



Precious ones get ready to meet Jesus for the first time

Pages 12-13

Tsunami of prayers

Church responds to Japan

Pages 2-3

Ramp builders

Father Tom O'Connor award presented

Page 8

Quilt comfort

Ministry assists Gibault students

Page 14

Cheers to Dwenger

Cheerleaders receive accolades

Page 17



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Celebrating the gift of sacred song

Elite choir performs at inaugural 'Pueri Cantores' Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival

BY TESS STEFFEN AND KAY COZAD



JOE ROMIE

Young people from the diocesan-wide Pueri Cantores Choir sing sacred music at a Mass celebrated March 16 by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.

NOTRE DAME — Angelic voices rose with the incense to fill the vaulting of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart during Mass at the University of Notre Dame on March 16. A select group of musically-gifted students from 33 diocesan Catholic schools, one school from Indianapolis and several who are home schooled combined as one choir to perform at the inaugural Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival, which was conducted by Paul French.

The program began with a choral prelude showcasing the rich, traditional liturgical songs each choir had been practicing at their own schools and with other choirs in their feeder high schools for the past several months. The inspired vocalists, age nine to 18, were identified through auditions last fall. Each school or parish was allotted 10 seats in the special choir that gathered in four regional practices.

Pueri Cantores is a century-old practice established in France in 1907, according to its website www.puericantores.org. A special boys choir was formed there to sing during the liturgy. After faltering under the pressures of World War II, Pueri Cantores was reestablished in 1944 as an international organization led by Father Fernand Maillet.

In 1947, the first international Congress of the federation was held in Paris in which 90 European choirs participated, and by the mid 1960s Pueri Cantores was recognized as a Church movement. With the Second Vatican Council, girls choirs were

PUERI, PAGE 10

Pope says parishes are places for prayer, learning, charity

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) — A parish church is a place for people to get to know God better, to worship Him together and to learn how to take the message of His love to the neighborhood and the world, Pope Benedict XVI said at the dedication of a new church in Rome.

"Grow in the knowledge and love of Christ as individuals and as a parish community, and encounter Him in the Eucharist, in listening to His word, in prayer and in charity," the pope told parishioners at the new St. Corbinian Church March 20.

The parish on the southern edge of Rome was financed with help from the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, Germany, where Pope Benedict served as archbishop in the late 1970s and early 1980s before being named prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

And, he told parishioners, his papal coat-

of-arms features the symbol most closely associated with St. Corbinian: a brown bear loaded with a pack on his back.

Legend holds that St. Corbinian, a Frenchman who became the first bishop of Freising in the early 700s, was on his way to Rome when a bear attacked and killed his horse. St. Corbinian punished the bear by making him carry the saint's belongings the rest of the way to Rome.

The Gospel reading at the Mass for the dedication of the Church was St. Matthew's account of Jesus' transfiguration, which Pope Benedict said was the revelation of Jesus' real identity.

Seeing Jesus' divine splendor, "the disciples are prepared for Jesus' Paschal Mystery" and are given the strength and knowledge they need "to overcome the terrible trial of His passion and to understand the luminous fact of His resurrection," the pope said in his

PARISHES, PAGE 3

CATECHUMENS, CANDIDATES GATHER IN SOUTH BEND



TRISH LINNER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades signs the Books of the Elect at the Rite of Election held Sunday, March 20, at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

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:
kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org.

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort
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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-
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Mail letters to: Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or e-mail:
editor@diocesefwsb.org

ISSN 0891-1533
USPS 403630



US residents spared damage from tsunami turn thoughts, prayers to Japan

BY CINDY WOODEN

HONOLULU (CNS) — While Hawaiians gave thanks to God their state was “spared the devastating effects” of the tsunami caused by the Japanese earthquake, at the same time “we turn our thoughts of consolation and love to our brothers and sisters in Japan who are suffering incredible tragedies,” said the bishop of Honolulu.

“We have suffered no injuries or loss of life. While there was some damage, we thank God that it was not much worse,” Bishop Larry Silva said in a statement March 14.

In response to the devastation in Japan, “let us all join in fervent prayer for them,” he said.

Bishop Silva also urged donations to Catholic Relief Services and encouraged parishes that wished to do so to take up a special collection for disaster victims that would be forwarded to CRS, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency, which is partnering with Caritas Japan.

As the “ongoing needs” of the Japanese people “are made known to us, we will present them to you with the assurance that we will all find a way to help those who are most in need,” he said.

Bishops in other U.S. dioceses also urged Catholics to contribute to the relief effort by donating to CRS. Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien and Bishop John B. McCormack of Manchester, N.H., were among those announcing parishes would hold a special collection at upcoming weekend Masses for the relief effort.

The official death toll from the magnitude 9 earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck northeastern Japan March 11 was expected to climb above 10,000. Some 434,000 people were left homeless and were living in shelters.

The other major threat to residents was radiation leakage following explosions that damaged reactors at the nuclear power plant in Fukushima. Japanese officials ordered the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people; others were instructed to stay indoors and “shelter in place.” Officials were working to contain the leakage of radiation.

In the Diocese of Honolulu, none of Hawaii’s more than 90 Catholic churches and missions was seriously affected by the tsunami surges that hit the islands in the early morning of March 11.

The area that was hardest hit by tsunami action was Kealahou Bay on island of Hawaii — known as the “Big Island” — where about 20 homes were reported destroyed or damaged. Staff at a couple of other parishes reported waves coming up to the parish property or hitting the street running along it.

St. Damien’s community of Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai, which has been swept by tsunamis in the past, was untouched by this one, according to one resident.

Some communities along the coast of Northern California and the Pacific Northwest felt some effects of the tsunami, which damaged several harbors. News reports said the high waves March 11 caused tens of millions of dollars in damage and left four coastal counties under a state of emergency.

Crescent City, Calif., near the Oregon border took the biggest hit. Four people were washed out to sea — three were injured and one was later found dead. Local residents reported that three dozen boats were damaged in the harbor after tidal surges destroyed most of the docks. Crescent City is considered California’s most productive seafood harbor.

In Oregon, the waves were highest in the



CNS PHOTO/TOM TRACY

Sue Rue, 6, left, Tyra Attulien, 12, and Angelic Gonzalez, 6, fold their hands as they pause to remember the recent tragedies in Japan during the annual Hatsume Fair at Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, Fla., March 19. Donations for relief efforts were collected by the Japanese-American Society of South Florida and the International Red Cross.

southern part of the state, but no serious damage to structures, including Catholic churches, was reported.

The first earthquake-caused waves coincided with low tide. Coast residents say that might have spared them.

Star of the Sea Church in Brookings is a designated Red Cross emergency center, so more than 60 evacuees from low-lying areas took refuge at the church after warning sirens began sounding.

In a number of other communities, residents took shelter at the local Catholic church or stayed with fellow parishioners whose homes are on higher ground until they got the all-clear from local authorities.

In Coos Bay, most people waited at home later than usual to be sure the water had calmed before they departed for work, said Sally Krajcir, parish coordinator at St. Monica Church there.

“I think some folks were curious and drove down by the beach, but most people were cautious and stuck close to home during the early morning hours,” she told the *Catholic Sentinel*, newspaper of the Portland Archdiocese.

At Newport, where there is no siren system, “we slept like babies,” said Janet DeSau, secretary at Sacred Heart Parish. A mobile siren did roll through town later. Sacred Heart is in an area that signs call a tsunami safe zone — there is blue tape on signs, as opposed to red tape in lower areas.

“We heard the waves might be two feet,” added DeSau. “Well, the beach wall would have taken care of that.”

Contributing to this story was Ed Langlois in Portland.

Japanese bishops to set up center to coordinate operations in Sendai

ROME (CNS) — Japanese Church officials are setting up an emergency center to coordinate humanitarian aid operations in Sendai, the area most devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Bishop Martin Tetsuo Hiraga of Sendai and the diocesan chancellor, Father Peter Shiro Komatsu, will be the director and vice director of the center, and a Caritas worker will be stationed there to coordinate aid work, reported the Asian Church news agency UCA News. Clergy and laypeople from other dioceses may also join the work.

The center is expected to operate for six months, UCA News reported.

Father Komatsu said gasoline is the most needed commodity.

“Since there is a shortage of petroleum and roads are blocked by debris, we have difficulties (reaching) affected areas outside Sendai city,” he said.

Father Komatsu said March 17 that he had begun contacting several downtown parishes to find rooms for the displaced quake victims and added that the Church might offer shelter to relief workers.

The diocese had not yet received information about the coastal churches due to disrupted telecommunications.

Father Daisuke Narui, executive director of Caritas Japan, also attended the mid-March meeting.

“The biggest buildings in Sendai withstood the very strong earthquake. The greatest damage was caused by the tsunami. The panorama of destruction is striking. Now we’ll have to roll up our shirt sleeves. People are expecting our help,” he said.

Father Narui said he was encouraged by the enthusiasm of



CNS PHOTO/ASAHI SHIMBUN, REUTERS

Medical staff use a Geiger counter to screen a woman for possible radiation exposure at a public welfare center in Hitachi, Japan, March 16. The woman tested negative for radiation exposure after she had been evacuated from an area within a 12-mile radius of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. Reactors at the plant have been unstable since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Japanese youth offering to help the displaced.

“Young people are continually coming to Caritas from all the dioceses to offer their availability as volunteers to bring aid to the areas most affected by the disaster,” the priest told Fides, news agency of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. “This is an important sign that gives us hope for the future.”

“Today the dominant feeling is fear,” Father Narui said. “The biggest concern is that of the nuclear power plant in Fukushima. It is a ghost from Japanese history coming back to

haunt us. But it must be said that the people are not indulging in panic; instead, they are reacting with poise and dignity.”

He said although many people had been evacuated and others were being asked to stay in their homes, “in the worst-affected areas the main problem is the lack of food and fuel. As there is no fuel, people cannot move. And they are left feeling powerless in the face of this tragedy.”

After the magnitude 9 earthquake, reactors at the Fukushima plant were hit by explosions, and Japanese officials were working to avoid leakage of radiation. They ordered evacuations for hundreds of thousands of people.

Earlier, Bishop Hiraga told Vatican Radio that many area residents, cut off without electricity and with some phone service just restored, were unaware of the worsening situation at the Fukushima plant.

“You living in other countries have a much better idea of the tragedy,” the bishop told Vatican Radio.

“We are terrified,” the bishop said. “We only have the government announcements, we have no other source of information. We don’t even know what has happened to our parishes in the towns and villages along the coast. We have no way of contacting them. I can only hope that the people of my diocese can stand together and be strong enough to overcome this disaster.”

Japanese officials estimate at least 13,000 people died in the disaster.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, March 27, 11:45 a.m. — Mass with Rite of Election at Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame
- Sunday, March 27, 8 p.m. — Mass at Holy Cross College, South Bend
- Monday, March 28, 11 a.m. — Meeting of Priest Personnel Board, Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw
- Monday, March 28, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass at St. John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, March 29, 6:30 p.m. — Penance Service at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Lenten Day of Recollection for Priests, St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse
- Saturday, April 2, to Saturday, April 9 — Meeting of the International Catholic-Reformed Theological Dialogue, Rome, Italy



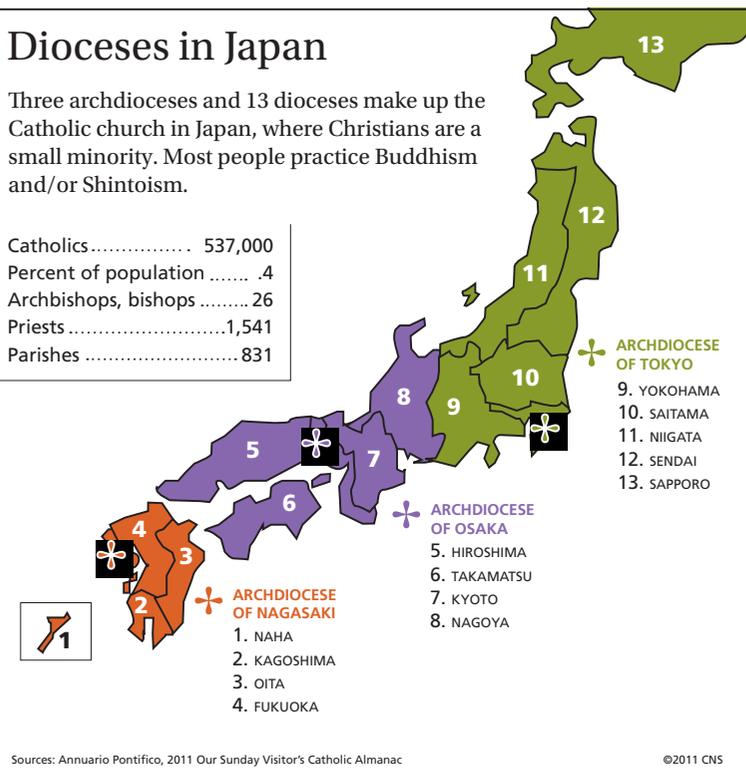
CNS PHOTO/ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI smiles as doves are released at the end of his visit to St. Corbinian Church in Rome March 20.

Dioceses in Japan

Three archdioceses and 13 dioceses make up the Catholic church in Japan, where Christians are a small minority. Most people practice Buddhism and/or Shintoism.

Catholics..... 537,000
Percent of population4
Archbishops, bishops 26
Priests1,541
Parishes 831



PARISHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

homily.

Pope Benedict said church buildings and parish communities are essential for Christian life and worship.

“In every neighborhood where people live and work, the Church wants to be present with the evangelical witness of coherent and faithful Christians, but also with buildings where they can gather for prayer and the sacraments, for Christian formation and to establish relationships of friendship and brotherhood and where children, youths, families and the aged can grow in that spirit of community that Christ taught us and that the world needs so badly,” he said.

The pope returned to the Vatican by helicopter in time to

lead the recitation of the Angelus prayer at noon.

Talking about the Transfiguration reading, Pope Benedict tried to help people gathered in St. Peter’s Square imagine what it would have been like to see Jesus’ face shine “like the sun” and His clothes become “white as light,” as the Gospel described it.

“Sunlight is the most intense light found in nature,” the pope said, but the spiritual experience of the disciples allowed them to see “an even more intense splendor, that of Jesus’ divine glory, which enlightens the whole history of salvation.”

The Transfiguration did not change Jesus, but revealed His divinity to the disciples, the pope said.

“Dear friends, we also can participate in this vision and this supernatural gift by giving space to prayer and to listening to the word of God,” he told the crowd in the square.

Pope calls on leaders to protect, allow aid for civilians in Libya

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI made an urgent appeal to political and military leaders to protect the safety and security of civilians and guarantee the free flow of humanitarian aid inside Libya.

He said the “worrying news from Libya” in the past few days caused him “deep trepidation and fear,” and he kept the North African country’s people in his prayers during his Lenten retreat March 13-19.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square March 20 for the recitation of the Angelus, the pope said, “I address a pressing appeal to those who have political and military responsibilities” to ensure the safety and security of defenseless citizens as well as guarantee those offering emergency assistance have access to those in need.

As U.S., British and French military began a series of strikes against Libya’s air defenses March 19 as part of a U.N.-approved effort to protect pro-democracy protesters from retaliation by Col. Moammar Gadhafi, the pope said he was following the events with great concern and praying for those involved in “the dramatic situation.”

He prayed that “peace and concord would soon reign over Libya and the entire North African region.”

Meanwhile, Bishop Giovanni Martinelli of Tripoli, Libya, criticized the rash and hasty decision to use military action against Gadhafi rather than pursue a negotiated solution.

“I hope for (Gadhafi’s) surrender, but I think that Gadhafi will not give in,” he told the Italian news agency, ANSA, March 20.

The bishop said he is familiar with the Libyan leader’s personality and past behavior and believes the use of military force against him will only intensify

the severity of Gadhafi’s reaction.

He said allowing foreign troops to launch a military offensive against Gadhafi “has given the go-ahead to the wrong strategy,” he said more could have been done in seeking a diplomatic or negotiated solution to the crisis.

“Violence only brings violence,” he said.

The Italian bishop said he had been working to mediate the crisis through a Libyan-funded interreligious organization called the World Islamic Call Society, but that the launch of military strikes cut short his attempts.

“The military action was too hasty, too sudden,” he said.

Bishop Martinelli told Fides, news agency of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, March 21, “War does not solve anything.

“We need to cease shooting immediately and begin mediation straight away to resolve the crisis peacefully. Why have diplomatic means not been considered?” he asked.

He told both ANSA and Fides that he had been hearing explosions and that people were fleeing the capital, but he said he was not leaving Tripoli.

“This is my home,” he told ANSA, and the Church is an important point of reference for the Christians in Libya, many of whom are refugees from Eritrea or workers from the Philippines and sub-Saharan Africa.

He told Fides that he was working to help Eritrean refugees trapped in Libya get to the border of Tunisia.

He said he “spoke with the bishop of Tunis to see if they can accept them, given that on their side of the border there are international humanitarian aid organizations.”

Vatican welcomes European court decision on classroom crucifixes

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Crucifixes displayed publicly in Italy, including in classrooms, are a sign of Christianity’s key contribution to European culture and civilization, said Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Christianity is a “founding element” of Western civilization and “even if someone does not want to recognize it, it is an objective fact that the Christian presence is absolutely relevant, decisive,” the cardinal told reporters March 18.

Cardinal Ravasi spoke just a few hours before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights ruled in favor of Italy in a case where a mother claimed crucifixes in Italian public-school classrooms violated her children’s freedom of conscience.

A lower chamber of the European court had ruled in 2009 that the classroom crucifixes violated the religious freedom clauses of the European Convention of Human Rights.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the Vatican welcomed the Grand Chamber ruling, which recognizes that “human rights must not be placed in opposition to the religious foundations of European civilization.”

The decision is an affirmation of the respect owed to each country of the European Union for “the religious symbols of its cultural history and national identity” and for national decisions on how the symbols can and should be displayed, Father Lombardi said.

A lack of respect, he said, would lead to a situation in which, “in the name of religious liberty, paradoxically one would limit or even deny this freedom, ending up excluding every expression of it from the public sphere.”

Speaking to reporters at a news conference about a Vatican project to promote dialogue with atheists and other nonbelievers, Cardinal Ravasi had said that while a crucifix is a religious symbol to believers, it also is “a sign of civilization” in the West.

In every culture, he said, peo-



CNS PHOTO/REUTERS

A crucifix hangs in a school classroom in Rome in this 2009 file photo. A European human rights court ruled March 18 that crucifixes are acceptable in public schools. The decision effects the 47 countries of the European Union.

ple find symbols that express their identity and, in losing those symbols, “we run the great risk of losing our identity.”

“Having white walls leads to a void, to cultural fragility. You may need to explain what a religious symbol means, but it isn’t right to have to take down your symbols simply to avoid offending someone,” the cardinal said.

Similarly, he said, “when you go to a Muslim city, you aren’t concerned when you see golden crescent moons” lit at night and dotting the skyline.

During his news conference, the cardinal presented the program for his office’s “Courtyard of the Gentiles” project, which aims to promote discussions between Christians and atheists or nonbelievers.

The first sessions will be held in Paris March 24-25, bringing Christian clergy, artists and activists together with nonbelievers from the world of politics, economics, law, literature and the arts.

Dialogue — whether with other Christians, with other religions or with atheists — isn’t

about finding the “lowest common denominator,” Cardinal Ravasi said. He said it is about getting to know one another, learning from one another, working together to promote the common good and seeing how the other’s values may need more attention in your own life.

Of course, he said, the dialogue can take place only if both sides are willing to talk and to listen; the “Courtyard of the Gentiles” project involves nonbelievers or atheists who find the question of God interesting and who share the Catholic Church’s concern to promote the good of individuals and society.

Cardinal Ravasi said that although someday the Church will have to expand the conversation, for the time being he has not found a way to have a constructive dialogue with less sophisticated, “more aggressive” atheists, “those who are more provocative, who don’t like nuances, but are almost fundamentalists” in their anti-religious beliefs and statements.

Dialogue, if it is serious, is not simply an exchange of information, he said. It is about presenting all of who one is and, therefore, it means witnessing.

“We don’t dialogue to broadcast a theory, but to share a vision that has an impact on our lives,” he said.

The cardinal said the “Courtyard of the Gentiles” project tentatively is scheduled to hold sessions in other cities around the world, including in Quebec in 2012 and in Chicago and Washington in 2013.



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Same-sex marriage amendment ban expected to pass Senate

INDIANAPOLIS — A proposal to amend Indiana's Constitution to ban same-sex marriage is expected to pass the Senate Judiciary Committee says the panel chairman Sen. Richard Bray, R-Martinsville.

"The marriage amendment will strengthen traditional marriage, and the Church supports it," said, Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) Executive Director Glenn Tebbe, who testified before the House and Senate Judiciary panels on behalf of the Church in favor of the bill.

The proposal, House Joint Resolution 6 (HJR 6), would add language to Indiana's Constitution, which would only allow couples consisting of one man and one woman to marry. While this language is currently a part of the Indiana Code, the author of the amendment Rep. Eric Turner, R-Cicero, the Senate sponsor Sen. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, and the Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Sen. Bray, as well other lawmakers believe the amendment is necessary to ensure the law is upheld.

Turner explained that in 2005, he got a group of legislators, legal scholars and experts in the field of marriage together and looked around the country at what other states were doing in the area of marriage. They found that there were 30 states that had passed a constitutional amendment.

Marriage amendment attempts in Indiana

A quick history by Rep. Eric Turner (R-Cicero).

"In 2004 we began working on a Constitutional amendment," said Rep. Eric Turner, author of the marriage amendment legislation. "The Senate passed it and the Speaker of the House didn't give it a hearing. In 2005, when the Republicans won the majority, the amendment passed the House and the Senate and we began the process of amending the constitution," he said.

"To amend Indiana's Constitution, an amendment must pass two separately-elected General Assemblies and then be voted on by the public in a referendum vote before it can be added to the constitution," said Turner. "When the Republicans lost the majority in 2006 for the 2007, 2008 General Assembly, the Democrat Speaker of the House would not hear the bill again for 2007 or 2008. That effectively reset the clock and we had to start the process all over again."

HJR 6 would add the following to the Indiana Constitution: Only a marriage between one (1) man and one (1) woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Indiana. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized.

"We looked at the language and selected what we thought was best for Indiana," said Turner. "What we selected was identical to the language in Wisconsin and Kentucky. Both those amendments have been reviewed and challenged unsuccessfully," Turner said.

"There have been about 30 legal opinions written on the Wisconsin and Kentucky amendments and they reflect what the amendment is intended to do — that is to define marriage as between one man and one woman. About 20 of the constitutional amendments nationwide are very similar to the language in HJR 6," said Turner.

Questions were raised during testimony about the possibility that the amendment would somehow affect the ability of companies or state employers to grant domestic partners benefits to unmarried same-sex couples.

"These are questions that we answered during the testimony," said Turner. "In fact, these would

not be affected. What we do know is that in other states that have enacted this language, it has not affected domestic partner benefits."

Turner said, "The legislation would not allow future General Assemblies to allow a same-sex couple to get married under another name, be it 'marriage two,' or 'marriage junior' or what is sometimes called a 'civil union,' it would not be permitted," he said.

"Government's interest in marriage is primarily for procreation," said Turner. "So that we will have people that will be born, contribute to society. So we will have workers for employers. The only ones who can procreate are a man and a woman. It is important for governments to define marriage between a man and woman. The basic unit of the society is the family, and the cornerstone of the family is marriage," he said. "I believe the majority of my colleagues and the majority of Hoosiers believe that marriage is between one man and one woman."

Indiana is one of nine states that have a statute defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman. Indiana passed this language in 1986. In 1997, Indiana added to their marriage statute that Indiana would not recognize any same-sex marriage granted in another state.

Sen. Bray, an attorney, said he believes the current make up of the Indiana Supreme Court would uphold the current statute, which defines marriage as between one man and one woman, but that would not always be the case. "However, in Massachusetts and I believe in Iowa, the court stepped-in and rejected the statute on marriage," he said. Bray says the marriage amendment will "serve as insurance against activist judges" who want to legislate from the bench.

Brays says he expects the resolution to pass his committee and will pass the Senate "easily." Bray said, "It passed with bipartisan support in the House and I expect it to get bipartisan support in the

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

Senate."

Senate sponsor of HJR 6, Sen. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, said, "Marriage is foundational to any good society. Any society over the centuries that has no longer recognized marriage as the basic fabric of society has ended."

If the marriage amendment passes during the 2011 session, it must be passed again in an identical form, by the Indiana General Assembly in either the 2013 or 2014 session. Then it would be placed on the ballot for approval by voters in 2014. If approved by Hoosier voters, it would become part of Indiana's Constitution.

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Dancing with the saints: Retreat master says that's the key to Lent

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The saints aren't just people to turn to when something is lost or a situation seems hopeless; they are examples to follow in prayer and in efforts to reform and renew the Church, said the priest who was preaching Pope Benedict XVI's Lenten retreat. Carmelite Father Francois-Marie Lethel, secretary of the Pontifical Academy of Theology, led the pope and his top aides in their Lenten reflections March 13-19. He said his 17 talks during the week would focus on the saints and Pope John Paul II. In addition to helping Pope Benedict and Vatican officials prepare for Easter, Father Lethel said he wanted to help them prepare for the beatification May 1 of Pope John Paul. "This beatification, which will be an event of immense importance for the Church and the entire world, requires deep spiritual preparation involving the entire people of God and, in a particular way, the Holy Father and his closest collaborators," Father Lethel wrote in the introduction to the retreat program handed out to participants. The tradition of having weeklong, preached "spiritual exercises" for the pope and members of the papal household began with Pope Pius XI in 1925. But for more than 35 years it was an Advent, not a Lenten retreat. Pope John XXIII broke the Advent tradition in 1962 when he spent a week in September on retreat to prepare for the Second Vatican Council. His successor, Pope Paul VI, made the retreats a Lenten staple in 1964 and hugely broadened the list of preachers, who almost always had been Jesuits.

Arizona Senate rejects immigration crackdown bills; Utah does opposite

PHOENIX (CNS) — The Arizona Senate voted down five immigration bills March 17 that proponents argued would crack down on illegal immigration even further than last year's S.B. 1070, which is still hung up by court challenges. Meanwhile, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert March 15 signed a series of bills that have been described as a state equivalent of comprehensive immigration reform being sought at the national level. They step up enforcement, but also create a guest worker program that itself is likely to face court challenges. Among the bills Arizona's legislators rejected were those that would have required hospitals to verify patients' legal status before admitting them for non-emergency care, required schools to collect data on immigration status and challenged the 14th Amendment's provision for birthright citizenship. "All of the most problematic bills were defeated soundly on the Senate floor," said Ron Johnson, executive director of the Arizona Catholic Conference, which represents the state's bishops in public

ITALIANS CELEBRATE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFICATION



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A woman holds the Italian flag as she and others preparing for the March 20 Rome Marathon run near Piazza Venezia in Rome March 17. Italy was celebrating the 150th anniversary of the unification of the Italian states, an event that also meant the end of temporal rule for the popes.

policy matters. "Clearly we have significant immigration problems facing this country, but these bills do nothing to solve them," he said. "They actually make things worse for a vulnerable population." After the vote, Republican State Sen. Rich Crandall explained his opposition to the bills. "If you ask anybody what we need to do to solve the immigration crisis, they tell you, 'Secure the border,'" he said. "Well, these five bills had nothing to do with the border." State Sen. Ron Gould, a Republican and sponsor of the two bills that dealt with birthright citizenship, said the next step is to take the measures to a ballot proposal. In Utah, Salt Lake City Bishop John C. Wester lauded the efforts "to adopt humane solutions in the face of the federal government's failure to act on immigration reform." He particularly praised Herbert's willingness to sign immigration bills despite extreme opposition, but said he feared the bills would be unenforceable and unconstitutional.

Father Corapi, a popular preacher, put on administrative leave

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (CNS) — Father John Corapi, a popular author and preacher who has had

speaking engagements all over the world, has been placed on administrative leave from priestly ministry over an accusation of misconduct. "We have received an allegation that Father Corapi has behaved in a manner unbecoming of a priest and are duty-bound to conduct an investigation into this accusation," said Father Gerard Sheehan, a spokesman for Father Corapi's community, the Texas-based Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. Father Sheehan, who has the title "regional priest servant," issued the statement March 18 on behalf of the community. "It is important to keep in mind that this action in no way implies Father Corapi is guilty of the allegation," Father Sheehan said. "It is equally important to know that, based on the information we have received thus far, the claim of misconduct does not involve minors and does not arise to the level of criminal conduct." The matter will "be investigated internally," he said. Father Sheehan did not reveal the exact nature of the allegation. In a March 19 statement, Father Corapi said, "All of the allegations in the complaint are false, and I ask you to pray for all concerned." His statement was posted on his website, www.fathercorapi.com. He said he learned on

Ash Wednesday, March 9, that a former employee "sent a three-page letter to several bishops accusing me of everything from drug addiction to multiple sexual exploits with her and several other adult women." Father Sheehan told Catholic News Service that Bishop William M. Mulvey of Corpus Christi has instructed the religious community to ask two priests who are not clergy of the diocese and who are not members of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity to investigate the allegation.

US bishops reiterate New Ways Ministry is not Catholic group

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The publication of a recent booklet about a "Catholic approach" to same-sex marriage by New Ways Ministry prompted the chairmen of two bishops' committees to reaffirm a year-old statement that the organization cannot be considered a Catholic group. "Marriage Equality: A Positive Catholic Approach" is a 45-page booklet written by Francis DeBernardo, the organization's executive director. New Ways Ministry, based in Mount Rainier, Md., describes itself as a "gay-positive ministry

of advocacy and justice for lesbian and gay Catholics and reconciliation within the larger Christian and civil communities." Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, chairman of the Committee on Doctrine Committee, and Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage, issued a statement March 11. They said they wanted to reaffirm a statement made in February 2010 by Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, then president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "and assure Catholics that in no manner is the position proposed by New Ways Ministry in conformity with Catholic teaching and in no manner is this organization authorized to speak on behalf of the Catholic Church or to identify itself as a Catholic organization." A description of the booklet on the organization's website makes the claim that Catholics across the United States are supporting same-sex marriage. It adds that the booklet "dispels the myth" that Catholic laypeople follow what the Church teaches against same-sex marriage. In his 2010 statement, Cardinal George denounced New Ways Ministry for its criticism of Catholic efforts to defend marriage as the union of one man and one woman and said it does not offer "an authentic interpretation of Catholic teaching."

Jesuit magazine says universal health care must also protect unborn

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If U.S. Republicans and Democrats can promise to work together on economic policy — an area where they have legitimate differences — they also must try to cooperate in finding a healthcare plan that can serve the needy while respecting the sacredness of human life, said an influential Jesuit journal. "Authentic legal consensus is not at the service of relativism, but of the passionate search for the truth in order to defend the real human rights of all," said *Civiltà Cattolica*, the Jesuit magazine written in Rome and reviewed before publication by the Vatican Secretariat of State. An editorial in the magazine's March 19 edition, distributed to journalists before publication, sought to explain to readers the position of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on President Barack Obama's healthcare plan, passed in 2010, and on modifications to the plan proposed this year. When the plan first passed, *Civiltà Cattolica* hailed it as the "needed and long-awaited beginning" of bringing greater justice to all citizens. The journal also lamented the strong polemics that surrounded passage of the program, and it described the contrasting positions of the U.S. bishops and some Catholic health and justice organizations as a disagreement over how best to put the Catholic Church's social teaching into practice.

Eagle Scout award earned by local Catholic

SOUTH BEND — James A. “Gus” Ladwig was awarded the Eagle Scout rank on Saturday, March 5, at a ceremony held at the Boy Scouts of America



JAMES LADWIG

LaSalle Council Headquarters in South Bend. The Ladwigs are parishioners of Christ the King Catholic Church, South Bend.

Ladwig is a sophomore in high school and is homeschooled. He is a member of Troop 572 based at Christ the King Lutheran Church in South Bend.

Gus completed his project, a backyard renovation, for Hannah's House in Mishawaka. He has been active in Scouting since 2005 and has held several leadership positions, including Senior Patrol Leader.

Ladwig has earned both the Ad Altari Dei and the Pope Pius XII Catholic Scouting awards. He is the first Eagle Scout in his family of five children.

Hellinger earns Eagle Scout award

FORT WAYNE — Mark Hellinger, member of Boy Scout Troop 300, was recently awarded the Eagle Scout award at an Eagle ceremony held at his home parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, on Feb. 27.



MARK HELLINGER

His Eagle project was building a grotto for the football field at St. Elizabeth where he had a total of 293 combined hours of service. Hellinger is a freshman at Bishop Luers High School and is the son of Mark and Karen Hellinger.

Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home offers grief workshop

FORT WAYNE — Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, located at 5910 Homestead Rd., will offer “Understanding Your Grief,” an overall view of grief and loss on Tuesday, March 29, from 5-7:30 p.m. Dar Richardson, grief and loss counselor, will be speaker. A light supper will be served. This program is free and open to the public. Reserve a seat at (260) 435-3222 or e-mail lilicarroll@vnhh.org or bonniedavis@vnhh.org.

Saint Mary's students host walk to benefit South Bend's hungry

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College students in the Office for Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) are coordinating a walk for South Bend's hungry. The walk is

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CHRIST THE KING TEACHER RECEIVES GRANT



HEATHER COYNE

Representatives from the Portage Branch of TCU (Teachers Credit Union) visited Christ the King School in South Bend on March 16. Middle school science teacher Nicole Dainty was awarded a grant in the amount of \$125 to apply toward the purchase of new goggles for her classroom laboratory. Since joining the faculty at Christ the King, Dainty has fostered a hands-on learning approach to science, with regular labs to reinforce scientific concepts. Lab safety is always at the forefront. At the beginning of the school year each student must earn a “lab license” before participation in experiments may begin. New safety goggles will permit the students to continue their learning beyond the textbook. In the photo, from left, are Randy Hoover and Bethany Stauffer from TCU and Nicole Dainty of Christ the King School.

called “Yes, we can!” and will begin at the Student Center at Saint Mary's College at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 3. The walk will proceed to the University of Notre Dame, where the group will stop briefly to pray at the grotto, and then back to Saint Mary's. The South Bend area community, including children and dogs (on leashes), are invited to join the students on the walk.

Walkers may register online at www.saintmarys.edu/ocse/calendar/walk-for-hungry-form. Those who are not pre-registered should arrive at the Student Center before 2 p.m. Walkers may participate as an individual or in a team. Individual walkers are asked to bring three cans of food to the event or a \$2 donation to benefit the Catholic Charities food pantry. A team of walkers can bring a \$5 donation or three cans of food per walker. The walk will be held rain or shine.

The “Yes, we can!” walk is facilitated by Saint Mary's students participating in the College Academy of Tutoring Program (CAT). CAT was formed at Saint Mary's College

in 2006 to meet the needs of at-risk elementary school students in the South Bend area. The program partners Saint Mary's students with Title 1 schools in South Bend in the roles of tutors, teacher's assistants, reading partners and special program coordinators. In return, CAT scholars receive a \$2,500 tuition credit at Saint Mary's.

This is the third year for the walk. For more information on the walk, call OCSE at (574) 284-4265 or e-mail Carrie Call, director of OCSE at ccall@saintmarys.edu.

Austin Huntington wins Stulberg International String Competition

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School junior Austin Huntington was one of 12 musicians who performed in the Stulbert International String Competition at the Dorothy U. Dalton Hall on the campus of Western Michigan University on Saturday, March 5. The 12 musicians were chosen from 114 applicants between the ages of 14 and 19 from around the

globe, playing violin, viola, cello and double bass. The six finalists were selected by this year's competition adjudicators, violinist Joseph Silverstein, cellist Paul Katz and maestro Raymond Harvey.

Huntington is the recipient of the Burdick-Thorne Gold Medal award and will perform with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. The Stulberg Competition collaborates with the Kalamazoo Bach Festival to present the Bach Award and \$500 prize to the best performance of a Bach work by a semifinalist. Huntington, who plays a Francisco Ruggieri cello made in 1690, was the recipient of the Bach Award as well.

In addition to the Stulberg International String Competition, Huntington also won the Chicago Youth Symphony Concerto Competition and will be the guest soloist with orchestra in the fall at Orchestra Hall, Chicago, and in another concert featuring him. The conductor of Chicago's Northwest Symphony was in the audience of the Final Round of the concerto competition and selected Huntington to perform as soloist

with his orchestra as well. And, the Southwest Symphony in Michigan contacted both Huntington and his brother Thomas, an equally accomplished violinist and former Saint Joseph's High School student, to have them open their summer Recital Series at the Heritage Center, St. Joseph, Mich., June 9.

Huntington will spend the summer again with Itzhak Perlman at the Perlman Music Program, and be performing in New York from June through August.

Huntington is a junior at Saint Joseph's High School and the son of Cheri and Tom Huntington.

USF presents Tenth Avenue North concert

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will present Tenth Avenue North in concert on Wednesday, April 13, at 7 p.m. in the Hutzell Fitness Center. Admission is \$10 per person, and free to University of Saint Francis students. Doors open at 6 p.m. with Fort Wayne's Right Hand Red playing at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to reserve tickets, contact Josh at (260) 399-7700 ext. 6703 or e-mail jjstagni@sf.edu.

Bishop Dwenger students nominated to participate in International Honors Program

FORT WAYNE — The Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages (IUHPFL) has announced that Amelia Erlandson, Meghan Gloudemans, Haley O'Brien and LeAnna Phillips from Bishop Dwenger High School have been selected to participate in the Honors Program.

This summer, Erlandson, Gloudemans, O'Brien and Phillips will spend seven weeks in Europe, attending intensive Spanish language and cultural instruction. All four students have signed an honor code and language commitment that require them to speak only the foreign language while abroad. As a result, students typically test into fifth semester foreign language instruction at Indiana University.

“We are excited to nominate Amelia, Meghan, Haley and LeAnna for participation in our Honors Program,” said Stephanie Goetz, managing director of IUHPFL. “The international language program offers students an extraordinary opportunity to significantly advance their language skills while gaining a rich foreign experience.”

Every year the IUHPFL Program sends more than 225 high school students to nine sites in Europe and Mexico where they become fully immersed in the foreign language and host country. For seven weeks, students participate in intensive language and cultural studies, live with a host family and take part in multiple excursions to regional destinations and major cities. While the Honors Program requires a significant commitment, it garners exceptional results.

ST. CHARLES STUDENTS CELEBRATE READ ACROSS AMERICA



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ST. CHARLES SCHOOL

St. Charles Borromeo School in Fort Wayne recently participated in a national day of literacy called Read Across America. The entire second grade celebrated the joy of reading by visiting nine stations that included puzzles, games, reading, writing and crafts. This annual event takes place each March on the birthday of Dr. Seuss and is coordinated at St. Charles by Martha Berghoff.



JOE ROMIE

The Wheelchair Ramp Builders group of Fort Wayne were the recipients of the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award, which was presented at St. Mary Church on Thursday, March 17, by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. With Bishop Rhoades and representing the ramp builders are Steve Weissner, left, and David Kelley, crew chief, right.

Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award for 2011 presented

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — The Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award committee honored the volunteers of the Wheelchair Ramp Builders group at a ceremony at St. Mary Church in Fort Wayne on March 17 hosted by Father Phillip A. Widmann, pastor, and Parishioner Andrea Thomas. The award, in the category of diversity and inclusiveness, was presented by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Created in 2006 by St. Mary Church in cooperation with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the award honors individuals whose faith and activities exemplify the type of servant leadership for which Father Tom O'Connor was known during his years as a priest in Fort Wayne. Nominations are open to persons of all faiths.

While diversity and inclusiveness often are thought of in terms of racial or ethnic issues, physical disability is another kind of diversity. The Wheelchair Ramp Builders have volunteered their time and talent for more than 21 years to build up-to-code residential access ramps, which allow individuals with differing physical abilities to leave their homes and be included in the broader fabric of society.

The group was nominated by Nancy Lourraine, executive director of Turnstone Center for

Children and Adults with Disabilities. In her nomination letter, Lourraine noted that the group has, since its inception in 1992, built more than 1,000 ramps and that 87 percent of those ramps have been for individuals who live at or below the federal poverty level.

The 24 volunteers themselves are diverse on several levels. Many are Presbyterian — the first ramp was built after a call went out during a citywide gathering of representatives from local Presbyterian congregations — but they soon became spiritually diverse, with volunteers coming from many different faith families, including Catholic and Lutheran. Their paying jobs also run the gamut from active and retired teachers and engineers to service and construction workers, and include an attorney and a Presbyterian pastor. On weekends, in all types of weather, the group builds wheelchair ramps that help to restore independence and self-sufficiency to individuals.

Crew Chief David Kelley and Steve Weissner, a ramp builder, accepted the award on behalf of the group. The Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award carries with it a cash gift of \$1,000 given to the charity, project or program of the winner's choice. The check this year was awarded to the Turnstone Center Residential Ramp Building Program to purchase building

materials.

Previous Father Tom Award winners include Cliff Kindy, 2007, for his work in peace and justice; Sister Janet Gildea, M.D., 2008, for her dedication to cultural diversity; William Critell, 2009, for his efforts in education among disadvantaged students; and University of Saint Francis student Danielle Theresa Collins, 2010, for her campus and community leadership, and volunteer work to promote justice for the disadvantaged.

Father Tom, who died on March 17, 2004, at the age of 74, served as pastor of St. Mary Parish for 34 years. Many consider the humble priest to be a model of Catholic faith in action in both justice and charity. He was instrumental in the creation of the St. Mary Soup Kitchen, which has operated nonstop since opening on Jan. 22, 1975, and serves nearly 1,500 bowls of soup to hungry people every day. He also is credited for beginning the Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic, St. Mary's Thanksgiving Day dinner for the hungry and the annual Christmas box distribution which assists more than 500 families yearly.

Because Father Tom always said his work was rooted in his Catholic faith, in the Scriptures and in his priestly vocation, local "Light of Christ" Award nominees also must be firmly rooted in their own faith tradition.



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Catholic Schools' ACE 'Summer Camp' classes to begin in June

BY VINCE LABARBERA

For the seventh consecutive summer, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be partnering with Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) teachers from the University of Notre Dame to provide "Summer Camp" instruction for students in grades 2-8 who are eager to improve and enrich their education through relevant learning activities.

"Without this joint undertaking, we would not be able to offer a summer option for further study in language arts and math, or science," said Dr. Mark Myers, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the diocese. "We encourage students from all schools and backgrounds, Catholic and non-Catholic, to take advantage of this opportunity," Myers said.

The Summer Camp program offers students a chance to maximize learning in a unique student-teacher ratio with multiple adults in each class for more individualized instruction with some fun activities as well. Participating schools for the math and language-arts programs, all in South Bend, are: Our Lady of Hungary School, 735 W. Calvert St.; St. Anthony School, 2310 E. Jefferson Blvd.; and St. Adalbert School, 519 S. Olive St.

There are two learning sessions, each three weeks long. Both sessions involve art workshops and engaging, creative group projects that differ by age group. Students have the option of attending either or both sessions to enhance their math and language-arts skills. Sessions are offered Monday through Friday, 8-11 a.m.

Session 1 will be held from June 13-30. It includes a language-arts/math workshop for grades 2-3,

and separate language-arts workshops for grades 4-5 and grades 6-8. Session 2 will be offered from July 5-21. It again includes a language-arts/math workshop for grades 2-3, and separate math workshops for grades 4-5 and grades 6-8.

In addition, students entering grades 6-8 in the fall have an excellent opportunity to continue to develop their science skills throughout the summer by attending the Summer Science Program held at Christ the King School, 52473 State Road 933 North, South Bend. The science program is geared toward hands-on learning through demonstrations and lab experiences offered daily from 8-11 a.m., Monday through Friday. Session 1 will feature a field trip to St. Pat's Park and focus on ecology and life sciences. Session 2 will cover forensics and early engineering concepts. The science education program also is in partnership with ACE, which offers a supervised practicum experience for graduates seeking to teach in Catholic schools.

The cost for Session 1 or 2 is \$80 per student. For both sessions, the cost is \$150. Students registering by May 6 will save \$10 for Session 1 or 2, or save \$10 if attending both sessions. A \$25 registration fee applies to the total cost. Registration should be completed through the school the student wants to attend. Applicants can request financial assistance from the particular school to which they have applied.

Additional information is available by contacting the school of preference. Questions may be directed to Caitlin Cameron, assistant director for academics, Alliance for Catholic Education, at (574) 631-9332 or e-mail ccamero1@nd.edu.

Bishop Rhoades celebrates Mass for St. Vincent de Paul Society

BY TRISH LINNER

SOUTH BEND — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the annual Mass for over 100 members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society on Tuesday, March 15. The Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend was followed by a reception.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was founded officially in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam and followed the work started by St. Vincent de Paul. Although St. Vincent died in 1622, he left several congregations to carry on his ministry to help the poor. Ozanam was a student in Paris and was only 20 years old, but soon helped the ministry to spread around the world. Today the society is the largest volunteer organization in the world and is active in 132 countries.

Bishop Rhoades greeted the gathered members and thanked them for their service and dedication to the poor. He noted that it was the feast day of St. Louise de Marillac, a woman who had known great tragedy in her life and heard the call from God to serve Him. At the time, all nuns were cloistered, yet St. Louise de Marillac believed God was calling her to a life of poverty, chastity and obedience with service to the poor. She believed this was God's will for her life, yet it was unheard of in the 1600s. Bishop Rhoades explained, "In God's providence, St. Louise de Marillac met St. Vincent de Paul. In fact, he became her spiritual director. They



TRISH LINNER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greets the crowd before celebrating Mass for the St. Vincent de Paul Society in South Bend.

actually became great friends. Their friendship revolutionized religious life in the Catholic Church and its ministry to the poor."

Bishop Rhoades explained how St. Vincent and St. Louise de Marillac worked together to organize groups of women to serve the poor. He helped her to organize the Daughters of Charity and the group spread throughout the world.

Bishop Rhoades told them, "It is a joy to celebrate the feast of St. Louise de Marillac with you, the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, since she is one of the great Vincentian saints. As you are inspired in your work by the teachings and legacy of St. Vincent

de Paul, you can also be inspired by his spiritual daughter and friend, St. Louise de Marillac."

The members of St. Vincent de Paul Society asked for prayers and rededicated themselves to the mission of St. Vincent de Paul in serving the poor.

The Mass, which is held annually, was followed by a reception in the St. Matthew Cathedral School gym. St. Vincent de Paul Executive Director of St. Joseph County Charlie Thompson thanked the bishop for celebrating the Mass with the Vincentians and presented him with a portrait of St. Vincent de Paul.

For more information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society visit www.saintvincent-in.org.

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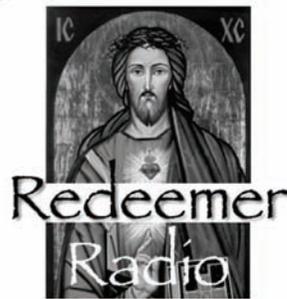
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PUERI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

permitted to participate and currently there are over 60,000 youth from 35 countries who sing in Pueri Cantores. The movement continues its commitment to teaching children the traditional sacred liturgical music of the Catholic Church.

The Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival was a unique model, said Jan Schmidt, executive director of the American Federation of Pueri Cantores. Typically the students who sing in Pueri Cantores are accepted into the organization with its high musical standard without audition. However, Fort Wayne organized auditions at each school for the selection of their choir members.

Schmidt reported, "In Indiana, the students are presented as honors singers — special singers from many schools. It's working beautifully. ... They did a phenomenal job of organizing this festival."

The schools that participated include: From Besancon-New Haven, St. Louis Academy; Elkhart, St. Vincent de Paul; Fort Wayne, Bishop Dwenger High School, Bishop Luers High School, Most Precious Blood School, Queen of Angels School, St. Charles Borromeo School, St. John the Baptist School, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, St. Jude School, St. Therese School, St. Vincent de Paul School; Goshen, St. John the Evangelist School; Granger, St. Pius X School; Mishawaka, Marian High School, Queen of Peace School, St. Bavo School, St. Joseph School, St. Monica School; Monroeville, St. Joseph School; New Haven, St. John the Baptist School; Plymouth, St. Michael School; South Bend, Saint Joseph's High School, Christ the King School, Corpus Christi School, Holy Cross School, Holy Family School, St. Anthony de Padua School, St. Joseph School, St. Jude School, St. Matthew School; Warsaw, Sacred Heart School; Yoder, St. Aloysius School; and Indianapolis, Lumen Christi Catholic School.

The Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass followed the choral prelude — which included Johann Sebastian Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in A Minor" played by organ scholar Quentin Herman and other pieces, "Da Pace,

Domine" and "Jesus Here Present" — and began with a procession including pastors from several of the participating schools and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as the celebrant. In his opening remarks, Bishop Rhoades said that he was glad he could be there with the young people to "celebrate the gift of song."

This theme was echoed in his homily when Bishop Rhoades told the congregation, "The liturgy is a foretaste of heaven and today it is really true when I hear your voices."

Bishop Rhoades reminded those in attendance that Jesus admonished the people to "repent and believe in the Gospel" and added, "that's what Lent is all about; our opportunity to repent." Bishop Rhoades continued his Lenten message, saying "God forgives, cleanses and purifies us. May we turn away from sin so one day we may enter His kingdom."

The exquisitely sung sacred music was woven throughout the remainder of the Mass and Bishop Rhoades concluded by congratulating the student choir members.

He said, "Your singing today has been beautiful. It helped raise our hearts and minds to heaven and truly was a taste of heaven."

Family members who were able to attend the Pueri Cantores Mass festival were also gratified and deeply moved.

Deb Painter, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, parishioner, said, "This is a very special day. My daughter loves to sing and take part in the liturgy, and I'm very proud of her."

Irvin and Bonnie Kloska from St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart were there to listen to their eight grandchildren who were participating as part of the homeschool group. Their grandson, Jack Murphy from St. Pius X in Granger said, "This is one of the most exceptional experiences I have ever had." His younger brother Jeff agreed that he "will always remember it."

Chris and Sarah Beiting from Holy Cross Parish in South Bend were "grateful for this opportunity for their daughter to learn the old and the new music and be able to bring it back to the parish to share."

Jane Sandor, principal of St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, shared her feeling that it was a powerful and humbling experience. She added, "By bringing together both ends of the diocese, the program was a great example of how the Church is universal."



Members of the Pueri Cantores Choir pose for a group photo after the Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on March 16.



Choir members of Pueri Cantores sing sacred Catholic music at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on March 16.



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March 16 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.



Catholic director and composer Paul French rehearses with the choir prior to the Mass. French, the director of music at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Chicago and of the William Ferris Chorale, conducted the Pueri Cantores Choir.



Quentin Herman, named Organ Scholar of the Pueri Cantores Festival, plays the prelude piece, "Prelude and Fugue in A Minor" by Johann Sebastian Bach, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on March 16. Dr. Andrew McShane, director of the music at the basilica, was the organist for the Mass.



High school men sing in the bass section of the choir.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, in his homily, tells the congregation, "repent and believe in the Gospel" and added, "that's what Lent is all about; our opportunity to repent."

Showing one The Way

BY JIM TIGHE

Years ago, songwriter Leonard Cohen wrote a piece entitled "God is Alive, Magic is Afoot." If I can take the liberty to change that title, I think you can describe what happens to parents who show their children the way to Christ by preparing them for receiving the Eucharist: "God is Alive, His Love is Afoot." This journey not only brings God's love to your child, it also deepens His love for you.

Think about evangelization for a moment. What pictures come to mind? The Apostles, saints, preachers, or maybe telling a friend about your Catholic beliefs. What about your children? Are they in the picture? Do you evangelize your children? Yes, you do.

You may be very active in the faith life of your child, or you may be taking a more passive approach, allowing your parish school or religious-education program to teach them. Either way, aware of it or not, you are the primary evangelist and catechist for your children.



CNS PHOTO/MIKE CRUPI

In this archive photo, First Communicants sing a song for family and friends during their First Communion service at St. Theodore's Church in Gates, N.Y.



CNS ARCHIVE PHOTO

Your children are like little sponges; they see and hear everything you do and look to you as the definition of "how to" and "how not to." You are evangelizing your children every time you round up everyone on a Sunday morning, hustle them into the car and head off to your parish for Mass. Week after week you do this and the kids begin to see this is important to you. Whether you know it or not, you are evangelizing them by your example!

Then the day comes when they start asking questions. "Why are we going, Daddy?" "Why is that man dressed in that green thing, Mom?" "What are they giving you when you come up to the front?" Now you move from being evangelist, one who shows them the way, to catechist; one who teaches the way.

The Way is the way to Christ.

Many children are receiving the sacrament for the first time in Catholic churches throughout the U.S. in May.

As an evangelist you are showing them the important, primary place Christ has in your life: and as a catechist, you answer their questions about why Christ is important and what you are doing. You are carrying out the task of catechesis as defined by Pope John Paul II, to put people "not only in touch, but in communion, in intimacy with Jesus Christ." In short, you are allowing Christ to teach them through you!

Leading your child from Baptism to the Eucharist is a major time of this combination of evangelization and catechesis. According to canon law, "It is the

primary duty of the parents ... as well as the duty of pastors, to take care that children who have reached the use of reason are prepared properly and ... are refreshed with this divine food as soon as possible." (Canon 914) Canon law also defines that "the use of reason" is presumed to be "the completion of the seventh year" or one's seventh birthday.

However, catechesis of the child can begin and should begin earlier in life. It starts with the way the parents live their lives. Parents cannot expect to lead their children to an intimacy with Christ if they are not working on their own relationship with Christ as well. It doesn't have to be the "perfect relationship," but it should become apparent to the youngster that Jesus is very special to Mommy and Daddy. If Christ is present in your life, then grace is in play in your family. The grace given to us in the sacraments, in Baptism, the Eucharist, Reconciliation and Marriage is passing from you to the child and will soon be returning to you through the grace of the sacraments they will receive.

Your children are not only dependent on you for food, clothing and shelter, but also for the transmission of God's love. You are therefore guiding them along those first formative steps of their eternal life, living out your own Baptismal and Marriage promises and drawing strength from God's love ... the grace given you ... in those sacraments. When you are evangelizing and catechizing your children, you are engaged in the work of the Lord, and your work will be blessed with His love.

This dual role of evangelist and catechist is not limited to parents and children. It is also the role of the RCIA sponsor and the catechumen/elect or the candidate for full communion. The very same dynamic is at work.

What draws the person you are sponsoring to Catholicism in the first place? They know Catholics and see something that touches their hearts.

Or, as one candidate told me, "I don't know what it is you've got, but I want some, too!"

What you have is an intimacy with Christ. It shows! Adults can see it just as children can. You've been evangelizing and now have the opportunity to catechize as well in preparing your catechumen or candidate for full communion. "Full communion" is how we describe the intimacy John Paul II expressed above. Full communion is what we enter into in the Eucharist; a deeper, a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. One of the benefits to you as the person showing the way through RCIA is that you, too, through the process can grow in your own faith just as parents of young First Communicants can.

Jim Tighe is the director of the Office of Catechesis.



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

The perfect gift for that special First Communicant

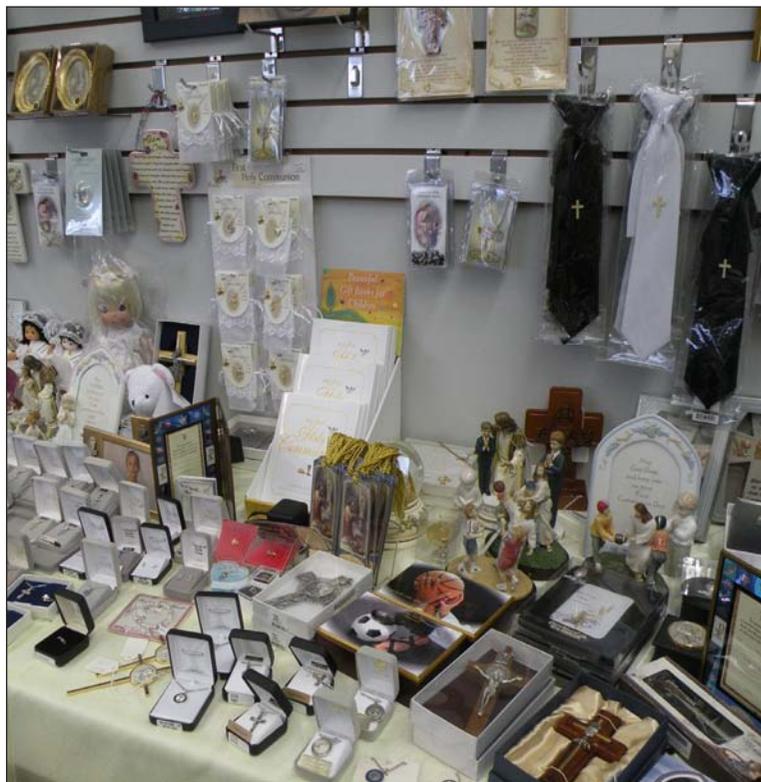
BY KAY COZAD

In the spring of the liturgical year, it is once again time to celebrate with family and friends the solemnity and joy of those little ones who will receive their First Communion. Parents, grandparents, godparents, relatives and friends enjoy gift giving in celebration of their children receiving the greatest gift — Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. As a help to our readers, *Today's Catholic*, with the inspired guidance of the knowledgeable staff at the Cathedral Bookstore, located at 915 S. Clinton St. in Fort Wayne, offers these suggestions for meaningful gifts for the occasion of First Holy Communion.

Bibles have long held a place of importance in traditional gift giving for First Communion. "Know the child you're buying for," is the suggestion of the Cathedral Bookstore staff regarding the purchased of a Bible. Reading and interest level of the First Communicant is an important element when choosing just the right Bible or Bible story book.

Bibles, such as the gift edition, with traditional illustrations and text are geared for the more mature reader. A more child-friendly Bible may be a Bible story book, such as "Catholic Children's Bible," edited by Sister Mary Theola Zimmerman, with its bold colorful illustrations that compliment the simplified text. The book store also carries keepsake Bibles that may be engraved and then savored for a lifetime of Scripture reading.

Other traditional First Communion gifts include rosaries



TESS STEFFEN

A wide variety of gifts for First Communicants of all ages can be found at your local religious goods store.

and detailed rosary keepsake boxes. The bookstore offers birthstone rosaries and a variety of others in all the colors of the rainbow, including the more traditional black and white varieties. Keepsake boxes range from wood and pewter to leather, stitched cloth and plastic.

Books are popular gifts for this solemn occasion. The First Communion Prayer book is a traditional book gift with several to choose from. Books on saints are well received, especially those focused on the First Communicant's name or patron saint.

Remembrance books offering

pages to record the First Communicant's Communion day information and details of the event offer a creative keepsake for the children. "My First Communion Remembrance Book" by Nadia Bonaldo, published by Pauline Books is a superb sample of this type of book. Another delightful option is "My First Holy Communion" by Sophie Piper, published by Paraclete Press. In scrapbook fashion the First Communicant will revel in creating pages with personal photos, recorded information and more.

Jewelry is always a winning token of this special occasion and

suggestions include formal or fanciful rosary bracelets, crucifix necklaces in many styles and patron saint medals. Cross necklaces in a variety of metals and styles make an ideal gift as well.

Brushed metal or satin metal remembrance picture frames in all sizes are available as well as photo albums specific to First Communion.

Statues are very popular with First Communicants, reports the Cathedral Bookstore staff. Jesus, Mary or a favorite saint would sit proudly on a night stand to remind the child of their special day.

Crosses and crucifixes make an ideal gift for the children who wish to display a symbol of their growing faith. The First Communion crucifix or plaque engraved with a special Eucharist prayer would make a beautiful display in any First Communicant's room. A standing crucifix is also a popular item to

adorn any dresser or computer stand. Pewter or brass Communion crosses with praying child makes a memorable gift as well.

For those children who love to collect treasures, a First Communion keepsake box of fine wood makes an ideal gift for storing the memorabilia of that special day. Another popular box is the First Communion music box that plays "Ave Marie."

The bookstore offers First Communion dolls, pins and medals as well as holy cards and snow globes for this special occasion. And, of course, for that discerning shopper, there's always a gift certificate to the Cathedral Bookstore or other religious store that will allow the First Communicant to choose his or her own personal treasure to remember their special day.

For more information contact the Cathedral Bookstore at (260) 422-4611.

Director of Nursing

Priests of Holy Cross offers an outstanding medical facility, Holy Cross House, to those religious men that have retired and are in need of continuous medical care. Holy Cross House is an unlicensed 60-room facility with an excellent reputation as both a nursing facility and a workplace. We currently seek qualified applicants to fill the full-time position of **Director of Nursing**.

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EOE

REENACTING THE LAST SUPPER



CNS PHOTO/JAMES BACA, DENVER CATHOLIC REGISTER

Paul Meaney, center, portrays Jesus during the Last Supper as re-enacted during a dress rehearsal March 29 by second-graders at Blessed Sacrament School in Denver. The children were to perform the event for parents on Holy Thursday, April 5, 2007. Second-grade teacher Karen Merten has her classes re-enact the event as preparation both for Easter and for their first Communion in May.

Quilts bring comfort to students and mother

BY MARY KINDER

FORT WAYNE — Comfort comes in a variety of forms. For students facing a tough path, it comes by having something to call their own — a simple item to put their name on and take with them as their journey continues. For a mother facing an extraordinary loss, comfort comes from giving to others, creating something beautiful to honor loved ones lost. For both, the source of their comfort is a simple, hand-made quilt.

Last year, Jim and Carol Tosconi of Fort Wayne were visiting the Gibault School in Terre Haute as part of the Knights of Columbus convention. Jim Tosconi serves as the financial secretary for Council 122417, Knights of Our Lady of Good Hope. Gibault has long been a faith-based project for the Knights of Columbus.

Founded in 1921 by the Indiana Knights of Columbus, Gibault was originally a home for wayward boys. But over the years, it has evolved to meet the needs of troubled kids in a variety of ways. Today, Gibault serves boys and girls and has provided life-changing opportunities for more than 8,600 children and their families.

The Gibault School serves as refuge to students who are dealing with a variety of issues, from behavior and social troubles to substance abuse and more. Through a variety of services provided in a Christian environment, Gibault makes a real difference in the lives of young people struggling to fit in. The school's mission is to provide life-changing opportunities for children, adults, families and communities.

While speaking to a staff member, Carol Tosconi was struck when she was told the children don't take any of the donated items with them when they

leave Gibault. Everything stays at the facility to help care for other children.

She immediately had an idea. She asked if she could make quilts for the students, and if they could keep the quilts when they left. "I thought it was important for them to have something that no one could take away," she said.

The staff thought it was an excellent idea, but it would be a big undertaking. There are roughly 100 students at Gibault at any one time. Carol was up to the challenge and began excitedly making plans for the project.

But while returning from their trip, Jim and Carol received a phone call that would change their lives forever. Their daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Doug Hake, had been killed in a traffic accident in Alabama.

Sadly, they left behind four children: Benjamin, 12; Sydnee, 17; Zachary, 19; and Christopher, 21.

"It's something you never get over," Jim Tosconi says of the loss.

After the initial shock began to subside, Carol Tosconi thought of the quilts. Rather than abandon her project, she now saw it as an opportunity to honor the lives of Jennifer and Doug. In addition, the project became part of the healing process.

Jim explains that it gave Carol an outlet for her grief, "Something to do with her hands" he says, looking at his wife with soft, caring eyes.

A quilter for more than 12 years, Carol did much of the work herself. But, as the project grew, she got help from a variety of sources, including the Knights of Columbus. As the quilts were finished, the Knights helped by tying tiny bows on them. Of course it wasn't one of their usual duties, but they were happy to be of service. Carol also is quick to thank her Thursday night Women's Bible Study group for



MARY KINDER

Jim and Carol Tosconi provide quilts to students who attend the Gibault School in Terre Haute. The quilts were blessed Sunday, March 20, at Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne by Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, pastor, and then delivered to Terre Haute.

their generous help.

Making 100 quilts comes with a large financial cost, as well. While local fabric stores were very helpful, selling material at sale prices to Carol, the couple estimates that they have spent more than \$5,000 on fabric and materials. Initially, they were taking the costs on themselves, but eventually, the Knights of Columbus and others stepped in to help.

While speaking with Jim and Carol, who will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary next month, it is easy to see that their faith has helped them get through this difficult time, along with

support from family and friends. They are now legal guardians of their grandchildren. Benjamin attends St. Vincent dePaul School and Sydnee attends Bishop Dwenger High School. They both say having the children has been a blessing amid the tragedy.

The colorful quilts were recently displayed throughout Our Lady of Good Hope Church where they were blessed by Msgr. Bruce Piechocki before being taken to Gibault. The Tosconis were there, along with their four grandchildren, the Knights and many of their friends.

Carol says she plans to continue this mission for as long as

there is a need. She will make sure each new student receives a quilt of their own soon after arriving. And while each quilt is unique, every one has an identical tag sewn into the corner which says, "Made with love for (blank space) in honor of Jennifer and Doug Hake." In that blank space, students can write their names, and take comfort in the knowledge that someone believes they deserve something of their very own.

Those interested in helping in Carol's ministry may contact Our Lady of Good Hope at (260) 485-9615.

Eucharistic Prayer called 'the action of the Church'

BY MARY IAPALUCCI

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. (CNS) — "This is my body."

Catholics hear these words each time they are at Mass, but do we consider all that they mean?

"The Church has received the Eucharist from her Lord not as one gift — however precious — among so many others, but as the gift par excellence, for it is the gift of Himself, of His person in His sacred humanity, as well as the gift of His serving work," wrote Pope John Paul II in his 2003 encyclical on the Church and the Eucharist, titled "Ecclesia de Eucharistia."

Yet surveys conducted by various groups over the past decade indicate that some Catholics don't really understand that the Eucharist

is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Anecdotal reports of a lack of reverence toward the sacrament — from the lackadaisical way some people approach the altar, to blatant acts of disrespect — are common.

"Jesus meant what he said," said Mercy Sister Sheila Browne, recently retired associate director of the Office of Worship in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. "Study the words of the Eucharistic Prayer. Everything we believe is in there. We articulate what we believe, but we don't always pay attention."

"The Eucharistic Prayer is the action of the Church," she said. "It is the fulfillment of Baptism."

Because it is so awesome, "we need to have reverence in the way we approach the Eucharist," she said.



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Deacon Thomas Rich distributes Communion during Mass at Our Lady of Hope Church in Carle Place, N.Y., in November 2010.

Parishes need to provide good liturgies, including good preaching and good hymns to help instruct the faithful on the sacrament, Sister Sheila added.

And Catholics need to fully participate in the liturgy and continue their education in the faith.

"The Real Presence is uniquely important to us," said Father Anthony Trapani, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Lindenhurst. When the Eucharist is disrespected, it "speaks to all of us, and shows us we have a greater responsibility to be aware and to educate ourselves and each other and do everything we can to rebuild that sacred awareness," he said.

In 2009, the parish noticed a rise in upsetting incidents involving the Eucharist. "We were regularly finding hosts, sometimes par-

tially chewed, in hymnals or on the floor or in the book racks in the pews," he said.

The abuses became an opportunity "to wake everybody up," according to Father Trapani. He printed information in the bulletin and preached on the Real Presence and encouraged parishioners to examine their attitudes toward Holy Communion. Since then, such abuses have been "extremely rare," he said.

"We are called to be totally present, attentive, prepared and engaged," he said. "We are joining ourselves to the mystery, the dying and rising, and are transformed to more deeply live the mystery when we leave the liturgy. As St. Augustine said, we are called to become what we receive."

'Drastic measures' and cancer decisions

During the 1990s, scientists discovered two gene mutations in the BRCA family of genes, which significantly increase a woman's chances of developing breast and ovarian cancer. Consequently, as noted in a recent *Los Angeles Times* article by Anna Gorman, "Many oncologists recommend that women with the mutations consider having their ovaries, fallopian tubes and breasts removed prophylactically (as a precautionary measure) to reduce risk."

Yet controversy exists regarding this recommendation. Precautionary surgery of this kind has been termed "mutilating" and "extreme" and some question whether it is, in fact, justifiable, given that the organs appear to be healthy (no cancer is yet detectable), and there is a limited probability that the disease may one day appear. Some medical professionals instead encourage frequent monitoring and screening of patients with the BRCA

mutation, so that if cancer appears, and as soon as it appears, aggressive surgery could then be pursued.

On one side, then, are those who stress that the integrity and order of the human body should be respected and not unduly violated (the "Principle of Integrity"), while on the other are those who stress that an individual organ or a part of the human body may be sacrificed if that sacrifice means continued survival for the whole person (the "Principle of Totality"). The solution to the dilemma of preventative surgery will lie somewhere in the middle, with emphasis being placed upon the weightier Principle of Totality. The decision to undergo preventative surgery will thus be ethically justifiable and reasonable in certain cases.

Nevertheless, even the scientist who discovered the BRCA mutation, Mary-Claire King, Ph.D., has acknowledged the incredible challenge raised by her



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

discovery: "It is a very difficult thing to recommend prophylactic oophorectomy (removal of the ovaries) when it is healthy women you are talking about. It is a radical thing to consider in a feminist age." When it comes to a bilateral mastectomy (removal of both breasts), the difficulty is only compounded. As another researcher observed, "In western society at least, there is no organ as connected to femininity, sensuality, sexuality, adulthood and motherhood as the breast."

Anna Gorman, the *LA Times*

BIOETHICS, PAGE 16

Ending abortion through adoption

Patty Voorhies can't stop talking about her eight children. She and husband Gary answered God's call to adopt infants whom others might consider undesirable. The daily life of the Voorhies family just outside the small college town of Hamilton, N.Y., is an incredible witness that every child is a beautifully unique gift from God put on this earth for a purpose. Yet in a society that generally regards adoption positively, the Voorhies family story provides important responses to many of the objections and misperceptions that continue to be roadblocks to adoption today.

Today, some couples wanting to adopt are reluctant to adopt a child with special needs. Infants with disabilities are, therefore, less likely to be placed in loving homes. All but one of the Voorhies children was born prematurely, and all were born with either a chemical dependency or a severe chronic medical condition. Although doctors predicted several would be deaf and blind, many of the expected conditions never developed or were simply outgrown through their parents' loving and attentive care. Patty and Gary saw their children not as problems, but as gifts. "I can't imagine thinking 'this child is less than perfect, so I need to get rid of it.' We are all imperfect and God loves us anyway," says Patty.

Fourteen-year-old Kolbe has TAR syndrome, a rare genetic disorder defined by the absence of the radius bone in the forearm. Though he stands just several feet high and his short arms extend out of his shoulder bones, Kolbe swims regularly at the local pool and recently dove off the high-diving board for a cheering crowd. To the woman who once asked Patty "What are you going to do with him?" Patty answered, "We're going to love him."

Some believe that children placed in homes of a racial or cultural background different from their own will suffer from ridicule or a lack of identity. The Voorhies children include two African Americans, one Chinese-American and one Syrian-Jew, yet the children all get along and are very devoted to each other. Kolbe is being raised Catholic, but has also chosen to keep the Jewish Sabbath and is learning Hebrew to honor the heritage of his Syrian-Jewish birth mother. "All of our kids would normally never even meet each other in a mall and here they are brothers and sisters," says Gary.

Husbands and wives with medical challenges, such as infertility, who feel called to raise children are encouraged by the Church to "give expression to their generosity" through adop-

LIFE ISSUES FORUM



BY MARY MCCLUSKY

tion (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2379). Several years into their marriage and still childless, Gary and Patty decided to adopt. In Patty's words, "Adoption is just another way to have a family." God calls us His children because every member of the human family is an adopted son or daughter of God.

Some past stigmas associated with adoption are being overcome. Today people more readily describe the brave and selfless actions of a birth mother as "placing a child for adoption," rather than "abandoning" a child. Yet efforts to increase support and awareness of adoption must continue. Pregnant moms who feel that they cannot raise a child on their own should be encouraged to place their baby in a loving home. Legislators need encouragement to expand adoption tax credits and adoption assistance programs. The story of the Voorhies family is just one among many to share to help promote adoption. It celebrates and affirms the ultimate gift that one stranger can give to another: God's precious gift of life and family through adoption. Through these efforts, we can each be a part of eliminating abortion and living God's plan for love and life.

For more on adoption, contact Catholic Charities by visiting www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

God is the source of eternal life



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday of Lent Jn 4:5-42

The source of the first biblical reading for this Lenten weekend's liturgies is the Book of Exodus.

Exodus is one of those five books of the Bible regarded as the basis of God's revelation to the Chosen People. The initial theological concepts and regulations about behavior are seen as being rooted in the original teachings of Moses.

Together, these books constitute the Torah, still the cornerstone of Judaism. Another name is the Pentateuch, this term coming from the Greek word for five.

As the title implies, the Book of Exodus greatly is concerned with the experiences of the Hebrews as they fled Egypt and moved toward the land God promised them. It was a very difficult trip. Even today, a journey across the Sinai Peninsula is a bleak and lonely undertaking. It is not surprising that the Hebrews wondered if they had swapped the witch for the devil as they wandered across Sinai. They grumbled about Moses, who led the way.

Water was a precious commodity in this arid environment. Understandably, they feared thirst. Moses, enlightened by God, told them to look for water in an improbable place. It was the

side of a rock. As directed, the people struck the rock, and water flowed.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans supplies the second reading. As is so typical of Paul's writing, this passage celebrates Jesus as the only source of life and of bonding with God, and it proclaims salvation in Christ as the gift coming from the willing sacrifice of the Lord on Calvary.

For its last reading this weekend, the Church presents a section of St. John's Gospel. It is the story of the Lord's meeting with the Samaritan woman beside a well in Samaria. The reading is heavy with lessons for us.

First, merely the facts that the site is Samaria, that the Lord's conversation is with a female, and that the woman is a Samaritan, all convey powerful messages. Pious Jews detested Samaritans at the time of Jesus. Long ago, they had defiled the Jewish race, and authentic religion, by consorting with pagan invaders, and by worshipping outside Jerusalem. Jews avoided Samaritans and looked upon them with contempt.

Then, at the time of Jesus, no adult man ever would engage a woman in conversation. Such were the conventions.

Obviously, Jesus set all these considerations aside. He bore the message of God, and this message was meant for everyone.

The Lord asserts a dignity above that of Jacob. He promises a gift of water greatly more satisfying than any that could be drawn from a well. Finally, Jesus predicts that a new order of communing with God is coming. It will be neither centralized in Jerusalem, nor on the mountaintops where the Samaritans customarily worshipped.

Reflection

Very much a part of Lent is the Church's preparations to receive new members during the Easter Vigil. Aside from the triumphant celebration of the Eucharist on that occasion, the most prominent symbol used in the liturgy is water. It is because the new members of the Church will be baptized.

For those Catholics already members of the Church, and not being baptized at the Easter Vigil, water also will symbolize life. They will renew their baptismal promises aloud. The priest will sprinkle them with blessed water to recall their baptisms.

Water will symbolize new life and the promise of eternal life. In these readings, the Church is telling us that God alone, in Jesus, is the source of life eternal. Lent is our time to decide whether to embrace this life or not.

READINGS

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7 Ps 95:1-2,6-9 Rom 5:1-2,5-8 Jn 4:5-42

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Pss 42:2-3;43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25,34-43 Ps 25:4-9 Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1,5-9 Ps 147:12-13,15-16,19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2,6-9 Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b,14,17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4,18-21b Lk 18:9-14

Cardinal Baum: a new record-holder

Something quite remarkable happened recently: Cardinal William Wakefield Baum — emeritus Archbishop of Washington, emeritus Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, emeritus Major Penitentiary of the Catholic Church — passed the late Cardinal James Gibbons of Baltimore (who died in 1921) to become the longest-serving American cardinal in history. It's an astonishing record that drew little public attention. Yet that's just the way Cardinal Baum, who exemplifies evangelical modesty and genuine Christian humility, would want it.

William Wakefield Baum was born on Nov. 21, 1926, in Dallas, Texas: A biographical fact that has always struck me as more than a little ironic, given that there are few people on the planet less "Texas" and less "Big D" than this gentle scholar and pastor. Ordained a priest for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Father Baum became an ecumenical pioneer, an advisor at Vatican II, and the first director of the U.S. bishops' committee on ecumenical affairs before being ordained bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., on April 6, 1970.

Three years later, Bishop Baum was appointed Archbishop of Washington as successor to the legendary Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle (who was, "de facto" if not "de iure," the first archbishop of the nation's capital). Created cardinal in the consistory of May 1976 and given the church of Santa Croce in Flaminia as his Roman parish (or "title"), Cardinal Baum participated in the two dramatic conclaves of 1978, the "conclave of three popes;" indeed, in the conclave of 2005, Cardinal Baum,

along with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was the only cardinal-elect who had been in conclave before.

John Paul II appointed Cardinal Baum as Prefect of the Congregation of Catholic Education in March 1980, a post he held for 10 years until his appointment as head of the Apostolic Penitentiary — the man overseeing the Church's penitential life or, as Cardinal Baum put it, the servant of "the Lord's mercy." He retired from that position after 11 years, thus preventing any further confusion in my office when I would send letters to the cardinal and some of my evangelical brethren would say, "I didn't know they had a prison in the Vatican."

Cardinal Baum remained active on various curial congregations until his 80th birthday in 2006, and exercised a quiet, but often important, influence in the deliberations of the Congregation for Bishops, responsible for episcopal appointments in the developed world. Of the many Americans who worked in the Holy See over the past 20 years, he was held in a unique respect by his colleagues, including the locals: he spoke excellent Italian, he was not edgy, he was an old-school gentleman, he was deeply learned and manifestly holy. And so, despite never making it onto the media radar screen, he was a genuine "player" in Vatican affairs.

He was a gracious host in one of the Vatican's great apartments: just above St. Peter's square, looking straight at the basilica. The apartment was lined with bookcases, overflowing with volumes of history and biography as well as theology. He always remembered his time in Maryland with affec-



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

tion, and kept prints of the "Ark" and the "Dove," the two ships that brought Lord Baltimore's Catholic colonists to the new world in 1634, in his living room.

Like John Paul II, whom he revered, Cardinal Baum has borne great suffering with even greater patience and nobility. Macular degeneration has rendered the pleasure of reading difficult for this great reader; a variety of other ailments have left him in serious pain for months on end. Yet in the 23 years I've been privileged to know him and call him a friend, I've never heard a word of complaint from Cardinal Baum. Again like John Paul II, he's always much more interested in finding out how you and your family are doing than in cataloguing his own ailments and sufferings.

A deeply patriotic American, the cardinal was often saddened in recent years by the encroachments of the culture of death across the land. Yet he always urged others to continue the fight for the right things. His courage gave, and gives, us courage.

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

BIOETHICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

staff writer who tested positive for the BRCA mutation and ended up opting to have her ovaries removed, described how she could not quite bring herself to have her breasts removed as well, even though her father, grandmother and aunt had all died at an early age from cancer: "I was still getting used to the idea of losing my ovaries. I had always viewed a preventive mastectomy as a drastic measure. It seemed I risked losing nearly everything — at least physically — that defined me as a woman."

The real costs of this kind of surgery remind us of the importance of making a right and ethical decision for our circumstances. Although there is a heightened probability of disease, there is never any guarantee that a particular woman with the BRCA mutation will develop cancer. Some women will go on to develop cancer; others will not. So while the surgical

removal of ovaries and/or breasts will prevent the disease from developing in some women, in others, it will make no difference, since they were never going to get the disease in the first place. In that situation, healthy organs (which secrete important hormones for the overall health of the person) would have been removed unnecessarily. As one researcher noted, "Many women who undergo prophylactic mastectomy will undoubtedly benefit from it, but nobody will ever know which ones ..."

Given this strict inability to know who will develop cancer and who will not, other risk factors besides the BRCA mutation should be carefully considered before choosing to undergo preventative surgery. A strong family history of breast cancer at an early age, the absence of a full term pregnancy, an abortion or miscarriage of the first pregnancy, or a male relative who develops breast cancer are among the factors known to increase a woman's risk of developing breast cancer. In the end, after careful weighing and reflection, a woman should personally be con-

vinced that she will develop cancer in the future in order to justify undergoing this radical kind of surgery.

Even in the face of several known risk factors, however, a woman may still wish to delay such preventative surgery until she has had the opportunity to have children, or she may freely choose against it altogether.

To sum up then, even though a woman with multiple risk factors can never categorically prove that she will develop cancer in the future, she may nevertheless arrive at prudential certitude that she will develop the disease after carefully assessing the various risk factors. Insofar as she achieves that prudential certitude within herself, she not only may, but ought to consider seriously the possibility of undergoing risk-reduction surgery.

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.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 27, 2011

John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle A: the encounter with the woman of Sychar. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SYCHAR	WELL	TIRED
NOON	DRAW WATER	FOOD
SAMARITAN	WOMAN	A JEW
THE GIFT	LIVING WATER	BUCKET
FLOCKS	THIRSTY AGAIN	SPRING
ETERNAL	MOUNTAIN	TRUTH
MESSIAH	TWO DAYS	SAVIOR

SAVIOR

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

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St. Paul spreads Christianity to the ends of the earth

What are the sites in Rome pertaining to St. Paul?

The Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament ends with St. Paul in Rome, Italy. Jesus had commissioned the Apostles to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. So by reaching the headquarters and most populous city of the Roman Empire, St. Paul would really have made it in spreading Christianity.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans in the New Testament says that, after visiting Rome, St. Paul planned on going to Spain. St. Clement of Rome, the fourth pope, said St. Paul went to the limits of the West, which is probably Spain. The ancient Europeans considered Spain the western end of the world, so by going to Spain, St. Paul would have literally spread Christianity to the ends of the earth.

F. Cross says that tradition shows that St. Paul was martyred about three miles from Rome on the left bank of the Tiber River in A.D. 67 during the persecution of the Roman emperor Nero. This place is called "Three Fountains" because of the legend that when St. Paul's head bounced three times, three fountains sprang



HIRE HISTORY

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

forth. St. Paul was beheaded, rather than crucified, because he was a Roman citizen. Crucifixion was considered more cruel than beheading.

St. Paul's body was then taken to a cemetery on the ancient Ostian Way near Rome, belonging to a Christian matron Lucina, and buried on the site of the present Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. The original edifice was erected by the Roman emperor Constantine, who gave Christians freedom to worship, in 324. This church was rebuilt as a large basilica in 395. This basilica was then destroyed by fire in 1823. The present church was consecrated in 1854.

There are double aisles on each side separated by 80 granite columns. Above the columns are portraits of all the popes.

Sports

ICCL girls advance to the final four

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Exciting finishes, outstanding performances and talk about the Final Four ... it's all part of March Madness. And certainly that was the case last Sunday in the quarterfinals of the ICCL Girls Basketball Tournament.

St. Joseph, South Bend, Corpus Christi, St. Joseph, Mishawaka, and St. Pius X all survived tough contests to advance to next week's final four at Marian High School.

The game of the day was St. Pius X's dramatic 27-26 double-overtime triumph over Christ the King. St. Pius looked to have the game well in hand early in the second half, jumping out to a 14-4 lead behind terrific defense and the offense of Kelly Welsh and Sam Flesh. But the Kings roared back, behind the scoring of Shannon Hendricks, tying the score at 21 to send the game to overtime.

The physical contest found key players on both sides following out before the Lions prevailed in the second overtime. Welsh finished with 9, while Flesh added 8 for St. Pius X. Hendricks led all scorers with 16 points.

"Both teams really deserved a victory," said a relieved St. Pius X Coach Jim Welsh afterwards. "It was a very competitive game, and I feel fortunate that our team is able to advance. Christ the

King should be commended. They had an excellent season."

St. Pius X will face St. Joseph, Mishawaka, in the semifinals. The Wildcats moved on with a hard-fought 25-22 win over Queen of Peace. It was the second 3-point triumph of the weekend for St. Joseph, which eliminated St. Jude, 18-15, Saturday.

On the other side of the bracket, top-seeded St. Joseph, South Bend, survived a scrappy comeback bid from Holy Cross, winning, 28-22. Michelle Weaver led the way with 10 points, but seventh-graders Theresa Carpenter and Catherine Mittiga each added seven to boost the Eagles.

"With a short bench today, our girls were forced to play positions they were not necessarily comfortable with," commented St. Joseph Coach Katie Hoyer. "They stepped up and it paid off. Holy Cross is a disciplined team and they always play hard. We knew we had to be focused and ready to go in order to come out on top."

The Eagles meet Corpus Christi in the semifinals. Rachel Cole poured in 18 points to lead the Cougars to a 31-20 win over a physical Holy Family squad. Brooke Juday was a defensive standout for Corpus Christi, coming up with a number of steals.

The semifinals will be played Tuesday, March 29, at Marian, with the championship contested March 31.

BISHOP DWENGER CAPTURES IHSAA SECOND PLACE IN GYMNASTICS The top-ranked Bishop Dwenger Saints captured second place at Ball State University's Worthen Arena in Muncie at the IHSAA gymnastics state finals Saturday, March 19. Coached by Rosemarie Nix, the talent-laden Saints capitalized on their depth to score 112.025 team points, just a half a point behind Valparaiso, the 2011 champs who claimed their fourth straight title. Bishop Dwenger was paced by junior Brittany Trahin who finished second in the all-around competition, freshman Katy Linvill who was 10th and their solid balance beam routines. — *Michelle Castleman*

Dwenger cheerleaders wrap up most successful season with three titles

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Dwenger Saints' varsity cheerleading squad just wrapped up the most successful season in school history with three state titles on their resume, according to head Coach Amy Gonzagowski.

"I love coaching these girls because they have not only great skills but are some of the smartest and hardest working kids in the school," she said.

The squad's grade point average is 3.87, and the girls were recently named the Grand National Champions at the Contest of Champions national competition in Orlando, Fla. During the Feb. 26 event, Bishop Dwenger received three different awards: a first place trophy for the Varsity Division, a Level 5 (those with the highest skill level) High Score Award for having the highest score of all Level 5 teams and the highest point total of all teams at the competi-

tion to win the title of Grand National Champions.

The 2011 winners were led by an amazing group of seniors. After a poor warm up at the nationals, Gonzagowski detailed, "I was blown away when the seniors pulled the girls aside and told them they would be great and to give the performance of their lives. The rest of the team responded and put on the best routine I have ever seen since coaching cheerleading. The seniors would not let any member of the squad give up at any time during the entire season."

The varsity cheer group at Bishop Dwenger started their competition season in August with the Indiana State Fair, where they finished in third place. Next up for the Saints were the local competitions around the area to prepare for the Indiana Cheer Association state finals in November.

Bishop Dwenger finished as runner-up in the qualifier then in the top spot the following week at the finals.

Another highlight of the season was cheering at Lucas Oil Stadium for the football team who finished second at the state finals.

After the Christmas break, the squad began concentrating on the national competition while cheering for both the boys' and girls' basketball teams. In February, the grueling season finally culminated with the clean sweep in Florida.

The squad was made up of five seniors — Alana Richardson, Andrea Di Domenico, Victoria Myers, Grace Grutsch and Morgan Eifert; seven juniors — Katie Dillion, Kendra Giant, Kelsey Lee, Katie Houser, Allie Kostoff, Delaney Eggleston and Erin McTague; six sophomores — Lindsey Noye, Claire Schenkel, Erin Grutsch, Rachel Venderley, Becca Paladino and Morgan Pearson; and three freshmen — Emily and Elizabeth Budzon and Mariah Tippmann. The Saints are coached by Gonzagowski, Doris Derheimer and Vicki Kuker.

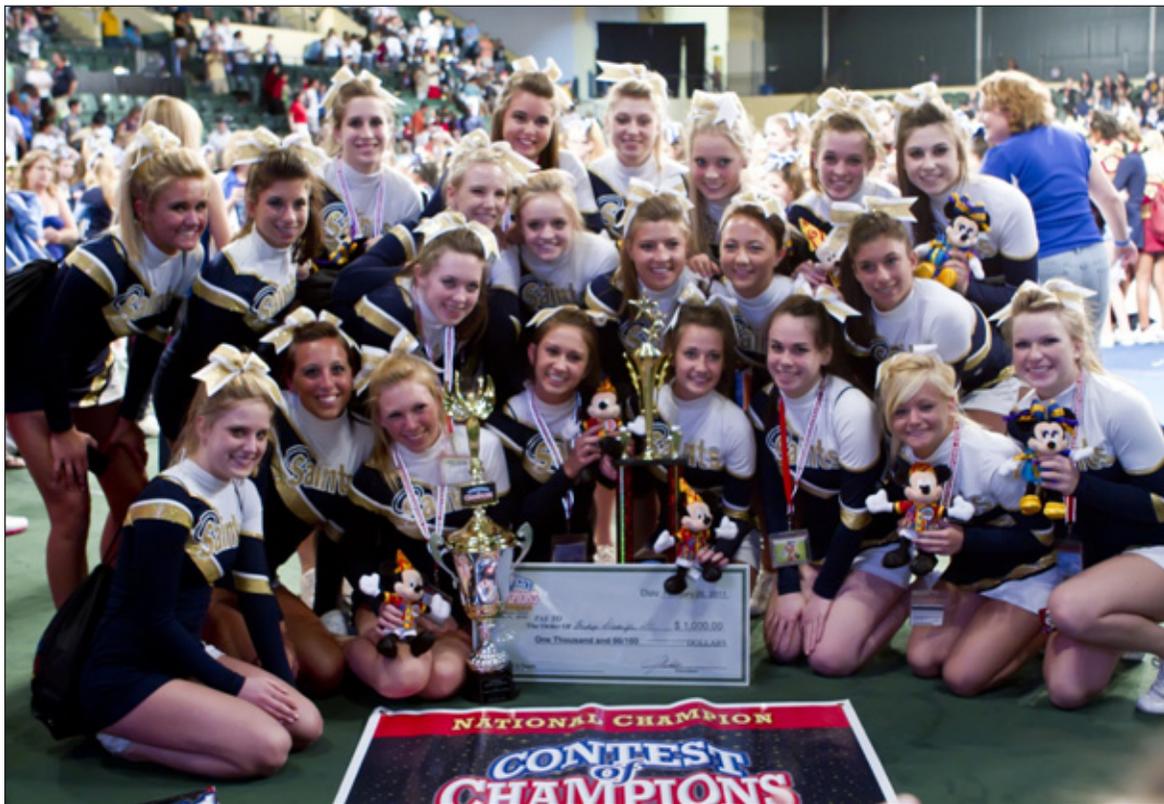
Confession: A Roman Catholic App now available for the Android market

SOUTH BEND — Following the international popularity of Confession: A Roman Catholic App for iPhone users, Little i Apps, LLC has announced the release of Confession: A Roman Catholic App for Android™ phones. Developed for those who frequent the sacrament and those who wish to return, this Confession helper has been designed with new, exclusive features to take advantage of the Android platform and format. The app is priced at \$1.99 and is

available for download at the Android Market.

Designed to be used in the confessional, this app is an aid for every penitent. With a personalized examination of conscience for each user, password protected profiles, and a step-by-step guide to the sacrament, this app invites Catholics to prayerfully prepare for and participate in the Rite of Penance. Individuals who have been away from the sacrament

APP, PAGE 18



PROVIDED BY BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

The Bishop Dwenger varsity cheerleaders were named Grand National Champions at the Contest of Champions' national competition in Orlando, Fla., on Feb. 26. The squad received three awards during the competition: a first place trophy for the Varsity Division; a Level 5 High Score Award for having the highest score of all Level 5 teams (Level 5 teams have the highest skill levels); and, they completed the sweep with the highest point total of all teams at the competition and won the title of Grand National Champions.

APP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

will find Confession: A Roman Catholic App to be a useful and inviting tool.

New features, exclusive to the Android app, help penitents create a deeper and more personalized examination of conscience. These features include the ability for users to track the number of times a sin has been committed, edit (or hide) the list of default sins provided in the examination, and add personalized sins to each category.

Chip Leinen, co-founder of Little iApps and lead developer on the Android project, commented, "After hearing the positive response from faithful Catholics around the world, we were inspired to continue to encourage members of our faith community to participate in the sacrament of Penance — from those who have drifted away, to those who frequent its gifts. It is for this reason

that we are excited to share Confession: A Roman Catholic App with a new community of penitents through the Android market."

The text of this app was developed in collaboration with Franciscan Father Thomas G. Weinandy, executive director of the Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Father Dan Scheidt, pastor of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Mishawaka. The app received an imprimatur from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. It is the first known imprimatur to be given to an Android® application.

Confession: A Roman Catholic app is available for iPhone™, iPad, iPod touch® and Android™ phones.

For more information, please visit Little i Apps online at www.littleiapps.com or contact Patrick Leinen, developer and co-founder, at marketing@littleiapps.com or call (574) 303-8102.



KAREN CALLAWAY/CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Teens from the Chicago Archdiocese sign a World Youth Day cross during a gathering in late February at St. Aloysius Parish in Chicago. Youths are preparing to converge on Madrid, Spain, for the international World Youth Day gathering in August.

World Youth Day organizers expect more than 1 million in Madrid

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With more than 1 million Catholic youths expected to converge on Madrid for World Youth Day in August, organizers are busy making final preparations, including the choice of new songs for the crowds to sing in addition to the much-criticized official hymn.

"The hymn is my nightmare," Yago de la Cierva, executive director of WYD 2011, told reporters at the Vatican March 15. He was responding to a Spanish journalist, who asked how they could have chosen what she described as an awful song for the theme hymn.

De la Cierva said, "It's very beautiful for the type of music it is, but maybe we made a mistake" in choosing the genre. Once it became clear that the song was not popular, especially in Spain, WYD launched an international contest for other song suggestions, he said.

"The hymn was written to help people pray before the Eucharist. Maybe that's not what people wanted — well, obviously, that's

not what people wanted," he said.

De la Cierva said more than 80 alternative songs had been uploaded to the contest site — <http://madridmeencanta.org> — and Rafael Rubio, WYD director of communications, said the site had been visited more than 600,000 times by March 15.

World Youth Day will be celebrated in Madrid Aug. 16-21. With the event five months away, organizers said more than 290,000 people already had enrolled. De la Cierva also said that in previous World Youth Days, the number of people signed up to participate officially in the full program represented only about 25 percent of the total number of people who came for the main events with the pope, so WYD Madrid should draw well over 1 million people.

Briefing reporters about the preparations, he said the Pontifical Council for the Laity had asked that the event be identifiably Spanish, "not something like a Starbucks, which is the same wherever you go."

"This will be a Spanish fiesta," he said.

In addition, De la Cierva said, the traditional bond between the faith and art will be highlighted, especially during the Stations of the Cross.

And, "there will be many events late at night. We Spaniards eat dinner at about 10 (p.m.) and we don't go to bed before midnight," he said. "Obviously, the catechesis in the morning will begin later" than was usual at World Youth Day in other cities.

WYD 2011 also is attempting to reflect the Spanish reality in its budget, he said. Because of the economic crisis in Spain, event organizers are committed to spending 20 percent less than was spent for the 2008 youth event in Sydney.

Organizers have announced a series of measures to reduce the gathering's impact on the environment. They are encouraging pilgrims to walk, ride bikes or take public transportation to events and will provide electricity-generating bicycles at selected events so participants can pedal to recharge their mobile phones, laptops and other electronic devices.

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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.

Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, March 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "These Forty Days." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by March 25 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Square dance planned

Columbia City — St. Catherine Parish, 10 miles south of Columbia City on State Road 9, will have a square dance on Saturday, March 26, with music by Bill Werling and Breakaway. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and dancing 7-10 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person, snacks and pop included.

Bible prints, rock opera coming to USF

Fort Wayne — Reproduction prints of the St. John's Bible and works by Art Cislo can be seen in the North Campus Lupke Gallery at the University of Saint Francis through April 3. The rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" will also open in the North Campus Auditorium March 25-27 and April 1-3. Show times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$10.

For information, call (260) 399-7700, ext. 8004 or e-mail chuddleson@sf.edu.

Legion of Mary plans Acies

Fort Wayne — The Legion of Mary will have Acies at Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 St. Joe Road, starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 26, with the rosary, consecration to Jesus through Mary, Mass and a luncheon. RSVP to Connie Acierito at (260) 486-1001. A new group will be meeting at St. Charles Borromeo, Thursdays, from 7:45-9:15 p.m. in the youth ministry building. Call (260) 409-8544 for information.

Rummage sale

Kendallville — Immaculate Conception Parish will have a rummage sale Friday, March 25, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, March 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. \$3 bag sale begins at 3 p.m. Friday and \$1.50 bag sale is all day Saturday.

Card party and salad bar

New Carlisle — St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish will have a card party and salad bar Sunday,

March 27, at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 purchased in advance. Call Louise at (574) 654-3364 or Nancy at (574) 289-2986 for tickets.

Scouts plan spaghetti dinner

Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist Scout Troop 19 will have a spaghetti dinner Saturday, March 26, from 5-8 p.m. Presale tickets are \$5 by contacting a troop member or calling (260) 402-6706. Tickets are \$6 at the door. Carry-out and drive-through available.

Fish fry

Bluffton — St. Joseph Parish will have a fish dinner on Friday, April 1, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets will be \$9 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12 and children 5 and under free. Drive-through available. Contact Jane Geimer at (260) 824-8543 for information.

Soup and salad luncheon

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Ladies Council 553 will have a soup and salad luncheon Monday, March 28, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Knights hall, 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are \$6 per person.

Fish fry and raffle

Fort Wayne — A fish and pork tenderloin fry will be Friday, April 8, from 4-7 p.m. at Heritage Park Assisted Living, 2001 Hobson Rd. or Coventry Meadows Assisted Living, 7843 W. Jefferson Blvd. Tickets are a

\$5 donation to the Alzheimer Association. Five \$100 gift cards will be raffled.

Fish fry

Fort Wayne — The St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Knights of Columbus will have a drive-through or carry-out only fish dinner Friday, March 25, from 4-7 p.m. for \$8 per meal at St. Joseph hall.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Fridays, March 25 and April 1, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$8 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, April 1, from 5-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under.

Fish fry and salad bar

South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar Friday, April 1, from 3:30-7 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children 5-12.

Holy Name Society fish fry

New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday,

REST IN PEACE

Decatur

Mary Alice Whitright, 88, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

Nicholas Omer Michaels, 97, St. Vincent de Paul

Mark I. Murphy, 53, St. Charles Borromeo

Angeline Blume, 93, Saint Anne Home

Catherine M. Lombardo, 94, St. Jude

Betty J. Oser, 81, St. John the Baptist

Barbara M. Whitacre, 82, St. Jude

Mary A. Hoffman, 91, St. Charles Borromeo

Donald J. Raupfer, 77, St. Therese

William Hernandez, 83, St. Jude

Luveda Isabel Smith, 98, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger

Martha J. Grover, 80, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Ann Stier, 82, St. Joseph

Mary S. Morey, 88, Queen of Peace

Virginia H. Bliss, 76, St. Monica

Monroeville

Mary, C. Jacquay, 95, St. Rose

New Haven

Patricia JoAnne Oberley, 79, St. Louis Besancon

Calvin Hawkins, 79, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Helga Stockmann, 87, Basilica/Sacred Heart

Brother Charles J. Krupp, CSC, 87, Holy Cross Chapel

South Bend

Irene A. Molnar, 87, St. Anthony de Padua

Helen T. Sigety, 86, St. John the Baptist

Fidel M. Farkas, 91, Little Flower

Raymond H. Schmidt, 94, St. Anthony de Padua

Chester F. Sommer, 85, St. Hedwig

Andrew V. Swizek, 70, Holy Family

Dominga R. Olivarez, 69, St. Adalbert

Florence Krawczyk, 87, Holy Family

March 25, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$ 7.50, children 5-12 \$4 and children under 5 free.

All family rosary

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

Fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will have a fish fry Friday, April 1, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Knights hall, 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12 and children under 6 free.

Fish fry

Huntington — Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, 860 Cherry St., will have a fish fry Friday, April 1, from

4:30-7:30 p.m. in Rieder Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. Mac and cheese dinner for \$3.

Rummage sale

Ligonier — St. Patrick Parish, 300 Ravine Park Dr., will have a rummage sale Thursday, March 31, from 4-8 p.m., Friday, April 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bake sale announced

South Bend — St. Adalbert Sister's Auxiliary will have a bake sale Saturday, April 16, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Pre-orders for lamb cakes can be made to (574) 288-5708 through April 8.



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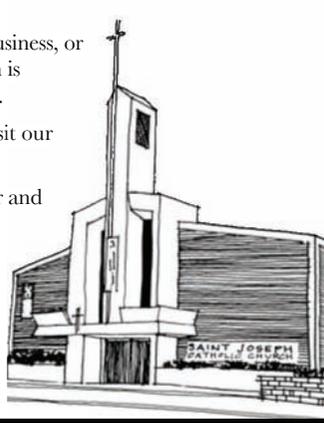
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Hannah's House: 'The Maternity Home with a Heart'

BY ANN CAREY

MISHAWAKA — Each of the young women who come to Hannah's House has her own unique story, but they also have much in common: Each is pregnant and choosing life for her baby, and each woman needs a safe place to live during her pregnancy and for a few weeks after giving birth. Hannah's House, known as "The Maternity Home with a Heart," fills that need in a cheerful and roomy house in Mishawaka.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited Hannah's House for the first time on March 18 at the invitation of Karen DeLucenay, executive director. Before taking the "grand tour" of the house, the bishop chatted with the seven current residents, who sat in the sun-filled living room and talked about their different paths to Hannah's House, about the babies they were expecting or had just delivered, and about their future plans to complete their education, find work and live independently.

The residents praised Hannah's House as a safe haven in the storm, a place that welcomed them and provides a family environment during their pregnancies and for up to two months after they give birth. The women also explained that the house mothers and counselors at Hannah's House encourage them to stay in school or work toward their GED if they lack a high-school diploma, and the staff assists the women with job leads

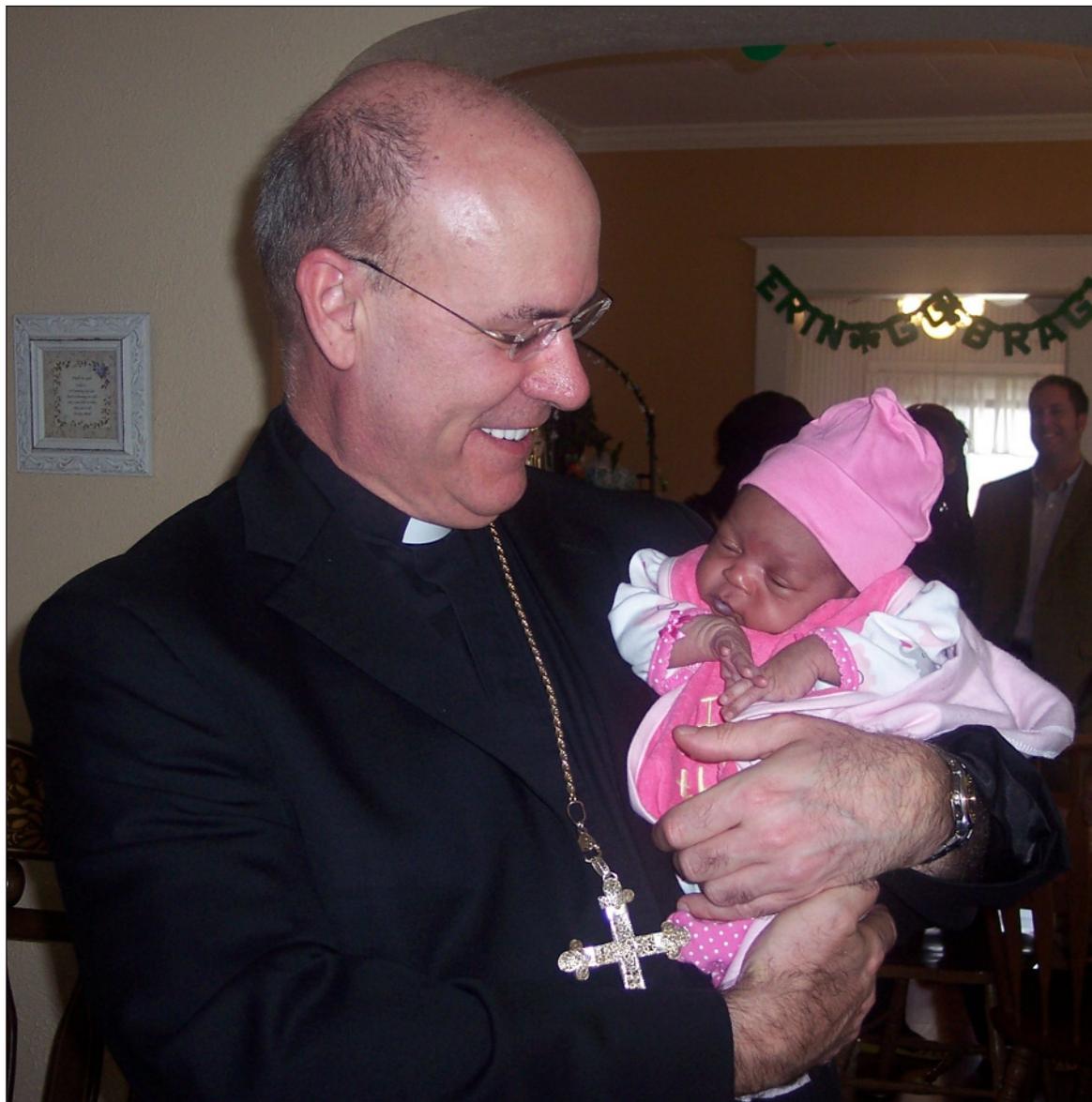
and learning how to apply for a job.

Parenting skills also are taught, and residents who choose adoption for their babies are helped to connect with appropriate agencies. The residents all have household assignments, including cooking, cleaning and laundry, and the women learn how to prepare nutritious food for themselves and their babies.

Staff "house mothers" take turns providing 24-hour mentoring to the residents, and trained counselors provide onsite counseling. Residents also are helped to connect with community resources for medical care, education, employment and parenting support.

Hannah's House has certain expectations for the women who choose to live there: The women should remain drug-free, participate in regular prenatal and postnatal care, attend a church or synagogue of their choice on weekends, participate in daily devotions and mealtime prayers, participate in weekly goal setting and individual and group counseling, and help with household duties.

Residents earn "points" by meeting expectations, and the women use those "points" to "buy" items for their babies, clothing or personal items for themselves, or household items for their future apartments from the Hannah's House "store." The "store" is stocked by baby showers hosted by area churches and by various benefactors. Even past residents can continue to earn "points" for the "store" through



PHOTOS BY ANN CAREY

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades got acquainted with the youngest resident of Hannah's House on his first visit to the "Maternity Home with a Heart," on March 18.



Twins Shayne, left, and Hayla, right, are thriving in the loving care of mother Rebecca at Hannah's House.

"Learn and Earn" by coming to the house and reading parenting articles.

Some past residents have been asked to leave because they did not abide by the house rules, executive director DeLucenay told Bishop Rhoades. However, most of the young women embrace the opportunity to improve their lives, she said, and the staff works to empower the women to take control of their lives. Indeed, a spirit of cooperation, camaraderie and encouragement showed in the interactions of the residents and in their rapport with the bishop.

"It's like a community here; there's a family feeling here in the house," Bishop Rhoades told the residents, observing that the women must feel like sisters.

Also on hand for the bishop's visit were Matt Marien, president of the Hannah's House board of directors, Sister Agnes Marie Regan, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration and a member of the board, and Tamara Griffin, business manager for Hannah's House. Marien and Sister Agnes Marie explained to Bishop Rhoades that it is crucial to support young women who want to choose life for their babies, for some of these women have no family support system, and no where else to turn. With room for

seven mothers at a time, Hannah's House always has a waiting list.

Hannah's House, named after the Biblical Hannah who longed to be a mother, is an independent entity that is funded solely by gifts and donations. Its main partners are the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, the Women's Care Center, Bethel College and Gurley Leep Automotive Family. Hannah's House also runs several fundraisers during the year, and generous individuals support the ministry through donations.

Volunteers also help Hannah's House operate smoothly by planning and organizing events for the residents such as movie or game nights; providing clerical assistance; doing public relations and fundraising; helping with home repair and lawn care; and helping with the monthly parent support group meetings for past Hannah's House residents and the dads who are in their children's life.

Clearly impressed with this "Maternity Home with a Heart," Bishop Rhoades told executive director DeLucenay to let him know if the ministry ever needed anything.

"We certainly will; we know where you live," DeLucenay replied.