suffering in their own marriage led them to be all the more committed and compassionate in dealing with other couples who are struggling.

As Julie puts it: "Our greatest pain as a couple, the darkest part of our relationship, has become what God has used to enable us to help other couples. Our apostolate has literally been built on our story."

In fact, because it was from their own wounds that they began to help other marriages heal, Greg and Julie decided that they should call their apostolate The Alexander House. Their mission is to pro-

claim the truth, beauty and goodness of God's design for Marriage, and their advisory board boasts such renowned Catholic apologists as Christopher West, Janet Smith, Father Mitch Pacwa, Dr. Mary Healy and MaryBeth Bonacci.

Besides presenting seminars on Marriage across the country, The Alexander House offers personal "coaching" or mentoring for married couples. While couples who live close to the Alexander's center in San Antonio can take advantage of in-person meetings, the vast majority of mentoring sessions take place over the phone or over Skype, some with couples as far away as Europe.

Since Greg and Julie are not professional therapists, they do not deal with pathological behaviors such as abuse and addiction. What they have discovered, though, is that many marriages flounder, not because of serious psychological problems, but because the spouses do not understand and live out God's design for Marriage.

"We need to live the sacrament the way God wants us to live it," Greg points out. "We know, love and serve God through knowing, loving, and serving our spouse."

The couples whom they and their staff mentor struggle with everything from common communication problems to serious sexual issues like pornography.

Couples are encouraged to go back and study Scripture and Church teaching together, to begin to pray together, to learn how to meet each other's emotional needs, to communicate effectively and to practice the art of forgiveness — a process which has many parallels to the sacrament of Penance, Greg remarks.

Over the past decade, the Alexanders have presented workshops, seminars and talks to thousands of participants across the

nation. They also co-hosted their own show called "Marriage Works in Christ" on EWTN and their second series is currently airing on that network. They have now been married for 23 years and are the parents of seven children.

The Marriage seminar which they will present at the diocesan conference on March 12 is intended to be an enrichment experience for any engaged or married couple. "Couples will come away from this conference with a deepened understanding of God's design for Marriage as a free, total, faithful and fruitful communion of persons. They will also go home with practical tools that they can incorporate into their own marriages, starting with concrete exercises after each presentation," Greg says.

Julie refers to the familiar experience of attending a conference, hearing insightful and inspiring presentations and then going home saying "Now what?" What couples appreciate about their seminar, she says, is that they leave with concrete things they can do to put their renewed commitment into practice in their own marriage.

Greg refers proudly to one particularly enthusiastic endorsement from the mother of Christopher West, the internationally renowned popularizer of Pope John Paul II's "theology of the body." What you are doing in your ministry, she told them, is nothing short of a practical application of the "theology of the body" for married couples.

To register for the March 12 conference, which will begin with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, call the Office of Family Life at (574) 234-0687 or go to Family and Pro-Life on the diocesan website at www.diocesefwsb.org.

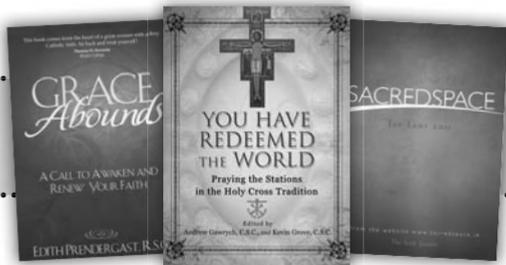
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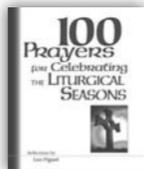
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Participants in Greg and Julie Alexander's Marriage Seminar share thoughts

- Your devotion and energy in your ministry is very encouraging. Your stories are very relevant and probably mirror 90 percent of other marriages. I'm looking forward to attending your future workshops.

- I learned a great deal in this workshop about what was missing from our marriage — God. Thank you and I appreciated all of the references in scripture and most importantly your honesty. The exercises were great too!

- Your program should be a requirement for all couples wishing to marry in the Catholic Church. Your story and research has definitely paid off and your presentation is educational and inspiring.

- You opened up a lot of topics that I had stuffed on the back burner. I was able to talk to my wife about these topics during the breaks. I was able to forgive myself and forgive her with little or no tension between us.

- I appreciate the way you follow and teach according to the Church. Contraception is especially difficult to talk about, but you were able to address it in a loving, caring and nonjudgmental way. Thank you for sharing your personal experiences. God bless you!

- My husband and I were moved today. I had mixed expectations. I experienced a pivotal event by coming here today. I feel I have found the importance of having God come into our Marriage. My husband feels the same way.

- I am so thankful you "made" us do the couple's prayer. Other than in church, it was the first time I'd ever prayed with my husband. It was very powerful!

- Good program. Thank you for sharing your experience. The impact of that sharing is more powerful than any single "lesson" you can teach. I don't give 10's but this was close.

- Thank you so much for this seminar. It's just what we needed. Life gets so hectic; it's hard to get back on track. This should become an annual or semiannual event in the church.

- This seminar could have been longer than a day. I could have listened to you guys for the whole weekend. Excellent topics that are relevant to our marriages today. I will recommend this seminar to others.

- We really enjoyed and benefited from this program. Thank you both for accepting this vocation from God. God be with you in your work together!

Meeting the needs of children goal of school choice reform says superintendent of public instruction

House Panel approves School Choice Bill

INDIANAPOLIS — School choice is one step closer to becoming reality in Indiana. The House Education Committee approved the school choice bill Feb. 15, following hours of testimony. Under the proposal, qualifying families would be eligible for a scholarship to use at the private school of their choice. The private school of choice may very likely be a Catholic school. The Church is supportive of the bill.

Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, author of HB 1003, said, "We would create a scholarship system for eligible parents to choose the private school of their choice. This is only open to children currently enrolled in public schools because we are looking at students who have the most serious need of education options. The savings of the program would be plowed back into the school funding formula and be distributed to public schools throughout the state."

Dr. Tony Bennett, superintendent of Public Instruction, testified in support of the legislation. He told committee members that the 2011 comprehensive education reform plan places a significant emphasis on "meeting the needs of children."

"I use the phrase 'meets the needs of children' because today we are on the cusp of a paradigm shift," said Bennett. "I sincerely believe the shift is one from where the state funds schools and school corporations to one where the state provides resources so that children are prepared for the 21st-century economy. And one where parents have the opportunity to choose where their children go to school."

Bennett recalled a situation

where a particular student could not be served in the public school system and he had to recommend to the parents that the student attend a private school.

"School choice is the civil rights issue of our generation — and parents deserve that right to choose what's best for their children," said Bennett.

Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Annette "Mickey" Lentz, testified in support of the bill. A parent and grandparent, Lentz's service in education spans nearly 50 years, including working as a teacher, principal and superintendent in non-public schools.

"Time and time again I have witnessed during my career that good education is a springboard

should be able to choose this option," said Day. "We appreciate the religious values and quality education of Cardinal Ritter and Holy Angels. We hope our daughter will be able to return to Holy Angels, because she is not being served at her current township public school. This legislation would enable us to do this. One of my greatest moments as a mother was when my son called me from college to tell me how much he appreciated my choice and sacrifice to send him to a Catholic school."

The Day family received a scholarship through the private scholarship program in Indianapolis called the Choice Charitable Trust.

Sherlynn Pillow, principal of Holy Angels Catholic School in Indianapolis testified in support of the bill. "This school corporation has 103 students. Ninety-nine percent are not Catholic and 88 percent are on free and reduced lunch," she said. "We are committed to serving all students despite academic or socio-economic background. We believe choice is the right thing to do."

Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, a member of the House Education Committee, expressed a constitutional concern with the bill. Peter Rusthoven, a partner at Indianapolis law firm Barnes and Thornburg explained rulings on the constitutionality of school vouchers.

Citing a 2002 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case *Zelman vs. Simmons-Harris* made clear that vouchers did not violate the establishment clause of the constitution often talked about as the separation of church and state.

"The battle over the constitutionality of vouchers is over," said Rusthoven. He explained that the reasoning behind the courts ruling was that the money was going to

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

Eligibility for School Scholarship School Choice Bill — HB 1003

Families that qualify for free and reduced lunch would be eligible for a scholarship valued up to 90 percent of the state's tuition support for a student in a public school. Families with a 200 percent of the free and reduced lunch income would be eligible for a scholarship valued up to 50 percent of the state's tuition support for a student in a public school. Each child in a qualifying family would be eligible for up to \$4,500 in school scholarship money to use at the private school of the family's choice. Only students who were previously enrolled in a public school would be eligible for a scholarship. Scholarships are capped at \$4,500 for elementary students. There is no scholarship cap for high school students. According to the Indiana Department of Education, a family with an annual household income of approximately \$42,000 would be eligible for the 90 percent scholarship. A family of four could earn up to approximately \$82,000 and be eligible for the 50 percent scholarship. Families with more children could have higher income levels and be eligible for the scholarships.

"We want to help our parents get the best possible education for their children wherever that may be."

ANNETTE LENTZ,
CHANCELLOR FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

for lifting children up and moving them forward," said Lentz.

"House Bill 1003 gives us that opportunity. It will help parents and their children and thereby the state of Indiana. We want to help our parents get the best possible education for their children wherever that may be."

"You have a great opportunity this year to give parents the freedom to decide what is best for their children. We stand ready to help the children throughout the state to be prepared in this fast changing world."

Helen Day, of Indianapolis and mother of six testified in support of the bill. "My family has seen the benefit that school choice can offer and I believe more families



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Pope to create three new saints, including founder of Xaverian order

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will create three new saints Oct. 23, including the founder of the Xaverian missionaries, Blessed Guido Maria Conforti. The pope announced the date for the canonization ceremony at the end of what is known as an ordinary public consistory, a formal ceremony opened and closed with prayer, during which cardinals present in Rome express their support for the pope's decision to create new saints. Blessed Conforti, founder of the Xaverian Foreign Missionary Society, was born in 1865 in Italy. Vice rector of a seminary even before his priestly ordination, he was said to have filled seminarians with an awareness of their obligation to be missionaries. In 1895, seven years after becoming a priest, he founded a congregation of consecrated men dedicated to the evangelization of non-Christians. Named bishop of Ravenna in 1902, he was plagued by ill health and decided to resign. But five years later, he was once again named a bishop, this time as head of the Diocese of Parma. He visited the Xaverian missionaries in China a few years before his death in 1931. The Xaverian missionaries today include 793 priests and brothers, and 183 Xaverian sisters; they have a strong presence in Europe and the Americas. The others to be canonized Oct. 23, World Mission Sunday, are Blessed Louis Guanella, an Italian priest who lived 1842-1915 and Blessed Bonifacia Rodriguez Castro, who lived 1837-1905.

Boston studies parishes' future; change ahead for some Toledo parishes

BOSTON (CNS) — In the Boston Archdiocese, a team of priests, deacons, religious and laypeople will help lay the groundwork for the archdiocese's future, which will likely result in fewer parishes but a similar number of churches that currently serve Catholics. Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley announced the formation of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Commission Feb. 2. The 18-member board will make a final recommendation to him on a pastoral plan for resources available in the near future. "This is an important endeavor that will help guide and shape the future of the archdiocese in meeting the pastoral needs of our parishes and ministries, and in advancing the mission of the Church," the cardinal said. About a week before the Boston announcement, officials in the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, announced a three-year parish reorganization plan is to begin in July with changes for 13 parishes, which will either be twinned or merged with other parishes or will share a pastor. Over the next two years, further reorganization is planned that will affect another 20

VOLUNTEERS SERVE FOOD AT MICHIGAN SHELTER



CNS PHOTO/JIM WEST

Volunteers serve breakfast to the needy at a shelter in Mount Clemens, Mich., Jan. 17. U.S. poverty, joblessness and deficits have slowed down economic recovery.

parishes. In Boston, Father Erikson said the timeline for implementing the pastoral plan over the long term has not been concretely established, but he said Cardinal O'Malley wants a gradual implementation. The priest told *The Pilot*, the archdiocesan newspaper, that the committee's goals include assisting Cardinal O'Malley in presenting a future pastoral plan that will "be equal to the resources we have available" and helping the archdiocese prepare for "challenges we will have in the future."

Oklahoma City Catholics urged to become 'agents of new evangelization'

EDMOND, Okla. (CNS) — As chief teacher of the faithful, new Archbishop Paul S. Coakley didn't hesitate to begin instructing his people. In his homily after being installed Feb. 11 as the fourth archbishop of Oklahoma City, Archbishop Coakley urged them "to become agents of a new evangelization." He said: "The call for a new evangelization is a challenge and an opportunity for the Church today to find effective ways of announcing Jesus Christ and making Him known and loved at a moment in history and in the midst of a culture that no longer considers God relevant to its pursuits and concerns. The word of God must be proclaimed to all the nations," he continued. "Jesus Christ is the good news, for which

every human heart is searching, and we are its witnesses. But if we are to be credible witnesses, we ourselves have to be fully evangelized." Archbishop Coakley's installation took place before more than 1,200 people at St. John the Baptist Church in Edmond, the largest Catholic church in the archdiocese, and aired live on the Eternal Word Television Network. More than 30 archbishops and bishops attended, as well as more than 200 priests and deacons from the archdiocese and from the Kansas dioceses of Salina and Wichita.

USCCB official has mixed reaction to HHS conscience rule revision

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman expressed disappointment at the Obama administration's partial rescission of a federal regulation protecting the conscience rights of healthcare workers, she said there are "reasons for hope" in the new education and outreach effort announced by the Department of Health and Human Services. Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, was commenting Feb. 18 on the final rule issued earlier that day by HHS to rescind elements of a December 2008 rule on conscience protection. The 2008

rule came down in the final days of the administration of President George W. Bush. "It is very disappointing that the (Obama) administration has chosen to eliminate much of the existing regulation on conscience issued in December 2008," McQuade said. "Among other things, the final rule issued today eliminates important clarifications that would have helped in interpreting and enforcing longstanding federal statutes protecting the conscience rights of healthcare providers," she said. "It also eliminates a regulatory requirement that recipients of federal funds certify compliance with those statutes. However, it is welcome news that the administration says it will take initiatives to increase awareness of the conscience statutes, work to ensure compliance with them, and require that all government grants make clear that compliance is required." In its announcement of the final rule, HHS officials stressed that the partial rescission has no effect on existing laws protecting the conscience rights of healthcare providers.

Strategies discussed for strengthening marriage, family life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the words of a California deacon, there is more to marriage "than putting a ring on the finger." Deacon Jim Merle, who has been married 43 years, was among

those gathered in Washington for a strategy session on how the Catholic Church can strengthen marriage and families led by Kathy Saile, director of domestic social development for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Feb. 16 session, held on the last day of the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, brought Church workers together to discuss how at the local level they can disseminate widely the Church's goals for marriage and family: to inspire, challenge and help Catholics witness to Marriage as a natural institution founded by God and as a sacrament and understand what children bring to a marriage. The group also discussed how to work for laws and public policies that recognize marriage as a union of a man and a woman, strengthen family life and protect religious liberty. "How do we animate these priorities to the faithful?" said Saile. Deacon Merle, representing the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in the Diocese of Orange, Calif., stressed that preparation and the recognition of Marriage as a sacrament should be taught at a young age through the catechism. Teenagers also need exposure to role models who practice their vocation, he said.

Evangelization works when preachers truly live the Gospel, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Evangelization will be effective only when the people spreading the Gospel truly believe and live Christ's message themselves, Pope Benedict XVI said. God needs to be at the center of every person's life, he said Feb. 18 during a meeting with bishops from the Philippines, who were making "ad limina" visits to report on the status of their dioceses. A pastor's preaching "must be personal in its focus so that each Catholic will grasp in his or her innermost depths the life-transforming fact that God exists, that he loves us, and that in Christ he answers the deepest questions of our lives," the pope said. The great task of evangelization is "to propose a personal relationship with Christ as key to complete fulfillment," he said. "New initiatives in evangelization will only be fruitful if, by the grace of God, those proposing them are people who truly believe and live the message of the Gospel themselves," Pope Benedict said. When lay groups and other Church communities are made up of and guided by "people whose motivating force is the love of Christ," they prove to be "worthy tools of evangelization," he said. The pope asked the bishops to "take special care in shepherding such groups so that the primacy of God may remain in the forefront." He praised the important role faith plays in the life of young Filipinos and asked the bishops to keep reminding young people that "the glamour of this world will not satisfy their natural desire for happiness."

Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home offers grief workshop

FORT WAYNE — Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, located at 5910 Homestead Rd. in Fort Wayne, will offer a grief workshop on Tuesday, March 1, from 5-7:30 p.m. entitled "Learning to Live After the Death of a Spouse: A Discussion on Healing." Speaker will be Kay Cozad, grief and loss educator. A light supper will be provided. To reserve a seat at this free seminar call (260) 435-3222.

Forever Learning Institute offers spring classes

SOUTH BEND — The Forever Learning Institute will continue registration through the first week of classes, which begin March 7. Registration is held at Little Flower Parish Center, located at 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend.

Spring classes run through May 13. Thirty-four new classes bring the total of classes offered to 74 this spring. Course guides are available at Little Flower Church and the South Bend, Mishawaka, Penn, Harris, Madison and Elkhart libraries. Registration forms and class information is also available online at www.foreverlearninginstitute.org.

For more information contact Joan Loranger at (574) 282-1901 or e-mail jmloranger@comcast.net.

SJRC adoption class offers opportunity for local families

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center will offer classes for families looking to adopt a newborn baby. "Oh Baby, What Now?" will enable adoptive parents to learn how to prepare and care for a newborn baby in an environment that understands their unique situation and specific needs. Classes will be held at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, located at 5215 Holy Cross Pkwy. in Mishawaka, in the 4th Floor Education Room on May 16; Aug. 15 and Nov. 21. Class time is from 6:30-8 p.m. and includes a tour of the unit.

SJRC's class offers parents the opportunity to meet other families going through a similar experience and connects them with resources for adoptive families in the community. Those interested in adopting, preparing to adopt or those who already have an adopted baby at home are welcome.

The class is free of charge. Donations will be accepted to benefit future classes.

The class was developed with support from local pediatricians, SJRC's Clinical Education Department and nurses from the hospital's Family Birthplace. Classes will be run by SJRC registered nurses and include time for questions and answers with both nurses and a physician.

Registration is required. For information call (574) 335-2323.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

PAINTING SELECTED FOR NATIONALS



PROVIDED BY ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL, ELKHART

A painting called "Falling" by Brady Krus, a third grader at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart, is one of the four artworks from the state of Indiana that will go to Washington, D.C., for the final judging in the All Kids Can Create contest. The contest was sponsored by Artsonia, the world's largest online art gallery for schools. Krus's painting was entered into the contest by his mother Janene Krus.

USF's WinterFest II debuting original show

FORT WAYNE — "Get your flake on," says the University of Saint Francis and the Edwin Clark Schouweiler Memorial Planetarium, as a fantasia of music and light and the debut of an original show shape up for WinterFest II. Planetarium shows will dazzle visitors on Fridays through Sundays, Feb. 25-26 and March 4-6. Friday and Saturday shows are at 5, 7, 8 and 9 p.m., while matinee shows are offered on Sundays at 5 and 7 p.m.

Music and light will co-mingle to fabulous effect on the first

tled Polynesia thousands of years ago, and then take a look at near-earth outer space right here in the Midwest.

The recommended age range for "The Explorers of Polynesia" is fifth grade through adults, although younger children prepared to remain seated quietly in the dark are also welcome. Shows are 90 minutes, including a staff-led exploration of the Fort Wayne evening sky.

"Legends of the Night Sky" will also be offered as a family afternoon laser matinee on Feb. 26 and 27. The show will present the ancient stories associated with constellations. The constellations of Perseus and Andromeda will be explored at 2 p.m. and Orion at 3 p.m.

Tickets for "Legends of the Night Sky" are \$4, with a maximum of \$18 per family (two adults and children). Tickets for all other shows are \$5. Ticket sales begin 45 minutes prior to the day's first show. For more information, visit the planetarium website at www.sf.edu/planetarium or call (260) 399-7700, ext. 8211.

House Raffle 2011 begins March 1

MISHAWAKA — The Foundation of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRC) has announced House Raffle 2011 will begin on Tuesday, March 1. This year marks the 20th Annual House Raffle, a fundraiser benefiting SJRC's Outreach Services programs and Women's Care Center.

House Raffle offers will be available to purchase beginning Tuesday, March 1, at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, located at 5215 Holy Cross Parkway, in the lobby. Offers are \$150 each. Sale hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays only. Only 3,950 offers are sold and 42 house raffle prizes are drawn, making the odds of winning one in 94.

On Monday, March 7, in celebration of House Raffle's 20th anniversary, 20 "early bird" prizes will be drawn from all paid entries received and recorded by noon that day. The first-place early bird prize is \$2,011. There will be 19 additional early bird winners, each receiving a \$200 prize. All early bird winners are still eligible for the house raffle drawing on May 6.

Second-place winners can choose either a 2011 Ford Ranger or a 2011 Ford Fiesta, provided by Gurley-Leep Automotive Family. Second place alternative cash prize is \$15,000. Forty cash prizes ranging from \$5,000 to \$175 will also be awarded.

Proceeds benefit SJRC's Outreach Services programs,

which provide healthcare to medically underserved families and the Women's Care Center, serving new moms and their babies. House Raffle has made it possible for these organizations to return over \$3.7 million in services to needy families, babies and children throughout the community.

The House Raffle 2011 drawing will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 6, at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center. Winners need not be present.

For more information on House Raffle 2011, please call (574) 245-4974 or visit www.sjmed.com.

Concert celebrates Lindenwood's 25th anniversary

DONALDSON — The Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, in honor of its 25th anniversary, is sponsoring a free concert performed by the South Bend Symphonic Choir under the direction of Dr. Marvin V. Curtis, on Sunday, March 6, at 3 p.m. in the Ancilla Domini Chapel at Donaldson.

Prior to the South Bend Symphonic Choir performance, the Plymouth Community Youth Chamber Ensemble, directed by Gabriele Hill, will be performing from 2:15-2:50 p.m.

Refreshments will be served at the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center following the concert.

In 1986 the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, opened its doors and served approximately 2,700 people. Today the center serves approximately 10,000 people per year.

Lindenwood offers a variety of sponsored programs and retreats for people of all faiths. Its facilities are available for rent. For more information, contact the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center at (574) 935-1780.

St. Jude School hosts kindergarten open house

SOUTH BEND — St. Jude School in South Bend will host Kindergarten Information Night for future kindergarten students and their families on March 1 from 6-8 p.m. Formal presentations by teacher Mary Johnson and recent St. Jude kindergarten parents will begin at 6:30 p.m. Free child care and refreshments will be provided.

St. Jude School's full day kindergarten program includes religion and core academic instruction. A half-day option is also available. St. Jude offers Catholic education through eighth grade and is located at 19657 Hildebrand St., off Johnson Rd. in South Bend.

For more information, contact principal Stephen Donndelinger at (574) 291-3820 or visit www.stjudeschool.net.

Bob and Jaci Byrne are committed to bringing others closer to Christ

SOUTH BEND — Bob and Jaci Byrne often hold hands as the permanent deacon candidates and their wives walk to lunch after long formation lectures and practicums at the Lindenwood Center in Donaldson. Their endearing expression of affection symbolizes the deacon's dual commitment, in most cases, to the vocation of Marriage and Holy Orders. Bob and Jaci remind all that a permanent deacon must tend to their responsibilities at home as well as within the Church.

Preparation for the permanent diaconate calls upon the grace given through the sacrament of Marriage to lead and nurture the candidate preparing for ordination. The tireless self-giving of couples united in sacramental Marriage, in unity with the permanent character received in Holy Orders, allows the deacon to become an instrument for the Church through which Christ's love can be conveyed.

In Marriage as in Holy Orders, it is Christ who empowers, directs and allows one to serve without cost. Bob and Jaci are comforted in the assurance that it is Christ who is working in each of them, individually and collectively, as they anticipate Bob's ordination. They both look forward to the next phase of their lives together supported by their three sons; Pete, who is married to Jen, David and Michael.

Bob, a programmer/analyst, has worked in the profession of computer technology for 39 years. While studying for his profession at the University of Illinois, he met his future bride, Jaci who was studying for a teaching degree.

Even though Bob takes his work and study quite seriously, it doesn't take long to realize that he is not just "all work and no

A GLIMPSE: THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

play." Having ushered football games at Notre Dame Stadium for the past 22 years, Bob makes no apologies for his loyalty to the Irish. Bob, half jokingly, half seriously, has on occasion suggested early formation dismissals on game day.

Bob is not only loyal to Notre Dame but also to his desire to minister and teach others about Jesus Christ. Bob and Jaci have been parishioners of St. Anthony de Padua Parish in South Bend for 24 years. During that time Bob has been an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, a lector, and more recently the parish sacristan. Bob assisted in promoting Disciples in Mission, a three-year Lenten series promoted by the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development. He completed the diocesan catechetical certification program, Education for Ministry, in 2001-2003 and is in his sixth year of teaching RCIA.

It was in the midst of his everyday commitment to family and parish, that Father Terry Fisher invited Bob to consider the permanent diaconate.

Jaci, a licensed junior high and high school teacher, has taught at St. Anthony School for the last 21 years. She took 10 years off from her profession to raise her boys. Part-time substitute teaching led to further study to complete a teaching certification in science. Jaci remembers how Bob auto-

matically pitched in to manage the work at home as she studied. Now she is doing the same for Bob as he prepares homilies, papers and studies theology for the permanent diaconate. The sacrifices paid off as Jaci now not only teaches science at St. Anthony's but seventh-grade religion as well. She delights in preparing her students for the sacrament of Confirmation. She witnesses to her students as she lectures and serves as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. Together, Bob and Jaci prepare young couples for the sacrament of Marriage.

Jaci admits that the diaconate formation process has added extra work to their already committed life. But she wisely states, "I've had to give some things up around the house and just focus more on what's important."

And Bob responds, "Jaci has been so good and supportive, releasing me to do what I have to do in order to become a deacon. It is a big sacrifice on Jaci's part."

Together they believe, "It's the only way we can do this."

Jaci admits that the formation has taught her to lean more on God, trusting that God will take care of them and their children and two grandchildren.

Bob is humbled sensing that God is continually equipping him to do the work of the deacon.

Bob and Jaci hope to one day give themselves totally to the service of the Church. Through the permanent diaconate formation, they have more fully experienced God's love and want to bring others closer to the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. Bob, with a humble heart says this about the formation experience, "Even if it ended now, it will have been worth it all."

Saint Mary's College World Cinema Festival

NOTRE DAME — The Saint Mary's College Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) will host the World Cinema Festival, Monday, Feb. 28, through Friday, March 4. The award-winning films, which are free and open to the public, will be shown in the Vander Venet Theatre on the ground level of the Student Center each night at 7 p.m.

Dr. Mana Derakhshani, French professor, associate director of CWIL and director of Saint Mary's Intercultural Studies Program, says that the festival will bring a unique opportunity to all students in the surrounding community.

"The films chosen for the festival come from regions of the world where some of the languages that are taught at Saint

Mary's College are spoken. Saint Mary's students and students from area colleges and high schools will get a chance to hear the languages that they are studying in an authentic cultural context," says Derakhshani.

Derakhshani believes that the local community will benefit greatly from attending the World Cinema Festival. She hopes to bring the world to Michiana through film.

Derakhshani says, "How many of us have the chance to travel to China, Chile, Palestine or Germany? Through cinema, the audience will discover new artistic expressions of different cultures and regions."

World Cinema Film Festival schedule:

- Monday, Feb. 28: "Blind Mountain"; director — Li Yang; country — China; year — 2007; language — Mandarin with English subtitles

- Tuesday, March 1: "Falling"; director — Barbara Albert; countries — Austria, Germany; year — 2006; language — German with English subtitles

- Wednesday, March 2: "Genesis"; director — Cheick Oumar Sissoko; countries — Africa (region), Mali; year — 1999; language — Bambara with English subtitles

- Thursday, March 3: "Tony Manero"; director — Pablo Larrain; country — Chile; year — 2008; language — Spanish with English subtitles

- Friday, March 4: "Laila's Birthday"; director — Rashid Masharawi; countries — Netherlands, Palestine, Tunisia; year — 2008; language — Palestinian with English subtitles

For additional information, please visit www.centerforwomenleadership.org/event/world-cinema-film-festival.



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Show choir invitational takes center stage at Bishop Luers High School

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Long before there was ever a hit-television program, “Glee,” Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne was laying the groundwork for show choir invitationals. The upcoming 37th annual show choir invitational, March 4-5, is in a sense the “granddaddy” of all high school show choir invitationals.

In 1975, Franciscan Father Fred Link, who directed the Bishop Luers Minstrels show choir and would later become principal of the Fort Wayne high school, was the founder of the Luers Midwest Show Choir Invitational. It consisted of seven area show choirs or swing choirs as they were called then. One judge commented, “You have a tiger by the tail.”

What made the Bishop Luers Show Choir Invitational unique was “it was organizing an educational opportunity with educated adjudicators (judges) who would come in and really help the groups and give them pointers on how to become better and what to do and to bring groups from different areas together,” said Karlene Krouse, the director of the Bishop Luers Minstrels show choir since 1999. Prior to the Luers’ invitational, Krouse recalled most competitions were at community festivals or street fairs.

The Luers Midwest Show Choir Invitational was propelled into the national spotlight in 1976. A public television station in Bowling Green, Ohio, WBGU-TV, taped the show and made it available to PBS stations across the



JOE ROMIE

Show choir students rehearse music at Bishop Luers High School.

U.S. In 1985, the public television program was aired throughout the former Soviet Union.

The invitational is now made available worldwide on the Web. Visitors to www.bishopluers.org can watch the Friday and Saturday competitions by clicking on “Luers Live” tab and then signing onto the live broadcast feed in partnership with Incommand Broadcasting. The fee is \$5 for the Friday program and \$10 for Saturday competitions.

The Bishop Luers Show Choir Invitational will welcome 19 choirs on March 5 including choirs traveling to Fort Wayne from West Virginia, Illinois, Ohio, southern

Indiana and local choirs.

A middle school competition on the evening of March 4 will include three local public schools and a show choir from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School in Fort Wayne.

At the Luers invitational, “every student is recognized from an educational standpoint on their performance ability,” Krouse said.

Adjudicators determine vocals, sound, choreography, performance and the general picture. Other judges focus on soloists. The Luers Midwest Show Choir Invitational consists of six main judges with seven other captions’ judges to recognize the best woodwind, percus-

sion, keyboard, solo vocalists, tech crew, string and dynamic performers in a show.

Krouse believes that “Glee” has increased the popularity of show choir, “but the sad part about the show, it does not show the hard work that goes behind the scenes to get to the performance level that these students do.”

“It doesn’t show how (the students) are juggling two sports, all their academics, their (Advance Placement) courses and really the nuts and bolts of a show choir.”

Bishop Luers offers show choir as an accredited course. During the competition season, the Luers show choir enters six to eight competitions and a national competition every other year.

The show choir practices three or four times a week, four to eight hours per week, and when the season is over, they continue to practice once a week.

“You find with students getting involved with show choir that it’s a lot of work, but it’s not any more work than being in a sport,” Krouse commented.

For a school of 540 students, the show choir boasts an illustrious history. Last year, the show choir took a sixth-place national listing and ranks in the top 23 this year.

One of the most rewarding things about show choir students, Krouse said, is seeing an individual transform from a student who was quiet and shy into a positive, confident performer and “has the best time.”

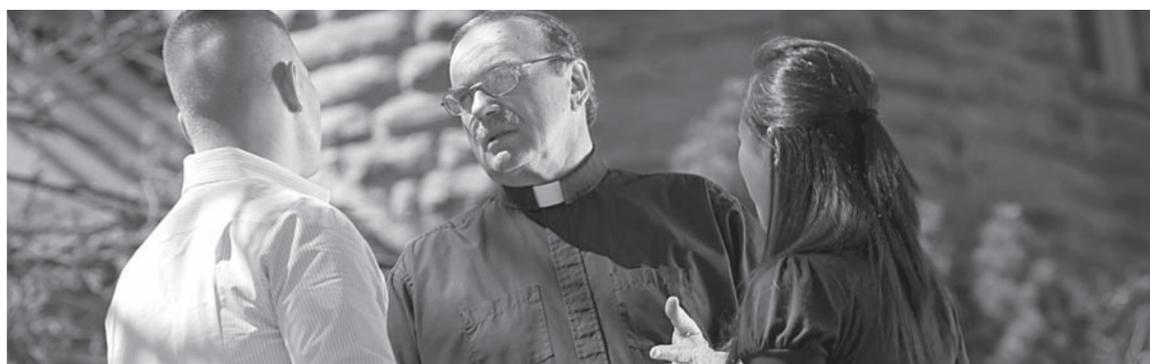
As a show choir parent, as well as a director, Monica Zwick said, “I like the camaraderie you have with a lot of parents — a lot more than with the sports.”

Parents take the roles of feeding the show choir students during competitions, helping with costumes, hair, makeup, loading the trucks for competitions and manning booths at school and community fundraisers. Many parents have assigned tasks for the upcoming invitational as well.

“It is a great, great opportunity for parents and students to be working together,” Krouse noted. “And I think it is great because students also see their parents in a volunteer role in something that they love. I think that’s one thing about Bishop Luers, that we really give a great example to these young men and women of service to our community.”

“We’re not only just a little show choir,” Krouse said, “because every time we sing we are expanding out into the community whether it’s at a Mass — we know that most of the show choir members are in liturgical choir — or at a competition.”

Zwick spoke of how the Catholic identity was prevalent last year when they performed at a competition outside of Fort Wayne and made the night show. “A couple of parents got together and found a Catholic church three blocks away and a lot of the kids went to Mass between the day show and the night show,” Zwick said. “The priest at the parish asked the students to come every day because, ‘we hadn’t had this much singing in a long time.’”



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Bishop Luers Show Choir Invitational set March 5

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School will welcome show choirs from 19 high schools to its 37th annual competition on March 5. Day competition begins at 8 a.m. and runs until 6 p.m.; the evening competition begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and sold at the door.

On March 4, Bishop Luers Invitational has expanded the competition to include middle school choirs from the area. The competition will begin 6 p.m. and conclude with awards at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and sold at the door.

Bishop Luers will broadcast the invitational live across the nation in partnership in Incommand Broadcasting.

SENIORS

Corn flakes from heaven Seniors active at St. Patrick Food Bank

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — For the crew of volunteers, all seniors, at the St. Patrick Food Bank in Fort Wayne, the loaves' and fishes' miracle must have special significance. At 8 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the crew shows up, as do walk-ins who depend on the St. Patrick's Food Bank for a bag of groceries.

The food bank is open from 9 to 11 a.m., so before clients arrive, on Mondays, the crew awaits a Associated Churches Food Bank van bearing fresh supplies. As they drink coffee and bag groceries, the volunteers talk sports and weather, swap opinions on members of the clergy, and hope for more peanut butter.

St. Patrick's Food Bank, on the parish campus, is one of 28 units supplied by the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne Food Bank. In addition to this main source, St. Patrick's receives private donations of food and non-food items and money.

The Salem United Church of Christ on Lake Avenue channels its food donations through St. Patrick's, as does St. Charles Parish. St. Charles also sends SCRIP, which can be used at local food sources.

At St. Patrick's, every single box of cereal or bottle of detergent is weighed or tabulated for monthly reports which are filed with Associated Churches and Community Harvest Food Bank, who in turn, reports these figures to their sources and in grant applications. Money received and how it is spent is included in St. Patrick's reports.

For a bag of groceries containing canned food, soup, soap, toilet paper, hot dogs, pasta, bread, cereal, etc., worth approximately \$75, visitors may come in once a month and must live in a speci-

fied area served by St. Patrick's. Requests for coffee, sugar, laundry detergent or diapers are filled if supplies are available. Bread is available anytime. To qualify, visitors need only give their name and address.

The St. Patrick Food Bank was founded about 17 years ago by Jack Soderquist, a tireless individual relentlessly dedicated to assisting those in need. This man's determination was measured by the fact that because of poor sight, he could not drive, and rode a bicycle on all errands and to work.

Jack is now retired in Michigan and his work at St. Patrick's is carried on by protégé Roger Rang, a member of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne.



JANE PIERCE

As manager, Roger's day begins with lugging supplies off the supply van and ends with precise record keeping needed to justify the continued supply of necessities.

He is also ambassador, point man, bouncer, purchasing agent and devotee of Frederic Ozanam.

Roger is assisted by other St.



PHOTOS BY MARK WEBER

Members of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, who volunteer at St. Patrick Parish Food Bank, from left, are Jim Laughlin; Roger Rang, food bank manager; and Martin Hussar. The food bank is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-11 a.m.



HELEN HLAWEK

John's parishioners, Martin Hussar, Jim Laughlin, Bob Lengerich, Dick Weber and formerly by Larry Granahan. With fondness, Roger recalls the devoted service of Victor Deininger, Frank Kilcoin and Dave Rohyans, who have passed on.

Volunteer Jane Pierce, a St. Patrick parishioner, has been the food bank receptionist for seven years. Before retirement, Jane was the manager of the South Side High School cafeteria for 25 years.

Helen Hlawek, from St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, comes in one day a week and also volunteers at St. Peter Parish food bank on Thursdays. In addition, Helen is a volunteer driver for the Cancer Society and the League

for the Blind.

When each of these volunteers, most of whom have lost a spouse, or are single, was asked, "why do you do it?" they hesitated and said something about enjoying the companionship of the rest of the crew, and searched for words about "filling a need."

What was unsaid and clearly unstated was that by observing the need and the appreciation of those who depend on the food bank, the volunteers also develop a hunger, not of the belly kind, but of a gnawing hunger to continue to fill the shelves, to fill those brown bags, and in that way, attempt to fill the hearts of those who visit the St. Patrick Food Bank.

Holy Cross Sisters stamp ministry supports mission

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS

NOTRE DAME — Who would ever think that the stamp on your birthday card could help the poor and underserved. Well, it can and the “retired” sisters at Saint Mary’s College make it happen.

Begun in the early 1970s by now deceased Holy Cross Sister M. Diomera McCue, the stamp program supports the Sisters of the Holy Cross’ ministries with the poor, especially women and children, throughout the world. More than 25 senior sisters clip, launder, dry and press canceled stamps that are sold to various stamp dealers who in turn sell them to stamp collectors. Claude Renshaw, a retired Saint Mary’s College accounting professor, also gives his time and talent to this ministry.

Asked how he got involved, Renshaw says, “I decided about a year ago that I was going to do some volunteer work with the sisters and talked to Lee Ann Moore who is the coordinator of all volunteers at Saint Mary’s Convent. In her interview with me, I brought up that I was a stamp collector and had been one ever since I was a kid. Right away she knew the stamp room would be a good match.”

Holy Cross Sister M. Jane Chantal Method, who recently took over the management of the stamp ministry, knew Renshaw from the past and says of him, “The day I agreed to manage the stamp room ministry a few months ago, I met Claude. When I told him about my new role, he enthusiastically offered to help. He is in charge of the sale of our stamps, both at the South Bend area stamp club meetings and to local and distant stamp collectors and dealers.”

Sister Jane’s responsibility is to

make the ministry effective. Assisted by Sister M. Carlita Hammes, she makes sure that there is always a supply of stamps, that they are properly identified, processed, sorted, stored or sold. She is accountable to Sister M. Rose Edward Goodrow, who directs the congregation’s development office.

Sister Rose remarks, “The stamp program has been a great gift to our congregation. The proceeds from the sale of canceled stamps assists us in supporting the works of the ministry to the poor. The preparation of these stamps for sale gives great opportunity for our sisters and numerous volunteers to be a part of the ministry. We appreciate our donors efforts to save the stamps and support us in this congregational ministry.”

Without donations of stamps there would be no ministry. Donated stamps and collections arrive at Saint Mary’s from all over the world. They come from sisters serving abroad, Saint Mary’s College alumnae, the University of Notre Dame, schools, businesses, families and friends of Holy Cross and more. Recently Holy Cross Father Christopher Kuhn, the Indiana Province archivist, gifted the stamp room with over 40 boxes of stamp collections from deceased Holy Cross brothers and priests. He has been very helpful in sharing his knowledge of stamps and is a member of the stamp club.

There is an old saying that when you need a volunteer, ask a busy person. Sister Jane fits in that category. So why did she say yes to this new adventure? “I agreed to take this position as manager of the stamp room because the stamp room would have to be closed if no one agreed to take charge. I knew little or nothing about stamps

or stamp collecting, but having been a missionary in Africa for many years, I had appreciated the benefits of the Ministry to the Poor fund. I also value the opportunity that so many of our sisters, families, friends and associates have experienced by being involved so directly in ministry to the poor. I thought I knew how to organize and how to delegate and I was assured that I could continue my present ministry to our sisters here at Saint Mary’s. Little did I imagine all that was involved in the stamp room ministry. Somehow, through the generosity and assistance of so many dedicated friends and coworkers, the stamp ministry is flourishing.”

To donate stamps for the sisters send them to Sister Jane Chantal at Stamp Room-Augusta Hall, Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Or call (574) 284-5675 or 284-5704. Guidelines for saving stamps can be found at www.csc-sisters.org/development.



PHOTOS BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Holy Cross Sister Jane Chantal, stamp room manager for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, sorts canceled stamps to be sold for the missions.



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Holy Cross Sister Francis Clare Ugast is busy in her room cutting excess paper off canceled stamps. Sister Ugast is one of many who work in the Holy Cross stamp ministry that benefits the poor and underserved.

Love knows no age bounds

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — For octogenarians Muriel Zisk and Bob Coplen, what began as a chance meeting a little over a year ago has grown into a full blown romance. During the past year the two have traversed a range of relationship issues as their feelings for each other took root. Recently they found their way to making wedding plans set for this July.

Mutual friends introduced the couple who seemed to enjoy each other's company from the beginning. "On our first date we talked for 2 1/2 hours — about everything," says the effervescent Zisk. "We have wonderful communication," she adds, acknowledging that sharing their histories, thoughts and feelings is the foundation of their love relationship.

Zisk and Coplen share a great many interests as well, and says Zisk, "Our outlook on life is the same." Beyond all of the things they have in common she says of her betrothed, "He's so kind and such a gentleman. He's whimsical and he's a good family man."

Both Zisk and Coplen come from love-filled, enduring marriages. Bob and Dorothy Coplen enjoyed a loving 49-year marriage, until Dorothy's death six years ago. Together they have four sons and six grandchildren. Now after six years of bachelorhood Coplen prayed that God would bring him a good woman. Enter Muriel Zisk.

Muriel and Ed Zisk claimed 45 years of marital bliss until Ed's death in 1998. They raised two children and have three grandchildren. A planned retirement move from Connecticut to Fort Wayne, where Zisk's daughter and family reside, was undertaken six months after Ed's untimely death.

"It was our dream, and I just followed that dream," says Zisk wistfully. She soon found a home in Fort Wayne and quickly settled in. She says, "Through my church and the

people I met, I found peace and contentment here."

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish became her home parish where she developed a supportive faith community by attending a Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) retreat soon after her move. "I

met my extended family through CRHP," she says.

Zisk joined "Joy in the Mourning," a widows support group at the parish as well and says her "Joy" friends walked with her through her grief over the death of her beloved husband. And her gratitude for her friends does not go unsung for their support during a draining bout with breast cancer that same year.

Zisk, who is a faith-filled survivor, says of this challenging time of change and loss, "It was my faith that got me through. Without Ed I was lost. But I turned everything over to God. He's never let me down."

She feels that her faith grew stronger during her hardships and made her a better person. "I didn't have Ed to lean on, so I leaned on my Savior," she says.

Leading a full and ever-changing life style that included close ties to children, grandchildren and friends, volunteering as a receptionist at the Lutheran Cancer Research Center supporting others who face the dread disease, in the office of St. Elizabeth or anywhere else she was needed, and acting as nanny to several area families, Zisk felt complete. Then her grandchildren went away to college and Zisk says, "I felt a void," though she admits she never considered dating.

But God had His own plans, she says. "Along came Bob. The Lord put him in my life when I wasn't looking ... and He opened my heart to take in another love."

"Along came Bob.
The Lord put him
in my life when
I wasn't looking."

MURIEL ZISK



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MURIEL ZISK

Muriel Zisk and Bob Coplen, both in their 80s, have found love with each other and plan to marry in July.

The budding relationship was not without its burdens as Zisk began to realize she was falling in love. The guilt of loving another man had Zisk feeling like she was betraying her late husband. But after much prayer and support from friends she felt God had provided a gift in Bob and her first husband would be happy for her. Both are thrilled that their children and friends accept their relationship with joy.

Though the two do not share the same religion Zisk says Bob is a man of great faith. "Faith is what drew us together," she reports, adding that they each respect the other's religion and share their deep faith in God. She adds that prayer has become an intimate part of their ever deepening relationship.

While vacationing in Las Vegas recently Coplen, on bended knee, proposed to his new love. Quipping that she needed to hear

those "three little words" Coplen reenacted the proposal, this time with a heartfelt "I love you," after which Zisk readily accepted. The couple credits God for the ease at which their plans are falling into place for the July wedding ceremony, where they will pay special tribute to their deceased spouses.

As for the future Zisk says, "I don't fear the future with this man. God will lead us into a happy marriage. I intend to make the most of every day with him." And she feels she and Coplen will be a committed couple saying, "He'll walk with me through good and bad times. He'll be there for me, I know that."

And don't forget the romance, she says smiling, "He is romantic. He puts a spark in my life and keeps me happy. I feel so at peace with my life and my faith. And now with Bob I can share it all."

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Hungry Americans deserve federal help, official believes

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the American economy remains sluggish, millions of Americans continue to depend upon some type of food and nutrition program supported by the federal government.

The man overseeing such programs is Kevin W. Concannon, a Catholic from Maine who has built a 42-year career in health and human services.

Concannon, 70, joined the Department of Agriculture as undersecretary of food, nutrition and consumer services in 2009, coming out of retirement at the invitation of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. The two worked together in Iowa for four years.

The longtime social worker discussed his role overseeing nearly \$100 billion in programs that assist

a significant number of Americans.

Q: What are your responsibilities?

A: There are 15 federal programs that are the first line of defense against hunger. The largest is SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the food stamp program as it's still known. That serves 43 million Americans, more than 20 million children.

The next largest are the food programs in schools, public and private. Each day 32 million children have lunch at school. That program was just reauthorized by Congress and strengthened in terms of meal quality and nutrition.

We have the national school breakfast program for 12 million children.

The Women, Infants and Children program is under-acknowledged for its importance. In 45 percent of all the births in the U.S., the

mothers are enrolled in WIC.

We have The Emergency Food Assistance Program. It provides close to 25 percent of foods that come through food banks. We have a special program for Indians on or near reservations. We also have the Summer Food Service Program for 3.3 million children. Many Catholic Charities agencies are partners with us. Our studies and others come to the same conclusion: The highest risk period for a child to go hungry is in the summer when school is out.

There's one more part called the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, a potent group of scientists, researchers and nutritionists who promulgate the dietary guidelines.

Q: Why did you come to Washington after retiring?

A: I'm a social worker by train-

ing. I spent seven years in Catholic Charities, starting in 1968 as a young social worker in Waterville, Maine. I was the associate diocesan director. I was invited in 1975 to state government to oversee a study of children's services and regulations and programs affecting children.

I was hired as a director of the mental retardation system and later became the commissioner of mental health and corrections and stayed for 12 years. I was recruited to Oregon and worked for eight years as the health and human services commissioner. I was asked to come back to Maine by a new governor, whom I had known when he was a legal aid lawyer. I was there for eight years. Then I went to Iowa where I was for six years.

Then I retired. I didn't like retirement. I wondered, "Why did I do this?" So when I got the call to come here, I thought it was fabulous.

Q: That was by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack because he apparently liked your work in Iowa.

A: He did. The interesting thing about the mission in USDA, is everything we do we do through states or counties. So it's really helped to have had state experience because I know how states think. I know the challenges. To me it's a busman's holiday. I feel good about it.

Q: How does your Catholic faith influence your work? Did it guide you into public service?

A: It certainly did. I went to parochial school, Jesuit high school, Catholic university and graduate school. When I was in graduate school, one of the major texts was written by a Jesuit theologian, Felix Biestek. I remember the alignment of basic values. I often say to people, "We can work on programs, but you have to make sure you get the values right first." Helping people who are in need is an underlying part of our responsibility.



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GUEST COMMENTARY BY CHRISTOPHER STEFANICK

Dysfunctional love songs

The lessons packed in the love songs that are getting the most radio play today all seem to have a similar theme: if it isn't dysfunctional, it isn't love.

Take the song "Grenade" for instance, wherein Bruno Mars sings a litany of pains he'd endure for his beloved, ranging from catching a grenade, to throwing his hand on a blade, to taking a bullet through his brain. His beloved is evil, it seems. According to the song, she'd "smile in (his) face then rip the brakes out of (his) car."

Her response to his "loving" rant is total indifference. He goes so far as to lament that if his body was on fire she'd watch him burn in flames. Yet, despite all this, at the end of the song he still sings, "I would die for you baby, but you won't do the same."

It seems that Bruno has so effectively broken the stereotype of the emotionless, standoffish male that he has become the psychotically needy girlfriend. Good boy, Bruno. Contemporary, feminized society has trained you well in the ways of "manhood." The lesson of this song is clear: If it isn't codependence, it isn't real love.

In one of the most popular songs of 2010, "Breakeven" singer Danny O'Donoghue laments after a hard breakup, "I'm still alive but I'm barely breathin.'" Everyone who has had their heart broken can relate with those words. But he goes on to sing, "What am I supposed to do when the best part of me was always you?" Romantic words? Yes. Emotionally healthy words? No.

No offense Danny, but if the best part of you was her I can see why she dumped you. While a couple is called to unity, individuals still need to maintain autonomy for a relationship to be stable and lasting. If people lose themselves in one another, soon there is no self to give to the other. The lesson of "Breakeven": If it isn't enmeshment, it isn't love.

In the song "Animal" by Neon Trees, vocalist Tyler Glenn sings, "We're sick like animals ... I won't be denied by ... the animal inside of you ... Take a bite of my heart tonight." Tyler, you and anyone who looks like you won't be dating my daughter. The lesson of this song is echoed in countless others: If it isn't promiscuous, it isn't passion.

And Miranda Cosgrove, a Nickelodeon (i.e. children's TV channel) actress, in "Kissing You" sings to her boyfriend before an audience of millions of pre-teen girls, "When I'm kissing you it all starts making sense!" And answers to questions like, "Are you the one I should trust?" become "crystal clear ... when I'm kissin' you."

The lesson of this song is that physical intimacy is the way to discern if a given relationship is the right one. I hate to break the news to you, Miranda, but that feeling you're getting while kissing him is oxytocin. It's a neuro-peptide released during physical intimacy that decreases your ability to reason and increases your ability to bond. It produces the polar opposite of clear thinking. Furthermore, when you're engaging in heavy kissing with your boyfriend, Miranda, I can almost guarantee that he's not thinking, "You're the one I should trust." It's more likely that he's thinking, "You're the one I should do more with than kiss."

I'm not even going to attempt to tackle what most rap songs say about relationships because their content, packed with sexual deviance and hedonism that border on violence is more fitting for a hard core porn magazine or a "Law and Order SVU" episode than the radio.

I don't mean to sound like an emotionless Spock of a man. The songs I mentioned, with the exception of "Animal," do have some redeeming themes, and they all have great melodies. But they dismantle the prerequisite for love in the minds of the desperate pre-teens who are listening: self possession. If a person is stable enough to stand on his own two feet without falling into enmeshment and codependence, then, and only then, can he give himself in love to another.

And if love is contained by modesty, chivalry and purity during dating and engagement, then, and only then, can it become an internal fire that nothing can put out. In the words of John Paul II, the "fire of pleasure ... burns quickly like a pile of withered grass." But the flame of purity creates a fire that doesn't consume its host.

Thanks in large part to misguided love songs, teens tend to mistake things like codependence, enmeshment and promiscuity for love. It's funny how the things they come to look for in dating relationships are precisely the things that set them up for failed marriages.

Parents: Pay attention to what your teens are listening to and turn those songs on your car radio into teaching moments. You might get eyes rolled back at you in reply, but what that really means is: "Thanks for looking out for me, Mom and Dad."

Speaker and author Christopher Stefanick is director of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry for the Denver Archdiocese. Visit www.chris-stefanick.com.

COMMENTARY

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Working through a hard death

Caregivers and healthcare professionals can and often do greatly assist those who are suffering and dying. Even with careful pain management and comfort measures, however, the dying process can still be agonizing and difficult. Each death has a unique and particular trajectory, but even the most difficult and unpleasant deaths often have powerful graces and remarkable opportunities for growth mysteriously interwoven into them.

Some time ago, I corresponded with a registered nurse about her mother's final battle with lung cancer. She described the unexpected shifts in her mother's condition that had taken place over a period of eight days: "... passing through a day of Cheyne-Stokes respirations (a pattern of deep breathing, followed by stoppage of breathing, followed by

repetition of the cycle), days of such shallow breathing that death seemed literally one breath away, days of calm coma, two days where the smell of imminent death was detectable, signs of diminished extremity perfusions coming and then going, coming and then going, day after day, no urine output, then urine output, then no urine, then urine again, emerge from this state and embark upon three hours of increasingly severe respiratory distress culminating in a violent respiratory arrest."

No stranger to death and dying, this nurse had assisted countless other patients with pain, air and hunger management. During her mom's final hours, she had significantly increased morphine doses per hospice protocols, but with little or no apparent relief. Her mother's death ended up being very hard. Reflecting on it afterwards, she realized that if she had not been both a healthcare professional and a person who trusted deeply in God, she would have been, to use her own words, "out of my mind with horror."

Why certain deaths are so

much harder than others is no easier to explain than why certain lives are so much harder than others. It gives us pause, though, to ask whether suffering doesn't have some hidden but important meaning, however it enters our lives. As we seek to use the tools of medicine to alleviate the suffering of those who are dying, we realize how delicate a balancing act it can be, fraught with difficult decisions about dosages and interventions, and not always guaranteed to work. When pain and suffering cannot be alleviated, patients ought to be helped to appreciate the Christian understanding of redemptive suffering.

The nurse described how she and her mother had experienced this Christian understanding themselves: "My Mom and I prayed hard and much over this past year. She was expected to die a year ago. As we began to

understand that she was actually improving and that she (and I) had been given this gift of time, we became increasingly devoted to the Divine Mercy of Jesus. I am of the opinion that God gave Mom an opportunity to be on the cross with Him."

Real suffering engages a lot of complex emotions. We may worry that

our crosses will be more than we can bear. We may not see how our sufferings could really have any value or meaning. In the end, suffering can make us bitter or it can make us better, depending upon how we respond to it and use it to enter into deeper union with the Lord who suffered and died a hard death for us.

I'm reminded of a story I once heard about a priest in Poland who taught at the seminary. Each year, there had been fewer candidates entering the seminary, rarely more than eight or nine, and it was becoming a serious concern for the seminary and the diocese. One day, this priest learned he had a terminal illness, with only a few months to live. Shortly afterwards, he turned to God and said: "Lord Jesus, I will



MAKING
SENSE OF
BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

do my best to offer up the sufferings that lie ahead of me, whatever they may be, but I would ask that you send us 18 new candidates for next year's incoming class." The good priest faced an excruciating death, but a few months later when the candidates started showing up at the seminary, there were exactly 18 new students in the class.

His story speaks of how suffering has meaning whenever we unite it to the redemptive sufferings of Christ. Our sufferings and struggles are an important, albeit temporary, part of our journey. They are a harbinger of a greater destiny and a promise of our transformation. Pope John Paul II once described it this way: "The cross of Christ throws salvific light, in a most penetrating way, on man's life ... the cross reaches man together with the resurrection." Our experience of suffering and death, even a very hard death, offers us mysterious and dramatic graces, with the reassurance that God himself is ever near to those who carry their cross.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Could Internet increase intentions?

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If the pope used Twitter or Facebook to rally people together to pray for one intention, how many millions of prayers could be raised to heaven within minutes?

In some countries, Facebook and the Internet already are being used by the Apostleship of Prayer to build community and distribute the pope's monthly prayer intentions. But in most places in the world, when the pope makes a special public appeal for prayers, people hear about it only through the Catholic media.

For 167 years, members of the Apostleship of Prayer have begun each day offering their lives to God and praying for the needs of the universal Church and the intentions of the pope.

The offering and the prayers are the basic membership requirements, and in most places the apostleship has "no registration, no groups, no fees, no special meetings," so no one really knows how many people belong.

Jesuit Father Claudio Barriga, who oversees the organization from the Jesuit headquarters near the Vatican, said he estimates there are about 50 million people fulfilling the membership requirements in the apostleship and its youth wing, the Eucharistic Youth Movement.

The Jesuit said he was in Vietnam in January and discovered that there are Apostleship of Prayer groups in every diocese with an estimated 1 million involved.

A government-approved bishop in mainland China reported that there is a group of people who makes the offering and prays for the pope's intentions each day in his cathedral, Father Barriga said.

In the United States, he said, "it's mainly a digital community" thriving through the use of the website www.apostleshipof-prayer.org — which includes links to a daily audiovisual meditation posted on YouTube — and

THE VATICAN LETTER

CINDY WOODEN

through both national and parish-based Facebook pages.

But it's also big in remote areas of Angola where many people have never even seen a computer and in Madagascar where about 250,000 young people belong to the Eucharistic Youth Movement, he said.

Father Barriga knows that for many people, the Apostleship of Prayer is seen as a way for the elderly to exercise their piety; he said it wasn't that long ago that he thought so, too.

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The new translation of the Holy Mass:

The Communion Rite

This week, we review the Communion Rite as it appears in the new Roman Missal. Following the people's "Amen" at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, we begin the Communion Rite with the recitation or singing of the Our Father.

Most will be pleased to hear that the text of the Lord's Prayer itself (as well as our familiar English chant setting) will remain unchanged. Not only is the prayer a sufficient translation of the Latin "Pater noster," but the devotional language of the Our Father (complete with phrases like "Who art in heaven" and "hallowed be Thy name") has also become a deeply ingrained and rich part of our vernacular prayer. Every English-speaking Christian knows this prayer, and it is used a great deal outside of the Holy Mass.

However, the priest's words before, during, and after the Our Father will feature some changes. For instance, the current translation offers three options for the priest's introduction to the Our Father, but the new translation will match the single Latin line in saying, "At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say ..." To address our almighty, transcendent Creator as "Father" is actually an incredible thing, for it affirms a tender and personal aspect to our relationship with Him. And we do this at the direction of His Son — this is why we "dare to" use the name, "Father."

After the sign of peace (which should always be shared in a dignified fashion, for it is Christ's peace — not our own — that we impart here), we sing the Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God") as the priest breaks the sacred host. The Agnus Dei text remains unchanged as well, though it is always good to recall its origin in the words of John the Baptist, as he heralds Christ's arrival at the River Jordan: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." — Jn 1:29.

That passage from the Gospel of John is also embedded in the subsequent line spoken by the priest, while he holds the host over the chalice. Here is the new text, with changes in bold:

Behold the Lamb of God,

behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

The new translation recovers the word, "behold," which also evokes the words of Pilate to the crowd in presenting the scourged Jesus: "Behold, the man" ("Ecce homo" — Jn 19:5). The Holy Eucharist is a re-presentation of that same sacrificial Victim, and our partaking in it is a foretaste of

THE NEW MISSAL



BY BRIAN MACMICHAEL

the heavenly wedding banquet of the Lamb. — Rev 19:9.

Then come the words we pray in response, before the distribution of Holy Communion begins:

Lord, I am not worthy

that you should enter under my roof,

but only say the word

and **my soul** shall be healed.

The replacement of our current, relatively terse "not worthy to receive you" with the bolded line is a significant change. The new line comes directly from the Gospels, particularly Matthew 8:8, in which the faith-filled centurion begs Jesus to heal his paralyzed servant: "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed." It is therefore a Biblical text that conveys humanity's unworthiness on account of sin, and our need for sincere humility before receiving the Holy Eucharist.

Nonetheless, speaking of "my roof" may seem strange before Holy Communion, since Christ is coming to us in the form of food — not literally entering into our houses. Certainly the clear association with Matthew Chapter 8 has a figurative intent, but it may also be helpful to recall that St. Paul says, "your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you." — 1 Cor 6:19.

We are therefore to make our bodies into fitting homes for God's grace to dwell within our souls. The Eucharist is true food that provides spiritual nourishment, which is why we will refer more specifically to "my soul" in the last line. But this sacramental strength for our souls in turn informs both our mental and physical deeds (recall the Confectio also incorporated both types of action), such that the totality of our bodies, souls, and lives may become suitable instruments of the Lord.

For the distribution and reception of Holy Communion, the words shall all remain the same: "The Body (or "Blood") of Christ" with a response of "Amen."

Next week, we will complete our look at the Order of Mass.

Brian MacMichael is the director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Who is our master?



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 6:24-34

For its first reading this weekend, the Church presents a rather short selection from the final part of the Book of Isaiah.

By the time this passage was written, the Jews, long trapped in exile in Babylon, had returned home. The collapse of the Babylonian empire, and the accompanying conquest of Babylonia by Persia, had enabled them to go home.

It was a bittersweet return, certainly additionally so since few of the exiles, if any, were old enough to remember the homeland. Their parents and grandparents had told them about the homeland, and in the longing to leave Babylon and rediscover pride in their own identity, likely none of these recollections was unpleasant, all exaggerated.

So, the people who returned from exile had a glowing image of the land of their ancestry. The bubble burst when they actually arrived. Things were desolate.

The prophecy had to cope with the people's great disappointment and bewilderment. Where is God?

The reading reasserts God's promise to protect and sustain the Chosen People.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. In the first century, Corinth was Las Vegas, New York and Sin City all rolled into one. Converts to Christianity lived in Corinth, but, assuming from Paul's two letters, they apparently forever were lured away from the Gospel.

Surely important for the Christians was the mockery of pagans, who surely teased the Christians, asking whatever made them think that living chastely and keeping the quest for material gain in check in any regard made sense.

The third reading, from St. Matthew's Gospel, is part of a rather long discourse given by the Lord to his disciples about life. It is hardly startling. He simply says that no one can serve two masters, and true followers must choose to serve only God.

Probably no time in history, anywhere, for anyone, utterly is of any material concern. If it is not the task of making a living, or of maintaining a constant and fulfilling relationship, it is a question of health.

However, for Jews at the time of Jesus, things extraordinarily were bad. The temptation was to enter a do-eat-dog world, just to survive. Hanging over everything was the Roman occupation, with its hedonism and materialism. The temptation here was to join them if you could not beat them, and no one beat the Romans.

All this was especially disheartening for Jews. Where was God, their protector, in all this? Whatever did their status as "Chosen People" mean?

Many were tempted to answer these questions by saying that God was not there, that being God's people meant nothing.

Jesus is quite frank in this reading. Not so much condemning the things of the world, certainly not necessities for life, Jesus instead reminds the audience that for genuine disciples only attention to God and to God's will suffice.

God must be the only master. Jesus then reassures the disciples. They must not worry about incidentals. Be concerned about what actually is important. Judge by God's standards, not by the world's.

Reflection

On March 9, the Church will call us to observe Ash Wednesday and to begin Lent. Lent, this ancient season of penance and renewal so identified with the Catholic faith, is a liturgical opportunity for every believer to search her or his soul, to reform by rejecting sin, and finally to recommit to the Lord. In this will be new life, so on Easter, if they have taken advantage of Lent, Christians will experience for themselves a revival of life.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 49:14-15 Ps 62:2-3, 6-9 1 Cor 4:1-5 Mt 6:24-34

Monday: Sir 17:20-24 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12 Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23 Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Mk 10:32-45

Thursday: Sir 42:15-25 Ps 32:2-9 Mk 10:46-52

Friday: Sir 44:1, 9-13 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Mk 11:11-26

Saturday: Sir 51:12c-20 Ps 19:8-11 Mk 11:27-33

Sargent Shriver and his times

R. Sargent Shriver, who died on Jan. 18, was the last of the classic American Catholic liberals. Advocate of racial justice when that took real courage; founding director of the Peace Corps and inspiration of a generation of Americans dedicated to serving the global poor; director of Lyndon Johnson's well-intended if ill-conceived domestic War on Poverty; ambassador to France and vice-presidential candidate — Shriver lived one of the richest of public lives, which included his partnership with his equally pro-life wife, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, in the Special Olympics movement.

We last met several years ago when Sarge called me up and invited me to lunch. He had read and liked my "Letters to a Young Catholic" and wanted me to sign copies for several of the younger members of the Shriver clan, which I was happy to do in his Special Olympics office before we repaired across the street to the Willard Hotel for lunch. While I was signing, he casually and cheerfully mentioned that "Lunch might be interesting, because I can't remember anything I've said 10 minutes after I've said it." The Alzheimer's that finally killed him was already working its wicked ways, as his friendly warning indicated. Yet he was taking his condition with the equanimity that comes from deep faith — and long experience with those battling various handicaps, physical and mental.

Lunch was utterly charming. I got Sarge to reminisce a bit about being an altar boy for Cardinal James Gibbons of Baltimore, who used to visit the Shriver's country place when Sarge was in

short pants. He then changed the subject and asked me, "Where was I ambassador?" I said I thought his embassy had been to France, which he then described with gusto, remembering several run-ins with Le Grand Charles (de Gaulle). I didn't ask him about my favorite Shriver story, which involved him trying to be one of the boys at a steelworkers' bar in Johnstown, Pa., during the 1972 campaign; Sarge blew the gaffe by ordering "A Courvoisier; no, make it a double!" Still, I remember the strange, wonderful sense of being in the presence of a man who had not only made history in his own right but whose first American ancestor, David Shriver, had signed the Maryland Constitution and Bill of Rights in 1776.

Had his potential candidacy not have been vetoed by his Kennedy in-laws, Sarge might have been President Johnson's vice-presidential running mate in 1964, a historical "what if" full of possibility: Shriver, as vice president or, later, president, might have been able to connect the Democratic Party's civil rights commitments to a robust pro-life commitment, for Sarge knew in his heart that the pro-life cause was the logical, moral extension of the civil rights cause to which he had long dedicated himself. Instead, brother-in-law Ted Kennedy helped lead the Democratic Party into the pro-choice fever swamps from which the party has never extricated itself — and seems unlikely to do so in the future.

Sarge and Eunice fought the good fight, but they never did the most dramatic thing they might have done for the pro-life cause, which was to leave the



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

Democratic Party after the Clintonistas denied pro-life Pennsylvania Gov. Bob Casey an opportunity to speak at the 1992 Democratic national convention. That was the breakpoint for many of us who had been lifelong, genetically programmed Democrats. That the Shriver's stayed put was a sadness; their departure would have sent shock waves through Democratic circles and might have provided an antidote to Mario Cuomo's "I'm personally opposed, but..." mantra.

Had Sarge and Eunice Shriver prevailed over Ted Kennedy, the United States might not be heading toward a European-style two-party system, with a lifestyle-libertine, secularist party of the left contending against a quasi-Christian Democratic party on the right. America might have had two parties which understood that the right to life from conception until natural death is the first of "pre-political" human rights; indeed, it's the right whose acknowledgment makes a decent polity possible.

That was not to be. The country is the poorer for it.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

The Jesuit does not seem particularly bothered about not having a membership list or even just a head count; he said he wants to help people pray, and if just getting the list of the pope's prayer intentions is enough, that's good.

But for many people, he said, it could be helpful to have contact with others making the same effort and to receive guidance from someone who has been making the effort even longer.

Father Barriga said the prayer life promoted by the apostleship is "simple, but not simplistic," and schoolchildren in the poorest village and business leaders in the biggest cities all can find the 10 or 15 minutes a day it takes to fulfill the apostleship's requirements.

Of course, he said, there's no guarantee that belonging won't change a person.

"It's a Jesus program, a way to live with Jesus' heart," he said.

"You have at least 50 million people praying each day for a month for something like those who do not have access to clean water — that creates awareness" and could lead to enough action that less water would be wasted and less would be polluted, he said.

"If what you are praying for doesn't change you, then you aren't praying correctly," Father Barriga said.

But the distribution of the monthly intentions is not a publicity campaign for living more responsibly, he said. They really are prayers.

"We pray to God because God is the one who moves human hearts," the Jesuit said.

With little international coordination, the Apostleship of Prayer and the Eucharistic Youth Movement seem to have depended on whether a local Jesuit superior appointed someone energetic to lead the ministry or whether the people involved kept meeting and bringing others onboard.

One reason the Jesuits are looking to "re-create" the apostleship is to strengthen the Jesuits' commitment to it — whether to leading groups personally or virtually over the Internet, Father Barriga said.

Another reform at which the Jesuits are looking is helping to keep members focused on the big, important "permanent needs" of the Church and the world as reflected in the monthly prayer intentions, while also being able to count on millions of people's prayers when special needs or disasters arise, Father Barriga said.

The Apostleship of Prayer is responsible for the annual distribution of "the pope's prayer intentions" for each month.

The apostleship and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples help the pope draw up a year's list of monthly intentions, which are published a full year in advance. The lists for 2012 were published by the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, Jan. 28.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 27, 2011

Matthew 6:24-34

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: a teaching on where to place one's trust. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CAN SERVE	TWO MASTERS	LOVE THE OTHER
DEVOTED	DESPISE	SERVE GOD
WORRY	WILL EAT	DRINK
FOOD	BIRDS	REAP
BARN	HEAVENLY	FATHER
FEEDS THEM	SOLOMON	GRASS
FIELD	OVEN	LITTLE FAITH

WHY WORRY

F I E L D Y R R O W K L
 E T E D E L L A C H O I
 E A W O K N I R D V G T
 D E T O V E D S E D B T
 S L J F M V S T H A N L
 T L R F H A H J R K O E
 H I E V R E S N A C M F
 E W A G O H S T D B O A
 M B P T Y V A N E I L I
 R E H T A F E A D R O T
 D E S P I S E N Y D S H
 R F D O G E V R E S F H

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Tyre first Lebanese town to adopt Christianity

Where is the city of Tyre where St. Paul prayed on the beach?

St. Paul was in Patara, an important city in southern ancient Asia Minor (modern Turkey) on his way to Jerusalem. At Patara he found a ship bound for Phoenicia (modern Lebanon). He boarded the ship and it stopped at Tyre, an important city of Phoenicia, where the ship had to unload cargo. Paul stayed with the Christian disciples in Tyre for a week. The Tyrians did not want Paul to go to Jerusalem, but Paul went anyway. Everybody came out of the city to see Paul's departure. They knelt down on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea and prayed, said goodbye and Paul boarded the ship.

Tyre is mentioned in the Old Testament. Hiram, the king of Tyre, allied himself with Solomon, the king of Jerusalem in Israel. In Phoenicia were the famous cedars of Lebanon, good for building ships and temples.

S. Jenkins says later on Tyre became one of the first Lebanese towns to adopt Christianity and was the seat of an archbishopric with 14 bishoprics under its control. By the 4th century, a basilica was built on the site of the former Temple of Melkart. In the 12th century, the Catholic Crusaders captured the city of Tyre and the surrounding fertile land. Tyre remained in Crusader hands for



HIRE HISTORY

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

167 years.

A. Jousiffe mentions some of the sites of Tyre. There is the ancient marketplace, a colonnaded road, marble Roman pavement, a rectangular arena with five rows of terraced seating cut into limestone, and an extensive Roman bathhouse. Nearby are the ruins of the Crusader Cathedral. Foundations and granite columns are all that remain. The king of Jerusalem was once crowned within the walls of this cathedral. The remains of the German king Frederick Barbarossa are reputed to be buried here. Further away is a Roman cemetery with decorated marble and stone tombs. In this area is a huge triumphal arch, an aqueduct, the largest and best-preserved Roman stadium in the world, seating 20,000 spectators. It was used for chariot races. In the Christian quarter of the city there are six churches reflecting Lebanon's multitude of Christian denominations.

Sports

ANCILLA, OUNCE OF PREVENTION TEAM UP FOR SUCCESSFUL 'CHARGERS FOR CHANGE' The Ancilla College athletic department and the Ounce of Prevention Foundation collected \$2,125 to support breast cancer awareness through the efforts of their highly successful "Chargers for Change" event on Saturday, Feb. 12. Held at the LifePlex in conjunction with the men's and women's basketball games, all proceeds were used to benefit the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in Plymouth. "Chargers for Change" was created by the Ancilla College athletic department to help serve the underserved. Ounce of Prevention is a local foundation dedicated to raising money to fight breast cancer.

Holy Cross Crusaders claim ICCL championship

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — After 112 days of practices, scrimmages and games there were only two teams left standing that would have the opportunity to claim the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) tournament championship.

The St. Anthony Panthers boasted an impressive record that included winning the regular season St. John Bosco Division crown and a 30-29 victory over their title opponents the Crusaders of Holy Cross, who themselves had the hardware from the Thanksgiving Tournament, the Christmas Tournament and the West championship.

Both coaches had their squads

ready to compete, but the players nerves had the last laugh as the game was scoreless for the first 3:31 as normally sure buckets rolled off the rim.

Wes Short, the hardworking Crusader guard broke the trend by making a lay-up and then knocked down a three just 25 seconds later to give the black clad squad a 5-0 lead.

The Panthers of St. Anthony would mount a charge of their own, narrowing the margin to 6-9 after one.

The second quarter would be more of the same as Holy Cross bottled up the talented Oliver Page, holding him to just three at the half and grasping tightly to a 4-point lead.

The Crusaders would turn up

the heat in the second half by going on an 11-0 run during the first three minutes of the quarter and leaping out to a 25-10 lead.

The battle-tested Panthers would not go away as they themselves started to chip away at the lead closing the margin to seven with three minutes left in the contest behind clutch scoring of Page and his maroon bearing teammates.

The Panthers would get no closer as the Crusaders and the 16 points of Short shut the door on the comeback bid and prevailed, 31-23.

"I thought my kids played hard from day one of practice until the last second of the season," commented Panther Coach Nick Dalton. "We just ran into a buzz

saw today, I'm sorry to see this group graduate."

"We knew beating St. Anthony would be difficult, but this team has answered all the challenges put in front of them," remarked Jason Ball, Crusader head coach. "We wanted to come out strong defensively in the third quarter and the kids sure responded."

Christ the King upended St. Joseph (South Bend) in the third-place contest behind the 27-point barrage of Brendan Connelly, Danny Pinter dropped in 13 in the loss.

In semifinal action, St. Anthony edged St. Joseph (South Bend), 33-32, as Page had 12 for the Panthers and John Byzewski netted 11 in defeat.

Connelly's 17 was not enough

as the Kings were defeated by the eventual champion Crusaders, 35-26, as Short scored 16.

The Colors League Tournament championship was won by Christ the King (Blue), 26-17, over Christ the King (White).

The ICCL-CYO Invitational will be held at St. Aloysius, Yoder, Sunday with the following teams matching up:

- 1 p.m. — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel (CYO) vs. St. Bavo (ICCL)
- 2:15 p.m. — St. Jude (CYO) vs. St. Anthony (ICCL)
- 3:30 p.m. — St. Vincent (CYO) vs. Christ the King (ICCL)

Holy Cross School is unable to participate in the invitational due to the parish Confirmation scheduled that day.

CYO crowns boys' championship teams

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The 75th running of the Catholic Youth League (CYO) boys' grade school hoops tournament culminated at St. Charles on Saturday, Feb. 19, with three new champions crowned.

In the Gold League or large school division, Dave Westendorf's Eagles from St. Jude downed a solid St. Vincent team, 58-38.

Turning in an overall record of 27-4, St. Jude finished with a perfect 7-0 tally in league play to land the No. 1 seed. With three players averaging double figures, the Eagles have a powerful offense, yet focused on defense and playing both ends of the floor all season.

"We have done two times the number of defensive drills vs. offensive and the kids have bought into the concept, which made for a very fun year," explained Westendorf. "We really played well together as a team. These boys were consistent, balanced and unselfish," he added.

Kyle Hartman scored 15 for the victors, while Ryan Christman added 13 and Connor Haxton and Marcus Stepp chipped in 10 each in the championship.

On the road to the title, St. Jude got by Queen of Angels in the opening round and St. John the Baptist, New Haven, in the semifinals. Praising the quality of the league this year and his final opponent, Westendorf concluded, "St.

Vincent played an outstanding game and are extremely well-coached."

Both the Eagles and eighth-grade Panthers will represent Fort Wayne when South Bend comes to town on Sunday, Feb. 27, along with the small school champions, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, who won the Blue League title for the fourth straight season under the direction of Coach Jim Knapke.

Undefeated once again in their league, the mighty Squires earned the No. 1 seed and a bye in the five-team bracket.

On their path to the final game, Hessen Cassel beat a tough team from Most Precious Blood, then won against the second-place team in the league, the tenacious group

from St. Therese, 37-26.

Mike Palmer's Crusaders got by St. Rose-St. Louis in their first round match-up despite a 21-point-scoring frenzy from the Twins' David Cruz.

In the championship, Palmer's group led the Squires, 7-3, after a quarter, but it was all Hessen Cassel from there.

"I was proud of our kids. This was by far our best effort against them (Hessen Cassel) of the three outings," summarized Palmer.

The athletic Squires' have chalked up an outstanding 25-4 record overall and their big man, Bradley Scott, led all scorers with 16 points.

In the seventh-grade division, the St. Vincent Panthers defeated

the impressive St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Panthers, 52-38, for the White League championship. In his fourth year at St. Vincent, Coach Mark Eifert led his green and white to an overall record of 22-1 and a 7-0 league record. The top-seeded Panthers lost their second game of the season to Woodside, then went on to win 21 straight games. "This was a very balanced group of kids. We had a nice mix with several shooters and solid defense," Eifert detailed.

He added, "The championship was one of our toughest games. The Panthers played very well." Jake Graham led his team in scoring with 16 points, while Noah Freumuth added 14 and James Wagner had a dozen.

St. Vincent Lady Panthers win sixth-grade CYO championship

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Parents, fans, players and coaches were beginning to wonder if the 2011 junior varsity Catholic Youth League (CYO) tournament was ever going to happen. The snow played havoc with the schedule during the post-season matchups, but finally, after multiple postponements, it came down to St. Vincent, Fort Wayne, vs. St. Joseph, Decatur, in the championship game on Feb. 9 at St. Charles.

With an 8-8 half-time score, the game was nothing short of a

defensive battle. Shots at both ends spun around the rim and fell out. White safety tape to fix broken glasses and extra time were both necessary to prove the final victor.

In the end, it was the Lady Panthers who came out on top with the 12-9 overtime win. On the road to the championship game, St. Vincent got by St. John, New Haven, 19-13, in the first round, while Decatur beat St. Jude.

In the semi-finals, the Panthers defeated St. Joe/St. Elizabeth 19-12 and Decatur downed St. Charles.

With 18 on her roster, Coach

Pam Stureman finished with an overall season record of 11-12. The team followed Notre Dame's "Play Like a Champion" guidelines during the regular season.

"I continually rotated the roster and dressed only 10 players for each game. Each player played one-half of every game they dressed for during the regular season. Our goal was to get the girls as much experience during regular season games and then play to win in the tournament," explained Stureman.

Cindy Wagner served as assistant coach for the Panthers, who claimed their second title in as many years.



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

St. Vincent Panther's sixth-grade team won the large school Catholic Youth League championship.

Theology on Tap features Bishop Rhoades

BY TRISH LINNER

SOUTH BEND — Bishop Rhoades was the featured speaker as Theology on Tap returned to downtown South Bend on Tuesday evening, Feb. 15. The series is sponsored by the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry, and is designed to bring young adults in their 20s and 30s together for an evening of faith and fellowship.

"Our goal is to help people connect their faith to their everyday lives," said Sean Allen from the diocesan office. "We like to host the event at least twice every year and as we approach the Lenten season. We thought this was a great opportunity to invite the bishop to speak."

Theology on Tap was first held in Fort Wayne in 2009, and now includes South Bend as well.

The Theology on Tap format includes a speaker, small group discussion, and then the speaker engages the entire group in a question-answer session.

Bishop Rhoades spoke to the crowd of well over 100 about "New Evangelization," a term coined by Pope John Paul II to help people understand the importance of evangelization in the mission of the Church and in our everyday lives.

Bishop Rhoades told the group, "Evangelization is our mission, our common vocation and our deepest identity. The Church exists in order to evangelize."

He spoke of his years in Rome as a student and the deep impression that Pope John Paul II made on him.

"Pope John Paul II was a great model of what bishops should be," Bishop Rhoades said, "He understood that evangelization is the heart of our Church which flows from Jesus Christ, the first to evangelize."

He talked about the importance of the Holy Spirit and reminded them it was the Holy Spirit who visited the disciples and gave them strength to go out into the world and spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

"The Holy Spirit came upon them and filled the disciples with serene courage that they didn't have before. Because of the Holy Spirit, they had the ability to bear witness to not only the Jews but the gentiles as well," said Bishop Rhoades.

He also discussed the challenges facing evangelization in today's world.

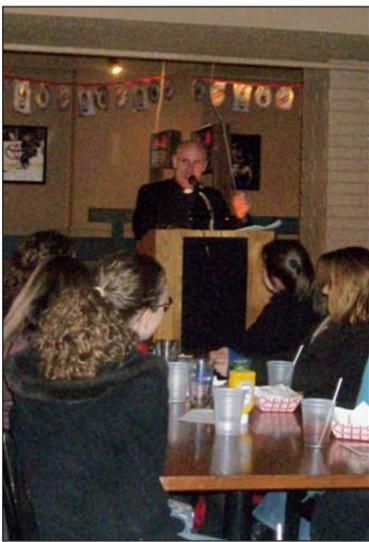
"Pope Benedict has said, 'The world needs the presence of God,'" Bishop Rhoades quoted.

"And one of our greatest challenges is secularism, the increasing desire to marginalize God and



PHOTOS BY TRISH LINNER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades attends the Theology on Tap with young adults from the diocese. The event was held at the Backstage Grill in South Bend. One hundred young people attended the event.



Bishop Rhoades addresses the 100 young adults at the recent Theology on Tap.

our faith in Him." Bishop Rhoades said.

"A secular world," he explained, "wants to criticize religion and trivialize and privatize any faith in God. And when the sense of God is gone, the culture of death grows."

Another danger the bishop spoke of was relativism: "The denial of absolute truth leads to unrestricted human choice and excessive human choice leads to slavery to sin. Freedom is found in absolute truth and guarantees the dignity of humans. Today's technology makes it more important than ever that young people must stay diligent as they face new issues testing their faith."

Bishop Rhoades engaged the

audience with a question-answer session.

Lois Burns told Bishop Rhoades, "I really liked what you said about praying to the Holy Spirit for courage. Renewing our faith is so important."

The crowd also discussed the often-negative portrayal of the Catholic Church in the media and the misunderstandings that exist about Catholic beliefs.

Bishop Rhoades concluded the evening with prayer reminding the group of the ongoing mission and commitment to evangelize as Christ did.

Bishop Rhoades left a great impression with the attendees, many who hadn't heard him speak before.

"This was the first time I was able to hear Bishop Rhoades speak, and I was very impressed with the talk that he gave," said Dan Mullaney. "One thing I took away from the night was that while I strive to lead a holy life individually, I need to recognize that the true mission of my life as a Catholic is to bring God's Word to others and to lead by example."

Jim Creagan agreed saying, "Bishop Rhoades is an impressive speaker. The format with discussions helps apply the information to real life. We had the chance to share our experiences and learn from each other."

For more information about Theology on Tap, visit www.diocesefwsb.org/TOT.

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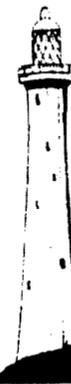
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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Bishop John M. D'Arcy will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on Tuesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations.

Organ and Brass concert at cathedral
Fort Wayne — The Old Crown Brass Band will present a concert with cathedral organist Michael Dulac Monday, March 7, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1100 S. Calhoun St. Admission is free, donations are encouraged.

Trivia Night

South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral Home and School Association will have a trivia night Saturday, Feb. 26, in the gymnasium at 1015 E. Dayton St. Emceed by Msgr. Michael Heintz. Raffle and silent auction

\$100 per table of 10, doors open at 6 p.m., game starts at 7 p.m. Call Cathy Ernst at (574) 247-1145 for information.

Natural Family Planning sessions
South Bend — A Natural Family Planning class will begin Wednesday, March 2, from 7-9 p.m. in de Padua hall at St. Anthony de Padua. Presenters include Janet Bettcher, director of NFP of St. Joseph County, and Rick Becker, nursing faculty at Bethel College. To register call (574) 234-5411 or e-mail nfp-stjoseph@catholic.org. Additional classes will be held on March 16 and 30 from 7-9 p.m. at the same location.

Living Healthier series sponsored by University of Saint Francis
Fort Wayne — The Living Healthier series will continue Monday, Feb. 28, with

"Integrative Health," from noon to 1 p.m. at the North Campus, 2702 Spring St. Non-perishable food item donations accepted.

Food donations needed
South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society is in need of specific food items to restock the warehouse. Tuna, jelly, breakfast cereal and potted meals, such as ravioli can be dropped off at a retail location: 3408 Ardmore Trail or SR 23 and Ironwood at Greenwood Plaza. Contact dale.seely@saintvincent-in.org or call (574) 234.6000 ext. 12109 for information.

All family rosary
Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be recited on Sunday, Feb. 27, from 3:45-4:30 p.m. at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. The intention is for all families.

REST IN PEACE

Elkhart Michael J. Jones, 88, St. Vincent de paul	60, St. Vincent de Paul	Rita A. Skierkowski, 87, St. Matthew Cathedral
Fort Wayne George Haintz, St. Patrick	Garrett Harris H. Hoeffel Sr., 89, St. Joseph	Daniel F. Kalczynski, 96, St. Hedwig
Joseph Yovanovitch, 88, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception	Mishawaka Robbye Lou Warner, 56, St. Joseph	John W. Karkiewicz, 75, Our Lady of Hungary
Francis L. Sieh, 90, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Jane H. Klein, 90, Queen of Peace	Metyn Olejnik, 87, Holy Family
Gerald Edward Krouse, 62, St. John the Baptist	New Haven Timothy Neal Adams, 56, St. John the Baptist	Florence W. Zielewski, 87, St. Adalbert
Mildred F. Carmona Beckman, 89, St. Jude	Mary Jo Doster, 54, St. John the Baptist	Warsaw Joseph Canzoneri, 89, Sacred Heart
Jerome Zuber, 79, St. Peter	Notre Dame Sister Maria C. Bateman, CSC, 88, Our Lady of Loretto	Olga Lopez, 31, Our Lady of Guadalupe
Barbara A. Hoyng, 72, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel	Plymouth Theresa A. Lewis, 76, St. Michael	Waterloo Ruth E. Yarlot, 96, St. Michael
Robert Clarence Junk, 90, Most Precious Blood	South Bend Robert E. Foley, 59, St. Joseph	Henrietta C. Bilinski, 93, Holy Family
Jack E. Womble, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Madalen L. Peczkowski, 89, Queen of Peace	
Matthew Irmiter, 50, Queen of Angels	Dorothy J. Hambidge, 91, Holy Cross	
Andrew Richardson,		

Office of Family Life, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

2011 Diocesan Marriage Conference

University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne • Saturday, March 12

Come & join Bishop Kevin Rhoades and the Alexanders!

Greg and Julie Alexander are co-founders of The Alexander House Apostolate — a Catholic apostolate dedicated to proclaiming the beauty, goodness and truth of marriage. The Alexanders have presented numerous workshops, seminars and talks to thousands of participants across the country. They have appeared on EWTN, including as guests on *Life on the Rock* and as co-hosts of their own show, *Marriage Works in Christ*. Topics that will be covered in this conference include:

- *Why it makes sense to turn to God, the author of marriage, to rediscover his plan for true fulfillment.*
- *The importance of forgiveness in marriage & learning a practical exercise to let go of past hurts and pains.*
- *Understanding emotional needs in a relationship and learning practical steps for meeting them.*
- *Learning how to communicate effectively and avoiding those areas which cause additional strife in a marriage.*
- *Understanding the beauty and goodness of God's plan for sex.*

9:00 AM	Mass with Most. Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades	11:00 AM	Session 1: God's Plan for Marriage
10:00 AM	Registration & Continental Breakfast	NOON	Session 2: Forgiveness & Healing, followed by lunch
10:45 AM	Welcome & Introduction of Alexanders by Fred & Lisa Everett	1:45 PM	Session 3: How Can I Serve You?
		2:45 PM	Session 4: Can we talk?, followed by panel discussion



For more information or to register, go to Family & Pro-Life at www.diocesefwsb.org or call 574-234-0687. The regular registration fee is \$30 per person; the registration deadline is March 7. The conference fee includes materials, continental breakfast and a boxed lunch.



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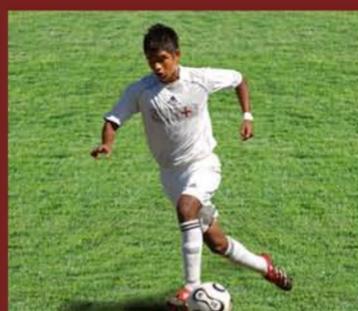
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**Visit during Spring Preview Days
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