Men of the diocese challenged to handle the truth

BISHOP RHOADES CELEBRATES ALL-SCHOOLS MASS AT NOTRE DAME

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 believe that Mishawaka Catholic is going to be a shining example and a great new school.”

Bishop encourages students to spread the Good News

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.
Rekindle the Fire

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.”

We must be saints.

We are called to live the truth in charity. In a word, to stand before the truth of the Gospel, not to compromise with our conscience.

In the Book of Prayer that we have here, we find the words to the Lord’s Prayer. What do we pray when we pray it? “Our Father in heaven…” These are the words of instruction that sum up what the Sermon on the Mount: “Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

How do we do it? We must go 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 enemies, and 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 gift of Himself, his body broken for us 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, the Sermon on the Mount is realistic because it takes into account that in the world there is too much violence, too much injustice, and therefore we cannot be overcome except by counter- acting it with more love, with more charity.”

In the cross, we see that the only force capable of changing human hearts is the gift of Himself, his body broken for us 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.”

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FEBRUARY 27, 2011

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

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 was terrified as 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.

“All this rain, the river flooded and when I was 10 years old, I 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 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. When 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 God established, making us the people of the new Covenant. He pointed out that God established, making us 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 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.”

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Jacob Bishop, a fourth grader at St. Matthew, said he loved how Bishop Rhoades personalized the story of the great flood by sharing his experiences. He also supported the bishop’s request after Mass that everyone pray 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 Father of the Apostles who made the “great profession of faith” in the Gospel reading.

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A Conversation with Greg and Julie Alexander
Presenters at the March 12 Diocesan Marriage Conference

BY LISA EVELLETT

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 St. 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 our way and it 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 work shops, they realized that people 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 blessing which has literally been built on our experience of suffering in their own marriage, they say.

Their mission is to pro-claim the truth, beauty and good ness of God’s design for Marriage, and their advice is well worth taking. They have been 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 Skype, some with couples as far away as Europe.

Since Greg and Julie are not professional therapists, they do not deal with pathological behaviors or addictions, such as alcoholism and addictions, but because they have discovered, though, 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 keep the sacrament the way God wants us to live it,” Greg points out. “We know, love and embrace it and live it.”

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

Greg refers proudly to one particularly enthusiastic endorsement from the mother of Christopher West, 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 practi cal application of the “theology of the body” for married couples.

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 ten-sion 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 and nonjudgmental way. Thank you for sharing your personal experiences. God bless you!

Your 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 pow- erful than any single “lesson” you can teach. I don’t give it’s but it 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 provided 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. "We want to help our parents get children wherever that may be," said Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Dr. Tony Bennett, superintendent of Public Instruction.

Rep. Rob 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 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 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 school 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 Rushoven, 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 constitution. Rusthoven also said that it is quite clear given prior rulings by the Indiana Supreme Court that voucher programs are not a violation of Indiana’s Constitution either.

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.

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will create three new saints Oct. 23, including the founder of the Xaverian order.

Benedict, 84, has already announced the formation of the Blessed Deirdre McQuade, assistant director of 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 welcoming that the administration will take initiatives to increase awareness of the conscience sciences, 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 Sale, 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 Sale. She said it started by compelling the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in the Diocese of Orange, Calif., stressing 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 “faith journey” must be rooted in the focus so that each Catholic will grasps 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 deeply believe and live the message of the Gospel themselves,” Pope Benedict said. Why? “The lay communities are made up of and guided by ‘people whose motivating force is the love of Christ’ who prove to be ‘true and worthy tools of evangelization,” he said. The pope asked the bishops to “take the lay groups in dioceses corresponding such groups so that the primacy of God may remain in the forefront.” He praised the important role faith places in the life of young Filipinos and asked the bishops to keep reminding young people that “the future 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 Cox, bereavement 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.

SJRMC 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.

SJRMC’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 adoptive families.

The class was developed with support from local pediatricians, SJRMC’s Clinical Education Department and nurses from the hospital’s Family Birthplace. Classes will be run by SJRMC registered nurses and include time for questions and answers with both nurses and a physician. Registration is required. For information call (574) 335-2323.

PAINTING SELECTED FOR NATIONALS

PROVIDED BY ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL, ELKHART

A painting called “Falling” by Brady Kruis, 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. Kruis’ painting was entered into the contest by his mother Janene Kruis.

USF’s Winterfest II debuting original show

FORT WAYNE — “Get your flake on,” says the University of Saint Francis and the Edwin Clark Schoweller Memorial Planetarium, as a fantasy of music and light and the debut of an original show shape up for WinterFest II on Friday. The schedule of visiting for Fridays through Sundays, Feb. 25-26 and March 4-6. Friday and Saturday shows are at 5, 7, 8 and 9 p.m., while maternity week shows are offered on Sundays at 5 and 7 p.m.

Music and light will co-mingle to fabulous effect on the first weekend. Friday’s shows will coordinate laser lights and music from Pink Floyd’s “The Wall,” while the magic of The Beatles’ music will power the audiovisual adventure “Laser Beatles” on Saturday. Sunday’s “Laser Spirit” will provide a music mix by U2, The Beatles, Gloria Estefan, Yanni, Madonna and Lee Greenwood, among others, for the light show.

Schoweller Planetarium staff will debut the locally produced show, "The Explorers of Polynesia," on the second week end. Visitors will “sail the Pacific” in an 80-foot Hawaiian voyaging canoe, navigating by the stars as did Asian peoples when they set-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 travel 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 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 (SJRMC) has announced House Raffle 2011 will begin on Tuesday, March 1. This year marks the 20th Annual House Raffle, a tradition benefiting SJRMC’s Outreach Services programs and Women’s Care Center.

House Raffle offerings will begin available for purchase on Tuesday, March 1, at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, located at 5215 Holy Cross Parkway, in the lobby. Offers are $150 each.

All early bird winners are still eligible for the grand prize of a 2011 Ford Fiesta, provided by Gurley-Leep Automotive Family, or a $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.

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, May 6, at 3 p.m. in the Ancilla Domini Chapel at Donaldson.

Prior to the “The Explorers of Polynesia” show, the Plymouth Community Youth Chamber Ensemble, directed by Gabriele Hill, will be performing from 2:15 to 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. 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. Child care and refreshments will be provided.

St. Jude School’s full day kindergarten program includes religious, academic, and creative educational instruction. A half-day option is also available. St. Jude offers Catholic education through eighth grade and is located at 19657 Hildebrandt St., off John Rd. in South Bend.

For more information, contact principal Stephen Donnelinger at (574) 291-3820 or visit www.stjudekindergarten.com.
Bob and Jaci Byrne are committed to bringing others closer to Christ.

A Glimpse: The Permanent Diaconate

By Ginny Koorham

Bob and Jaci Byrne often hold hands as the permanent deacon candidates and their wives walk to lunch after long formation lectures and practices at the Lindenwood Center in Donaldson. Their enduring 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.

The position for the permanent diaconate calls upon the grace given through the sacrament of Marriage to allow the candidate preparing for ordination. The tireless self-giving of couples united in sacramental Matrimony gives them the assurance that 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 prepare for 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 certification in science. 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 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 days.

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 de Padua for the past 22 years. She took 10 years off from her profession to raise her boys. Part-time substituting taught Jaci that she needed to further study to complete a teaching certification in science. Jaci remembers how Bob automatically 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 leads and serves as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. Together, Bob and Jaci look forward to the day when they will be able to bring others closer to Christ.

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.”
Show choir invitational takes center stage at Bishop Luers High School

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 invitational. The upcoming 37th annual show choir invitational, March 4-5, is in a sense the “grand daddy” of all high school show choir invitational.

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 Monica Zwick, the director of Bishop Luers Minstrels show choir since 1999. Prior to the Luers’ invitationals, Krouse recalled most competitions were “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.”

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, percussion, 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.

“It’s the hard work they put in,” Krouse said. “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 managing 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 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.’”

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.

Show choir students rehearse music at Bishop Luers High School.

Show choir students rehearse music at Bishop Luers High School.
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 specified 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.

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. 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.

JANE PIERCE

HELEN HLAWEK

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.
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 wind up selling them to stamp collectors.

Claude Renshaw, a retired Saint Mary’s College accounting professor, also helps with his knowledge of stamps and is enthusiastically offered to help. He is in charge of the sale of canceled stamps, which are sold to various stamp dealers who in turn sell them to stamp collectors.

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.

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.

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

The Perfect Place for Dad

“When I first visited Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame I was absolutely blown away by the extent of the services and amenities. I knew Dad would love it. Dad finds the other residents fascinating. There’s such an interesting mix of active, well-educated adults who’ve traveled the world. It’s an environment you just don’t find in most communities.”

—Mark Krcmaric, Managing Director & Chief Operating Officer in the Notre Dame Investment Office
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...

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 Renew 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. Bob, 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

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 recounted 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.”

Promotion ends June 1, 2011.
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 moms 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 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 training, and not just a social worker, but one who has a specialized interest in food and nutrition programs.

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 Bistek. 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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Dysfunctional love songs

T he 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 dys- func- tional, it isn’t love.

Take “Crazy” (for instance), wherein Bruno Mars sings a litany of pains he’d endured 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 this 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 do you dirty, 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 psychologically needy girl. 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, “Break Even” singer Danny O’Donoghue laments after a hard breakup, “I’m still alive but I’m huffing and puffing.” 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. Romantic 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. He needs to lose himself in another, soon there is no self to give to the other. The lesson of “Break Even”: If it isn’t enmesh- ment, 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 past- ible. Dysfunctional love songs 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 dif- ficult and unpleasant deaths often have powerful graces and remarkable opportunities for growth mysteriously interwoven into their dying.

Some time ago, I corresponded with a registered nurse about how she had entered into a 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 stop- page of breathing, followed by repetition of the cycle), ... days of such shallow breathing that death seemed literally one breath away, ... days of calm deep breathing, 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 manage- ment. During her mom’s final hours, she had significantly increased morphine doses per hospice protocols, but with little or no apparent relief. Her moth- er’s death ended up being very hard. Reflecting on it afterwards, she realized that if she had not been both a healthcare profes- sional 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 me pause, after so many years of training as a hospice nurse, to ask whether suffering doesn’t have some hidden but important meaning, however it enters our lives as a result of the misuse of medicine to alleviate the suf- fering of those who are dying, we realize how deleterious and unilate- ral an act it can be, fraught with diffi- cult decisions about dosages and interventions that are not always guaranteed to work. When pain and suffering cannot be alleviat- ed, patients ought to be helped to appreciate the Christian under- standing 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 becom- ing more comforting, more faith- ful, 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 once a year in the United States. Each year, there had been fewer candi- dates 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 turned his terminal illness, with only a few months to live. Shortly afterwards, he turned to God and said: “Lord Jesus, I will do my best to offer up the suffer- ings that lie ahead of me, whatever they may be, but I would ask that you send us 18 new candi- dates 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.

It’s not just as a harbingers 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 resurrec- tion.” Our experience of suffering and death, even a very hard death, offers us mysterious and dramatic graces, with the reassur- ance that God himself is ever near to those who carry their cross.

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Could Internet increase intentions?

**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 people hear about it only through 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.

Jesus Christ, who overstepped the organization from the Jesuit headquarters near the Vatican, said he estimates there are about 30 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.

The government-approved bishop in mainland China reported that there is a group of people who make the offering and pray 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.apostleshipofprayer.org — which includes links to a daily audiovisual meditation posted on YouTube — and the heavenly sounding bouquet of the Holy Mass: Rev. 19:19.

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, relatively terse “not worthy to receive you” with the bolder line is a significant change. The new line comes directly from the Gospel of Matthew, 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 repentance 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 homes. The new translation or singing of the Our Father prayer, and it is used a great deal in the new Missal.

Who is our master?

**THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

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

**THE NEW MISSAL**

BY BRIAN MACMICHAEL

F

**READINGS**


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

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

Thursday: Sir 42:12-15 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 51:12-20 Ps 19:8-11 Mk 11:27-33

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 Christ’s arrival at the River Jordan, which recalls its origin in the words of Jesus: “Behold, the man” (“Ecce homo”) as the priest impart here), we sing the Agnus Dei (“Lamb of God”) as the priest form of the Eucharist. In fact, 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 Confiteor 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 recpection 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.
Sargent Shriver and his times

R

Sargent Shriver, who died on Jan. 18, was the last of the 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; the highest-ranking 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 the Special Olympics office before we repaired across the street to the Willard Hotel for lunch. While I was speaking, 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 humor, a fact 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 ambushed?” I said I thought his embassy had been to France, which he then described with gusto, remembering several run-ins with a quaisie 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 experience with those battling various handicaps, physical and mental.

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.

But for many people, he said, it could be helpful to have contact with those making the effort and to receive guidance from someone who has been making the effort even longer. “We want 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 those making the effort and to receive guidance from someone who has been making the effort even longer. “We want to help people pray, and if just getting the list of the pope’s prayer intentions is enough, that’s good. And Sarge and Eunice Shriver prevailed over Ted Kennedy, the United Center might not be heading toward a European-style two-party system, with a lifestyle-liberal, secularist party of the left competing against a 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.

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shortcuts. He then changed the subject and asked me, “Where was I ambushed?” I said I thought his embassy had been to France, which he then described with gusto, remembering several run-ins with a quaisie 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 experience with those battling various handicaps, physical and mental.

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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 Title Bosco Division crown and a 3-seed. 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 took the last laugh as the game was scoreless for the first 3:31 as normally sure buckets rolled off the rim.

 accommodation, the 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, forcing him to just three at the half and grabbing 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 leading 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 players played hard from the start 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.

Connolly’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 (ICL)
• 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.

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.

Sports

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 championships.

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, who won the Blue League title for the fourth straight season under the direction of Coach Jim Knapke.

Undoubtedly 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 went 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 ‘Twin’s 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 Freimuth added 14 and James Wagner had a dozen.

St. Vincent Lady Panthers win sixth-grade CYO championship

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Parents, players and coaches were beginning to wonder if the 2011 junior varsity Catholic Youth League (CYO) tournament was ever going to end. The Lady Panthers played havoc with the schedule during the post-season match-ups, 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 8-2 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 glass 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 22-19 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 Sturman 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 three- or four-game for 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 Sturman.

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

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 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 un restricted 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. Joe 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.dio cesetwb.org/TOT.
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. Colhoun 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 Heinrich. 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 the Padua hall at St. Anthony de Padua. Presenters include Janet Bitter, director of NFP of St. Joseph County, and Rick Beckert, 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.

“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.

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

**9:00 AM** Mass with Most. Rev. Kevin C. Rhodes

**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

**1:45 PM** Session 3: How Can I Serve You?

**by Fred & Lisa Everett**

**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.

REST IN PEACE

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**University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne • Saturday, March 12**

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