Bishops approve statement on assisted suicide, charter revisions

BELLEVUE, Wash. (CNS) — The U.S. bishops June 16 approved a policy statement on physician-assisted suicide, the first on the issue by the bishops as a body, and they also approved revisions to their 2002 “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”

The votes came on the second day of the bishops’ annual spring general assembly held near Seattle in Bellevue June 15-17.

Taking on the issue of physician-assisted suicide in the state where voters most recently approved it, the U.S. bishops hope to counter the recent “strong resurgence” in activity by the assisted-suicide movement, said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in presenting the document a day before the vote.

In the document, titled “To Live Each Day With Dignity” and approved in a 191-1 vote, the U.S. bishops declared assisted suicide “a terrible tragedy, one that a compassionate society should work to prevent.”

It says if advocates of assisted suicide succeed in their campaign to see it legalized in more and more states, “society will undergo a radical change.”

The revisions to the charter were approved 187-5, with four abstentions.

They also outline procedures to follow
Happy Fourth of July!

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

This coming Monday, we celebrate the birthday of our nation, the day when our founding fathers courageously declared their independence from a monarchy that had become tyrannical. It is the day when we rightly celebrate our freedom. On July 4th, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia. We celebrate that day every year with picnics, gatherings of family and friends, parades and fireworks. It is also a day to thank God for our freedom and to pray for our nation, something recom- mendcd by John Adams, who, on the day after signing the Declaration of Independence, wrote that July 4th “ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to the Supreme Righ’t.”

Our founding fathers knew that religion and morality were necessary for the success of their great experiment. In his farewell address at the end of his presidency, George Washington declared: “All the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness.”

Charles Carroll, the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence (Catholics were a very small minority in the 13 colonies in 1776), wrote: “Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion whose morality is so sublime and pure ... are undermining the solid foundations of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.” It seems these words could have been written today. Some years ago, Blessed John Paul II delivered a similar message when he said that “a democracy without values can lose its very soul” and that “in a world without truth, freedom loses its foundation.”

In the opening paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, our founding fathers appealed to “the laws of nature and of nature’s God” as the basis of their decision to declare independence. They went on to state the unforgettable words that many of us were taught to memorize in school: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights — that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men.”

These words reveal a core belief of our founding fathers which happens to be a core tenet of our Catholic faith, namely that God has created all people equal and has endowed them with inalienable rights, rights not deriving from the state or government or given to them by others. They are from God. They can be discerned by reason because they are revealed by the natural law which is written on all human hearts, a law which is a participation in God’s law. Among these rights, the Declaration of Independence lists life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Legalized abortion in our nation is a denial of the first inalienable right. It is a denial of the self-evident truth that all people, born and unborn, are endowed by their Creator with the right to life.

Our founding fathers declared their independence from the British monarchy, not their independence from their Creator. They recognized the primacy of God and His Providence. They recognized that the true source of liberty is God. Thomas Jefferson wrote: “God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be safe when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?” Our founding fathers recognized the existence of objective truths. They were not relativists. They courageously proclaimed these self-evident truths, truths discernible by reason since they are written in the human heart (“natural law”). Even Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, himself more a deist than a Christian, believed that God has impressed moral precepts on the human heart.

All 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence expressed their dependence upon God in making such a bold move. The Declaration ends with these words: “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.” As we celebrate our nation’s independence, it is good to reaffirm our dependence on God and our commitment to the principles of our nation’s “birth certificate,” the Declaration of Independence. In an age of increasing relativism, let us affirm with courage that we, like our founding fathers, hold certain truths to be self-evident. As Catholics and as Americans, we are called to proclaim and defend these truths, the transcendent values of the natural law which were foundational for our great republic.

In his inaugural address, President George Washington reminded the nation: “The propitious skies of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.”

As we celebrate the 4th of July this year, let us thank God for our freedom and let us pray for our nation and its recommitment to our patrimony of moral truth.

I was on the south lawn of the White House three years ago when our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, pronounced these words that are apropos for our reflection on the 4th of July:

“From the dawn of the Republic, America’s quest for freedom has been guided by the conviction that the principles governing political and social life are intimately linked to a moral order based on the dominion of God the Creator. The framers of this nation’s founding documents drew upon this conviction when they proclaimed the ‘self-evident truth’ that all men are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights grounded in the laws of nature and of nature’s God. The course of American history demonstrates the difficulties, the struggles, and the great intellectual and moral resolve which were demanded to shape a society which faithfully embodied these noble principles. ... Democracy can only flourish, as your founding fathers realized, when political leaders and those whom they represent are guided by truth and bring the wisdom born of firm moral principle to decisions affecting the life and future of the nation.”

Happy 4th of July! God bless America!
if a bishop is accused of having sexually abused a child and another bishop becomes aware of it.

The experiences of the past nine years have shown that "the charter works," Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Chicago said June 15. As chairman of the USCCB Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, he introduced the document to the bishops June 15.

"The charter has served the Church well," he said. "It is a helpful tool as we keep our pledge to protect children, promote healing and rebuild trust."

The next day before the vote there was little debate on the proposed revisions. But not every bishop is on board with the charter’s provisions, as evidenced by the 28 amendments proposed by Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz of Lincoln, Neb., and rejected by the committee.

Most of the amendments suggested by Bishop Bruskewitz were aimed at weakening the charter’s wording because, the bishop said in a rationale included with the amendments, "the USCCB bureaucracy cannot bind bishops to obey the charter."

Retired Archbishop Francis T. Hurley of Anchorage, Alaska, also raised questions June 16 about the "zero tolerance" policy outlined in the charter, which requires the permanent removal of any priest who admits or is found to have abused a child.

But at a news conference held later in the day, Bishop Cupich said a change in the policy would send the message that "we are going to put priest offenders first," and that is not the case, he said. "We are putting the victims first."

On the first day of their meeting, the bishops also heard a report from Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington on progress being made toward a U.S. personal ordinariate for former Anglicans who want to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

As many as 100 U.S. Anglican priests and 2,000 laypeople could be the first members of the U.S. ordinariate, said the cardinal, who was appointed by the Vatican last September to guide the incorporation of Anglican Com- munities into the Catholic Church in the United States under "Anglicanorum coetibus," an apostolic constitution issued by Pope Benedict XVI in November 2009.

At a news conference follow-

ing his report, Cardinal Wuerl said he "wouldn’t be surprised" if the Vatican were to establish the U.S. ordinariate by the end of the year. "I think it will be sooner rather than later," he said.

Earlier in the day, the U.S. bishops voted overwhelmingly to authorize preparation of a 50-page document on preaching for consideration in November 2012.

St. Louis Archbishop Robert J. Carlson presented the proposal on behalf of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, which he chairs, but said the document would be drawn up in consultation with various committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Archbishop Carlson said the document would be "at once inspirational and practical...grounded in the tradition of the Church" and would aim to "adequately convey the purpose of the homily at Mass: the encounter with the Incarnate Word."

In other actions on the first day of the assembly, the bishops also:

• Agreed by a 194-1-1 vote to integrate the Commission on Certification and Accreditation into the USCCB, as a new Subcommittee on Certification for Ecclesiastical Ministry.
• Got an update from Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of Oakland, Calif., about the conference’s efforts to promote and defend marriage.
• Approved, 185-1-3, the use of the Mass texts for paro- nial feast days of Spanish-speaking countries as an appendix to the eventual Spanish translation of the Roman Missal for use in the United States.
• Dropped from their agenda without comment a discussion of their perennial "Faithful Citizenship" document on political responsibility.
• Saw a video appeal from Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin for strong U.S. participation in the International Eucharistic Congress scheduled for next year in his city.
• Heard about a plan to periodically review the mandate of each national collection held in this country.
• Gave a standing ovation to Ken Hackett, who addressed the bishops as he prepared to retire from Catholic Relief Services after nearly 40 years with the international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community.
• Heard from Father Edward Dougherty, superior general of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, about the 100th anniversary of the organization founded by the U.S. bishops to recruit, train, send and support American missionaries overseas.
• Were given the option of beginning use of some musical settings for the new translation of the Roman Missal in September, rather than waiting until full implementation on the first Sunday in Advent.
• Bid farewell to Msgr. David Malloy, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, who was completing five years of service as USCCB general secretary.
• Saw a video appeal from Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago, who also has been chairman of the USCCB’s Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People.

BELLEVUE, Wash. (CNS) — Instead of requiring that implementation of all parts of the new Roman Missal wait until the first Sunday of Advent, bishops who lead dioceses can authorize the gradual introduction of the musical settings of the people’s parts of the Mass beginning in September.

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship, announced that decision June 16 at the USCCB spring general assembly near Seattle.

The change was authorized by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, USCCB president, and adopted by the committee to allow parish communities to learn the various parts of the new translations “in a timely fashion and an even pace,” Archbishop Aymond said. “It properly affects the Gloria, the Holy, Holy, Holy and the memorial acclamations. I ask you to encourage this as a means of preparing our people and helping them embrace the new translation,” Archbishop Aymond said.

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M., asked whether some implementation would be allowed before September, but Archbishop Aymond replied, “We would suggest not, in order that there be some uniformity.”

In addition, Archbishop Aymond cited difficulty in intro- ducing any liturgical changes during the summer months.

Full implementation of the new missal translation is to take place Nov. 27, the first Sunday in Advent.

But in a report to the bishops June 15 about the work of the National Advisory Council, a 48-member body that includes laypeople, religious, deacons, priests and bishops, Bishop William C. Skurla of the Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic, N.J., said the council was split about whether implementation of the missal should be gradual or all at once.

“Some believed strongly that the new missal should be fully implemented, as planned, beginning with the first Sunday of Advent 2011, citing the fact that gradual implementation could cause significant problems and confusion,” he said.

“Others encouraged the bishops to allow pastoral discretion in introducing the changed parts of the Mass with full implementation not being required until the first Sunday of Lent 2012,” Bishop Skurla added. “This encourage- ment for more gradual implementation was based on the belief that most people assimilate changes in stages and there could be some complications in implementing the new missal all at once.”

The National Advisory Council also suggested that consideration be given to allowing some priests who were unable to adopt the Mass changes “because of age or infirmity” to use the 1974 Roman Missal “when celebrating Mass in a private setting.”

Archbishop Aymond did not address that recommendation in his remarks to the bishops.
Carolyn Woo named CEO, president of Catholic Relief Services

A former CRS Board member, Woo has served as Dean of the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business.

Baltimore, Md. — Catholic Relief Services (CRS) announced June 24 that its Board of Directors has named Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo, a former member of the CRS Board, to serve as the agency’s president and CEO. Woo will succeed Ken Hackett, who is retiring after leading CRS for the past 18 years.

Woo, 57, has served as the dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame since 1997. She served on the CRS Board of Directors from 2004 until 2010. On Jan. 1, 2012, she will become the seventh chief executive of CRS since it was founded in 1943. “Dr. Woo is a woman of deep faith with a strong commitment to the mission of the Church. She will bring exceptional abilities and gifts to the task of serving the poor around the world in the name of Catholics throughout the United States,” said the Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, bishop of Tucson and chairman of the CRS Board of Directors.

“CRS is so blessed to have had Ken Hackett’s leadership these 18 years, now to be followed by another outstanding faith-filled leader in Dr. Woo,” he said.

Hackett, who is retiring after leading CRS since 1993, worked closely with Woo during her tenure as one of the first lay members of the CRS board. “Having traveled and worked closely with Carolyn as a board member, I have always appreciated her keen sense of the critical issues and decisions that faced us institutionally,” he said. “Her powerful intellect and insight combined with a profound faith and an abiding compassion will equip her well to lead CRS as it faces the challenges ahead.”

Woo was born and raised in Hong Kong, educated by the Maryknoll Sisters of Ossining, and immigrated to the U.S. to attend college at Purdue University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in economics with highest distinction and honors, a master of science in industrial administration with recognition as Kranzler Scholar, and her doctoral degree.

Prior to assuming the deanship of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame, Woo served as associate executive vice president for Academic Affairs at Purdue University. She joined Purdue as assistant professor in 1981, became full professor in 1991 and directed the Professional Master’s Programs in the Kranzler School of Management from 1993 to 1995.

Woo assumed the deanship in 1997 of the Mendoza College, which currently is ranked No. 1 for its undergraduate business program by Bloomberg Businessweek for the second consecutive year. During her tenure, the college also has received top rankings for its MBA and EMBA programs, as well as business ethics and accountability.

“Under Carolyn Woo’s leadership, the Mendoza College has made tremendous strides and gained significant recognition as an elite business school,” said Thomas G. Burish, Notre Dame’s provost. Through her wisdom, unwavering commitment to excellence, and deeply rooted Catholic faith, she has positioned the college — and the university — as an exemplar of all that is good about business education. I am grateful for her years of service and know we will continue to marvel at her achievements as she embarks on this next chapter of her life’s work.”

Her teaching and research interests include corporate and competitive strategy, entrepreneurship, management of innovation and change, and organizational systems.

During her six-year tenure on the CRS Board, she made several trip overseas to visit the agency’s programs and staff, including President Anan Aceh, Indonesia shortly after the Indian Ocean tsunami, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Kenya.

“I am honored to join an organization that is a true manifestation of the compassion of Jesus Christ and the Church’s ministry of charity around the world,” Woo said. “I look forward to building on the strong accomplishments of Ken and the global staff of CRS.”

Carolyn Y. Woo, B.A. ’81, M.B.A. ’82, Ph.D. ’85, will succeed Ken Hackett, who is retiring after leading Catholic Relief Services for the last 18 years.

University Faculty for Life Conference at Notre Dame fosters pro-life scholarship

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — College and university faculty often face discrimination for their pro-life stance at both secular and religious colleges. So in 1989 a handful of professors founded University Faculty for Life (UFL) to provide support and fellowship, and to foster pro-life scholarship.

Today the organization has grown to over 250 members in the United States and Canada who represent more than 50 academic disciplines. The 2011 UFL annual conference, held this year at the University of Notre Dame June 10-11, attracted approximately 100 attendees and featured over 30 scholarly papers on pro-life topics.

Teresa Collett, newly-installed president of UFL and a professor in the School of Law at St. Thomas University in Minneapolis, told Today’s Catholic that modern academia is “very skeptical” of claims about objective truth, so young faculty in particular are very limited in defining or even exploring the idea that law should protect the unborn.

Many pro-life faculty have experienced a strong sense of isolation and disrespect for their views, Collett said, explaining that they often are denied university resources that are commonly available to other faculty, and some have experienced out-of-hand rejection or little review of their articles or books that take the pro-life perspective.

“In most institutions, particularly before tenure but even after tenure, the reigning orthodoxy on abortion is enforced by faculty review committees and administrators,” Collett said. “Writing about abortion is often discouraged pre-tenure as ‘too controversial’ and after tenure as a distraction from the faculty member’s established area of scholarship. For the courageous faculty member who wants to explore the issues, having a community of like-minded scholars to collaborate with is critical.”

The UFL conference indeed provided a supportive forum for pro-life fellowship and scholarship, and the conference papers revealed a lively intellectual engagement with many aspects of the pro-life cause.

• Ryan MacPherson, professor of history at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minn., encouraged UFL members to forward the pro-life cause through social media with his talk on “Facebooking for Life in a Wiki World of Tweeting You Tubes: How LinkedIn Pro-Life Scholars Can Engage a Blogger Audience through Social Media.”

• Patrick Tully, professor of philosophy at Scranton University, proposed what he believes to be the best moral solution to a terrible moral dilemma: What to do about the hundreds of thousands of frozen embryos who have been abandoned by their parents, or whose parents do not plan to have more children. Given the dubious morality of all other options, Tully suggested that rather than leaving the embryos in a permanent state of suspension or...
The Catholic Schools Office has had excellent cooperation from principals, staff, business managers, school board members and pastors this summer as it works to share important information with parents regarding the new Indiana School Choice legislation related to vouchers and special tuition awards. This very important initiative provides vast opportunities for schools, as well as some immediate challenges. The Catholic Schools Office has a plan to implement the voucher program that will assist all Catholic Families of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Its goals are ambitious, yet realistic and reasonable. Procedures and practices have been put in place to ensure outreach to children, while preserving the Catholic school mission and strong Catholic identity.

Opportunities

- All incoming students transferring to Catholic schools will provide assessment data or complete an admissions test. This will allow teachers and the principal to understand the individual needs of the children who enter the schools.

- The target is to admit 25 students in each building or about 1,000 new children in grades K-12 this summer. If this goal is reached, the diocese would receive just fewer than 14 percent of the total number of vouchers awarded by the state in 2011. If each state voucher awarded to parents with a child attending Catholic schools contributes an average of $3,000 to the school general fund, a new revenue stream within the diocese would be over $3,000,000 for each year the children with vouchers attend Catholic schools. Twenty-five new students enrolled throughout any K-8 building would not likely require additional staffing; therefore, empty seats could be filled while serving children effectively.

- The kindergarten special awards will enable children to qualify for a voucher as first graders and beyond. The revenue generated from the eligible kindergarten children enrolled in 2011 will contribute greatly to financial stability of Catholic schools for over a decade.

Challenges

- There is a significant amount of information to be shared with parents in a very short period of time.
- Parents who qualify may not have a clear understanding regarding eligibility. The income limits to qualify for a voucher and a special tuition award are based on adjusted gross income from federal and state tax returns.
- The process for applying has not been published by the Indiana Department of Education this time. All parents applying for vouchers will require assistance from school principals to complete the verification process and application online.
- Families with English as a New Language (ENL) will require additional assistance from the schools related to communication.

Please assist your school and principal to help enroll children who qualify for vouchers. Please pray for the principals, teachers, staff and school communities as parents are invited to share the Catholic school advantage with significant numbers of children during the next few months.

Saint Joseph’s to hold voucher meeting

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph’s High School will be holding an informational meeting on Choice Scholarships on Thursday, July 7, at 7 p.m. in the Little Theater.

Holy Cross School to host voucher open house

SOUTH BEND — Holy Cross School will be hosting two informational nights for parents and guardians to learn more about the new Indiana School Choice Voucher program.

The sessions will be offered on Thursday, July 7, or Tuesday, July 12, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the school located at 1020 Wilber St.

Contact the school office at (574) 234-3422.

Local Catholic educators invited to school choice conference

NOTRE DAME — Public funding issues for Catholic schools, especially in light of Indiana’s new school choice law on vouchers and tax credits, will be explained at a University of Notre Dame conference to which local principals and teachers are invited free of charge.

Notre Dame Law School professor Nicole Stelle Garnett will speak on “Sustaining Catholic Schools: The Public Funding Question” at the Remick Leadership Conference on Friday, July 8.

The conference, which will also feature the innovative research of the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program, is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on campus. The Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program, preparing the next generation of Catholic school principals, is part of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE).

Besides Garnett’s keynote address at 11 a.m., teachers and principals working on their master’s and graduate degree will present their research projects dealing with pressing issues in the future of Catholic K-12 education. It’s also an opportunity to network with local and national leaders in Catholic schools while borrowing a few ideas to implement in one’s own local classroom.

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Pope advances sainthood causes, including priest killed by Nazis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI advanced the sainthood causes of 27 candidates, including a German mother of one, born in 1883 who founded the Society of Sisters of Caritas Socialis. The recognition of the miracle clears the way for her beatification. She died in Vienna in 1933. Pope Benedict also decreed miracles that pave the way for several other beatifications, including: Spanish Bishop Salvio Huix Miralpeix of Lleida, who was martyred in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War; 13 sisters of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul who were martyred in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War; and Father Carl Lampert, born in Austria in 1894 and martyred in Germany’s Buchenwald concentration camp in 1944.

Order ‘saddened’ by Father Corapi’s decision to leave priesthood

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity said it was “saddened” that Father John Corapi, one of the most visible members of its order, has decided to leave the order and the priesthood. Father Corapi, 64, declared June 17 in a YouTube video and a blog posting on one of his websites, that he was leaving because he could not get a “fair hearing” on misconduct allegations that were lodged against him in March and which included what the priest said were sexual abuse charges. The order, commonly referred to as SOLT, was in the midst of investigating the allegations when Father Corapi made his announcement. “Although the investigation was in progress, the SOLT had not arrived at any conclusion as to the credibility of the allegations under investigation,” said the statement, issued June 20 by Father Gerry Sheehan, the order’s regional priest-servant and Father Corapi’s superior. Father Sheehan said the order’s last communication with Father Corapi took the form of a June 3 letter from him “indicating that, because of the physical, emotional and spiritual distress he has endured over the past few years, he could no longer continue to function as a priest or a member of the SOLT.” When Father Corapi made his public announcement he was definitely leaving the priesthood, we heard it just like everyone else did,” Father G. You Tube, Father Sheehan told Catholic News Service June 20 before the order released his statement. “We’re as surprised as everyone else is.”

Indianapolis archbishop, founders of MP3 project for military honored

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, publisher of The Criterion, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese, has received the Bishop John England Award from the Catholic Press Association. The archbishop, a Benedictine, has headed the archdiocese since 1992. The England award is named for the Irish-born bishop of Charleston, S.C., who founded The Catholic Miscellany, the oldest Catholic newspaper in the U.S. in terms of continuous publication. Presented annually, the award recognizes publishers in the Catholic press for the defense of First Amendment rights, such as freedom of the press and freedom of religion. It is the CPA’s highest award for publishers. This year’s Clarion Award from the Catholic Academy for Communications Arts Professionals has been presented to Cheri Lomonte and Jeff Gardner of Cheri Lomonte, of Lakeway Texas, is an author and co-host of the award-winning radio program “Mary’s Touch.” Gardner, of Columbia, Mo., co-founded and became CEO of Catholic Radio International — an Internet-based Catholic radio network. He currently is the executive producer of “Mary’s Touch,” Frontline Faith and other projects.

Refugees flee as fighting spreads between Myanmar forces, rebels

MYITKINA, Myanmar (CNS) — Thousands of people fearing an escalation in fighting between ethnic rebels and Myanmar government troops in Kachin state near the Chinese border have fled their villages, with many seeking shelter in churches and temples. The fighting, which broke out between the Kachin Independence Army and government forces June 9, had spread by June 22 to northern parts of neighboring Shan state, according to the Kachin News Group. At least 700 people have sought refuge in Christian churches and at a Buddhist temple in Wai Maw near the Kachin state capital Myitkyina, the Asian church news agency UCA News reported. Most people, however, have gone to Myitkyina or other major towns to stay with relatives. Some have crossed the Chinese border, according to reports. “Those who do not have relatives in Myitkyina are going to churches for shelter and food,” said Jan Nthaw, a villager from Ga Ra Yang. Everyone from the village fled, she said. Most of the refugees are women and children. Worried Church workers in Wai Maw expressed concern that if the fighting spreads, they could be inundated by refugees. “We are already struggling to provide food and shelter for 300 refugees,” said Sara Yaw, a local Catholic catechist.

After fire destroys shrine, threatens thousands, bishop leads prayers

TUCSON, Ariz. (CNS) — Across the state from the more publicized Wallow fire, a second wind-whipped wildfire forced thousands of people in southern Arizona to evacuate their homes and destroyed a Marian shrine. Just a fraction of the size of the enormous Wallow fire farther northeast that had burned more than 527,000 acres as of June 21, the fast-moving Monument fire in the Huachuca Mountains south of Sierra Vista had left more than 27,000 acres and about 65 homes and businesses in ashes. More than 10,000 people were evacuated June 19 from the southern subdivisions of Sierra Vista, a city of about 43,000 adjacent to the Army’s Fort Huachuca. Meanwhile, Tucson Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas celebrated Mass at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Sierra Vista June 18, leading the community in prayers for the firefighters. He also reminded the congregation packed into the church that God’s mercy and love can be seen in times of crisis in the way people step up to help those in need. Bishop Kicanas also visited two shelters in Sierra Vista for evacuees, accompanied by Father Greg Adolf, pastor of St. Andrew. Father Adolf told the New Catholic Vision, newspaper of the Diocese of Tucson, that “volunteers were everywhere. People have been bringing food, clothes, blankets and pillows. … Kennels have been set up for displaced animals. The whole community has come together in support of the people who have lost homes and animals.”

Seminarians want to be ‘part of the solution’ in addressing abuse issue

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Most of them weren’t born yet when the events occurred that came to define the U.S. crisis of sexual abuse by priests. But for men who entered the seminary in the past 25 years, the point of crisis for the Church seems to be that they want to prove that priests are good people. A decade after the U.S. Catholic Church scandal about clergy sex abuse exploded in the news, several seminaries contacted by Catholic News Service reported the same motivation among the men who have entered the schools in the past decade: “They all said they want to be part of the solution,” as Father Thomas Baima, vice rector of Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y., said he has noticed among applicants are aware of and willing to say they come because they want to prove that there are good priests, said R. Scott Woodward, dean at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. “They want people to know that religious life, the priesthood, are still valuable. They feel that’s a part of their mission.” Father Peter Drilling, rector of Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y., said he has noticed a change in attitudes in the 25 years he has been with the seminary. “I don’t think applicants are aware of and willing to discuss the problems behind the abuse scandal. ‘Just yesterday,’ he said, one of the five men interviewed as part of this article about their thoughts on why they want to be priests. “One reason he wanted to pursue the priesthood is that he has had good experiences with priests and he wants to know that priests are good and that priests are part of the solution.”
**Around the Diocese**

**Seminarian Royce Gregerson Expresses Intention**

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend seminarian Royce Gregerson stands before Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during the Rite of Admission for Candidacy for Holy Orders on June 21 at St. Aloysius Church, Yoder. Gregerson, who will soon begin seminarian studies in Rome, publicly expressed his intention to complete his preparation for Holy Orders and his resolve to fully invest himself to that end.

A native of Ohio, Greve earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame, master’s from the University of Michigan, and doctorate from Kent State University. A scholar and a wonderful teacher, Greve is also an avid outdoorsman and looks forward to exploring more of the great hiking trails of the world in his retirement.

**USF Hosting Three Rivers Invitational Exhibition**

FORT WAYNE — The public can enjoy a free display of the works of over 50 award-winning artists at the opening of the Three Rivers Invitational Exhibition at the University of Saint Francis on July 9 from 7-9 p.m. in the Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center’s John P. Weatherhead Gallery.

The annual invitational showcases the talent of artists from Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Kentucky, working in a variety of media and disciplines. The exhibition will run through Aug. 9. Summer gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit is offered through the USF School of Creative Arts (SOCA).

Access to the Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center is off Leesburg Road. For more information, call (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001.

**Two Seniors Receive Burger King Awards**

**MISHAWKA** — Quality Dining, Inc., local Burger King franchisee, announced the funding of $114,000 in Burger King continuing education scholarships for high school seniors in 2011. This includes two scholarships of $1,000 each in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The Burger King scholarship recipients are Amanda Vankoski, a senior at Bishop LaMotte High School, who plans to attend Miami University, Oxford campus, to study business. The South Bend recipient is Michael Prusinski, a senior at Marian High School, who plans to attend Butler University to study business.

The Burger King Scholarship Program was designed to recognize students who maintain academic standards and are also involved in co-curricular and/or community service activities. The recipient may not have to be a Burger King employee. Quality Dining has funded over $1,233,000 in continuing education scholarships since 2001.

**Ted Kurek, Founding Member of Matthew 25 Health, Dental Clinic, Dies**

FORT WAYNE — Thaddeus P. (Ted) Kurek, one of the founding members of the Fort Wayne Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic, died on June 10. He was 75.

Kurek was known for his steadfast spirit and generous heart. Born in Massachusetts, this first generation Polish American completed a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering that served him well during his working career, and while he served in the U.S. Army.

He was a devoted, longtime member of St. Mary Church in downtown Fort Wayne and worked alongside Tom O'Connor, who was instrumental in starting the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen.

As a member of the team that founded Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic Kurek served as the first president there. He was known to many as staff member, volunteer, financial supporter, prayer partner and advocate for those in need.

June Moord, longtime volunteer staff member at Matthew 25 worked alongside Kurek from its inception in May of 1976. She said of Kurek, “He steadfastly remained very close to the clinic. He was the president from the beginning.”

She added, “He saw them through every expansion... He was very much an influence there.”

Of his work at the clinic Moord said Kurek was there to “relieve the pain” of those in need and never judged a person by his circumstances.

After Kurek’s retirement in 2001, Moord recalls that this faith-filled man went back to work at the clinic as a volunteer at the front desk, “He loved being there and seeing things happen,” she said.

Ted Kurek was memorialized at a funeral Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish on June 16. The funeral procession stopped at the downtown clinic where staff and patients alike stood curbside to bid their mentor and advocate farewell.

Kurek was buried in Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

**Redeemer Radio’s Sharathon Raises $155,612**


Sharathon Chair Couple Beverly and Don McArdle said, “Our overall impression of the Spring Sharathon was one of a ‘well-oiled machine’ operated by a joyful, dedicated staff and hundreds of volunteers. Prayers and faith led this effort, with great results. We’re thankful to have served as Chair Couple for the Spring Sharathon.”

Executive Director Dave Stevens commented on an 11th hour technical glitch that threatened to capsize the Spring Sharathon. “Lightning damaged our transmitter on Monday of Sharathon week. We were able to get back on the air with reduced coverage by using an old transmitter that had been dormant for several years. Permanent repair was made possible within 24 hours when our Sunday Visitor Foundation and President and CEO D’Arcy, bishop emeritus, 90 hourly prayer volunteers, 25 priests, two seminarians, four sisters, five brother prayer volunteers, 25 priests, two seminarians, four sisters, five brothers, eight deacons, 20 snack donors, 31 “Studio B” guests, 35 greeters, runners, Facebook updaters, “gift elves,” 69 phone answering and data entry volunteers, and more than 184 “Studio A” guests and hosts.

**Pilgrimage Winner Announced**

FORT WAYNE — Kathleen Miller from St. Joseph Church, Garrett, won the drawing for two free spots on the Pilgrimage of Faith. She and a guest will be joining others from the diocese on Sept. 8-11 as the pilgrims travel to Washington, D.C., and Emmitsburg, Md.

Many thanks to the 167 people who entered the drawing.

For more about the pilgrimage or to register, visit www.dioceseoffw.org/pilgrimage or contact Jeff Krudop (260) 434-6660 or jkrudop@ travlead.com. Registration ends July 22.

**Afternoon of Healing Sponsored by the Order of Malta**

NOTRE DAME — The Order of Malta is sponsoring an afternoon of prayer and reflection for the area’s sick and infirm, and for their caregivers. “A Time of Grace and Healing at the Grotto” will be held at the University of Notre Dame Grotto and Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Sunday, July 10, from 1-5:30 p.m. Franciscan Father John Coughlin, of the University of Notre Dame Law School, and Father Robert Dunn, of the Archdiocese of New York, are the speakers, and the main celebrant is Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca, rector of the Sacred Heart Basilica. All three priests are chaplains of the Order of Malta.

The schedule is as follows:

• 1 p.m. — Gather between parking lot A9 and the grotto
• 11:55 a.m. — Rosary procession to grotto with Father Peter Rocca, CStC
• 1:45 p.m. — Washing and story of the Sick
• 2:25 p.m. — Talks in Sacred Heart Basilica and crypt. Father Coughlin will speak to caregivers. Father Dunn will speak to the ill and in need
• 3:30 p.m. — Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick
• 4:45 p.m. — Benediction and the Mass of the feast of St. John with Father Rocca

There is no charge for this event, but reservations will be taken by Christopher Godfrey at (574) 237-0253.

For more information visit www.maltausa.org/areas.php?area=indiana-northern#news

**Professor Greve Retires from Holy Cross College**

NOTRE DAME — English Professor Brian Greve Ph.D. has retired from Holy Cross College after 21 years of distinguished service. He was a student favorite who taught composition, modern novel and short story. Greve also was involved in helping to develop the four-year experiential curriculum at Holy Cross College, including spearheading the senior Capstone presentation and the student eFolio projects.
Corpus Christi Parish celebrates 50th Anniversary

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joins the faithful of Corpus Christi Parish, South Bend, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary on June 26, the Feast of Corpus Christi. A Eucharistic Procession through the neighborhood followed the Mass.

Father Daryl Rybicki incenses the congregation at offertory at the Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

A reception followed in the parish center after the procession.

The faithful gather with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the last stop in the Eucharistic procession on the grounds of Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend.
Two years later, the pope had survived an assassination attempt, but police were concerned about security for the Holy Father, who wanted to take the Eucharist into the streets of Rome for the procession.

“The police were saying that the Swiss Guard and security forces had to surround the pope during the procession for his safety,”explained Bishop Rhoades. “John Paul II said, ‘what’s the point if no one can see the Holy Eucharist. I don’t want you blocking the people’s view.’ And, of course, the pope won the argument.

Centering on the Eucharist is something you would expect at a parish named Corpus Christi. Since the construction of the present church building in 1985, the parish has offered Eucharistic Adoration 16 hours a day, seven days a week.

“I pray that this wonderful tradition will continue,”lauded Bishop Rhoades. “Your devotion to the Eucharist is the source of so many blessings for you, your families, your parish and our diocese. Here, the Body of Christ, ‘Corpus Christi,’ the living bread come down from heaven, is praised, adored and loved every day, bringing abundant blessings to the church.”

Father Daryl Rybicki, now in his second year as the parish pastor, shared his own special memories of the feast.

“It’s the anniversary weekend of my ordination, and the first Mass I ever celebrated was the Feast of Corpus Christi,” noted Father Rybicki. “This has been just a tremendous day of celebration with the parish turning out in such huge numbers. I was ahead of the procession with the altar servers, and it was inspiring to look back and see the crowds of people following the Eucharist.”

That feeling was shared by many longtime parishioners as they enjoyed a celebratory dinner and historical display after the procession.

“It was good to see all the young families represented,” noted Mike Rafinski, who has been with the parish for 38 years, most of those as director of religious education. “It was a very nostalgic day, but what was great was to see such a nice cross-section of the parish.”

That mix of people also caught the eye of parishioner David Donica.

“This was an event that brought out everyone in the parish,” he said. “To see the older people mixing with the younger people ... there aren’t a lot of events that make that happen. It makes you feel as though you are part of one big family, which is what we’re supposed to be.”

Marilyn Ahearn has attended Corpus Christi since 1971, and now serves as a sixth-grade teacher at the school.

“During Mass today, I was thinking back to when Mass was in the basement of the school,” mentioned Ahearn. “What really struck me is the building is different, but the spirit is the same. There’s a great devotion to the Eucharist here.”

That devotion certainly struck Bishop Rhoades in his visit to the parish. He noted the large monstrance atop the entrance of the church, and that it reminds us all what we are to be as Catholics — the body of Christ.

“On this, the 50th anniversary of Corpus Christi Parish, my advice to you is the advice of St. Augustine,” said Bishop Rhoades. “Be a member of the body of Christ that your Amen may be true. In other words, live what you receive in Holy Communion! Live Christ! Be men, women and children of the Eucharist!”
Area parish festivals brighten up summer skies

Plymouth parish hosting Laity on the Lawn

PLYMOUTH — St. Michael Church in Plymouth offers three summer opportunities for the community to take part in — both spiritual and social.

For the last several years the Pastoral Council has hosted “Laity on the Lawn.” On July 12 the parish will gather at 6 p.m. for a cookout and carry-in supper followed by a topic of the month. The topic will be the new English translation of the Roman Missal, with Brian MacMichael, director of the Diocese Office of Worship.

On Aug. 8, Father Phil DeVorder of Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, will share thoughts on the language of Christians.

St. Michael will host a parish picnic on Sunday, July 31. The parish will meet at Price’s Pond in Plymouth. During the afternoon they will recognize and pray for St. Plymouth. During the afternoon parish will meet at Price’s Pond in

Our Lady of Hungary festival slated for July 16

SOUTH BEND — Our Lady of Hungary Parish, located at 829 W. Calvert in South Bend, will be holding its annual parish festival Saturday, July 16, from 4-10 p.m., with a Spanish Dance from 9 p.m. to midnight. The festival will feature children’s games, live music from VanDyke Review (www.vandykeview.org), and a variety of Hungarian pastries, including kifles and kolach.

Also available will be Hungarian goulash and chicken paprikash, langos, Spanish foods, Ball Park hot dogs, sausage, pop and adult beverages. Due to the economy, prices have been slashed.

A 5 p.m. Polka Mass will highlight the evening, offering the opportunity to meet the parish’s new pastor, Father Kevin Bauman.

Information is available by calling (574) 255-1096, the parish office at (574) 287-1700, or visiting www.ourladyofhungary.com.

St. Adalbert School to celebrate centennial July 29-31

SOUTH BEND — This year marks St. Adalbert School’s 100th year of service in faith and love to the West Side. A three-day celebration will be held Friday through Sunday, July 29, 30 and 31, on the school grounds.

Friday evening hosts a reception from 6-8 p.m. in the school hall. Memory walk memorabilia exhibits, a centennial raffle, recognition of distinguished guests and more will highlight the evening. Visitors may view the new school video and student art work. Tickets are $25 and include food and drinks. All proceeds benefit the scholarship fund.

The party continues on Saturday with the Family Fest from noon to 6 p.m. Entertainment will include Richard’s Magic Accordion, a program on Polish history and culture, St. Adalbert’s Baile Folklorico (traditional Mexican dance in costume), Benito’s Band, and the Mi Escuela children’s dance group. Magic Man Matthew and a balloon artist will also entertain the children. Hot food will be served from 1-5 p.m. and will feature Mexican and Polish favorites. The Fest Raffle features over 40 wonderful prizes, something for everybody.

The weekend concludes on Sunday with Mass at 11:30 a.m. to be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. A pancake breakfast will follow. Tickets are $5 in advance or $6 at the door.

Tickets and additional information is available by calling Jean at (574) 855-3028 or by visiting www.stdalbertschool.org. Advance ticket sales are appreciated.

St. Adalbert School is located at 519 S. Olive St. just off Western Ave. in South Bend.

St. Louis Besancon opens participation in national garage sale

NEW HAVEN — St. Louis Besancon Church on Lincoln Highway, east of New Haven, will participate in the Lincoln Highway Buy-Way Yard Sale Thursday, Aug. 4, through Saturday, Aug. 6. This sale stretches through four states and coincides with the World’s Longest Yard Sale along U.S. 127 (from Michigan to Alabama) intersecting in our neighboring city, Van Wert, Ohio.

The sale always draws hundreds of people.

St. Louis will rent 10×10 foot spaces with one 8-foot table in the parish hall to interested individuals to sell their own garage sale items, crafts, produce, etc. The three-day rental will be $25. Food and drinks will be available by the Rosary Sodality and the Home and School Association of St. Louis Academy.

Proceeds go to the Church Renovation Fund.

Additional information and spaces may be reserved by contacting Beth Kline at (260) 623-6718 or visiting www.stlouisbesancon.org. Advance ticket sales are appreciated.

Promo Code: 25867

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St. Joseph Catholic Church is located at the corner of Hill Street and South Ave in downtown South Bend.

St. Elizabeth’s Setonfest set for Aug. 12-13

FORT WAYNE — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish will hold its 19th annual Setonfest, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 12-13.

Kicking off Setonfest Friday evening is an adult Wine and Beer Tasting Party from 7-11 p.m. Hours d’oeuvres from Catahoula and live music by the Todd Phillips Trio, with Francie Zuco will be featured.

Saturday is Family Day beginning at 8 a.m. with a 5K walk/run. From 3-7 p.m., attractions include children’s games/rides; a bake sale; competitive/skill games for teens; a food tent; music by Charlie Butcher; a corn hole tournament; and a raffle drawing after 5 p.m. Mass. From 7-9:30 p.m., a concert by Urban Legend will be followed by fireworks.

Additional Setonfest information and raffle tickets are available by calling the church office at (260) 432-0268 or visiting www.seasfw.parishesonline.com.
Educación Para el Ministerio Program graduates receive certificates

**By Lourdes Silva**

WARSAW — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades congratulated the first participants to receive certificates from the Educación Para el Ministerio Program Saturday, June 18, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw.

Bishop Rhoades also celebrated Mass for the program participants and their families. The Mass was concelebrated by Society of Divine Word Father Jesús Briones, Holy Cross Father J. Steele, Father Constantino Rocha and Father Eloy Jimenez.

The Educación Para el Ministerio Program in Spanish has been a two-year program that has educated up to 100 participants who attended classes at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. Comparable to the Education for Ministry program, the classes were offered with consideration of Hispanic culture and language.

The June 18 graduating class was diverse in many ways — culture, language, intergenerational, and many with a variety of backgrounds. Many who received their Education for Ministry certificates rejoiced in their first graduation ever. The smiles, happiness, and joy inundated the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, making for an environment of true Eucharistic celebration.

The Educación Para el Ministerio Program is a joint collaboration by the Office for Hispanic Ministry and the Office of Catechesis in response to bishop’s request.

Blessed Pope John Paul II, in his letter “Eclesia en America,” wrote, “The parish must continue to be above all a Eucharistic community ... (which) implies that parishes are to be welcoming and fraternal, places of Christian initiation, of education in and celebration of the faith, open to the full range of charisms, services and ministries, organized in a communal and responsible way, capable of utilizing existing movements of the apostolate, attentive to the cultural diversity of the people, open to pastoral projects which go beyond the individual parish and alert to the world in which they live.”

“We are grateful to God and Mother Mary for the first graduating class of Educación Para el Ministerio 2011, and are looking forward to future participants for the greater glory of God’s people,” said Lourdes Silva, associate director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

NSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mt 11:25-30

The Book of Zechariah provides this weekend’s first biblical reading. Zechariah was of the lowest caste and was born in Babylon during the time when many Jews were in forced exile in the Babylonian capital. When the exile ended, due to political changes and Persia’s subjugation of Babylonia, he went to the Holy Land with his grandfather.

It might be assumed that he was either a youth or a young adult when he made this trip, as few grandparentss at the time lived long enough to see their grandchildren reach adulthood.

Whatever his age, unless he was an infant too young to notice, and this is unlikely, he would have seen, and probably was part of, the enthusiasm of the people as they quit the despoiled Babylon and began their journey home.

Finally in the Holy Land, he devoted himself to the care and study of the Scriptures. Obviously, he saw himself, and was regarded as, a prophet. He met a violent death, being murdered, apparently, in the temple precincts themselves.

This weekend’s reading captures this great joy and enthusiasm of the exiles as they came upon their homeland. It was a holy joy, based on the thought that God had rescued them. He will continue to protect them and stay with them. God will send a messiah who will enter the holy city of Jerusalem with great humility, seated on an ass.

This image was to be a part of the event of Palm Sunday, actually to occur many centuries later when Jesus entered Jerusalem. St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans provides the second reading. In it, Paul repeats the theme so often given in his writings. Christians not only follow Christ, or join Christ in their own walk through life, but the Lord becomes part of them. They become part of Jesus. Christian discipleship forges this strong a bond.

The last reading is from St. Matthew’s Gospel. Jesus continually encountered persons very well educated in the Scriptures, but often they opposed the Lord. It was a problem. In the minds of many at the time, they were regarded as the wisest in the society. Jesus had to insist that the wisest in popular consensus were not the wisest after all. By contrast, the Lord says that humble and innocent children often can better see profound truths.

As to the critics, Jesus does not leave them to drown in the sea of their own pride. Rather, the Lord reaches to them. The lesson is strong. God offers salvation even to those who reject it or see no need for it. But, they still must respond to this offer.

Reflection

The Gospel this weekend presents facts indispensable to Christian doctrine and to achieving Christian holiness. None of us, in the last analysis, is that insightful. Original sin has robbed us of good vision. We see all a world, but it is a distorted and unclear image. We are myopic, thinking only of ourselves, that God has condemned us, we deny, or are oblivious to, our inadequacy. We exaggerate ourselves, making ourselves greater than we are.

We deceive ourselves. We trick ourselves into thinking that we can find the way on our own. We cannot. Only God can show the way.

Mercifully, happily for us, God shows us the way in Jesus. Jewish no longer us, but also gives us divine life itself. As true believers, we live in Jesus, and the Lord lives in us.

The key to attaining this relationship is our humility, our trust in God. We do not have to yearn for God without relief. God awaits our call. He loves us with an everlasting, perfect love. He will come to us. Thus, with Zechariah, we can rejoice that the Lord comes to us.

Lessons from my 80-year-old grandpa

Leaving it to Grandpa to put things in perspective.

It was half way through our second annual Christmas party and I stood around looking at the refrigerator, crumpled tortilla wrappers, and empty plates.

Preparing for the party had kept me moving — wrapping presents, trimming the tree, sweeping the floors, stringing 3,200 white lights on our blue spruce. Not exactly preceding to Silent Night.

I brought some water to Grandpa, sitting in the corner facing everyone, and sat down beside him. “Look,” he instructed me, his blue eyes misty, “What do you see?”

I scanned the kitchen: nodding and laughing. Then I looked at Grandpa. Somehow he had stepped outside the scene and was observing it from a distance.

“No ill will,” he said, answering his own question. “Everyone’s happy. You see love.”

In that moment, I glimpsed it too, rising above the particulars and seeing the picture in broader strokes. Here we all were, shoved together, from the snow, a new Christmas together, bound by blood and by love, standing in the sacred space where duty meets desire.

It was the perfect Christmas gift, to step outside the party like the Ghost of Christmas Present and then reenter, relishing all the little things that had seemed ordinary a moment before.

That is Grandpa’s magic. He has a painter’s gentle eye, sharpened 10 years ago by a heart attack. Surgeons patched the hole in his heart, and he steadily recovered, embracing each day as a gift from above.

Three years later, at 73, Grandpa taught himself to play clarinet, putting numbed tape on keys to correspond with his fingering chart. Within months he was playing the second movement of Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto. He is a dark-skinned, blue-eyed artist, the fifth child of a Florentine integrand raised in the shadow of the Duomo.

Grandpa spent his career painting Catholic churches, refreshing statues of saints and applying gold leaf. Now he is enjoying retirement, playing in the St. Paul Police Band, too, rising above the particulars and finding things that had seemed ordinary a moment before.

In June, Grandpa turned 80. We celebrated on the second Saturday of the month, which happened to be the day the cottonwood trees had been buffeted by just enough heat and just enough wind to unleash their flossy seeds. Wrapped in cotton cluters, they are designed to transfer pollen. So is Grandpa.

To experience 80 years and rejoice in each new day is his singular joy. He has taught me that heaven brushes earth — in paint streaks and clarinet notes, in written words and spoken prayers, in the first communions, in the last rites. And when those moments happen, we hold them to our hearts, never quite the same.

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

Reading:

Fond farewell to Father Ryan

On Sunday, June 5, hundreds of Little Flower Church parishioners attended a Mass of thanksgiving for our retiring pastor, Holy Cross Father Cornelius Ryan, who has served our church community in South Bend for close to nine years. Following the Mass was an old-fashioned picnic reception, where Father Ryan gave many of us an encore string quartet.

We are going to miss him very much. He had so many gifts that he shared with us. His most important gift, for me, however, was his Sunday homilies. They were always very practical. I knew how to apply the meaning of the Sunday readings to the nitty-gritty of our lives at home and at work.

Father Ryan’s Sunday Masses ended in a very different way than others that I have attended.

Instead of the last blessing he would stand up, pause and look over the congregation. “And this is your homework for this week,” he would say. And in one short sentence he would suggest a daily prayer or activity that was based on the Sunday readings. And I’m sure that each time I would think he did this it came from heaven. It was Holy Cross Father Joseph Payne, the 1937 founder of Little Flower Parish, saying, “Right on, Cornelius!”

Don Grooms
South Bend
Making your mark

T here it was — “Angela,” written on the front of the peanut butter jar. When I asked my six year old why she did it, she stopped what she was doing and said simply, “I wanted everyone to know I was going to eat peanut butter.” When she wrote her name on the sheets a few years ago, I had asked a similar question. “Why did you write your name on there?” The answer then had been, “I don’t know, just was there.”

It’s not the first time one of our children has made his or her mark on an item in the home. With nine children, over the years I’ve found names written practically everywhere — on the walls, in books, on the sidewalk, and on shower doors, among other places. Sometimes the names are bold and large. Other times, they are tiny. It doesn’t seem to bother the kids that they’re found out automatically by signing their names. They somehow seem to want to be named.

The day my husband and I moved out of our very first house we went up to the attic and walked in closet on the second floor of the tiny Cape Cod home, and squeezed into it together. My husband had remembered writing “David Thomas was here” on the basement wall in his old childhood home as a kid, and that gave us the idea for what we were about to do. We looked briefly at one another in the dim 25 watt light emanating from the old bulb. And then I giggled and handed him a pen. There we were, together, slouched in that teeny, slanted ceiling second-floor closet and he wrote, “David and Theresa 1987 to 1993. Thanks for the memories” in indelible pen. Then we left.

We never really stop wanting to leave a mark, do we? We all want to make our claims, our marks on the world. We want others to know that we were here, that we did something. Authors write books, sometimes, with the hope of leaving something that extends beyond their natural life-time. In fact, entire civilizations have left monuments and other stately physical structures in order to state their existence and “leave something” for posterity.

While physical marks are one type of leaving evidence of one’s presence, there are other intangible ways of making a mark. “Making a name for oneself” is one expression of this, but in fact, every single thing we do leaves a mark of some kind on the world. Like a pebble in a pond which creates a ripple, every word we say, every task we undertake, affects others around us in some way. Everything we do, for good or for naught, affects others and thus directly or indirectly affects society.

I remember seeing a cartoon that depicted a boss yelling at a man, who went home and then snapped at his wife, who was then impatient with their child, who then kicked the dog. It’s a domino effect and the default mode of human nature — to react in kind unless we make conscious choices to do otherwise.

The ripple effect can also be positive. One kind word can start the domino of kindness and we won’t know until life’s end the true effect of one considerate and caring gesture.

Yukito Shige is a retired Japanese man who spends most of his days at Tojimbo Cliffs, a venue where many despontent people come to commit suicide. He simply observes the people who come to the cliff. When he notices someone alone who appears distraught or anxious he approaches and engages in conversation, often preventing the life-ending action the person came to commit. His simple action has left a profound mark on the world, in the lives of those he has saved and in the lives of those who will now come into contact with those he has saved.

One of my favorite movies is “It’s a Wonderful Life” where George Bailey finds out what the world would be like without him. It turns out, there are many lives that the simple but good George has touched, lives who would be unalterably different had he never been born.

What about us? What kind of mark are we making in our little circle of the universe? Each of us comes into contact with a unique group of people and we have a unique area of influence. What will be our mark for posterity?

Theresa Thomas can be reached at TheresaThomas@EverydayCatholic@Gmail.com. Her book “Stories for the Homeschool Heart” can be ordered on Amazon.com

The Vatican is also a place of influence for social, political and religious issues like human trafficking, human rights, inter-faith cooperation, peace initiatives and health care, she said. In addition to its official diplomatic arm, the Vatican includes innumerable agencies that deal with the ethical and practical aspects of these and other questions.

Rome is also a crossroads of Church movements, lay groups and religious orders, many of which are actively engaged in international affairs.

For Valls Noyes and other U.S. embassy officials, one of the most rewarding areas of U.S.-Vatican cooperation has been on the human trafficking issue. The embassy has sponsored major conferences on trafficking and, more generally, on the role of faith communities in development.

“It’s been an amazing three years. If there’s one lesson I’ve learned, it’s that people of faith and good will can move mountains,” she said.

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The Vatican is also a place of influence for social, political and religious issues like human trafficking, human rights, inter-faith cooperation, peace initiatives and health care, she said. In addition to its official diplomatic arm, the Vatican includes innumerable agencies that deal with the ethical and practical aspects of these and other questions.

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CATHOLIC CROSS COUNTRY CAMP OFFERED Father Jonathan P. Meyers, assistant track coach of Jennings County Public High School, will be conducting a Catholic Cross Country Camp at Muscatatuck County Park, located in Jennings County, just east of Seymour. The cross country camp, “C-4 Explosive,” will be an authentic camping experience to be held from July 12-16. Young men entering ninth through 12 grade are eligible to participate. The camp includes five days and four nights, rustic sleep accommodations, three meals a day and snacks. The camp is open to Catholics and non-Catholics alike; however there will be daily Mass and devotions.

Indianapolis - It was a sense of déjà vu for Marian baseball coach Tim Prister...one that he would rather not relive.

For the second time in four years, Crawfordsville beat Marian in the Class 3-A state championship game, this time by an 8-3 count at Victory Field in Indianapolis.

“I’m just really disappointed for our kids,” Prister said. “They have been just absolutely phenomenal the second half of the season. For the last couple of weeks, we’ve said it would be us, not because we weren’t prepared. Today, Crawfordsville was better than Marian High School.”

Marian jumped to the lead in the bottom of the second. After a Chase Parker walk, Corey Samuels’ bouncer to third was thrown up the right-field line, allowing Parker to score. Samuels then stole home on a missed squeeze bunt to give the Knights a 2-0 lead.

Crawfordsville answered immediately against Marian pitcher Taylor Krugh. Jordan Jackson slammed a two-out, RBI double off the left field wall to put the Athenians on the board. Two pitches later, Chris Minks blasted a high fastball over the left-center field fence to put Crawfordsville ahead, 3-2.

Marian was hurt again by two-out runs in the fourth inning, as Joel Hobson and Jackson produced back-to-back RBIs, widening the lead to 5-2. The Knights got one of those runs back in the bottom of the frame. Alex Ehrlich got one of those runs back in the fourth inning, as Joel Hobson and Jackson produced back-to-back RBIs, widening the lead to 5-2. The Knights got one of those runs back in the bottom of the frame. Alex Ehrlich dropped Krugh’s fly ball to right for a three-base error, and Krugh immediately against Marian pitcher Taylor Krugh. Jordan Jackson slammed a two-out, RBI double off the left field wall to put the Athenians on the board. Two pitches later, Chris Minks blasted a high fastball over the left-center field fence to put Crawfordsville ahead, 3-2.

But Crawfordsville’s offense was relentless. Minks set a state finals record with his second homer of the contest, a two-run shot in the 6th, to make it an 8-3 game. Meanwhile, Crawfordsville pitcher Cory Rice stayed true to the form that earned him 13 wins this season, fanning seven.

He held a Marian lineup, which batted .363 for the season, to just three hits.

“All the credit in the world goes to Rice,” stated Prister gra-ciously. “(He’s) as (Cameron) Hobson was three years ago, but he did a great job of keeping us off-stride by chang-ing speeds.”

Marian had one last chance in the 7th, loading the bases, but fly outs by Parker and Samuels ended the title quest.

The Knights finish a terrific season with a record of 26-8.

The 16th annual Ancilla College Golf Tournament teed off on Monday, June 13, at the Plymouth Country Club, with 40 teams taking part in the festivities to help raise money for the school. The tournament raised nearly $21,000 for the Annual Fund to support student grants and scholarships. Those who attended were treated to a dinner and had the opportunity to bid on various items, including Notre Dame football tickets. There was also a number of raffle items that were given away over the course of the day and everyone took home a door prize. In all, over $10,000 donated by 79 area businesses and individuals was auctioned off or given away. The team of, from left, Cliff Myers, Terri Myers, Lynn Hartman and Justin Murphy, took home the top honors with a score of 55.

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Gator Gallop 5K Run/ Walk takes entries YODER — The 11th Annual Gator Gallop 5K Run/Walk will be held Saturday, July 30, 7-10 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church, Yoder. Registration and packet pickup will be from 6-7 p.m. in the school gym. Entries are now being accepted. Additional information is available at www.orgsites.com/in/gatorgallop. Gator Gallop 5K T-shirts are guaranteed to all who preregister by July 29.
Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, July 1, from 5-7:30 p.m. The cost is $7 for adults, $3 for children 12 and under.

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

Hidden Treasures rummage sale
Bristol — St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish will have a Hidden Treasures rummage sale Friday and Saturday, July 8 and 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Annunciation Hall, 411 W. Vistula St.

Central Catholic class of '51 plans reunion
Fort Wayne — The Central Catholic High School class of 1951 will have a 60th class reunion on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 601 Reed Road. Mass at 5 p.m. will be followed by buffet dinner. Cost is $30 per person. For information, call Rosie at (260) 483-6383 or Tony at (260) 484-2233.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Deacon Ben Muhlenkamp will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel on Tuesday, July 5, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Deacon Ben is assisting St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne.

First Saturday devotions
The First Saturday Devotions on July 2, will be held at these locations: Fort Wayne, St. Charles — 8 a.m.; Sacred Heart — 9 a.m. (English Mass) and 11:30 a.m. (Latin Mass). Our Lady of the Angels Oratory — 6 a.m.; Albion, Blessed Sacrament — 8 a.m.; Arcola, St. Patrick — 7:15 a.m.; Garrett, St. Joseph — 9 a.m.; New Haven, St. John — 6:55 a.m.; Monroeville, St. Rose — 8:10 a.m.; Warsaw, Sacred Heart — 8 a.m.; North Manchester, St. Robert — 8 a.m.

Seeking Director of Operations
Redeemer Radio, a non-profit, Catholic Radio Group is seeking a Director of Operations for its advanced information systems environment.

This position is a technically oriented position combining best practices of advanced radio station operations / production management and a traditional chief technology position.

The candidate must have a passion for the Catholic Faith, will love being part of a team while contributing to the success of something larger than him/herself.

This person will work independently while positively managing relationships with staff, volunteers, vendors and contractors. He/she will actively manage multiple project timelines to completion and interact well with a variety of people. This position requires a person who is capable of taking the initiative and must be an excellent problem solver with a can-do attitude.

Responsibilities include:
• Implementing technical expansion plans of Redeemer Radio into a multi station environment with the assistance of a volunteer technical team
• Technical aspects of bringing programs and announcements to air and compliant with all FCC regulations
• Production and supervision of all long and short form local messages
• All live and remote broadcasts
• Equipment maintenance, repair of broadcast transmission and studio production equipment with assistance of technical volunteers and contract engineer in an advance telecommunications/data center environment

Requirements:
• Practicing Catholic in full communion with the church
• Four year bachelor’s degree in Information Systems/Technology or related business experience equivalent
• Demonstrated 4+ years of systems work experience

Please send resume, references, and salary requirements (necessary for consideration) to: Redeemer Radio Attn: Executive Director 4618 East State Blvd. Ste 200 Fort Wayne, IN 46815
Or email to: jobs@RedeemerRadio.com
For more complete information visit: www.RedeemerRadio.com

The CrossWord
July 3, 2011

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Today's Catholic
July 3, 2011

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.

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DIRECTOR OF
Religious Education

Immaculate Conception Church, a parish of nearly 1450 families, in Celina, Ohio, seeks an energetic, faith-filled Director of Religious Education. A minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree in religious education or related field is preferred for this full-time position. Primary responsibilities include Parish School of Religion, Catechist Formation, Adult Formation and Sacramental Preparation programs. Candidate will work closely with pastor, school principal, youth minister and other staff and parish volunteers helping to formulate and implement an integrated vision of parish religious education that is committed to handing on the gift of faith to future generations and providing all parishioners the opportunity to become fully engaged in the sacramental life. Salary and benefits are in accord with archdiocesan standards. Resumes and references should be sent by July 15, 2011 to: Religious Education Search Committee Immaculate Conception Church 229 West Anthony Street, Celina, Ohio 45822 kschnipke@celina-ic.org

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NOTRE DAME — “When you help others, it’s just a good feeling.”

Brian Trahin was among 80 young people from around the diocese who had more than “just a good feeling” after spending five days serving others in their own back yard as part of the bcX Servant Leadership retreat.

“We were at the Center for the Homeless, and there was this family with five little kids,” recalled Trahin, who made his first bcX retreat last year and will be a junior at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne. “We just ran around with them, giving them shoulder rides. Their mom was happy. Their situation wasn’t the best, but they could still see hope and have a good time. They had a bright outlook, even though things were desperate. I know I’m more fortunate, and sometimes I feel less hopeful. That makes me realize that even though these people have it worse, they can still have a good positive outlook on life.”

The name “bcX” refers to “b’ring Christ for others” and “c’ing Christ in those they serve. A collaboration of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Holy Cross College Campus Ministry, the mission trip is designed to let young people experience a lifestyle of service.

“We’ve done leadership retreats in the past where we’ve focused on prayer, the sacraments, catechesis,” explained Cindy Black, director of Youth Ministry for the diocese. “But the one component we were really missing was service. This trip gives us the opportunity to have a comprehensive event that allows us to go into every aspect of what our faith life should be.”

With Holy Cross College students serving as leaders and facilitators, participants stayed in dorms and spent their days serving alongside South Bend area ministries and charitable organizations. In the afternoons the young people returned to campus to blog about their experiences (readers can check out the bcX blogs at www.diocesefwsb.org/bcx/BCX_Blogs_2011.html).

“They go to a different site each day, so hopefully they get three different types of service experience,” said Black. “We try to make sure one has direct contact with those we’re serving. We teach them that even when they don’t see the people that they’re still helping. If they do yard work, they’re beautifying where these people live. One of the groups shared how they were sorting cans at a food bank. They never saw the people who would receive it, but they were praying for the people who donated the food and also those who would end up consuming the food. So it just showed this whole community, this body of Christ coming together. That was awesome.”

Anna Wilcoxson, a junior-to-be at Saint Joseph’s High School in South Bend, said she enjoyed her first bcX retreat.

“It was a great experience,” beamed Wilcoxson as she and her friends left the closing Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Friday. “We got to go out and help the community and we saw rewards that came out of it. We didn’t always see direct results, but it felt good knowing we could help somebody out.”

During the evenings, teens were immersed in strong catechesis and community. In addition to evening Mass, they participated in a rosary walk to the grotto at the University of Notre Dame. There, they spent time in private prayer with opportunity for confession, Thursday night was devoted to Eucharistic Adoration.

“Adoration was really touching,” remembered Trahin, noting the mix of prayer and song. “I really heard God talking to me and telling me that this is good for me, it’s really developing my Catholic faith. I really needed that.”

During his homily Friday, Bishop Rhoades expanded on the prayer experiences of young people, sharing an answer he gave when a student recently asked him how the bishop prays. He suggested the young people might also try a method called “lectio divina.”

“I reflect on the readings of the day,” smiled Bishop Rhoades, waving his copy of Magnificat magazine. “If possible, I go into a chapel or a church, but sometimes I just pray in my room. I read the Scripture passage slowly and silently, asking the Holy Spirit to help me pray. When I’m reading Scripture I’m listening to the voice of God! If one or two sentences hit me, I repeat those words as if they’re addressed to me. Just be with the Lord and let Him speak to you.”

That summed up the bcX mission of being present to the Lord, then making His presence known to others.

“You gotta try things, you gotta be willing to serve,” added Trahin. “If you don’t, you’ll never know. I guarantee, when you see the people you’re helping, you’ll know you’ve made a difference in their lives.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass June 24 with the 80 participants of the bcX Servant Leadership retreat at Holy Cross College. Bishop Rhoades suggested that the young people use “lectio divina” to reflect on the Scriptures.

BCX participants sort cans of food at a South Bend area food bank. The group participated in the bcX Servant Leadership retreat last week.

AREA FAITH LEADERS PROMOTE AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The Faith Leaders Blood Donation Day at the American Red Cross Fort Wayne Donor Center, located at 1212 E. California Rd., brought religious leaders from the area in to donate blood on June 21. These faith leaders have encouraged their congregations to organize blood drives and participate in blood donation this summer when donated blood supply is in high demand. Shown, at right, is Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who met with Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan of the Congregation B’nai Jacob Conservative, and Marcia Robbins, American Red Cross corporate relations. Rev. Timothy Pulse, dean of students, Concordia Theological Seminary, and representative of the Lutheran Missouri Synod donated blood earlier in the day. For more information or to donate call (800) 733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH

A Diocesan Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. and Emmitsburg

September 8-11, 2011

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