Papal trip to Mexico, Cuba being studied seriously

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials are at an advanced stage in studying the possibility of a papal trip to Mexico and Cuba in the spring of 2012, the Vatican spokesman said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the spokesman, told reporters Nov. 10 that the nuncios to Mexico and Cuba have been told to inform those governments that “the pope is studying a concrete plan to visit the two countries, responding to the invitations received” from them.

Father Lombardi said a definite decision regarding a trip in the spring should be made within a few weeks. The fact that the nuncios were asked to inform the governments demonstrates the advanced nature of the planning, he said.

The Mexican government and Mexican Catholics repeatedly have said they’d like Pope Benedict to visit “and he is happy to finally be able to respond,” the Jesuit said. The pope went to Brazil in 2007, but would like to visit a Spanish-speaking country in the region and Mexico is the largest of them.

“Cuba is another country that really wants to see the pope,” he said, and a papal visit could offer great encouragement to the people and the country “in an important period of their history.”

Father Lombardi said the timing would be related to the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the image of Our Lady of Charity of Cobre, the patroness of Cuba.

“Just looking at a map, you see that Cuba and Mexico are in the same direction from Rome, so it’s logical to combine in a single trip these two countries, rather than others that would require a longer and more complex itinerary,” the spokesman said.

USF purchases landmark Scottish Rite for media arts education program

FORT WAYNE — A landmark Fort Wayne historic structure is preserved and a new Media Entrepreneurship Training in the Arts (META) program housed with the University of Saint Francis was announced last week with the purchase of the Scottish Rite Center at 431 W. Berry St. The university announced the program during a press conference Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Scottish Rite.

With the purchase of the multi-use facility, the university plans to create a media production complex for the education of students in the arts disciplines and for the creation of profitable business enterprises. The 82,672 square-foot building holds a 2,018-seat auditorium, meeting rooms, ballroom, offices and lounges that adapt well to its reuse as an arts and media technology center, said university President Sister M. Elise Kriss, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

“A venue such as the Scottish Rite Center will provide a noteworthy performance hall for University of Saint Francis productions and convocations, but can also be used for public conferences, productions, concerts and professional meetings,” she said.

The university is one of only a handful of schools in the country pursuing a hands-on, media team-driven program in an entrepreneurial manner, said university Provost Dr. Rolf Daniel.

“Including all of the arts makes us distinctive, especially for a small, private school. We have been canvassing new media programs across the country
One more week

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHODES

New translation

In the last two issues of our newspaper, I have written about the new English translation of the Mass which we will begin to use next weekend, the First Sunday of Advent. I reflected particularly on the Eucharistic Prayers of the Mass.

After many years of hard work in preparing the new translation, the Church in English-speaking countries will begin to pray with the new translation of the sacred texts. As you know, the new translation is a more accurate and authentic translation of the Latin text of the Roman Missal. You will notice the more sacral tone, somewhat different from our secular mode of everyday speech. The heightened sense of the sacred in the new translation will hopefully help all of us to experience more fully the Mystery we celebrate at the Eucharist.

It will take some time to become accustomed to the new translation. It will take practice as well. I think it will give all of us the opportunity to encounter the words of the liturgy afresh.

The prayers of the sacred liturgy are often steeped in Sacred Scripture. This is even more evident in the new translation, which brings back many passages of Scripture that were removed or modified in the former translation.

I think, for example, of the words the priest will now say when he elevates the Sacred Host before Holy Communion: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb. The first sentence contains the words of Saint John the Baptist when he announced the coming of Christ (cf. John 1:29). How appropriate it is that, as he shows us the Eucharist, the priest repeats the words of the Precursor of the Lord. As we gaze on the Sacred Host, we are invited to recognize the One who is the Lamb of sacrifice, the Lamb who was slain, who gave his life for us on the cross, whom we are about to receive in Holy Communion.

Jesus, the Lamb of God who was slain, is also the glorius and victorious Lamb. This is brought to our attention in the second sentence of the priest's pronouncement: Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb. These words recall the words of the angel recorded by Saint John in the Book of Revelation: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9). The Eucharistic banquet is a real foretaste of the heavenly banquet to be celebrated in the communion of saints. As the Catechism teaches, it is an anticipation of the heavenly glory.

The response of the people to the priest's words also comes from Sacred Scripture. The people say together with the priest: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed. In these words, we speak to Christ using the faith-filled words of the humble centurion in the Gospel who begged Jesus to heal his dying servant (cf. Luke 7:6-7). Saying these words, we express our own sentiments before receiving Holy Communion. We strive to have the faith-filled and humble disposition of the centurion as we prepare for Jesus to enter under our roof, our soul. He comes under our roof when we receive him in the Holy Eucharist; he heals us and fills us with grace.

Advent

On the first Sunday of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year. In this holy season, we ponder again the mystery of our redemption, the coming of Christ, our Redeemer, into the world. The liturgies of Advent direct our attention to both the first coming of the Son of God as a man, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to the second coming of Christ in glory at the end of time.

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, a bishop from the 4th century, wrote the following about the twofold coming of Christ:

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels. We look then beyond the first coming and await the second.

Saint Bernard, an abbot of the 12th century, wrote about a third coming of Christ, an “intermediate” or “middle” coming. This is his coming to us in the present. The Son of God comes to us now in word and in sacrament. He comes to us in the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Saint Bernard wrote:

Keep God’s word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or you heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength.

If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the Father will come to you.

As we begin this holy season, let us try to focus on the coming of Christ. His threefold coming. Daily Mass during Advent is a wonderful way to enter into the beauty of this season of grace. Another way is to take some time each day to read the daily readings of the Advent liturgy prayerfully. The daily rosary is another great way to enter into the spirit of the season. It is very easy during December to get caught up in the materialistic and frenetic pace of the holiday season, to succumb to the secularization of Christmas. I invite all to make this a truly “holy” season, one in which Christ is at the center of our preparations for Christmas. Then we will be able to celebrate Christmas not just as a “happy holiday,” but as a “blessed feast.”

I conclude with the Solemn Blessing from the Roman Missal for the season of Advent (the new translation):

May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again, sanctify you by the radiance of Christ’s Advent and enrich you with his blessing.

As you root the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity.

The season of Advent is a time of anticipation and hope before Christmas. The Advent wreath, with a lit candle marking each week of the season, is a traditional symbol of the period.
Reclaim truth about Jesus’ Church, Archbishop Dolan tells bishops

BY NANCY FRAZIER O’BRIEN

Baltimore (CNS) — Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York called on his fellow bishops Nov. 14 to communicate to the world that the sinfulness of the Church’s members is not “a reason to dismiss the Church or her eternal truths, but to embrace all the more.”

In his first presidential address since election as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops last November, Archbishop Dolan opened and closed with the words: “Love for Jesus and His Church must be the passion of our lives.”

Describing the Church as a spiritual family that “to use the talk show vocabulary... has some ‘dysfunction,’” he said the bishops “most pressing pastoral challenge today is to reclaim that truth, to restore the luster, the credibility, the beauty of the Church.”

But he cited “chilling statistics we cannot ignore” that “fewer and fewer of our beloved people — to say nothing about those outside the household of the faith — are convinced that Jesus and His Church are one.”

“So they drift from her, get mad at the Church, grow lax, join another or just give it all up,” Archbishop Dolan said. “If this does not cause us pastors to shudder, I do not know what will.”

He also acknowledged the enthusiasm of “young people, new converts and recent arrivals” as well as “the wonderfully deep and radiant faith of Catholic immigrants who are still a most welcome — while sadly harassed — gift to the Church and the land we love.”

Shortly after he spoke, the USCCB issued a statement announc-
ing that Archbishop Dolan had met privately with President Barack Obama at the White House Nov. 8.

The statement described the meeting as “very cordial” and said it “included discussion of pertinent moral concerns arising in foreign and domestic policy, issues of both agreement and disagreement.”

“Both President Obama and Archbishop Dolan agreed that this was a private meeting, so no further details will be discussed,” it added.

In his talk, the archbishop said “our world would often have us believe that culture is light years ahead of a languishing, moribund Church.”

But rather, “the Church invites us to join her and to share in her joy.”

“Jesus pre-
serves prophets, not programs; saints, not outmoded club of sticklers, with a medieval bureaucracy, silly human rules on fancy letterhead, one more
test; Verbum Dei’ rather than our
crucifixion of our lives’ summons us not
to call for action; prayer, not pro-

Bishop reports on success of ads aimed at strengthening marriage

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

Baltimore (CNS) — A series of advertisements for the U.S. bishops’ campaign to strengthen marriage have been successful in the numbers of people they have reached and the awards they have garnered from profes-
sional advertising organizations.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend said Nov. 14, “The will of the Holy Father is our urgent task to reclaim love for Jesus and His Church as the pas-
sion of our lives’ summons us not into ourselves but to Our Lord.”

Archbishop Dolan said, “Jesus pre-

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend addresses a question during a press conference at the annual fall meet-

The Church we passionately
to recl-am our beloved people to say noth-
In a presentation on the

New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, welcomes Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, right, the new apostolic nuncio to the United States, on the opening day of the annual fall meeting of the U.S. bishops’ conference Nov. 14.

work of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, Bishop Rhoades said the public service announcements with messages about marriage had been measured as having 1.3 billion “audience impressions” since they began several years ago.

He said the campaign “which won a national public relations award in 2009, has been the most successful of its kind ever spon-

year ago.

A series of public service announcements with the theme of “a good marriage goes a long way,” was released in September to 1,600 television stations and 7,000 radio stations, he said.

In the “coming days” to study the conditions for a possible papal visit.

“The will of the Holy Father is clear... to visit our country in the coming months,” said Archbishop Cabrera, conference vice president.

The bishops, he said, expect the pope to visit much of the country. This would include regions suffering violence from organized crime and also at least one place Blessed John Paul II was unable to visit during his

five trips to Mexico.

He said he expected the pope to visit despite any possible controver-
sies it would cause during the camp-

Pope

POPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He excluded other countries being added to the trip and said that because of the altitude of Mexico City, it is unlikely the pope would visit the Mexican capital. “The best al-

With the Latin American bishops committed for the past four years to a program of new evangelization, he said, the papal trip to Mexico and Cuba would be a fitting way to prepare the entire Church for the

Year of Faith, scheduled to begin in October 2012.

At a news conference during the Mexican bishops’ general meet-


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five trips to Mexico.

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sies it would cause during the campaign for July 1 federal elections.

A visit by Pope Benedict next year would come as Mexico and the Vatican mark the 20th anniversary of the two states establishing diplomatic relations, which ended nearly 150 years of strained relations. Those relations have evolved to the point that a possible visit during an elec-
toral period would probably draw less criticism than during past years: Mexican politicians regularly meet with senior clergy, and the leaders of the bishops’ conference met with Mexican President Felipe Calderon on the eve of their latest assembly.
Pope to light world’s largest Christmas tree using iPad

BY KRISTEN GÖBBERG

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With a tap on an iPad, Pope Benedict XVI will light the world’s largest electronic Christmas tree in the Italian town of Gubbio without having to leave his home in Vatican City.

The City of Gubbio and the Diocese of Gubbio announced at a news conference Nov. 12 that the pope would light the tree via a video link set up by the Vatican Television Center. The tree-lighting ceremony takes place on the evening of Dec. 7, the eve of the Immaculate Conception.

From his apartment in Vatican City, the pope will turn on the tree using an application on the iPad. Before lighting the tree, the pope will send a video message to the citizens of Gubbio thanking the volunteers on the committee who organized the event and who have been responsible for setting up the tree for decades.

The electronic tree extends more than 2,000 feet upon the face of Mount Ignis near Gubbio, and uses more than 25,000 feet of electrical cable. Built in 1981, it was recognized in 1991 by the Guinness World Records as the world’s largest Christmas tree and stays lit until the Epiphany.

Vatican partners with company to discuss stem-cell research

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — New biotechnologies raise questions in the fields of medicine, economics, ethics and philosophy, and the Vatican plans to look at all of them during a three-day conference devoted to adult stem-cell research, officials said.

The Pontifical Council for Culture partnered with NeoStem, Inc., a U.S. company researching and marketing adult stem-cell therapies, to sponsor the Nov. 9-11 international conference titled “Stem Cells: Science and the Future of Man and Culture.”

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, council president, said that in the modern field of research all sorts of potential interests intertwine, including health care and economic interests. In searching for a partner to promote research and discussion about adult stem cells, the Vatican sought a collaborator whose ethical practices fit in with the Vatican’s own views, he said.

Father Tomasz Trafny, who works with the cardinal on issues of religion and science, said, “We struggled to find the right partner,” and while NeoStem is a business, “it is one that has a very clear ethical statement” that it will not destroy human embryos to obtain stem cells.

Stem cells have the potential to develop into many different types of cells and are used primarily to regenerate damaged tissue or systems in the body. NeoStem executives said adult stem cells are being used to treat leukemia and other cancers, heart disease and autoimmune disorders.

At a Vatican news conference Nov. 8 to discuss the stem-cell meeting, Cardinal Ravasi and Father Trafny were joined by Dr. Robin L. Smith, CEO of NeoStem, and Tommy G. Thompson, the former U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services and a Republican candidate for the Senate from Wisconsin.

Thompson, a Catholic, told reporters the discovery of stem cells — and of the ability to obtain them from embryos — created “a great deal of confusion, a lot of heartache, some promise and a lot of discussion.”

Fortunately, he said, science already has proven the usefulness of adult stem cells, which can cure human beings without having to destroy a human embryo.

“I just don’t believe that man can engineer something superior to what the good Lord has already given us — our bodies. That’s what I love about this science and this conference; it’s about adult stem cells,” he said. Stem-cell therapy relies on “the divine wisdom inside of us to supercharge our bodies and go down that road to try to wipe away disease.”

Thompson was invited to the conference to speak about the political implications of medical research, especially regarding stem cells. He said politically and economically it makes sense to support adult stem-cell research.

For example, the United States spends about $200 billion a year managing diabetes, which affects one out of eight Americans, he said.

“We’re wasting money managing a disease instead of finding a cure for it,” he said.

Cardinal Ravasi said researchers and politicians won’t be the only ones at the Vatican conference. They will be joined by physicians, theologians, philosophers and patients who have been treated with adult stem cells.

The Catholic approach to the sick and suffering always has had a multidisciplinary approach — usually medical care and spiritual support, he said. But when dealing with technologies “on the frontiers of research, the ethical and cultural implications also should be discussed, he said.

Raymond Flynn, the former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and a career politician, signed up to attend the conference for a much more personal reason.

He told Catholic News Service he’s hoping to find some answers, or at least people who may be able to help him find answers, to help his 5-year-old grandson Braeden, who was has been diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder.

“He walks three steps and falls and cuts his head. He can’t talk,” Flynn said. “I’ve kind of dropped everything to try to focus on him.”

“When the Catholic Church took a strong stand against embryonic stem-cell research, it closed the door on one kind of research — and I agree, you can’t take a life to give life. But people think the Church is against all stem-cell research, and that’s not true,” he said.

“This conference will open the door to understanding the possibilities of adult stem-cell research. Will it help people like Braeden? I don’t know. But I’m studying, talking to people and not giving up,” Flynn said.
Time in Afghanistan made deacon grateful for country, religious freedom

BY ROSE YBARRA

HARLINGEN, Texas (CNS) — When Deacon Catarino Villanueva arrived on Forward Operating Base Ghazni, Afghanistan, in 2005 for a yearlong deployment with the National Guard, he immediately looked for opportunities to practice his Catholic faith.

“I wanted to see what they had there as far as my spirituality,” said Deacon Villanueva, who was ordained to the permanent diaconate in December 2010 and assigned to Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Harlingen.

“There was nothing there, just a bare tent with some makeshift benches.”

Deacon Villanueva, who was discerning a call to the diaconate at the time, became fast friends with a Catholic chaplain assistant, Deacon Paul Rodriguez of the Diocese of Austin.

“(Deacon) Villanueva walked into the chapel and introduced himself. He told me he was considering being a deacon.”

Both men were inspired and determined to revamp the chapel. They also began praying the Liturgy of the Hours together every day.

“We wanted something better for our troops,” said Deacon Villanueva, who was with Charlie Company 3/144 Infantry.

“(Deacon) Paul was starting to remodel that chapel and so I started helping him out whenever I could. I would get up in the morning and we’d go out and do a mission.”

“As soon as we’d come back, we’d take care of our vehicles and our weapons and clean everything up, then I would run out to the chapel and help him paint, cut boards and put up the walls and the ceiling,” he said in an interview with The Valley Catholic, newspaper of the Brownsville Diocese.

Deacon Rodriguez said soldiers rarely used the chapel because it was so hot and leaked when it rained. He and Deacon Villanueva used sheets of Styrofoam that were leftover from the food shipments as insulation between the wood in the new chapel.

The men had a tabernacle and a rug made by the local villagers and ordered a red perpetual light and Stations of the Cross to complete the chapel.

The chapel was dedicated on Easter 2006, which also happened to be Deacon Rodriguez’s birthday. A priest flew in to celebrate Mass that day for the troops.

“It was the greatest birthday present,” said Deacon Rodriguez, who recently returned to the U.S. after a deployment to Iraq. He serves at St. Margaret Mary Church in Cedar Park.

With the new tabernacle, Deacon Rodriguez was able to store consecrated host and have more Communion services before visits from traveling priests, who flew in every now and then to celebrate Mass.

“It was important for me and Deacon Paul to have Eucharist for the soldiers, to offer these Communion services,” said Deacon Villanueva, a married father of four and grandfather of six. During his tour, he went from discernment to decision and completed a formal application to the diaconate formation program.

Deacon Villanueva served in the Army from 1979 to 1990, re-enlisted and was deployed to Afghanistan, for a year and as soon as he arrived, he looked for opportunities to practice his Catholic faith.

“I wanted to continue to serve my country,” he said. “I felt that it was something that I needed to do.”

Deacon Villanueva’s time in Afghanistan made him more grateful than ever for his faith and for his country, for the religious freedom that we have and the opportunity to attend Mass regularly, daily, if desired.

He said some Afghans were interested in the Catholic faith and some of the workers were interested in the Catholic faith and quietly inquired about it. Islam is the official state religion of Afghanistan and there is not a single, public Christian church left in Afghanistan, according to the U.S. State Department.

“We taught some of them how to pray the rosary, which they had to do in secret,” Deacon Villanueva said. “The Afghan people face grave consequences if they are caught practicing Christian activities.”

Deacon Rodriguez planned to take the tabernacle with him when he left Afghanistan since many of the military chaplains are not Catholic. The next group of soldiers that came in, however, happened to have a Catholic priest among them, which is rare, Deacon Rodriguez noted.

“I requested that the tabernacle be sent to me when they left,” said Deacon Rodriguez, who sought to protect the tabernacle. After that group left, an Orthodox priest was assigned to the area and he wanted to continue using the tabernacle. Then a group of Polish soldiers came in and also used the tabernacle.

“So many Catholics following us there, it’s not a coincidence,” Deacon Rodriguez said. “If you build it, they will come.”
Study finds optimism, less depression among weekly churchgoers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Past studies have shown that those who attend religious services at least weekly tend to live longer and healthier lives. Now, new research indicates that frequent churchgoers also face those additional years with more optimism and greater social support than other people. A study involving more than 92,000 post-menopausal women showed that those who attended weekly service were found to have a 56 percent more likely to be above the median in terms of their optimism level. They also were significantly less likely to be depressed or to be characterized by cynical hostility. Titled “Psychological and Social Characteristics Associated with Religiosity in Women’s Health Initiative Participants,” the study was published in Journal of Religion and Health Nov. 11. The research was conducted by a team led by Elizer Schnall, clinical associate professor of psychology at Yeshiva University in New York. In a telephone interview with Catholic News Service Nov. 10, Schnall said the study was a natural follow-up to his earlier research showing that those who attended weekly religious services had a lower mortality rate over the eight-year period studied than those who attended less frequently or not at all. The new study was “one of the first to look at” whether there were negative factors or social strains associated with frequent church attendance, particularly among such a large sample group, Schnall said. He compared such factors to the negative side effects that can sometimes accompany the use of beneficial medications. The research team postulated that “maybe there could be some social strains having to do with religious identification or networks or associations,” he said. “For example, it could be a support system but discourage associating with others not of the belief system, or be a source of strife in marriages or fodder for disagreement” with other relatives or friends, he added.

Pope says prostitution, pornography threaten human dignity of women

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called for an end to prostitution and pornography, saying the practices degrade women and represent “a serious lack of human- ity.” The pope made the remarks as he welcomed Reinhard Schewpepe as Germany’s ambassador to the Holy See Nov. 7. The pope’s talk focused on the Church’s role in defending human dignity. “A relationship that does not take into account the fact that a man and a woman have the same dignity represents a serious lack of humanity,” the pope said. With the “materialistic and hedonistic” tendencies that seem to be gaining pace in the West, there is a growing form of discrimination against women, the pope said. “The moment has come to energetically halt prostitution as well as the wide-

spread distribution of material with an erotic and pornographic content, including through the Internet in par-
ticular,” he said.

Catholics object to Vatican applying policy to religious groups

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — A proposal by Vanderbilt University to apply its nondiscrimination policy to the leadership of student religious organizations “will restrict freedom and diversity in student life by jeopardizing authentic religious expression,” Father John Sims Baker, the Catholic chaplain at Vanderbilt, wrote in a letter to the school’s chancellor. Nashville Bishop David R. Choby also wrote Vanderbilt Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos asking that the university “not apply Vanderbilt’s laudatory nondiscrimination policy in this unfortunate manner.” The Christian Legal Society sent a letter to Mark Burnworth, president of Vanderbilt Catholic, as the group is better known. “We’re here to offer up our concerns to the Blessed Mother and ask her to take them to Our Lord for us so she can word them perfectly for us,” Burnworth said. The dispute began after a Vanderbilt stu-
dent complained to university officials that he was dismissed from a Christian fraternity because of his sexual orientation. “As a result of the case, we reviewed the constitutions of all of the approximately 380 registered student groups on campus,” Beth Fortune, vice chan-
cellor for public affairs at Vanderbilt, said in a written response to sev-
eral questions from the Tennessee Register, Nashville’s diocesan newspa-
per. “Since that review, all but four groups, all religious, have come into compliance with the policy.”

Many Americans OK with religion in politics as long as it’s their own

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The old adage that people should refrain from talking about religion and poli-
tics in public has long been thrown out the window. But questions about the direction that this conversation is going remain unanswered. Voters are trying to figure out how much religion they want in a candidate and are also concerned about the potential impact this religion could have if the candidate is elected. Two-thirds of Americans think it is important for a presidential candi-
date to have strong religious beliefs and one in five would prefer if these beliefs were similar to their own, according to a survey released Nov. 8. The American Values Survey, conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute, found American voters have differing degrees of comfort picturing government lead-
ers of a variety of faith traditions. Their degree of discomfort with an evangelical Christian president, for example, is 28 percent. This level of discomfort jumps to 64 percent for a Mormon leader and 67 percent for a Muslim president. Although the Constitution forbids a specific religious test for office, a candidate’s religious beliefs seem to go through a variety of hurdles each election season. “Voters have been consider-
ing religious convictions and profes-
sions from the very beginning of the nation,” said John Vile, professor of political science and dean of the Interna-
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WASHINGTON (CNS) — The old adage that people should refrain from talking about religion and poli-
tics in public has long been thrown out the window. But questions about the direction that this conversation is going remain unanswered. Voters are trying to figure out how much religion they want in a candidate and are also concerned about the potential impact this religion could have if the candidate is elected. Two-thirds of Americans think it is important for a presidential candi-

date to have strong religious beliefs and one in five would prefer if these beliefs were similar to their own, according to a survey released Nov. 8. The American Values Survey, conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute, found American voters have differing degrees of comfort picturing government lead-
ers of a variety of faith traditions. Their degree of discomfort with an evangelical Christian president, for example, is 28 percent. This level of discomfort jumps to 64 percent for a Mormon leader and 67 percent for a Muslim president. Although the Constitution forbids a specific religious test for office, a candidate’s religious beliefs seem to go through a variety of hurdles each election season. “Voters have been consider-
ing religious convictions and profes-
sions from the very beginning of the nation,” said John Vile, professor of political science and dean of the Interna-
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AROUND THE Diocese

St. Mary's Soup Kitchen offers Thanksgiving Dinner
FORT WAYNE — St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, will host its annual Thanksgiving Day Soup Kitchen Dinner on Nov. 24. The Church is located at 1101 S. Lafayette St. (corner of Lafayette and Jefferson Blvd).

Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Carryouts will be available at 1 p.m.

For volunteer information, call (260) 483-6452.

Donations of desserts can be brought to the soup kitchen on Wednesday, Nov. 23, until 2 p.m., or Thursday, Nov. 24, until 11 a.m.

Monetary donations are accepted at the Church.

Madrigal Dinners at Saint Mary’s College ring in holiday season
NOTRE DAME — The Saint Mary’s College Department of Music will present its 39th annual Madrigal Dinners, a Renaissance-style holiday feast and performance, on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3, at 7 p.m and on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m., in the North Lounge of Regina Hall.

Entertainment will be provided by colorfully-attired singers, instrumentalists, jugglers, a jester and lord of the manor.

The Madrigal Singers consist of students selected from the Saint Mary’s Women’s Choir. The Court and Consort, instrumentalists under the direction of Sandy Rhein, will accompany the singers.

Dining Services (Sodexo) serves a feast featuring prime rib (Cornish game hen at the matinee), roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, winter salad and wassail (Christmas punch). The children’s caroling cherries and carrots, winter salad and wassail (Christmas punch) will be featured.

Admission for children 12 and under is $17. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.moreaucenter.com, at the box office located in the lobby of O’Laughlin Auditorium, or by calling (260) 483-6452.

Popular USF Christmas event expanding
FORT WAYNE — Christmas in the Castle at the University of Saint Francis will be open from 12-6 p.m. on Dec. 3-4 and Dec. 10-11. Christmas in the Castle opens in the beautifully restored Brooksise, former home of Fort Wayne industrialist John Bass, to the public. The mansion is decorated each Christmas by local florists and designers. All floors are open for the public tours. Brooksise and all campus buildings are handicap accessible.

During the two weekends, the Pope John Paul II Room on the east side of campus, where free parking is available, will be open to the public. A store will be open on the ground floor to purchase tickets by mail or online, or on the day of the event.

Tickets cost $5 per person and $20 for a family of six. Make online purchases at www.sf.edu/christmas.

By mail, send a check with name, address, phone number and number of tickets requested, specifying choice of date and time of tour (noon, 12:45, 1:30, 2:15, 3:45, 4:30, or 5:15 p.m.) to Office of Development, University of Saint Francis, 2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne, IN 46808 by Nov. 23. Tickets can also be purchased on the days of the event.

Congregation of Divine Providence to celebrate 250th anniversary
SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The Congregation of Divine Providence (CDP) of San Antonio, Texas, along with four other congregations that claim Blessed John Martin Moye as their founder, is planning a yearlong celebration of the 250th anniversary of its institution. These congregations of men religious trace their roots to 1762 France, when Father Moye sent young women to South Carolina to educate the poor. Celebrations will begin in January of 2012, and will continue throughout the year. The Sisters of Divine Providence of San Antonio will host several events to recognize and honor the contributions of its sisters, past and present.

Today, more than 3,000 Sisters of Divine Providence throughout the world continue to further the mission of the Church by responding to the spiritual and social needs of the times in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America.

In 1985, the Sisters of Divine Providence formed an Associates Program. They invited women and men to commit themselves to prayer and service by manifesting the charism and mission of the congregation in their daily lives, work and prayer. In both Mexico and the United States, the CDP associates number almost 300 persons, including associates who live in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

‘We Believe’ fall Sharathon a huge success for Redeemer Radio
FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne’s local, independent Catholic radio apostolate, Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, held its 2011 Fall Sharathon Celebration Oct. 26-28, raising over $184,000 from community support.

Sharathon chair-couple Mary Jane and Don Dimberio issued the following statement: “We can’t express enough thanks to all the contributors and volunteers of Redeemer Radio for making it such a great success. It truly was an inspirational experience for us.”

The 36-hour Sharathon celebration featured Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Bishop Emeritus John M. D’Arcy, five deacons, two monksignors, 23 priests, 20 Franciscan Brothers Minor, six religious sisters (three from the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration and three from the Franciscan Sisters Minor) and five Catholic school principals. The on-air conversation covered all aspects of community — ministry, school and parish, religious of diocesan life — while raising operating funds for Redeemer Radio as listeners called in pledges. The Sharathon celebration was officially supported by 121 designated “prayer warrior hours” in addition to many others offered throughout the community.

Redeemer Radio Executive Director Dave Stevens commented, “The community has been so generous to Redeemer Radio. We strive every day to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit to build the faith and share Christ. As this apostolate grows and Redeemer Radio is heard in Northwest Ohio and the Northeast corner of Indiana on WRBO 89.9 FM, our focus will continue to be on catechesis and evangelization.”

During Sharathon, more than 1,200 pledges were received from individuals and businesses via phone, mail, email, text, online, and even “walked in” to the station lobby.

In addition to highlighting area parishes, certain Sharathon hours focused on local schools, ministries or apostolates. Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Laus High Schools, the Women’s Care Center, Allen County Right to Life, Catholic Charities, the Franciscan Center, “ManAlive” and Rekindle the Fire men’s ministries all were featured during Sharathon.

USF hosting area’s first Youth Leadership and Ministry Conference
FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will host the first regional conference of its type with the USF Youth Leadership and Ministry Conference on Feb. 17-18, 2012.

Student participants will experience the USF Campus Sharathon, learning key leadership skills to put into practice at their schools and organizations. Presenters will be priests and women who already function in various leadership roles and can share the experience with those who also wish to guide others. USF’s Campus Ministry will also host.

In breakout sessions, attendees will learn leadership skills that build upon the Sharathon’s impact of their actions upon those around them; how dynamic leaders empower others to serve; and how to make faith come alive at their churches and schools.

Participants will arrive on Friday evening to a welcome dinner and a chance to explore and reflect upon their unique leadership style before enjoying a fun event to connect everyone and give them a chance to begin building relationships.

Franciscan Father David Mary Engo will be Saturday’s keynote speaker, followed by the leadership skills sessions.

For information visit www.sf.edu/leadership. Early registrants will receive a discounted rate, and group rates are available.
Diocesan seminarians join pilgrimage to France

BY BOB GARROW

During fall break, many people head home, while others look for a spot to vacation. Two seminarians from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, however, decided to join a pilgrimage to Ars, France. Jonathan Norton, a first-year theologian from St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, and Bob Garrow, a second-year pre-theologian from Our Lady of Good Counsel Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., joined a number of seminarians from a variety of dioceses on this pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. John Vianney in Ars.

The renowned author and Marianologist, Father Frederick John Vianney in Ars. This pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. John Vianney in Ars.

The pilgrims spent the next several days visiting and praying at the Shrine of St. John Vianney. St. Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, is known for his many miracles and the great length of time he would spend in the confessional, hearing confes-

Seminarians Bob Garrow, left, and Jonathan Norton visited the tomb of St. John Vianney during a pilgrimage to France.

sions for several hours a day. The pilgrims had the opportunity to learn much about this holy saint, viewing a video on his life and visiting the very rectory in which the saint had lived.

They also spent much time in prayer, beginning each day together with Morning Prayer before celebrating Mass at the altar of St. John Vianney. In addition, Father Miller gave two conferences daily, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer. As each day came to a close, the pilgrims chanted Night Prayer together in French with a group of local religious sisters.

Following their lengthy stay at Ars, the pilgrims traveled to the city of Paray-Le-Monial in eastern France on Thursday, Oct. 13. The city is the home of St. Margaret-Mary, the pilgrims were able to learn much about this holy saint, viewing a video on his life and visiting the very rectory in which the saint had lived.


The pilgrims left Paray-Le-Monial on Friday, Oct. 14, and traveled to Paris, where they visited the following churches: the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the Church of St. Roch, the Church of St. Germain, the Church of St. Vincent De Paul and the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal. Mass was celebrated at the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal, where the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Catherine Laboure. The pilgrims were also able to venerate relics of St. Catherine Laboure, St. Louise De Marillac, and St. Vincent De Paul during their brief stay in Paris.

On the last full day of the pilgrimage, Saturday, Oct. 15, the pilgrims were given the option of remaining in Paris or visiting Lisieux in northwestern France. Many choose to visit Lisieux, where the childhood home of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, also known as St. Therese of Lisieux, is located. St. Therese was a Carmelite Sister who has inspired many through her spirituality of her “little way,” as described in her autobiography, “The Story of a Soul.” She is the patroness of missionaries and was declared a Doctor of the Church by Blessed John Paul II in 1997.

The pilgrims also had the opportunity to pray at the tombs of the parents of St. Therese, Besseds Louis and Zelie Martin, who were recently beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008.

The pilgrims departed France on Sunday, Oct. 16, to return to Mount St. Mary’s Seminary as fall break came to a close. Seminarians Norton and Garrow stressed that throughout the pilgrimage they continually prayed for all members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, especially for their own pastors. The life and example of St. John Vianney brought them to a greater understanding of the love of Jesus Christ and aided them in their discernment to that which God is calling them.

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CATHOLIC CEMETERY

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Promotion ends December 1, 2011
CCV fundraiser helps defend Christian liberty

BY TOM UEERING

NOTRE DAME — “I’m just a Baptist boy from Michigan,” Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association of Michigan said. “Who am I to question what the Catholic Cardinal of Latvia says about his country? Commenting on the city’s first gay pride parade, Cardinal Pujats of Riga warned, ‘In Soviet times we faced atheism, which oppressed religion; now we have an era of explicit atheism. This form of atheism is even more infectious and dangerous; spiritual values disappear in a whirlwind of sexual immorality.’”

Glenn was the keynote speaker at the Citizens for Community Values of Indiana’s (CCV) fundraiser dinner held at the University of Notre Dame, Oct. 10. Glenn was recognized with CCV’s Citizen of the Year Award for his efforts to defend Christian liberty and combat the pornography-sex industry, defend Christian liberty and protect the traditional family.

In his address Glenn cited just a few of the many examples on freedom of speech, religion and association fomented by the homosexual rights movement.

A Swedish Pentecostal pastor Ake Green was sentenced to 30 days in jail for giving the standard message on homosexuality from St. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians. Homosexual rights laws in Massachusetts and Illinois have forced Catholic Charities to discontinue adoption services rather than arrange sexual unions for homosexual partners. Glenn referred to a Vatican document that describes such adoptions as “doing violence to these children.”

In Chicago, Philadelphia and San Diego city governments have taken punitive actions against the Boy Scouts of America because of their policy of not allowing atheists or homosexuals to be Scout leaders. The Salvation Army was banned from bidding on contracts to serve the poor in Chicago because the organization doesn’t allow homosexual clergy. In Philadelphia, 11 Salvation Army volunteers were arrested and charged with felonies under Pennsylvania hate-criminal laws for having preached the Gospel near a taxpayer-funded homosexual event called Outfest.

CCV has compiled a 90-page White Paper Report that catalogues many more incidents.

CCV has been at the forefront of the opposition to homosexual rights initiatives in South Bend and Goshen. The civic organization was founded in South Bend in 1995 by Dr. Joseph P. Sergio, Mike Edwards, Mike Hamann and Dennis Staffeltbach. Its purpose was to combat the local pornography-sex industry, which was flourishing at the time.

South Michigan Street in South Bend had the highest concentration of strip clubs in 17 counties. Over the years CCV has been instrumental in closing down or preventing from opening 30 adult businesses in the Mishiana area.

CCV has stepped in to rally and organize local opposition and has successfully fended off six different attempts to pass homosexual rights legislation. Both Bishop John M. D’Arcy and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joined those efforts, issuing statements advising against the proposed laws in South Bend.

In his remarks, CCV Executive Director Patrick Mangan drew from the nation’s division conflict over slavery and led off his remarks with a quote from Frederick Douglas: “For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened; the conscience of the nation must be roused; the propriety of the nation must be startled; the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be denounced.”

“If we are going to be salt and light,” Mangan continued, “if we are going to live up to the call that God gives us to be His voice, to be His heart, to bring a conscience to the community and the society, then I think we have to embrace the notion that Frederick Douglas offered in the face of great evils.

Mangan encouraged his listeners to continue to step outside their comfort zone in opposing the pornography-sex industry and the homosexual agenda.

“There are still ‘tremendous battles out in front,’” Mangan said. Quoting Abraham Lincoln, he said, “America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

Mangan said his greatest hope lies in those who have yet to publicly speak up or write a letter to the editor or congressman on these issues, because many of those attending the dinner were once those people but are now the people who do speak up.

“That’s the next step, because there is no medium ground,” Mangan said. “There is no neutral.”

Citizens for Community Values of Indiana Executive Director Patrick Mangan speaks at the fund-raiser dinner held at the University of Notre Dame on Oct. 10.

Pantry coordinator counts blessings for food donated to give to needy

BY NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC AND EMILY THOMPSON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two weeks before the Thanksgiving Day feast, Gwen Stroy was counting her blessings.

“We usually don’t have this much chicken,” she said, leaning over a box of frozen poultry. “Everyone will get chicken today!”

Stroy coordinates the food pantry at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in northeast Washington. She was excited that there was healthy protein going into each box and bag on this day.

The chicken, plus other meats, fresh vegetables and canned items, will be handed out to 45 people who arrived for the parish’s weekly food distribution.

“They are not strangers. They are neighbors in need. A couple of the volunteers are themselves recipients of the charity.”

Delano Kettrell, a senior who recently lost some of his Social Security benefits, was taking home two bags full of food. After his monthly bills are paid, he has little money left for groceries.

Before coming to the pantry, “I didn’t have enough food to get me through the month,” he told Catholic News Service.

In a basement room at the church, 3-year-old Robert Wells and his dad, Kenneth, were among those waiting patiently for food.

According to a 2010 study by Feeding America, more than 5.7 million Americans seek emergency food assistance each week. Hunger is growing at an “alarming rate,” said a report accompanying the study’s release.

St. Anthony’s pantry volunteers know that. Over the past year or so, the number of people looking to the parish for more than doubled, from 15-20 people up to 50 each week.

The need is increasing. Yet with a limited budget for the pantry, Stroy and her volunteers can only provide enough food to each recipient for four to five meals. “That’s all we can do,” she said.

As they wrapped up their Wednesday distribution, the parishioners talked about the complete turkey meals they would give away in a couple of weeks.

“It’s about 1,500 pounds of food,” said one volunteer. “No,” chimed another. “Try, like 2 to 3,000 pounds.”

One thing is certain; none of it ever goes to waste.

“What happens to the leftovers?” inquired a visitor.

“There are no leftovers,” Stroy replied. “We never have any leftovers.”
Thanksgiving dinner at St. Matthew Cathedral conveys God’s graces

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

SOUTH BEND — “Those who are in a position to help others will realize that in doing so they themselves receive help; being able to help others is no merit or achievement of their own. This duty is a grace. The more we do for others, the more we understand and can appropriate the words of Christ, ‘We are unworthy servants.’” Luke 17:10.

— Pope Benedict XVI, “Deus Caritas Est.”

As Americans prepare for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, images of family, friends and fellowship sharing a meal come to mind. But for many people, the holiday is fraught with loneliness, financial hardship or suffering. Pope Benedict’s message of outreach for helping others is especially important for those where human comfort or interaction is largely absent in their lives.

Two years ago in October at St. Matthew Cathedral, Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector, approached the parish council and suggested the idea of parishioners serving a Thanksgiving dinner to the church’s neighboring families.

“I think it is simply part and parcel of what a parish is. No parish exists simply to look inward, but should always look outward toward the larger community. We do this as a form of hospitality to our neighbors,” Msgr. Heintz explained.

“Some may have no extended family; some may have nowhere to go; some may not have much to celebrate with,” he continued. “We simply open our doors and members of the parish provide the turkeys and all the fixings. We also hope to send food home with those who come as well.”

Becky Monnin, parish council president at St. Matthew, said because of advertising and preparation timing concerns, the council decided to wait until last year to hold the Thanksgiving dinner.

According to Monnin, many volunteers helped in the advertising, preparation and serving of the Thanksgiving dinner. “Parish council members were asked to prepare turkeys, and the students of St. Matthew School were asked to bring desserts or volunteer time for serving the meal on Thanksgiving,” she said.

Side dishes of mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans and rolls rounded out the dinner that was served family style on platters to those attending, she added.

Volunteers canvassed the surrounding church neighborhood with invitations about the dinner. “The whole event — from planning to execution — is a wonderful experience that combines work with a whole lot of fun,” said Dianne Phillips, a parishioner at St. Matthew, looks forward to this year’s Thanksgiving dinner.

The dinner is free and anyone is welcome to attend, regardless if they live in the neighborhood, she emphasized. “We simply open our doors and the tables helps us to think about the needs of others, and reflect giving thanks to God by serving others as our calling and joy as Christians,” said Phillips.

She expressed her added joy of the fellowship at the meal. “Personally, I love the event even more because my husband and I came to the U.S. from Canada many years ago and have no family nearby. Now, instead of Thanksgiving being just a quiet day for us and our son, it feels great to be celebrating it as part of a caring community.”

Monnin concluded with the importance of outreach from the Catholic community at large. “Helping others is a way for people to give thanks for their abundant blessings. Monetary donations for the side dishes that are purchased or volunteers outside the parish are always welcomed.”

This year’s Thanksgiving dinner will be served in the St. Matthew School cafeteria, 1701 Miami St. in South Bend on Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information contact Monnin at (574) 272-0917.

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Bishop John M. D’Arcy
to proclaim ‘Year of the Brother” Sunday

NOTRE DAME — Bishop John M. D’Arcy, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, will proclaim the “Year of the Brother” on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m., in St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame. Bishop D’Arcy, who served as bishop of the diocese from 1985-2009, will be the celebrant and homilist.

The purpose of the “Year of the Brother” is to promote vocations to the Brothers of Holy Cross and to honor Canadian Holy Cross Brother St. André Bessette, who was canonized on Oct. 17, 2010, by Pope Benedict XVI. The Congregation of Holy Cross Priests and Brothers will continue their year-long celebration until Oct. 17, 2012.

The Mass and reception following in Holy Cross College is sponsored by the Brothers of Holy Cross of the Midwest Province, Holy Cross College and Holy Cross Village. All are welcome to attend the Mass and the reception.

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For Mary Thul, life is about dancing in the rain

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — She may be past retirement age but when it comes to working and serving her parish, Mary Thul of St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen is still very actively involved.

Over the years Mary has been involved in a variety of things at the church. Currently she serves as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and minister to the homebound, helps with RCIA, is an active member of the newly-revived Altar Rosary Society, plans funeral dinners and is a mentor as well as coordinator of the mentors at St. John the Evangelist School.

She also served on the parish council for many years off and on, and when her children were young, she was very active serving in various capacities at the school. She said she worked with the Kids Care, a lunchtime program, and also did playground monitor duty. One year she was a substitute teacher.

Thul said she and her husband Tom and children moved to Goshen in 1969 when Tom’s job in marine sales brought him to the area. The couple has three children — son Kelly, daughter Mary Kay Longacre and son Tim. They have four granddaughters and four grandsons from their three children.

Daughter Mary Kay lives in Goshen with her husband Dan and their two daughters (now in college) and a son (now at Goshen High School). They all attended St. John the Evangelist School as well.

“So I truly have a heart for the school,” Mary said.

The Thul sons both live in Bloomington, Ill., with their respective families. When the Thuls first moved to Goshen, Father James Cis was pastor. Mary was on the parish council when Father Paul Baxter was pastor. Sometime between Father Lawrence Tippmann’s time as pastor and Father Ed Kresson, Mary was off.

Mary Thul relaxes in her Goshen home in between serving the parish in many ways, including being instrumental in starting the mentoring program at St. John the Evangelist School.

Thul, PAGE 13

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Professor proposes ‘green Thomism’ to reconnect Catholics to creation

BY JULIE CARROLL

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — When St. Paul Seminary professor Chris Thompson recently went searching for the top agriculture programs at U.S. Catholic universities, what he found — or, rather, what he didn’t find — shocked him: There aren’t any.

He made the discovery after receiving an invitation to present a paper on developments in American agriculture over the past 50 years at a conference in Rome in May.

“There seems to be no presence of (agriculture) as a focused discipline or professional formation in (any of the 244) Catholic universities across the board,” he said in an interview at the seminary, where he is academic dean.

“That’s how I became the expert,” he added with a laugh.

In addition to serving on the board of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Thompson has given lectures and participated in conferences on Catholic social thought regarding the environment. He also is slated to teach a seminar course on the topic in the fall.

“There’s this odd lacuna, this odd blind spot in Catholic higher education in agriculture,” Thompson told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. “How can it be that the single largest economic force in the country has no presence or standing in the modern Catholic university?”

And, he added, what impact does that have, not only on Catholics interested in farming as a career, but also on society at large?

The May 16-18 Pontifical Council for Peace and Justice conference marked the 50th anniversary of “Mater et Magistra” (“Mother and Teacher”), Blessed Pope John XXIII’s 1961 encyclical on the human person just as a distinct entity, Thompson said. “I think that tends to sever our relationship to place; it severed our relationship to the land.”

Thompson said. “I think we have to draw from our Catholic heritage,” he added, “and our relationship to the land.”

“You want to return to your normal daily activities, and Dujarie House will help make it happen as quickly as possible,” said Francis Blake, head nurse at Dujarie House, the skilled nursing community at Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, offers physical, occupational and speech therapies, as well as other specialized services to meet your restorative and rehabilitation needs. During your stay at Dujarie House you can enjoy daily Mass and other spiritual wellness opportunities.

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC
November 20, 2011
the council and served on a committee. When Father John Delany came she was back on the parish council and shortly after current pastor, Father Christopher Smith came she stepped back.

“The parish council needs to change from time to time,” she said, get new members, fresh ideas, and I felt it was time to step back from that and let younger people take over.” She said when they first moved to the area, “In the ’90’s St. John’s was the social hub of Catholics in Groshen. Mary lived within walking distance.”

The Thuls lived a little further away in an all-Mennonite neighborhood nearer the college and Mary laughed as she recalled how she was told the neighbors had a meeting to discuss how to handle having a Catholic family in the neighborhood. Over the years as friendships with the neighbors grew they were able to dispel a lot of misconceptions about Catholics.

Mary has helped with the RCIA program for about six years. Jim Leatherman is the director. Because during a weekday night is more challenging for her these days now she simply goes in each week to set up the food and make coffee, then she leaves.

She said she is probably proudest of her involvement in the mentoring program at St. John’s school. In 1999 Mike Ronzone was the school principal and he came up with idea that it was in earlier years because of the increased demands on younger volunteers.

To those who are not involved in their parishes she’d ask, “What have you got to lose by giving it a try?”

There are so many things she loves about St. John’s but mainly, “I feel at home — not only religiously at home but personally at home. I have friends of all ages — children that my children grew up with are now grown and have children. It’s family. And because it’s family there may be times when we don’t always get along but that’s part of family.”

She’s most excited by the renewed dedication to the church and faith she’s seeing in young people in the parish.

“As I sit in church or at the school the hope I get from the younger generation — the devotion to their faith. There are so many young people so active that is so good to see — for a while it’s not that way. There’s a vibrancy to the parish,” Mary said.

“I’ve been very blessed and it’s been a great joy to work with a lot of good people and being part of a group.”

Mary shared a favorite quote that she’s passed on to her grandchildren. “Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass; it’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

Mary concluded saying, “It’s a tie between that and mentoring (for her favorite ministry). It is so gratifying. They cannot thank you enough. You have no idea what it means to them to have Christ brought to them and to be the instrument of that is such a feeling of joy,” Mary said. She pointed out that her two favorite ministries are “on opposite ends of the life cycle.”

She said the biggest changes over the years at St. John’s have been the blending of the Hispanic community. “It’s a challenge for both groups but I’m also seeing it developing into a very good relationship,” she said.

When asked if she was excited about the revival of the Altar Rosary Society, a direct result of the Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) retreats at St. John’s, she said she was, but acknowledges it will be different than it was in earlier years because of the increased demands on younger women.

“Every room on the first floor was strewn with human legs and arms. As the wounded were brought in from the battlefield, they were laid anywhere, and amputations took place. Some of the wards resembled a slaughter house, the walls were so splattered with blood.”

After her tour of the hospital the sisters did much to address these problems the best they could.

“When Father John Delaney came she stepped back. When Father John Delaney came she stepped back.”
Hope for the holidays

I was recently invited to speak at a gathering of the local chapter of The National Dreamers, a bereavement support group open to parents and grandparents who have lost a child. Our topic was coping with the holidays.

As I listened to the introductions of the mothers, dads and grandparents of the group I was awestruck by the deep abiding love they had for their children and the depth of grief that was palpable in the meeting room that had become a sacred space for these broken hearts to gather for support.

The children, who were lovingly described, came in all sizes and ages from infancy to mid-30s. Some had been lost to accidents, while others had suffered terminal illnesses.

I watched silently as one mother, who had lost her toddler, 14 years ago, gently fielded questions from several who were newly bereaved.

“What are your thoughts on spending the holidays away?” asked one young mom who was obviously dreading the upcoming holiday family gatherings.

This anticipatory anxiety came as no surprise to those who had lost their children years ago. The veteran parent was quick to report that she relied on regular tradition for the sake of her other children that first year after her beloved son had died, but allowed herself to limit the bountiful decorating she had engaged in.

“I did only what I had to do. I didn’t even send Christmas cards. Do what you feel is right for you,” she offered. “The anticipation is always worse than the day itself.”

Another participant quickly spoke up, telling the group that he and his family traveled to Florida the first two years after his 13-year-old daughter had been killed in an accident. He explained that the long separation of wife, children and in-laws all agreed it would be best for all. Due to finances this year, the family would remain home and was apprehensive about the possibilities Christmas day would bring.

Christ the King triumphs over all

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of Christ the King
Mt 25:31-46

On this weekend the Church concludes its liturgical year of 2011. Next week, a new year will begin with the First Sunday of Advent. This weekend it closes the year with an exciting and fervent proclamation of Christ as the king of all.

The first reading comes from the ancient Book of Ezekiel. In this reading, God speaks in the first person, promising protection of the flock, in other words the people of God. He is the shepherd, seeking the lost, caring for the injured, rescuing the imperiled. Also, God will distinguish between the sheep and others who assume other identities because of their voluntary unfaithfulness.

St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. This selection is a proclamation of the Resurrection, and of the role of the Lord as Redeemer of humankind. He is the Risen Lord, the first of those who will rise to everlasting life. Those who will follow Jesus in being raised from the dead are “those who belong” to Christ, in other words, those persons who have admitted God, through Jesus, into their lives, and who have received from the Lord the gift of grace, eternal life and strength.

Reflection

A popular motion picture of 2011, and a true story at that, was “The King’s Speech.” It is about King George VI (1895-1952), on the throne from 1936 until his death, and his determined efforts to overcome a serious speech defect.

The reading frankly admits that at work in the world are forces hostile to God. These forces cannot be dismissed as insignificant. However, they are by no means omnipotent. In and through Jesus, the power and life of God will endure. God will triumph over all evil. No one bound to God should fear the powers of evil, although all must resist these powers.

For its final reading on this great feast, the Church offers us a passage from St. Matthew’s Gospel. It is a glance forward, to the day when God’s glory will overwhelm the world, to the day when Jesus will return in majesty and glory.

This expectation was a favorite theme in the early Church, in the community that surrounded and prompted the formation of the gospels.

The reading repeats the description given in Ezekiel. In Ezekiel, God, the shepherd, separates the sheep from the goats, the good from the unfaithful. In this reading from Matthew, Jesus promises a final judgment that will separate the faithful from the sinners.

Beautifully in this reading, the Lord defines who will be judged as faithful, and who will be seen as unfaithful. The faithful will not be those who only give lip service to their belief in God, but those who, in the model of Jesus, give themselves to bring relief and hope to others.

CCHD – Making changes in our diocese through your support

BY STACEY LITCHFIELD

Have you ever heard of the axiom: “You can give a man a fish you feed him for a day. You teach a man to fish you feed him for a lifetime?” This is happening here in our diocese, but can only continue through your support of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

CCHD is a campaign, which supports certain organizations in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend that are committed to supporting those in poverty to make changes in their lives. These changes are ones that empower the poor to rise above poverty by taking responsible leadership and education roles in their community.

This effort not only positively affects this generation, but also those generations that follow.

CCHD is a campaign supported and maintained by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The organizations that are funded by CCHD organize community-controlled, self-help organizations and transformative education to help make long term changes in the community.

One organization that CCHD funds in Fort Wayne is the Volunteer Center @ RSVP. The Volunteer Center @ RSVP uses their grant to train leaders in non-English speaking immigrant and refugee communities to be leaders in their neighborhood. IRS certified tax preparers. Once trained, they can then provide free income tax preparation services to non-English speaking residents who do not understand the U.S. income tax system.

The Volunteer Center @ RSVP provides services to people of 16 different languages in Fort Wayne. Last year, the center’s free income tax preparation program brought back $2 to $3 million to the 1,500 low-income people that they served. That is money that goes right back to help our community.

Another CCHD grant is awarded to the Vincent Village Tenant Council for a Leadership Training Program. This leadership training program is available for those homeless and once homeless families in the Vincent Village community who learn to seek out ways in which they can be leaders in their neighborhood and workplace. The training also offers programs to teach the leaders how to prevent and report crime in their neighborhoods.

This program has created a safer environment for families to live in and an atmosphere of community.

Some of the other organizations that CCHD funds in our diocese include: St. Vincent de Paul Society’s Collaboration to end poverty in St. Joseph County, St. Vincent de Paul Church’s English in the Workplace, St. Augustine Church’s Tutor Program, and The Alliance for Community Inclusion, DBA Fifth Freedom Disability Youth Leadership. The national collection for CCHD funds is taken up every year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Twenty-five percent of the donations are sent back to our diocese to directly address poverty on a local level. The other 75 percent of the funds collected are distributed from a national fund that organizations can apply for from all dioceses across the United States. Please donate to your parish collection on Nov. 19-20. Your offering will help CCHD to continue to transform our diocese.

Stacey Litchfield is a CCHD intern for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Saint of the Week

Gertrude the Great

1256-1302

November 16

Born in Germany’s Thuringia state, this virgin was entrusted at the age of 5 to the Cistercian nuns at Saxony’s Helfta Abbey, where she was educated and became a nun. At 25, she had a mystical “conversion” and thereafter lived a contemplative life.

Her experiences are included in “Revelations of Gertrude and Mechthilde.” Gertrude also was among the first to promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1738, Pope Clement XII decreed that the feast of this important medieval mystic be celebrated throughout the Western church.

READINGS

Sunday:
Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 Ps 23:1-3, 5-6(1) Cor 15:20-26, 28 Mt 25:31-46

Monday:
Dn 1:1-6, 8-20 (Ps) Dn 3:52-56 Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday:
Dn 2:31-45 (Ps) Dn 3:57-61 Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday:
Dn 5:16, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 (Ps) Dn 362-67 Lk 12:19-21

Thursday:
Dn 6:12-28 (Ps) Dn 368-74 Lk 21:20-28

Friday:
Dn 7:2-14 (Ps) Dn 3:75-81 Lk 21:29-33

Saturday:
Dn 7:15-27 (Ps) Dn 3:82-87 Lk 21:34-36

IN THE MOURNING

KOAY CZAD

November 20, 2011

Mt 25:31-46

Feast of Christ the King

THE DAILY Mass

Connor to the Cistercian nuns at Saxony’s Helfta Abbey, where she was educated and became a nun. At 25, she had a mystical “conversion” and thereafter lived a contemplative life.

Her experiences are included in “Revelations of Gertrude and Mechthilde.” Gertrude also was among the first to promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1738, Pope Clement XII decreed that the feast of this important medieval mystic be celebrated throughout the Western church.
Must the Roman Curia be Italian?

Although he’s not very well known in the U.S., have among members of the Sant’Egidio community (of which he’s the founding father), Andrea Riccardi is a major figure in the Catholic Church in Italy: a historian of the papacy, a commentator on all things Catholic, and a player in various ecclesiastical dramas.

Most recently, according to Vatican reporter Sandro Magister, Riccardi has taken to defending the Italian character of the Roman Curia, which, after a period of internationalization, has become more pronounced over the past decade. Magister quotes Riccardi as arguing that “the Curia cannot become a kind of U.N.,” but probably not for the reason he intends. The Curia ought not be “a kind of U.N.” because the U.N. is a self-serving, bloated and often corrupt bureaucracy. But it makes no sense, today, to argue that the Curia is “part of the Roman Church,” save in the obvious sense that it is located in Rome and therefore takes part in the life of the local Roman Church.

The Curia’s purpose, however, is not local but universal: and that is why it is counterintuitive to suggest that any one national culture has a particular aptitude for staffing the Roman Curia, or that the Roman Curia as a 21st century institution has a unique connection to the local Roman Church.

It is true that the Curia’s modus operandi remains largely Italianate and that Italian language competence is a sine qua non of effective service in the Curia today. But the former is not without its difficulties, as the Banco Ambrosiano scandal of the early 1980s, the oft-remarked lurid Curial pace, and persisting patterns of Curial cronyism and nepotism ought to demonstrate. And while the Roman Curia may well be the last holdout against English as the primary working language of international centers across the globe, it will almost certainly succumb at some point.

In his service as universal pastor of the Church, the pope must be able to draw on talent from all over the world: Church, Italy will surely contribute some of that talent, but it has no monopoly on it. Curialists often speak of “the way we do things here.” Yet those ways, some impressive, some not, were formed in a distinctive epoch of Catholic history: Counter-Reformation Catholicism — that is coming to an end. The universal ministry of the pope in the Evangelical Catholicism to which Vatican II and the pontificates of John Paul II and Benedict XVI are giving birth is going to require a different kind of central administration, a different kind of Roman Curia.

It certainly shouldn’t be “a kind of U.N.” But there is no reason for it to be dominantly Italian, either.

The pope is the Bishop of Rome; Rome is an Italian see; the pope governs the diocese of Rome through a cardinal vicar. It is entirely appropriate that the cardinal vicar be Italian and that the personnel of the Vicariate of Rome be predominantly Italian; they are, after all, at the service of the local Roman Church.

Because he is the Bishop of Rome, the pope is also the “universal pastor of the Church” (a title used by the Vatican’s official yearbook in noting the beginning of the pope’s solemn initiation of his Petrine ministry). The more traditional title, “supreme pontiff of the universal Church,” denotes the same reality. In this Petrine service as supreme pastor of the Church throughout the world, the pope employs the Roman Curia.
Holy Cross College students to provide Thanksgiving baskets for 75 families

NOTRE DAME — Students at Holy Cross College along with the help of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of South Bend, will be selecting 75 families in the Michiana area to receive Thanksgiving dinner baskets. These baskets will include everything to feed a family of four in a traditional holiday feast.

“At $50 per basket, our fundraising goal is to exceed $4,000 in donations from faculty and staff, parents, alumni, neighbors, students and friends of the college,” said Molly White, president of the Social Concerns Committee (SSC).

Students will be filling dozens of shopping carts with turkey, stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, dinner rolls, pumpkin pie and other goodies at the Meijer on Grape Road on the morning of Sunday, Nov. 20. “We are extremely grateful for the help Meijer is providing for this project,” White said. “They are giving us their lowest prices on products, as well as donating a significant amount of their time and energy.”

Assembly of the baskets will take place in Holy Cross College’s Pfeil Center from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, and the delivery will follow from 3-5 p.m.

This is the 10th year the Social Concerns Committee at Holy Cross has raised money for this special project. The committee is accepting donations until Friday, Nov. 18. On Sunday, volunteers will be creating individual family boxes, loading them on the college bus, and then delivering them to all the families on their list.

The public is invited to contribute to this project. Checks may be made payable to Holy Cross College with Social Concerns noted on the memo line.

For more information, contact Social Concerns President Molly White at mwhite@hcc-nd.edu. Donations may be mailed to the Social Concerns Committee, Holy Cross College, PO Box 308, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0308.

Penn State scandal shows scope of sex abuse scourge, archbishop says

BY NANCY FRAZIER O’BRIEN

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The scandal rocking Penn State University shows both the scope of the sex-abuse problem and the value of safe environment training, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said at a Nov. 14 news conference.

Responding to a question following the first session of the USCCB fall general assembly in Baltimore, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York said the news that has led to the indictment of several Penn State officials and the firing of the university’s president and its longtime football coach, Joe Paterno, “has reopened a wound in the Church as well.”

“It shows that the scourge (of sex abuse) is not limited to any one faith and certainly not limited to priests,” he said. “It’s in organizations, in universities, all over the place, in families and, yes, in priests.”

Archbishop Dolan said the Church’s own sex-abuse scandal “makes us a little timid about wanting to give advice — glass houses and all that.”

But he said the Church’s experience with providing safe environment training to help children and their parents, as well as clergy and church volunteers, become more aware of the warning signs of child sex abuse has been “phenomenally advantageous” over the past decade.

“We’ve got a long way to go, but we have made major strides,” he said.

“One of the good things that God might bring out of this is some kind of alliance between the Church and the educational community,” he added. “We might come with a little wisdom earned the hard way to that table.”

“To our deep regret we have not been a good example of how to deal with this in the past,” the archbishop said. “We would like to be a good example in the future.”

Archbishop Dolan offered “our love and prayers” to the sex-abuse victims, their families “and the entire Penn State community.”

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FINAL PAYMENT DUE FEBRUARY 19, 2012
MISHAWAKA — Their nickname is the Kings, but today, they reign as the queens of the Inter-City Catholic League in girls’ soccer. Christ the King left no doubt about that with a dominating 6-0 triumph over Corpus Christi in a championship game played in a soaking rain at Abro Stadium.

“For the season we had 15 individuals score out of 22 on the team,” noted Christ the King Coach Tim Kuhar. “That’s what’s exciting for us, because we teach team soccer. We teach passing to feet so a lot of people can score, so you can’t key on any one of our players.”

Indeed, it was a team effort that got the job done for the Kings in the title tilt. Early in the first half, the coach’s daughter, Julia Kuhar, came down the right side and arched a beautiful kick over the keeper’s head. The ball ricocheted off the left post and in to give Christ the King the lead.

Corpus Christi looked poised to tie the game midway through the half, when Cougar forward Jeanie Freeby’s left-footed shot missed wide to the right, preserving the Kings’ lead.

Late in the first half, Christ the King took advantage. First, Greve netted a cross-goal shot to make it 3-0. Nicole Nerieth followed suit and it was 4-0.

Late in the game, Christ the King just wore down the Corpus Christi defense, with Kuhar and Greve each picking up their second goals of the game to account for the final tally.

Corpus Christi played without its best player — and arguably the league’s best player — Sam Kambol, who was sidelined with a hamstring injury. That fact was not lost on Coach Kuhar.

“They played very hard considering the circumstances,” noted the Kings’ coach. “It’s unfortunate Sam couldn’t play. I know how good she is. It would have been a different game.”

“It was a great season, going undefeated until the championship game,” stated Corpus Christi Coach Dave Renharger. “Sure, it would have helped to have Sam, but the girls who did play, played hard and I’m proud of all of them.”

Lost in the offensive numbers posted by this undefeated and once-tied Christ the King squad is a defense that dominated throughout the year.

“We gave up two goals all season,” recalled Kuhar. “Both times it was St. Joseph, once in the regular season and once in the tournament. We have a lot of reasons to be proud of this team and that’s one of them.”

JV championship

St. Pius X rallied from an early deficit to beat St. Joseph, 5-2, winning the girls’ junior varsity soccer crown.

Tim Killilea’s squad didn’t trail all year until the championship game, but came back to cap an undefeated campaign. The Lions averaged an amazing six goals per game throughout the season.

The Christ the King girls’ soccer team recently won the ICCL girls’ soccer championship.
Tardy shines personal light on faith, life

Reviewed by Kay Cozad


To experience the flavor of life as a young Black Catholic female in legendary New Orleans in the 1940s and 1950s, one need only pick up “A Light Will Rise in Darkness,” by Jo Anne Tardy. This insightful memoir, part of the American Catholic Experience series that offers personal stories of individual lay Catholics in the United States, recounts in living color the joys and challenges of the times.

The intelligent and beautifully descriptive voice Tardy uses to illustrate her experiences growing up in her grandparents’ home in a little town called Algiers, paints a picture one can almost touch. Family and Church are central to this young girl’s life as she grows into the faith-filled woman she becomes.

The detailed introduction of her grandfather, Manuel Placide Lombard, patriarch of the family, who had the gift of healing, brings this faithful gentleman to life. Though a man of few words, Manuel lived his Catholic faith to help make the world a better place and his example had a great impact on the young Tardy as she developed her own faith beliefs.

Vivid descriptions of her surroundings, from her “modest white double shotgun house” with its “royal maroon trimmed screened windows” to the “St. Joseph Lily that would perennially bloom without fail for Holy Thursday,” invite her readers to experience with her the life she led in New Orleans. But more, as her detailed descriptions of loved ones unfold, these characters offer a real sense of the diversity of race, color and creed that populated in the South then.

Tardy tells charming tales of the Holy Family nuns with whom she worked from a very early age and how her own devout character developed by modeling her beloved saints. She reveals how she learned that her father, whom she would never meet, was an African prince, and how her mother, Margery, was a woman of wisdom and love. Extraordinary living in the ordinary lives of this time.

As Tardy’s story unfolds the reader is taken into the harsh but very real world of racism that had a powerful impact on the lives of the author and all people of color. Jo Anne Tardy was born into a family of mixed heritage and so describes the challenges she faced from both white and black races. “It certainly took courage for my family and friends and I to remain black Catholics when many other blacks saw us as called us names and were meant to us because of our Catholicism,” writes Tardy as she describes how stereotyping fueled the culture of the time.

Her recollection of some of the limited recreational opportunities for people of color, such as the segregated movie house, the whites-only swimming pool and the ice cream shops in which only whites could dine, brought to light the curious and painfully unfair experience of many young Blacks in the South.

However, through our Tardy’s testimony, she remains steadfast in her knowledge that she, as Catholic, dancer, teacher, singer, academic, wife and mother, had “a deep — though not overtly evident — independent streak” that empowered her to follow her dreams even in the challenging world in which she lived. She recounts the joy of childhood friendships and close relationships with family members, and shows how that all-important camaraderie guided her along her life path to deeper faith, and personal and professional success.

Tardy’s book culminates in her account of meeting her soon-to-be husband and how during their married life she continued to find blessings even in the most difficult of professional times. Her innate sensitivity and inspiring faith shines forth in the pages of this little book and encourages all to “with grace, do better,” in this broken but beautiful world.

Jo Anne Tardy is retired, and resides in California with her husband Melvin. Together they have three children: Tardy’s middle child, Mel Tardy Jr., is currently a permanent deacon at St. Augustine Parish in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

WASHINGTON — FWWA PBS39, Fort Wayne and north-east Indiana’s public television station, will be airing the documentary mini-series “Catholicism” in its entirety during a special marathon on Sunday, Nov. 20. All four episodes in this series will air back-to-back beginning at 1 p.m. that day.

In this moving and epic documentary series, Father Robert Barron tells the story of Catholicism around the world — using art, architecture, literature, music and all the riches of the Catholic tradition.

Father Barron also examines how Christianity has helped shape the nature of this rich and powerful faith.

The production crew travels to some of the most magnificent and sacred sites in Jerusalem, Rome, Krakow, Warsaw, New York, Istanbul, Sinai, Nazareth, Ephesus, Lourdes, Guadalupe, Athens, Corinth, Mexico City, Uganda, China, Manila, Sao Paulo, Auschwitz, Calcutta, Sydney, Philadelphia, Chicago and beyond.

The team was granted exclusive access to film privately in many locations inaccessible to the general public. Highlights include some of the world’s architectural and artistic masterpieces: The Dome of The Rock, The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, rare views of the Pantheon, St. Peter’s Basilica, the Sistine Chapel and the pope’s private gardens, as well as Chartres, Notre Dame and Cologne Cathedrals.

Father Robert Barron, Francis Cardinal George Professor of Faith and Culture at Mundelein Seminary near Chicago and ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, is the creator and host of the series. The executive producer is Mike Leonard, an acclaimed filmmaker, veteran correspondent for NBC’s “Today” show, and producer of the popular public television series “Ride of Our Lives.”

Together, Barron and Leonard spent two years traveling the world with a crew of seasoned network television producers.

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Together, Barron and Leonard spent two years traveling the world with a crew of seasoned network television producers.
South Bend — Hannah’s House

Holiday Happenings at Hannah’s House is free. Handicap accessible. Schola will perform. Admission Liturgical Choir, Folk Choir, choirs, including the Notre Dame Dame at 7:15 p.m. All basilica and Carols will be sung Sunday, Vincent de Paul Society. 482-2186. Proceeds benefit St. “Christmas cheer” outfit. Must be at 6 p.m. Trivia begins at 7 p.m. night! Tablegate (tailgate) starts drinks to enjoy throughout the is $80. Bring your own food and school cafeteria. A table of eight Saturday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. in the will be held at St. Charles, at the Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Nov. 18, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free.

Holy Name Society fish fry New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Nov. 18, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free.

Trivia night gatherings at St. Charles Fort Wayne — A trivia night will be held at St. Charles, at the corner of Reed and Trier roads, Saturday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria. A table of eight is $80. Bring your own food and drinks to enjoy throughout the night! Tablegate (tailgate) starts at 6 p.m. Trivia begins at 7 p.m. Prizes for winning table and best “Christmas cheer” outfit. Must be 18 or older to attend. Registration is required by calling (260) 482-2186. Proceeds benefit St. Charles tuition assistance and St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Advent Lessons and Carols Service Notre Dame — Advent Lesson and Carols will be sung Sunday, Dec. 4, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame at 7:15 p.m. All basilica choirs, including the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir, Women’s Liturgical Choir, Folk Choir, Handbell Choir and Basilica Schola will perform. Admission is free. Handicap accessible.

Holiday Happenings at Hannah’s House South Bend — Hannah’s House will host Holiday Happenings, a fundraiser dinner and auction event at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, at Hilton Garden Inn’s Gillespie Center, 53995 Indiana State Route 933. Tickets are $75 and must be purchased ahead by calling Tamara Griffin at (574) 254-5309.

Day of Reflection Mishawaka — A Day of Reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Nov. 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “The Beauty Community.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $20 and includes lunch. Register by Nov. 25 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Holy Cross School plans fundraiser South Bend — Climb aboard the Crusader Express Saturday Dec. 3, at Holy Cross School. Join school parents, parishioners, alumni and friends for a night of fine food and drink, silent and live auction. Call the parish office at (574) 233-2179 for tickets and information.

Sunday breakfast at Queen of Angels Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will have a breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Faber Activities Center at Queen of Angels, 1500 W. State Blvd. Adults $6, children 6-12 $3, family (4 or more members) $20.

CRAFT SHOWS 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.

Winter bazaar South Bend — The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Augustine Parish, 1501 Washington St., will have a winter bazaar Saturday, Nov. 26, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. BBQ chicken, Christmas items and white elephant table will be offered.

Christmas bazaar South Bend — A Christmas bazaar will be held at Holy Cross Parish, 1020 Wilber St., Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Homemade crafts and foods, raffles and lunch available.

St. Jude plans Christmas boutique Fort Wayne — St. Jude Parish will have a Christmas boutique Saturday, Nov. 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All crafts handmade and lunch will be available.
USF

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and have not found one like ours,” he said. Plans call for the multimedia center to serve as the main facility for several of the university’s existing programs and as a home for newly-developed programs. Under consideration are centers for instructional multimedia performance, documentary photography, entrepreneurial education, theater and arts administration and two- and three-dimensional media production, among other professional concentrations. County officials see the purchase as an economic development boon and creative reuse of a historical structure.

“This is one of the key cornerstones we’ve been trying to secure as a response to a new economy,” said Allen County Economic Development Alliance Director Andi Udris. “Young people congregate downtown, and arts are key to attracting them. They are educated and mobile, and they create a vital downtown that attracts other professionals. This building is perfect for adaptive reuse. It was designed for special use, and this will be in line with what it was intended to do.”

The plan impacts regional economy in additional ways, Daniel said.

“It establishes ready-made student collaborative relationships for starting small businesses upon graduation, and provides artists and organizations from Fort Wayne and the Midwest with high-quality experienced professionals ready to enter the workforce,” he said.

The area arts community also heralds the university’s program/building marriage as an economic development driver. “Any time you have a new venture downtown it’s exciting, especially when the University of Saint Francis brings its programs with it,” said Arts United Executive Director Jim Sparrow. “It’s a fantastic opportunity, and aligns with an initiative in which we’ve been promoting the arts as a catalyst for economic development.”

“USF has an opportunity to create a distinctive media production facility that is educational and facilitates real-world multi-dimensional experiences for the new media industry,” Daniel said.

“The establishment of a creative, collaborative center in downtown Fort Wayne could foster business and creative growth within the community. By leveraging existing programs and concentrations, students will be better prepared for careers, while enhancing the local economy.”

“We are pleased to put the beautiful, historic Scottish Rite facility to use by featuring our strong programs in the visual and performing arts, entrepreneurship and communication,” President Sister Kriss said. “Since 1944, the university has contributed to the local economy by providing the academic programs needed by the community. We are excited by this new opportunity to bring our students’ vibrant contributions to local organizations, while providing an education program and facility that are unique on a national scale.”