ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Taking 300 religious leaders with him on pilgrimage to Assisi, Pope Benedict XVI said people who are suspicious of religion cannot be blamed for questioning God’s existence when they see believers use religion to justify violence.

“All their struggling and questioning is, in part, an appeal to believers to purify their faith so that God, the true God, becomes accessible,” the pope said Oct. 27 during an interfaith gathering in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels.

Marking the 25th anniversary of the first Assisi interfaith gathering for peace, hosted by Blessed John Paul II in 1986, Pope Benedict brought together the religious leaders and — for the first time — four philosophers who describe themselves as humanists or seekers who do not identify with any single religion.

After a train ride of almost two hours from the Vatican, Pope Benedict and his guests arrived in Assisi and were driven to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels for the morning gathering focused on “testimonies for peace.”

Entering the basilica before the pope, the delegates created an unusually colorful congregation: They wore white, black or crimson robes or business suits; on their heads were skullcaps, turbans, scarves or veils.

The pope condemned the use of religion to excuse violence and the use of violence to impose a religion, as well as the growing violence resulting from “the loss of humanity” that comes from denying the existence of God and of objective moral standards.

“As a Christian, I want to say at this point: Yes, it is true, in the course of history, force has also been used in the name of the Christian faith. We acknowledge it with great shame,” Pope Benedict said.

Christian leaders, like all religious leaders, he said, must work constantly to help their followers purify their faith and be “an instrument of God’s peace in the world, despite the fallibility of humans.”

But a lack of religion is not the answer to oppose violence to promote peace, true faith.
In just three weeks, on the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year, we will begin using the long-anticipated new English translation of the Roman Missal. I look forward with joy and excitement to this beautiful new translation we will be using in our celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

We need to be ready to pray the new translation which uses language so rich in meaning and content, a truly sacred and sacramental language. It is the language of liturgical prayer, a more elevated language than we use in our ordinary everyday speech.

Recently, I and many of our priests have been reflecting particularly on the new translations of the Eucharistic Prayers. This is important since we are so accustomed to the present translation, knowing most of the Eucharistic Prayers by heart.

The Eucharistic Prayer and the Preface

The Eucharistic Prayer, also called the anaphora, is "the heart and summit of the celebration of the Eucharist" (CCC 1334). It is also referred to as "the Canon of the Mass." It contains the prayer of thanksgiving and consecration. It begins with the Preface. The new, third edition of the Roman Missal contains some new Prefaces. In these great prayers which introduce the Eucharistic Prayer "the Church gives thanks to the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, for all his works: creation, redemption, and sanctification." (CCC 1352).

At the end of the Preface, the whole assembly sings the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy). To give you a sense of the new translation in comparison to the former translation, here follows the old translation of the Preface, followed by the new translation we will hear on the First Sunday of Advent:

1970 Translation
Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. When he humbled himself to come among us as a man, he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago and opened for us the way to salvation. Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in his glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

New Translation
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. For he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope. And so,

The Epiclesis

An important part of the Eucharistic Prayers is the Epiclesis (a Greek word meaning "to call upon"), the prayer asking God to send the Holy Spirit so that the bread and wine may become the Body and Blood of Christ. Later in the Eucharistic Prayer, after the consecration, the Holy Spirit is invoked again, this time upon the people, petitioning that we become one in the Mystical Body of Christ.

When the Holy Spirit is called upon the gifts, the priest extends his hands over the bread and wine, a sacramental gesture signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit.

To give you a sense of the new translation in comparison to the former translation, here follows the old translation of the Epiclesis from the Second Eucharistic Prayer followed by the new translation:

1970 Translation
Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy, so that they may become for us the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

New Translation
Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The mention of dewfall, which is in the Latin text, was dropped in the former translation. It is back and brings to mind several allusions from the Bible. One thinks, for example, of the dew that fell upon the camp of the Israelite people on their journey to the Promised Land. When it evaporated, the manna, the bread from heaven, was revealed. The Eucharist is the new manna, Jesus Christ, the true bread come down from heaven.

The Institution Narrative

The Consecration at Mass is that part of the Eucharistic Prayer during which the priest recites Our Lord’s words at the Last Supper instituting the Holy Eucharist. When these words are said, Christ, through the priest, makes His Body and Blood sacramentally present by the power of the Holy Spirit. His sacrifice on the cross offered once for all becomes present on the altar.

Again, I place here the old translation of the Institution Narrative from the Second Eucharistic Prayer, followed by the new translation:

1970 Translation
Before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you. When supper was ended, he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

New Translation
At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.

Perhaps you immediately notice that the translation has changed from “cup” to “chal-ice.” Of course, the Latin says “calix,” literally translated as “chalice.” Why this change to the more literal translation? When we hear
Father Robert Yast dies at 85

FORT WAYNE — Father Robert A. Yast, retired priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who served at several parishes, died Oct. 30. He was 85.

Robert Anthony Yast was born the fifth of Charles and Elizabeth Yast’s five children in LaPorte on Aug. 10, 1926. He attended St. Joseph Elementary School in LaPorte and graduated from LaPorte High School in 1944. Interested in music studies, Father Yast attended Indiana University for two years before enrolling in St. Jerome College in Ontario. He then entered St. Mary of the West Seminary in Ohio where he studied for five years for the priesthood.

He was ordained into the priesthood on May, 26, 1956, by Bishop Leo A. Purseley at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. His first priestly assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne from 1956-68. Subsequently he served as assistant pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in South Bend from 1968-72, as well as pastor of St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend, from 1972-88, St. Patrick Parish in Walkerton, 1988-91, and St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka, from 1991-2006.

Other service positions Father Yast held in his 53 years of priesthood include assistant director of Holy Family Center in Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne deanery moderator of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, chaplain of the South Bend Serra Club, diocesan consistorial and vicar forane for South Bend Vicariate B. He held memberships in the Fort Wayne Knights of Columbus and American Legion Post 148.

Father Yast retired in 2006 when he moved to Fort Wayne and in failing health eventually entered Saint Anne Home.

Mgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, recalls the time Father Yast served as the assistant pastor. “He was friendly, outgoing and very well loved. He had a beautiful singing voice and was quite the artist. He had a great sense of humor. You were always very much at ease around him,” said Mgr. Schulte, adding that Father Yast was one of the priests who inspired him to his own priestly vocation.

“Father Yast was a proponent of vocations and supported them in his own way, “I remember getting notes from him when I was in the seminary. I’ve heard from priests who were with him that he would get up early in the morning and writes those notes,” recalled Mgr. Schulte.

Father Terry Fisher, current pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, recalls that shortly after his appointment was announced to replace the retiring Father Yast, he saw two women from St. Joseph Parish who informed him: “We hate to tell you this, but you’re following a saint.”

“The people here loved him,” Father Fisher explained. “He had a great sense of humor, loved people and had a special and pastoral caring for the sick.”

Mary Geist, principal of St. Joseph Grade School from 1996 until her retirement last year, said that Father Yast was the kind of priest who made people feel comfortable in their religion and helped them see the Lord as a real person.

“He was a man to hold a grudge, saw the best in people and was such a gentleman in more ways than one,” Geist said.

Al Gerstbauer knew Father Yast as a St. Joseph parishioner and also for the nearly 40 years that Father Yast was the longtime spiritual director of the local Serra Club.

“Of course we all dearly loved Father,” Gerstbauer said. “He was so even-going and had a knack for people liking him. As he got older, Father was able to do everything you could do, but nobody would object because he was such a dear, was so friendly.”

Vocal music director of Father Yast’s housekeeper for 34 years, said “Father Yast was a holy man. You never got in the car without saying the rosary, even if you were just going across town.”

“I don’t think he had an enemy in the world, and he was very generous. He would give his shirt off his back to anybody who would come,” she said.

Sarah Ann Mueller, a longtime parishioner at St. Anthony de Padua, where Father Yast was pastor for 16 years, said her entire family benefited from his many talents: from his example as a pious priest, to his witty humor, to his beautiful tenor singing voice.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy, bishop emeritus, of this faithful priest, “Father Yast was beloved wherever he served and was especially devoted to the sick and the dying. He would always be found in the hospitals and nursing homes, and was blessed with a delightful sense of humor. I found him a joy to be around. Father Yast will be remembered with that special affection and love that people reserve for parish priests who make present the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the flock. May he rest in peace.”

Mass of Christian Burial for the longtime spiritual director of the local Serra Club, was celebrated for Father Yast Thursday, Nov. 3, at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka. Burial was at the Yast family plot at Oaklawn Cemetery in Sturgis, Mich., on Nov. 3.

Kay Gozad and Ann Carey contributed to this article.

YOUNG MAN HOLDS STATUE OF ST. JUDE THADEUS IN MEXICO CHURCH

A young man holds a statue of St. Jude Thaddeus during Mass at St. Hippolytus Church in Mexico City Oct. 28. St. Jude, the patron of hopeless causes, is one of the biggest spiritual figures among young people in Mexico City.
Bishop addresses House panel on ‘grave threats to religious liberty’

BY NANCY FRAZIER O’BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Recent “grave threats to religious liberty” serve as “grim validations” of the U.S. bishops’ decision last June to create a special committee to address those issues, Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., told a House subcommittee Oct. 26.

Bishop Lori, appointed in late September to chair the bishops’ new Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence require government “to acknowledge and protect religious liberty as fundamental, no matter the moral and political trends of the moment."

But in recent days, he said, “the bishops of the United States have watched with increasing alarm as this great national legacy of religious liberty, so profoundly in harmony with our own teachings, has been subject to ever more frequent assault and even more rapid erosion.”

In written testimony before the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on the Constitution, Bishop Lori called for “corrective action by Congress” to address six areas of particular concern:

- Regulations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services in August that would mandate coverage of contraception and sterilization in most private health insurance plans.
- A new requirement by HHS that would require the bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services to agree to provide the “full range” of reproductive services, including abortion and contraception, to human trafficking victims and unaccompanied refugee minors.
- The U.S. Agency for International Development’s requirement that Catholic Relief Services and other contractors include condom distribution in their HIV prevention activities, and provide contraception in a range of international relief and development programs.
- The Department of Justice’s actions to mischaracterize the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which states that marriage is the union of a man and a woman, as an act of bigotry and to actively attack its constitutionality.
- The Justice Department’s efforts to undermine the “ministerial exception” that exempts religious institutions from some civil laws when it comes to hiring and firing.
- State actions on same-sex marriage that have resulted in Catholic Charities agencies in Illinois being “driven out of the adoption and foster-care business” and some county clerks in New York state facing legal action for refusing to participate in same-sex unions.

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Bishop William C. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., addresses a subcommittee of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington Oct. 26. Speaking on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, he told U.S. representatives that the government has “a perennial obligation to acknowledge and protect religious liberty as fundamental, no matter the moral and political trends of the moment.”

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, repeatedly questioned Bishop Lori about whether he saw a difference between state employees who said in the civil rights era that they oppose interracial marriage and those who oppose same-sex marriage today, when both decline to follow state laws because of their religious beliefs.

“Mo, I would believe marriage between two people of different races is an entirely different matter,” he replied. “Marriage is a unique relationship. It takes a man and a woman.”

The bishop said he found it “troubling” when opposition to same-sex marriage “is portrayed as bigotry” and when some try to draw a “parallel between racial discrimination and (opposition to) same-gender marriage.”

Bishop Lori urged members of the House of Representatives to pass three bills that would “go a long way toward guaranteeing religious liberty and freedom of conscience for religious employers, health insurers and health care providers.” They are the Protect Life Act (H.R. 558), the Abortion Non- Discrimination Act (H.R. 361) and the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 179).

He also called for a congressional hearing or other investigation into “the illegal conditions that HHS and USAID are placing on religious providers of human services.” He said new statutes might be necessary “to create new conscience protections, but more likely to create private rights of action for those whose rights under the existing protections have been violated.”

“Unfortunately, the authority to enforce the applicable conscience protections now lies principally with the federal agencies that may be violating the protections,” Bishop Lori said.

He urged House members to “resist legislative efforts to repeal” the Defense of Marriage Act, including the Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 1116).

“The religious freedom threats to marriage at the state level may fall beyond the scope of authority of Congress to control — except to the extent that state adoption and foster-care services are federally funded,” he said.

Other witnesses at the hearing included the State of Religious Liberty in the United States” were the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and Colby M. May, director and senior counsel of the Washington office of the American Center for Law and Justice.

May said court decisions “have restricted religious freedoms on public college and school campuses” and in other arenas.

“In light of ever-changing discrimination laws and harassment policies that religious people often face a troublesome choice: violate deeply held religious beliefs or receive punishment from state or local officials,” he said.

Rev. Lynn disagreed with the other witnesses, however, saying that “the most imminent and egregious threats to religious freedom today are those that are suffered by members of minority faiths and nonbelievers in this country.”

“In one of the most religiously diverse countries in the world,” he said, “adherents to less popular faiths and nonbelievers face religious coercion and overt religious employment discrimination.”

What the other witnesses “see as threats can easily be characterized as attempts to obtain sweeping exemptions that harm the rights of innocent third parties; attempts to seek privileges reserved for religious entities even though they are engaged in commerce, acting as a traditional business or serving as a government provider of services; and attempts to obtain religious exemptions even when such exemptions could deny others their fundamental rights, health or even life,” Rev. Lynn said.

Contributing to this story was Chaz Muth.
world peace, he said.

The Nazi death camps clearly proved that “the denial of God corrupts man, robs him of his criteria (for judging right and wrong) and leads him to violence,” the pope said. On the other hand, he said, many nonbeliever also are “pilgrims of truth, pilgrims of peace.”

“The people who are seeking the truth, they are seeking the true God, whose image is frequently concealed in the religions because of the ways in which they are often practiced. Their inability to find God is partly the responsibility of believers with a limited or even falsified image of God,” he said.

“They challenge the followers of religions not to consider God as their own property, as if He belonged to them, in such a way that they feel vindicated in using force against others,” the pope said.

Sitting to the pope’s right were Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, and to his left were Rabbi David Rosen, representing the chief rabbinate of Israel, and Wande Abimbola, president of the Nigerian institute that promotes the Catholic perspective and Wande Abimbola, president of a Nigerian institute that promotes the Catholic perspective.

While Archbishop Williams sat on the other. Thirteen other delegates— including Christians, a Muslim, a follower of Tenrikyo, a Buddhist and a nonbeliever — also were seated at the head table. Rabbi Rosen, who also was at the pope’s table, said the meal ended with the pope wishing everyone a “buona siesta” or “good rest.”

In the afternoon, following thousands of young people who walked up to the Basilica of St. Francis, the religious leaders rode up the hill in buses.

Gathered in the square in front of the church’s lower level, the pope and 13 other leaders renewed their commitments to peace as the fog finally lifted from the plain below. The leaders affirmed the obligation of love of neighbor, the conviction that true faith never can be used to justify violence, the responsibility of religious leaders to educate their followers to respect others and the need to continue interreligious dialogue. Pope Benedict was the last to read his commitment. He said: “Violence never again! War never again! Terrorism never again! In the name of God, may every religion bring upon the earth justice and peace, forgiveness and life, love!”

After a moment of silence, the leaders were handed oil lamps similar to the one that burns before the tomb of St. Francis, just a few steps from the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi Oct. 27.

Doves were released and one landed on the hand of one of the delegates who, beaming, gracefully lifted the bird above his head and showed it off.

During the morning session in the basilica, Patriarch Bartholomew said the 25 years since the initial Assisi gathering have included the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States and the Arab Spring democracy movement, “which has not put an end to tensions between communities.”

The place of religions in the changes under way remains ambiguous,” the patriarch said, echoing the concerns of many Christians that more radical followers of Islam may not protect the rights of Christian minorities in the countries that have thrown off dictatorships.

“We must oppose the deformation of the message and symbols of religion by perpetrators of violence,” said the Orthodox spiritual leader.

The Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, a Lutheran minister and secretary-general of the World Council of Churches, urged the leaders to do more to assist and guide their young people, who can be the source of new energy for change — like with the Arab Spring — or can express their frustrations through violence.

A Hindu representative from India, Shrivatsa Growsemani, said the leaders needed to ask themselves why interreligious dialogue has not had a greater impact on the world situation in the last 25 years. “Are we missing the inward part of the journey?” he asked. “Dialogue will be a futile exercise unless we undertake it with humility, forbearance and the desire to respect the other,” whether or not they return that respect, he said.

Hassim Muzadi, general secretary of the Indonesia-based International Conference of Islamic Scholars, could not attend, but sent a speech. He said people of different faiths must work together to build on something they all share: “a hope for the creation of human harmony, justice, prosperity and an improved standard of human life.”

U.S. President Barack Obama sent a message to participants, saying, “Through interfaith dialogue, we can unite in common cause to fight the afflicted, make peace where there is strife, and find the way forward to create a better world for ourselves and our children.”

The message was delivered by Susan Johnson Cook, U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, and Miguel H. Diaz, U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, who attended the event.

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Bishops reaffirm doctrinal concerns with theologian’s book

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The nine members of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Doctrine have reaffirmed their concerns about a 1997 book by Fordham University theologian Sister Elizabeth A. Johnson is seriously inadequate as a presentation of the Catholic understanding of God.” In an 11-page response to Sister Elizabeth’s extensive June 1 defense of her 2007 book, “Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God,” the bishops said her explanation did nothing to change their minds. Sister Elizabeth said then that the bishops misunderstood and misrepresented the book’s main points. The committee, chaired by Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, said that Sister Elizabeth’s response to their original critique of March 24 had “not in fact demonstrated that the committee has misunderstood or misrepresented the book.” Sister Elizabeth, professor of systematic theology at Fordham and a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph, was on sabbatical, but issued a statement in response early Oct. 28. She said she read the committee’s statement with “sadness.” She also said she was “disappointed” in the way the committee addressed its response, pointing to the process the bishops undertook, the content of their message and the result of their findings. “I want to make it absolutely clear that nothing in this book dissents from the Church’s faith about God revealed in Jesus Christ through the Spirit,” she said. The bishops noted in their statement that Sister Elizabeth explained in her response that her book expresses the Catholic faith “in different words but with the same meaning.” While commending Sister Elizabeth “for her stated intention to help the Church progress in her understanding of divine realities,” the bishops go on to say that the book “fails to fulfill this task because it does not sufficiently ground itself in the Catholic theological tradition as its starting point.” The statement added that “multiple readings of the words themselves point at the serious ambiguity in the book.” “When it examined the particular points at issue, the Committee on Doctrine was confirmed in its judgment that these different words do not in fact adequately express the faith of the Church,” the bishops said.

US Catholics give mixed reaction to Vatican’s economy document

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholics have mixed feelings about the Vatican’s ideas on how to fix today’s troubled global economy. The proposals, outlined in a document released Oct. 24, include overhauling the world’s financial systems, establishing a global authority to manage the economy and creating a “world reserve fund” to support poor countries. Catholic reaction to the document was immediate, with critics and supporters of the ideas issuing statements soon after the document was released in several languages including 18 pages of a provisional translation in English. The text, “Toward Reforming the International Financial and Monetary Systems in the Context of Global Public Authority,” was prepared by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. The document doesn’t entirely break new ground, because much of it reinforces the development of Catholic thought on economic disparity and need to work for the common good. It highlights encyclicals from Pope John XXIII’s 1963 “Pacem in Terris” (“Peace on Earth”) to Pope Benedict’s 2009 “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”). Almost 50 years ago, Pope John XXIII spoke of the need to develop some type of universal financial authority to address the growing inequality between the world’s rich and poor. And just two years ago, Pope Benedict called for a rethink of economics guided not simply by profits but by “an ethics which is people-centered.” Those who disliked the new document and some of the attention it received were quick to point out that it was not officially signed by Pope Benedict and therefore didn’t have the weight of an encyclical. Others saw it as a direct link to the current frustration about the economy and speculated that it could be a manifesto of sorts for the Occupy Wall Street movement.

‘Ad limina’: US bishops set to begin round of consultations in Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. bishops are preparing to make their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican, an intense series of encounters that will bring many of their face-to-face with Pope Benedict XVI for the first time. Beginning in early November and extending through much of next year, the visits will constitute the most comprehensive assessment of Church life in the United States since the German pope was elected in 2005. The visits also give Pope Benedict a platform for commentary, and Vatican sources say the leitmotif of papal talks to the bishops will be “new evangelization” in U.S. society. The approximately 500 heads of U.S. dioceses, some accompanied by auxiliary bishops, will arrive in Rome in 15 regional groups, and each will bring a “Report on the State of the Diocese” that will serve as the basis for discussions. The schedules for the weeklong visits combine prayer and liturgy with more businesslike encounters at key Vatican offices. The meetings with the pope have always been the highlight of the “ad limina” visits. Pope Benedict has lately adopted a modified format, meeting with 7-10 bishops at a time instead of individual encounters. U.S. bishops can expect small group discussions lasting about 45 minutes to an hour, featuring a relatively unstructured give-and-take with the pontiff. The pope also addresses the larger regional groups of bishops, usually on a particular theme or aspect of the Church’s experience in the United States. He will not give a formal speech to each regional group, however. Instead, plans call for him to address only five of the groups — part of a cutback in papal appointments that has been instituted gradually over the last few years.

Manila’s new archbishop: simple, generous, able to laugh at himself

IMUS, Philippines (CNS) — On a recent Sunday morning, Nernie Anciado squinted against the scorching sun shining on the doorway of the crowded Our Lady of the Pillar Cathedral. Anciado, in his 60s, has been a longtime custodian at the cathedral. Bishop Oscar Tagle of Tagaytay served as bishop from 2001 until his recent appointment to his new post as head of the Manila Archdiocese. Anciado said he has mixed feelings about Archbishop Tagle’s new assignment. He said he’d said to lose him and happy that “he will be able to grow in his new position. There’s so much we like about the (archbishop),” said Anciado. “He really takes care of people, simple and generous and there’s no class structure when he deals with people; everyone is equal in his eyes. He lives such a beautiful life.” After a while Anciado wasn’t just squinting away the sunlight, he was blinking back tears. He said Archbishop Tagle, a knower of Tagalog, “always makes himself a tremendously helpful to him personally. On his meager salary, Anciado put six daughters through college, and he said when things got tough, the archbishop gave him money when he never expected anything in return,” Anciado explained. “All he asked was that whoever he helped should draw closer to God.”

Sex trafficking, indentured labor bedevil victims and foes alike

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The scourge of human trafficking, be it in the form of sex slavery or immigrant work gangs, not only bedevils people victimized by those practices but even those who campaign against them. During an Oct. 26 conference on trafficking at The Catholic University of America, Ethiopian trafficking victims told of their escape from a dozen different countries at the behest of smugglers before arriving in the United States, where their treatment by federal investigators and the Department of Homeland Security agents was even harsher than in their home country. “I am a survivor from two countries: from Ethiopia, and here in America, too,” said Fincam Benjamin, who fled his homeland in 2006 amid repression from the Ethiopian government, which is still in power in the East African nation. Benjamin said he arrived in Laredo, Texas, expecting hospitality. Instead, he said, he was tortured by border police. “They took away all my cellphone numbers,” rendering him unable to reach anyone, Benjamin said. “For six months, no communication. I am in a single room in Laredo, Texas,” he added, pausing to choke back tears. “I’m sorry,” he told his audience. “I’m just feeling a little bad said about what was happening to me.” In Ethiopia, “God gave me a chance to escape,” Benjamin said. “Here, you have no way to escape. You have no way to kill yourself if you are desperate.” He added, “I am the only one they keep that long. I don’t blame the country. (But) I still hurt.” Luis CalaBaca, director of the Department’s Office to Monitor and Combating Trafficking in Persons, also addressed the conference, sponsored by the Franciscan Action Network, Franciscans International, the Franciscan Federation and the Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies at the university.

WOman makes way through flooded neighborhood

A woman makes her way through floodwaters in her neighborhood in central Bangkok Oct. 25. Record flooding in Thailand has affected an estimated 2.8 million households. Pope Benedict XVI expressed his concern for those hit by extreme flooding in Thailand and parts of Italy. “I wish to express my closeness to the people hit by serious flooding in Thailand, as well as in Italy” where heavy rains caused extensive damage in parts of Liguria and Tuscany, he said after praying the Angelus with those gathered in St. Peter’s Square Oct. 30.

Women take with the pontiff. The pope also addresses the larger regional groups of bishops, usually on a particular theme or aspect of the Church’s experience in the United States. He will not give a formal speech to each regional group, however. Instead, plans call for him to address only five of the groups — part of a cutback in papal appointments that has been instituted gradually over the last few years.

Sex trafficking, indentured labor bedevil victims and foes alike

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Manila’s new archbishop: simple, generous, able to laugh at himself

IMUS, Philippines (CNS) — On a recent Sunday morning, Nernie Anciado squinted against the scorching sun shining on the doorway of the crowded Our Lady of the Pillar Cathedral. Anciado, in his 60s, has been a longtime custodian at the cathedral. Bishop Oscar Tagle of Tagaytay served as bishop from 2001 until his recent appointment to his new post as head of the Manila Archdiocese. Anciado said he has mixed feelings about Archbishop Tagle’s new assignment. He said he’d said to lose him and happy that “he will be able to grow in his new position. There’s so much we like about the (archbishop),” said Anciado. “He really takes care of people, simple and generous and there’s no class structure when he deals with people; everyone is equal in his eyes. He lives such a beautiful life.” After a while Anciado wasn’t just squinting away the sunlight, he was blinking back tears. He said Archbishop Tagle, a knower of Tagalog, “always makes himself a tremendously helpful to him personally. On his meager salary, Anciado put six daughters through college, and he said when things got tough, the archbishop gave him money when he never expected anything in return,” Anciado explained. “All he asked was that whoever he helped should draw closer to God.”
BISHOP RHOADES CELEBRATES MASS WITH SCOUTS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades traveled to Camp Chief Little Turtle in Ashley on Oct. 29 to celebrate Mass with the Boy Scout troops camped there for the annual Catholic Camporee weekend. This marked the first time that a bishop from the diocese celebrated Mass at the camp. Father Tony Steinacker and Franciscan Father Mary David Engo concelebrated the Mass. At the conclusion of Mass, Bishop Rhoades told the young men that he had been in Scouting when he was younger, and he encouraged them to pursue earning the two Roman Catholic religious emblems: the Ad Altare Dei and the Pope Pius XII.

SAM MARTINEZ COMPLETES EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Sam Martinez completed his Eagle Scout project nicknamed “Green Thumb” in April. His project was to relandscape the 75-foot-long front portion of the St. Charles Youth Center, remove four bushes, all weeds and ground cover as well as plant new plants and bushes. He also inserted stones, refinished the metal surrounding the entrance with a fresh coat of paint, installed new porch lights and address numbers.

SYRACUSE — The Knights of Columbus Council 6323 has made several donations in the community. The funds come from community support of the bingo and pancake breakfasts.

Recent donations include the following: $1,000 to the Winona Lake Fire Department; $750 to the Fraternal Order of Police; $1,000 to the North Webster Food Pantry; $500 to the Syracuse Boy Scouts; $1,000 for the Milford Food Pantry; $800 to Teen Parents Succeeding; $1,350 to Pee Wee football; $350 to Wawasee Travel Baseball; $850 to the North Webster Ski Bees; $1,400 to the Wawasee High School cheerleaders; and $1,000 to the Syracuse Food Pantry.

Knights contribute to Wawasee area needs

BISHOP RHOADES CELEBRATES MASS WITH SCOUTS

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SAM MARTINEZ COMPLETES EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Sam Martinez completed his Eagle Scout project nicknamed “Green Thumb.” Shown in the photo arc, from left, sister Anna Martinez, dad Jesse Martinez, Father Tony Steinacker, parochial vicar of St. Charles Parish and chaplain to the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, Sam, and mom Frances Martinez.
All are welcome at the Lord’s table: Diocese takes a new look at ministering to the disabled

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Catholics come in all shapes and sizes, with myriad abilities and challenges. Many times those challenges have inhibited faith formation and participation within the Church. Current statistics show that only 30 percent of the disabled population attend Mass on a regular basis.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, under the tutelage of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, has recently begun an initiative to investigate the needs of the Catholic disabled population.

Secretariat for Evangelization and Special Ministries Mary Glowaski has been charged with forming a ministry for the disabled, and says, “This initiative is about changing our vision. Our Catholic communities are impoverished without the gifts the disabled have to bring and share.”

Globally, says Glowaski, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has a long history of working with the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD). “The primary goal of the NCPD is to foster full and meaningful participation of the disabled in our faith community,” she says. “To accomplish that locally will require a gentle and deliberate movement.”

While a few parishes across the diocese offer retreats for persons with disabilities, catechesis for special-needs children and interpreters for the deaf, this new initiative will challenge each of the 80 parishes to promote and support inclusion for all. According to parish member Vicki Zmirski, the church had a parishioner who would attend Mass but generally found herself not watching the Mass as closely as she should have because she was so focused on the sign language interpreter. “It was beautiful to watch,” said Janet Monroe of the parish office. “It was beautiful to watch,” said Janet Monroe of the parish office.

Anyone who is interested in getting involved in this initiative should contact Glowaski directly at (574) 255-2247.

The primary goal of the NCPD is to foster full and meaningful participation of the disabled in our faith community.

Hearing impaired receive the Gospel through interpreter at St. Monica Church

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

MISHAWAKA — St. Monica Parish embraces their Catholic community by providing access to the Mass for all members including those that might be hearing impaired with a sign language interpreter. It is a cost that the parish is happy to assume if it means giving everyone the chance to know the Gospel of the Lord.

“We have a family in the parish that are hearing impaired and we do it for them,” said Janet Monroe of the parish office.

According to parish member Vicki Zmirski, the church had a parishioner who would attend Mass and sign for the family for many years. This person moved from the area, and the parish then worked with Bethel College for a period of time bringing a student in to provide this service for the family.

For the past five years, the church has contracted United Health Services to provide sign language interpreting at two Masses a month and special occasions such as Christmas and Easter Masses. “When the family’s son made his Confirmation last year, we had an interpreter come to the Confirmation meeting and the ceremony for the family,” said Monroe.

Monroe had the opportunity to see the sign language interpreter at a Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the parish. “It was beautiful to watch,” said Monroe, who noted she sometimes found herself not watching the Mass as closely as she should have because she was so focused on the sign language interpreter.

The sign language interpreter is given a book with the songs and readings to use during the Mass celebration. Mass times are set up with the family each month, but are generally celebrated at 9:30 a.m.

For more information about this unique program offered at St. Monica’s Church, contact the parish office at (574) 255-2247.
Prayer is greatest weapon in pro-life movement
Respect Life Mass celebrated at St. Andrew

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a Respect Life Mass at St. Andrew Church on Oct. 27 to pray for an end to abortion. The Mass, concelebrated by Franciscan Father David Mary Engo and Father Jason Freiburger, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was celebrated as part of the 40 Days for Life campaign.

The chilly rain that dampened the morning did nothing to hinder the numbers of pro-life supporters that filled the church. And as the altar servers lit the candles in preparation for this special Mass, the melodic voices of the Franciscan Brothers Minor drifted through the sanctuary as they prayed their Morning Office.

Bishop Rhoades opened the Mass with a grateful welcome to the congregation and reminded them that “prayer is our greatest weapon” against the culture of death.

In his homily Bishop Rhoades spoke of “perseverance in pro-life efforts, in proclaiming and serving the gospel of life,” and referenced the Gospel of the day saying, “Jesus said to the Pharisees: ‘I must continue on My way today, tomorrow, and the following day...’ He would not forsake His mission.”

“Our mission of evangelizing must not be thwarted,” the bishop continued, “Our mission includes the defense of the life and dignity of every human person, including the innocent unborn.”

Bishop Rhoades cited Blessed John Paul II’s encyclical, “The Gospel of Life,” written 16 years ago, but relevant even now by saying, “A great prayer life is urgently needed. ... Jesus Himself has shown us by His own example that prayer and fasting are the first and most effective weapons against the forces of evil.”

Challenging those in attendance, Bishop Rhoades asked, “How do we love our pro-choice opponents, our enemies and those who attack or malign us? ... It is only with the help of God’s grace, which is why we need prayer and the strength of the Holy Eucharist.”

He reminded the pro-life congregation that their service to the Gospel must include help for women who are facing crisis pregnancies and referred to the Women’s Care Centers’ outreach in the area.

The bishop also invited his flock to pray for those who have suffered from abortion saying, “The Church reaches out with the love and mercy of our Savior to women who have been harmed by the sin of abortion.”

Bishop Rhoades concluded his homily with a prayer that the Blessed Mother might “look upon us and upon our nation. And upon Fort Wayne,” and assist with prayers for life.

Lindsey Zehr, who attended the Respect Life Mass, said, “It’s such an important thing. People need to flock to it. I pray for them to have a change of heart and know it’s the will of God for them.”

Jenn MacDonald, who brought her five children to the Mass, felt the importance of the celebration and said, “I came because the lives of the children are worth the effort of my prayers and sacrifice.”

Following the Mass a convoy of faithful traveled with the bishop and Franciscan Brothers to an area abortion facility where they were joined by community members and students from area schools, including St. Vincent de Paul School. Though the rain continued to pelt the umbrella-laden crowd, they remained steadfast in their witness of love and mercy to those entering the abortion facility.

Bishop Rhoades led the passionate group in a recitation of the luminous mysteries of the rosary, while small clusters of students held hand-crafted crosses and special rosaries. As their prayers descended to the heavens, one man exiting the abortion facility entered into a concentrated conversation with a pro-life witness.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, far right with microphone, leads the crowd of students and adults in the recitation of the rosary outside an area abortion facility on Oct. 27 as part of the 40 Days for Life campaign to end abortion.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, right, celebrates the special Respect Life Mass with Father Jason Freiburger, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend celebrating at St. Andrew Church on Oct. 27 as part of the 40 Days for Life campaign. Following Mass the bishop led the recitation of the rosary outside an area abortion facility and was joined by students, right, from St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne.
IPFW Students for Life speaks pro-life message locally and beyond

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW) Students for Life is rallying for life. The pro-life group on the IPFW campus welcomes new students and wants to spread the pro-life message on the IPFW campus and throughout the community.

The group was founded in January 2009. St. Aloysius parishioner and IPFW student, Alicia Bigelow, is the current president of IPFW Students for Life.

The purpose of the organization, according to Bigelow, is to organize and activate pro-life students on campus. Bigelow says members of the organization advocate to save lives threatened by induced abortion, euthanasia and the destruction of human embryos for research.

One way the group brings about awareness is through chalk walks. “During chalk walks we write pro-life messages in chalk all around our campus,” Bigelow says. “We want to help those women who are affected by abortion or who are thinking of abortion. When we do our chalk walks we want to be sure they know places they can go for help such as the Women’s Care Center or A Hope Center both here in Fort Wayne.”

“Last semester we had a Pro-Life Awareness Week, where we took over the middle of campus and filled it with booths that discussed all life issues,” Bigelow says. “We also had a huge calendar set up in the middle of campus. The calendar was a visual for everyone on campus to see the number of abortions that take place in one month just in the state of Indiana. We had pink and blue flags to represent lives lost through abortion. Every hour more flags were added because more lives were lost. Through the display we had much discussion, and change of hearts.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades supports the organization’s efforts through prayer and donations. He recently celebrated Mass with many of the 90 members and the Newman Group. Many members had conversations with Bishop Rhoades at that time.

The best part about the bishop coming to celebrate Mass with your organization, Bigelow says, was “I enjoyed sharing stories with Bishop Rhoades after we celebrated Mass. It was nice to get to know him.”

Some of the stories spoke to other big local endeavors, including IPFW Students for Life group participation in the 40 Days for Life campaign and volunteers with Allen County Right to Life.

The reach of the IPFW Students for Life organization goes far beyond the local community though. IPFW Students for Life has participated in the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., for the past two years.

In conjunction with the University of Saint Francis Cougars for Life, IPFW Students for Life shared a bus and traveled to the nation’s capital to participate in the March for Life. They also participated in the largest pro-life conference in Bethesda, Md., where they met and learned from many pro-life advocates such as Scott Klusendorf and Alveda King.

Bigelow says that IPFW Students for Life plans on participating in the National March for Life again next January.

IPFW Students for Life empowers students to influence life-giving change. Bigelow enjoys being a part of the group because she feels “like I can make a difference in our community, and for the lives of the unborn and women.”

She says that the group meets every other Thursday at various locations on IPFW’s campus. For information about IPFW Students for Life, email sbf@students.ipfw.edu.

BISHOP DWENGER OPEN HOUSE
November 10, 2011
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Main Gym

- Tour the school
- Meet Faculty, Staff, and Administration
- Explore 10 Academic Departments
- Visit with Campus Ministry Representatives
- Discuss Service Opportunities
- Spend time with coaches and players
- Learn about extra-curricular clubs

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BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

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Where have all the Catholics gone?

How many people do you know that no longer practice their Catholic faith? Your list might include family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, or casual acquaintances you’ve met along the way. According to a recent Pew Forum Survey, one out of every 10 Americans is a former Catholic. The study concludes, “Catholics are not losing more people to other religions or to no religion than any other single religious group.”

Why did they go?

The reasons people stop practicing their Catholic faith are complex. Each person who leaves has a particular story. But there are a few common reasons people become separated from the Catholic faith:

The number one reason is interfaith marriage. In a mixed marriage, the spouse with the strongest faith usually determines how the children will be raised. The other spouse often practices no religion or decides to convert to whatever faith the family has embraced.

Divorce is another major reason. Some people mistakenly believe that when a parent is divorced, the whole person is excommunicated. This is not true, but it keeps many people away from the Church.

The third reason is the experience of a pastoral ministry without an annulment often leave the Church because they are restricted from receiving Communion. There are no restrictions on belonging to a religious group.

People who do not register in a parish within six months of moving to a new location are likely to become “fallen-away” Catholics.

Some people leave the Church because they are hurt or angry over something that happened with a priest or a parish staff member.

Others leave because they are hurt or angry at God because of a death in the family or some other tragedy.

Lifestyle choices keep people away from the Church. People who are “too busy,” or involved in sports activities, or don’t see religion as a priority in their lives might fall into a parish, attending Mass, having children baptized, or raising children in the Catholic faith, but many people in this situation find it too painful to sit in the pew while others approach the altar for Communion. They often join Protestant Churches where the whole family can participate together.

Beyond ‘I do’

The night before David’s and my wedding, there was a big storm. Winds ripped through the area and blew out electricity. As the moon was scurrying around, trying to get my younger siblings dressed in the dark, considering whether the food in the refrigerator would spoil and worrying about whether the church lights would also be out for the rehearsal, I just boldly prayed that God would not spoil the curling iron, which had been sitting on the bathroom counter, would still be hot enough to curl my hair, I knew it would.

After the rehearsal (lights were on in the church — thank you God), which went rather well, I headed off for dinner. Oh, but the place cards for the dinner after the wedding the next day were not finished yet, so after the rehearsal dinner David, mother and I sat down to finish figuring out where everyone would sit the next day. Personally I did not care, and David did not either, but we still threw ourselves into the task, which seemed important to my mom. God bless my dear fiancé who, finally around midnight, told me to go home and that he would stay with my mother and get the place cards done. I guess he knew me well enough to realize I’d be grumpy without sleep and who wants a grumpy bride? Either that or the poor guy looked at me and thought to himself, “This girl needs some beauty rest.” At the time I didn’t think of it, but there was also the distinct possibility he was just being thoughtful.

The next day, an Indian summer produced, in the end of September, humidity and record heat, with the thermometer approaching 90 degrees. I wouldn’t have minded but that my dress was a heavy, satin gown with long sleeves. My dad forgot to put his arm out for me as we walked down the aisle at the entrance hymn, and consequently, video life. I even event make me look like I’m clutching him in fear, I suppose it didn’t help either that I was crying my eyes out. I shouldn’t have chosen the dramatic music for the entrance. Poor David. He probably wondered if I was having second thoughts.

I wasn’t having second thoughts, but I was engrossed in thinking about the serious nature of the event. Although somewhat immature and natural, I did fully understand the commitment David and I were about to undertake, and felt overwhelmed by the beauty and solemnity of the sacrament we were going to receive. Our first date six years prior and many dates since then as well as memories of fun and friendship melted away. I remember thinking, as I walked down the aisle, “I hope he realizes I’m giving him my life.” I even event, I think I did.

This year, David and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. I look back and think what a foresker that the day before the wedding and the wedding day itself were of our entire marriage. Our married life has been full of moments — storms, at least expected, sudden and immediate demands, inconveniences, compromises to people who are important, things forgotten, weird emotional responses and sudden realizations. Our marriage has also, like many marriages, been filled with great joys, sometimes unexpected, take-your-breath-away pure delight. My husband is still my best friend. In this imperfect world, with our imperfect selves, we stick together.

The secret of a long, happy marriage, as most long-married couples know, is to simply keep moving forward with grace and in God’s care. The happy and sad, challenging and fun events of life serve as glue to the marriage, as do the gift of children, fortify a couple over many years. The secret is that there is no secret. There is simply commitment and a lot of hard work, rolling with the punches, accept the joy with gratitude, and most importantly, relying on God through everything.

In looking back, I see many weaknesses in my 23-year-old self who married her husband in the fall of 1986. Thank God that He did not require perfection before marriage or I’d be a libarian. My clothes were well relaxed and perfectly curled hair — right now, God takes us where we are. He bestows many graces and secrets, despite many twists in turns, challenges and unexpected events, easily find themselves joyfully celebrating marriage for another year beyond. What a gift. What a God. Happy anniversary, David!
The emerging crisis in Ukraine

The Oct. 11 sentencing of former prime minister and Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko to seven years in prison may or may not stand. Miss Tymoshenko has appealed the sentence and several western governments, including the Obama administration, have lodged stiff protests over Tymoshenko’s prosecution. The government of Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich. But irrespective of Miss Tymoshenko’s legal fate, a marker has been laid down. That the Ukrainian government could conduct, publicly, a trial on trumped up and politically motivated charges, and that the court would return a guilty verdict with a heavy penalty (including a $190 million fine on top of the prison sentence), makes quite clear that the current authorities have little regard for justice or democratic norms of governance.

And that is a problem far beyond Kyiv.

A brief review of some recent history helps explain why.

An independent Ukraine emerged from under the rubble of communism with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. Throughout the previous seven decades, the repository of Ukrainian national self-awareness and aspiration was the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), Byzantine in liturgy and policy but in full communion with Rome since the 1596 Union of Brest. In keeping alive the idea of a free and independent Ukraine, the UGCC played a role similar to that of the Catholic Church in Soviet-occupied Poland. And the Ukrainians were persecuted even more severely, for in 1946 the Russian Orthodox Church and the Soviet secret police “dispelled” the UGCC and forcibly incorporated it into the Russian Orthodox Church.

The UGCC gave its full measure of martyrs to Christ during decades of persecution, and emerged from underground in 1991 to launch, among many other initiatives, the only Catholic university in the former Soviet space: a beacon of light and decency in what is still a deeply wounded land. UGCC faculty and students played leading roles in the pro-democracy “Orange Revolution” that kept Viktor Yanukovich from power in 2004-05: a revolution whose positive effects Yanukovich now seems determined to reverse.

The UGCC is thus fated by history to play the role of the canary in the coal mine. A thriving Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine would be a sign that religious freedom is alive and well in the former Soviet space. A UGCC being choked by state pressure would be a disturbing sign that the political air in Ukraine is becoming too toxic to support democratic life.

On the strategic side of the historical ledger, a brief look at the map will suggest what is at stake here. Ukraine is the land bridge between Russia and central Europe. Russian strongman Vladimir Putin’s insistence that the collapse of the Soviet Union was a geopolitical catastrophe, and Putin’s recent announcement that he would return to the Russian presidency after a four-year pause as prime minister, suggests that the next Putin administration will do whatever it can to reconstitute the old Soviet Union, de facto if not de jure.

Bringing Ukraine ever more closely into the Russian embrace is the key to that strategy. The dissolution of Ukrainian independence could be, at first, economic—a de facto economic alliance with Russia to go along with Viktor Yanukovich’s reinstatement of Soviet-style politics, as exemplified by the Tymoshenko verdict. But it is potently imaginable to imagine a Muscovite strategy aimed at breaking up independent Ukraine, leaving a small Ukrainian mini-state around L’viv in western Ukraine while absorbing the rest of the country back into Greater Russia.

Were the Russian Orthodox Church to acquire in such maneuvers, it would deal a severe blow to the ecumenical future by demonstrating that dialogue with it is virtually impossible, given that the ROC had become a department of Putin’s autocratic state rather than an independent ecclesial body.

So there is a great deal riding on the future of Ukraine: religious freedom in the former Soviet space; political failure in building a Greater Russia that will threaten Europe, strategically and by its control of oil and gas supplies; Christian ecumenism between East and West.

The Catholic Difference

George Weigel

A thriving Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine would be a sign that religious freedom is alive and well in the former Soviet space.

Praying for truth and life

October is a time when we put an increased emphasis on a respect for life. The respect for life is always on the minds and in the many varied activities of the Knights of Columbus. On Sept. 28, beginning the new series of 40 Days for Life vigils began and the Knights will be there praying for the conversion of the men and women involved in the abortion industry.

In Indiana this fall 40 Days for Life reports eight cities will be the focus of their efforts to bring an end to this cultural tragedy. Abortion-related organizations or facilities in Bloomington, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Merrillville, South Bend and Warsaw will witness 40 days of prayer vigils to bring an end to abortion.

Do the vigils make a difference? Yes they do.

Clinics are closing and the abortion facility.

Preparing Oil

Michael Blankman

She literally crossed the street to the “other side.”

In Fort Wayne where I live, Thursdays are abortion day at our abortion facility. I try to be there on those mornings and it was the 40 Days for Life program that drew me there for the first time. I watch as people come and go. The women usually arrive with a companion and it can be a man or another woman. They are quickly escorted into the building by “security personnel” if you want to call them by that term. Their attitude is sometimes indifference to our side of the street and sometimes mordacity. They use tactics to try to hide our presence from the clients by blocking their view and playing loud music outside the clinic to drown out the voices of the pro-life counselors. It is all a great effort to block the truth from being known. The truth is that abortion is the taking of a human life. Abby Johnson knows the truth.

The Indiana Knights

Michael Blankman is the communications director for the Indiana Knights of Columbus.
Mishawaka Saints again wear the ICCL championship crown

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The chill of fall and an incoming storm couldn’t dissuade the fans as they gathered at Marian’s Otofski Field for the Inter-City Catholic League Championship game between the undefeated Holy Cross/Christ the King Crusaders and the underdog Mishawaka Catholic Saints.

A buzz was echoing on how the Crusaders’ defense had dispatched their opponents in their five contests only giving up 14 total points and nothing but two touchdowns in route to their ICCL championship crown.


The turning point in the first half started when Saint lineman Patrick Coulter broke through the scrum and blocked a Crusader punt giving the Mishawaka Catholic arsenal their best starting field position of the day.

The Crusader defense looked again as if it would stop the Saints; but on a fourth down and nine, Whitfield sprung free for a 21-yard gain and then he followed it with another double digit run, and soon the Mishawaka Catholic army had the ball resting on the five-yard line and a long yard for a first down.

Whitfield found a sliver of light from the defenders and slashed his way to paydirt. Alex Horvath’s kick found its mark, Saints, 8-0.

Starting at their own 41, the Crusaders began one of their patented drives that saw a five-yard gain by Mannell, rush by Brooks, more of Mannell, a keeper by Mannell, another dash by Brooks; but with time running out in the half, the black-and-blue-fashioned team needed bigger chunks of yardage. As Madden dropped back, Coulter ran him down sacking the would be passer for an 11-yard loss.

A hard-fought 11-yard gain by Brooks and a hurried pass from Madden would bring the stanza to a close as the Crusaders turned the ball over on downs.

The two teams would exchange defensive stops blow by mighty blow, no one passing the others’ side of the gridiron until the last series when the Crusaders possessed the ball at midfield with a mere 1:53 left in the game.

The first play resulted in a Crusader penalty, followed by an incompletion. Madden was chased out of the pocket by the relentless Coulter and it came down to fourth down and 16. Madden dropped back and slung the pigskin with all his might. As his pass fell helplessly to the trampled grass, the Saints would again wear the crown of ICCL Champions.

“We shot ourselves in the foot. They made the plays and we came up just short,” explained a disheartened Crusader Coach John Krzyzewski. “Coulter’s rushing and Whitfield’s possessed running really made the difference.”

“I thought we played well but never got in a good rhythm,” remarked Krzyzewski. “We knew it would be a battle in the trenches and our kids fought hard. I know these kids will do well at the next level. They were a great bunch of kids to work with. Right now they are disappointed, but that’s the way champions should feel after a hard fought loss.”

“Our big three lineman — Nate Thomas, Coulter and Christian Dennis — really had a positive impact on the outcome of this game,” noted Saints’ skipper Tony Violi. “Right now I’m just so proud of these young men.”

“The Wednesday after we lost to Holy Cross/Christ the King to end the regular season, Coulter wasn’t practicing up to his ability, and I grabbed him and asked him, ‘How do you want to be remembered?’” explained the exuberant Violi.

“Patrick looked me dead in the eye and said that he wanted to be remembered as a champion. The quote and dedication was infectious and took on a life of its own over the last three weeks.”

“The team rallied around the simple mantra of being remembered as champions and the effort, the focus and the fortification of that sentence rang true,” said the humbled Violi. “The relentless pursuit of being and doing your best is what the ICCL is all about and what we as coaches try to exemplify in the way we work with all the athletes throughout the season.”

Ryan Kearney of the Crusaders was awarded the Bill Sorukas Award for Mental Attitude.

Both teams can be seen Sunday at Fort Wayne Bishop Luers starting at 1 p.m., facing off against their CYO rivals.

The game will be broadcast on Redeemer Radio at 3 p.m. Listen online at www.redeemerradio.com.

Fundraiser takes priests from pulpit to playing field

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

ARCOLA — Over the years, Tom Davis, a longtime member of St. Patrick Parish in Arcola, has been instrumental in raising thousands of dollars for various causes. His fundraising efforts have benefited his own parish along with countless other projects in and around his community.

Davis worked side by side with Father Cyril Fernandes updating and renovating the church and school building at St. Patrick where they have a beautiful facility.

“We have all new classrooms, offices and a library,” Davis briefed.

Last spring, when his son’s swim-and-dive team at Columbia City High School wanted to raise money for much-needed equipment, Davis came up with a creative plan to help out. After supporting the University of Saint Francis (USF) football team for many years and forging a relationship with Coach Kevin Donley, Davis once again asked for USF support.

Donley offered a package deal for the silent auction at Columbia City’s ham dinner, which included four season tickets for the 2011 season and a certificate for honorary coaches for a home game — valuing $200.

Davis went to his church family at both St. Patrick, where Father Alex Dodrai had been appointed pastor, and St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, where Father Fernandes is now pastor. The group was high bidder for the USF deal with the winning price of $600.

“So, at the last home game of the season, Nov. 12, Father Fernandes and Father Dodrai will serve as honorary coaches when the Cougars kick off at high noon against Central State University from Ohio.

Donley assured Davis he will “take good care of the pair,” and it is Davis’ hope that everyone will come out to support these two wonderful priests.

“We love to show off Father Cyril and Father Alex, and are looking for a large crowd of supporters,” Davis said.

When Davis asked Father Fernandes to participate in the game as a coach, Father Fernandes was hesitant, “I am very shy and do not like to stand in front of big crowds — unless it is at church!” he explained. “But Tom is a good man. He is always a warrior for raising funds and helping others, so I said, ‘yes’ and am excited for the game.”

Father Alex added, “We do not have football in India, but I enjoy it very much and love to watch the game.”

Whether it is for church or school, Davis and his wife, Bonnie, have been fundraising for the youth for nearly three decades. “They are our future. We want to pay it forward,” Davis summarized.

Thank you...
Marian-Saint Joseph’s to battle for sectional trophy

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA — Saint Joseph’s and Marian high schools have great football traditions. Both have state championships in their history. But never before have the two played each other with the sectional championship at stake.

That changes Friday night at South Bend’s Jackson Field.

Second-ranked Marian squad, winners of seven straight, visit a revenge-minded Saint Joe team, rated sixth, with the Class 3-A, sectional 17 trophy on the line. Marian won the regular-season battle, 25-21, stopping Saint Joe inside the Knights’ five-yard line on the game’s final three plays.

“We’ve known this was going to happen ever since we beat them the first time,” says Marian linebacker Robert Deering. “We know they’re going to be fired up. We have to work hard at practice and get ready for a bloodbath.”

“This is what we wanted,” admits Saint Joseph’s defensive back Collin Hickey. “We’re not ready for this to be over whatsoever. It’s special to play Marian.”

Despite the win in the regular season, the Knights are wary. In 2010, Marian won the regular-season matchup, 13-3, only to lose to Saint Joseph’s by 21 in the sectional opener and watch the Indians march all the way to the state championship game.

Since this year’s triumph over Saint Joe on Sept. 23, Marian’s defense has been impressive, giving up less than two touchdowns per game. On offense, quarterback Robert Mischler highlights a diversified attack. The senior has thrown for 13 touchdowns while directing the Knights’ option offense.

The Indians counter with a pounding running attack, led by running back David Arsenault, who has piled up 1,247 yards on the season. Linebacker Matt Smallbone headlines the Saint Joseph’s defense with 100 tackles this season.

Marian soccer takes runner-up prize

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA — Three diocesan high school athletic teams concluded IHSAA tournament competition this weekend with top-eight finishes. Marian’s girls’ soccer team took unbeaten Providence to an overtime shootout in the Class 1-A state championship game, falling 1-0 (3-1 on penalty kicks) at Kuntz Stadium in Indianapolis. Marian’s defense kept one of the state’s leading scorers, Providence forward Casey Marlin, bottled up the entire game, but just could not generate enough offense.

“They knew this would be a very tough game for us,” Marian coach Djamel Chariat told the media afterwards. “This whole week was a great experience for us. Unfortunately, it didn’t work out for our seniors.”

Senior Lauren Gararoti won the IHSAA Mental Attitude Award. Freshman D.J. Veldman was the only Knight to score in the shootout. Goalkeeper Makaela Douglas made seven saves in the match. Marian closes the season as state runner-up with an 18-3-1 record.

Saint Joseph’s volleyball team reached the final four of the Class 5-A tournament, bowing out with a 3-0 loss to Yorktown in the Plymouth semistate.

“Unfortunately, it didn’t work out for our seniors.”

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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 email: fhogan@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.

FUNDRAISERS
Pancake breakfast
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus 4511 will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall at Sacred Heart Church. Proceeds will benefit seminarian support.

Euchre card party
Yoder — St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus will have a card party and euchre tournament on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. $5 entry fee, doors open at 6:30 p.m., tournament begins at 7 p.m. For information call Bob Renninger at (260) 638-4441 or Tom Wyss at (260) 450-9594.

Men’s breakfast planned
South Bend — A men’s breakfast will be held Saturday, Nov. 5, at Little Flower Church. The 8 a.m. Mass in the parish chapel will be followed by breakfast at 8:45 a.m. This first Saturday of the month event will feature Holy Cross Father David Link talking about his journey from being an attorney to priest with his focus on prison ministry.

Ham and turkey dinner, raffle
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon will have a ham and turkey dinner Sunday, Nov. 20, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A country store, silent auction and raffle will also be featured.

Misc. Happenings

Rosary for the poor souls
Mishawaka — A rosary for the poor souls will be recited Sunday, Nov. 6, at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph’s cemetery, rain or shine.

Bishop Luers Performing Arts Department presents, ”Godspell”
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers will present “Godspell” Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. in the school café. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased by calling (260) 456-1261.

Evening of reflection
Fort Wayne — Franciscan Sisters Minor will hold an evening of reflection for women, focusing on their dignity and vocation on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Angels Oratory. The reflection focuses on the “Dives in Misericordia” (Rich in Mercy) encyclical by John Paul II. For information leave a message at (260) 744-4393.

Manage holiday stress
South Bend — Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame will present a program for seniors on Managing Holiday Stress, in cooperation with New Avenues Counseling Service Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. at Andre Place’s Brother Geenan Hall. A non-perishable food item for the Northern Indiana Food Bank is requested. Call (574) 251-2255 for reservations as seating is limited.

FUNDRAISERS

Fort Wayne — The Couple to Couple League will offer Natural Family Planning classes starting Sunday, Nov. 13, at 6 p.m. in the home of Ron and Marilyn Shannon. To register call (260) 489-1856 or email ronshannon@frontier.com.

Women’s retreat planned
Plymouth — St. Michael Parish will have a women’s retreat, “Finding God in the Ordinary,” on Saturday, Dec. 3, at St. Michael’s School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Women of all ages will gather to enjoy fellowship, speakers and prayer. Lunch will be provided. Tickets are $10. To register, call (574) 936-6065 or (574) 936-9791.

St. Pius X senior group
Granger — St. Pius X has a senior group (55+) that meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon starting with Mass. On Nov. 8 a turkey dinner with music by Lovely Lou will be offered. Price is $5. For information call (574) 271-7853.

Craft fair approaching
Fort Wayne — The St. Charles Craft Fair will be Saturday, Nov. 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 100 vendors will sell handmade crafted fall and Christmas items. Lunch is available as well as other sweet and savory treats.

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Holiday craft bazaar
South Bend — St. Anthony of Padua Parish will have a holiday craft bazaar Saturday, Nov. 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school auditorium. Lunch will be available.

Fancy fair and cookie bar
Rome City — St. Gaspar Parish will have a Fancy Fair and cookie bar Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (260) 854-4888 for table rental.

Holiday home party and craft show
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon Hall will have a home party and craft show Saturday, Nov. 5, from noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Besancon Hall. Snack bar sponsored by the junior high.

Holiday craft show, bake sale planned
Fort Wayne — The Most Precious Blood Rosary Society, 1515 Barthold St. will have a Holiday Craft Show, Candy and Bake Sale Saturday, Nov. 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the gym. Door prizes every half hour. Wheelchair accessible.

Christmas bazaar
South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish, 2801 Corpus Christi Dr., will have a Christmas bazaar Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 50 arts and craft vendors, baked goods and a raffle will be available. Lunch will be sponsored by the eighth-grade class. Admission is free.

Snowflake Bazaar
Huntington — St. Mary Parish will have a Snowflake Bazaar, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 5 and 6 in the school gym, 903 N. Jefferson St. Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday after Masses. Crafts, bake sale and Saturday lunch available.

TV Mass Schedule for November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Feast Day</th>
<th>Fort Wayne 10:30 a.m.</th>
<th>South Bend 10:30 a.m.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Father Mark Gurtner</td>
<td>Father Leonard Chrobot</td>
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<td>Our Lady of Good Hope</td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Father John Stecher</td>
<td>Father Kevin Bauman</td>
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<td>University of Saint Francis</td>
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<td>Our Lady of Hungary</td>
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<td>Francis</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
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<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>Feast of Christ the King</td>
<td>Father Jason Freiburger</td>
<td>Father Jim Kendzierski</td>
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<td>Mishawaka</td>
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<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>First Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Msgr. John Suelzer</td>
<td>Father Steve LaCroix</td>
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<td>St. Charles</td>
<td>CSC</td>
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<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
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Annual Open House
For prospective students and their families Sunday, November 13, 2011 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Tour the building, including 17 new classrooms. Meet the dedicated teachers, club moderators, and coaches. Preview the curriculum and view demonstrations by the students.

MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL
1311 South Logan Mishawaka, Indiana 46544
SCHOOLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

billion Catholics in the world.” Fourth-grade students from the Catholic schools came to the coliseum Mass dressed as their favorite saint. Charlie McBride, a fourth-grade St. Vincent de Paul student from Fort Wayne, was invited to the altar platform. He was dressed as a Jesuit priest, St. Francis Xavier, one of the missionaries Bishop Rhoades referred to in his homily.

St. Francis Xavier was a missionary Jesuit in the 1600s and evangelized the people of India, Japan and the islands of the Pacific and Indian oceans.

As a seminarian, Bishop Rhoades said he prayed in a church in Rome that contained a relic of St. Francis Xavier. The relic was the arm of the saint.

When asked for volunteers of the next missionary, the stage and altar area filled with several young admirers of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus.

Although she was a cloistered Carmelite nun, St. Thérèse prayed for the missionary activity that was carried out throughout the world — in Africa, South America, China and Oceania — in the late 1800s.

“Thérèse was fascinated by the missions and wanted to be a missionary by her prayers and sacrifices for missionaries,” Bishop Rhoades told the students.

“I say all this to you today because you are also called to be missionaries by your prayers and sacrifices,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Me too. Your teachers too.”

There are thousands of Catholic missionaries around the world — in Africa and Asia and remote areas of South America and in the Pacific islands — “who need our help, our prayers and sacrifices,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“We all have a responsibility to make Jesus Christ known to others,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Children and young people, all of you, have this responsibility. But how can you be missionaries right now in whatever grade you are in?”

He commissioned the schools and students to become active participants in the Holy Childhood Association, a 150-year-old organization that falls under the pope and the Vatican, and helps mission work throughout the world.

“The Holy Childhood Association is a way for you to help share the Gospel with children, mostly poor children, all over the world in missionary countries.”

The Holy Childhood Association encourages children to pray for and offer their own personal sacrifices for children around the world who are in desperate need of basic resources like clean water, food, education and medical care.

“And above all, they need the knowledge of the love of God,” Bishop Rhoades said.

Being a member of the Holy Childhood Association, “is a way to share the faith and to help millions of children around the world,” Bishop Rhoades remarked.

After Mass, St. Aloysius, Yoder, teacher Nikki Thompson told Today’s Catholic she was excited to learn about the Holy Childhood Association and getting it organized at the school.

St. Aloysius fourth-grade student Gavin Ealley dressed as St. George, was eager to take the role of missionary. “I think when I get older, I want to travel different places and spread the word,” said the parish altar server.

Because he hopes to be a soldier one day, St. Louis Academy fourth-grader Clayton Fielden dressed as St. George, patron saint of soldiers.

When asked what he enjoyed most about the All-Schools Mass, Fielden explained, “I love to go to Mass with the bishop.” Fielden said, “This will be my 10th time!”

For Lia King of Huntington Catholic School, she noted, “It’s the first Mass with Bishop Rhoades that I have been to, so I am excited to hear his homily.”

Another Huntington Catholic student, Alli Snyder, said, “It brings all the schools closer and I like being with all the other kids.”

“I’ve never seen this many people together for a Mass,” added Alex Bickel of Huntington Catholic. “It’s pretty exciting to be here.”

Tess Steffen and Michelle Castileman contributed to this story.

Our team is part of your team.

Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center provides Certified Athletic Trainers to high schools in our community.

These licensed medical professionals are trained in the prevention, evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation of all types of athletic injuries. Our trainers are committed to keeping our local athletes healthy and safe.

So while you’re cheering in the stands, they’re sitting behind the bench – giving you peace of mind and keeping our young athletes in the game.

For more information call: 574.335.6214