Christ the King Church celebrates 50th

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — “I remember being here a year ago for Confirmation and after Mass I said to Father Neil, ‘you know what this church needs is stained glass windows,’” said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to a packed Christ the King Church on Sunday, Nov. 20. “Little did I know that this plan was in the works.”

To commemorate the feast of Christ the King and the 50th anniversary of the church building (the parish was formed 78 years ago), Bishop Rhoades celebrated a special Mass with the Christ the King parish community. Along with the celebration came the blessing of stained-glass windows that were recently given to the church from a parish in Pennsylvania in the town the bishop was born.

“Called to Glory,” the conference theme, to family members and friends throughout the U.S. at the conclusion of the vibrant liturgy.

BECKY RAGONE

“. . . and turn them on because we’re going to do a holy shoutout. I want you to type in ‘Called to Glory.’”

It was a fun and faith-filled way for the Catholic youths and young adults to honor God and conclude the 31st biennial national conference, held Nov. 17-19 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and host of the conference, asked the teenagers, collegians and all attending the closing Mass to text, email or tweet the words “Called to Glory.”

Murmurs began to spread through the quiet football stadium when Bishop Coyne surprised the conference participants by asking them to turn on their cellphones at the end of Mass.

“I want you all to dig out your cellphones, . . . and turn them on because we’re going to do a holy shoutout. I don’t think this has ever been done . . . with a crowd like this, and maybe the first time at a big Catholic gathering. I want you to type in ‘Called to Glory.’”

After he announced the “holy shoutout,” the teenagers, collegians and others in attendance quickly typed in the words then awaited his cue to press the “send” button on their cellphones.

“Called to Glory” is a secular song by Josh Groban that was released in 2007. It has since been covered by several artists, including Saving Abel and the Christian rock band Third Day, to whom Bishop Coyne credited the idea of using the song to “shout out” to the world at the conference.

“The song is about holding to the promise of heaven,” Bishop Coyne said.

“Youths at conference honor Christ with electronic ‘holy shoutout’

BY MARY ANN GARBER

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — More than 2,000 years after His birth, Christ the King was honored in a historic way with a massive electronic “holy shoutout” via texts, emails and tweets sent simultaneously from cellphones Nov. 19 by 23,000 participants at the National Catholic Youth Conference and National Catholic Collegiate Conference.

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“For over two hours now, we have turned this space into a holy place where holy people have listened to holy words and done holy things and received holy gifts,” Bishop Coyne said.

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“When I say, ‘We are ...’”, Bishop Coyne told them, “we are going to shout out ‘Called to Glory’ and you’re going to send it out to all those people out there on the Internet that are
The Immaculate Conception

ON Thursday, December 8th, the universal Church will celebrate the beautiful Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation. This feast has special significance for us since the Immaculate Conception is both the patrimony of the United States and the patrimony of our diocese.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, at the request of the Bishops of the United States in 1846, was declared patroness of the United States by Pope Pius IX the following year, seven years before the same pontiff proclaimed the dogma of Mary’s Immaculate Conception, in 1854. Six years later, on December 8, 1860, when our cathedral in Fort Wayne was consecrated, it was given the title of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Lourdes

As we approach December 8th, my thoughts go back to World Youth Day this past August. On our way to Madrid, the young pilgrims from our diocese and I spent 2½ beautiful days in Lourdes as spiritual preparation for World Youth Day. Many of our young people have told me that our time in Lourdes was the highlight of their pilgrimage. It was truly a highlight for me, especially celebrating Holy Mass at the grotto where Our Lady appeared to Saint Bernadette.

The apparitions in Lourdes took place in 1858. The young Bernadette did not know the identity of the beautiful lady who appeared to her 18 times. When Our Lady appeared to her on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette asked her name. Mary’s reply, in Bernadette’s native dialect, was “I am the Immaculate Conception.” This reply was a kind of confirmation of the dogma defined by Pope Pius IX just four years earlier.

Lourdes had a powerful impact on me and our young people. It is a holy place where we experienced the joy of our faith in Christ and our spiritual closeness to His Immaculate Mother. It is a place where many miraculous physical cures have occurred. It is also a place where there is much spiritual healing, a place where the sinless Mother of God continues to bring strength and consolation to her beloved children.

Meaning of the dogma

These are the words of Blessed (Pope) Pius IX in defining the dogma of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1854:

“We declare, proclaim, and define that this dogma is revealed by God and therefore to be firmly and unremittingly believed by all the faithful; namely, the dogma which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of original sin.

Though this dogma was not defined until the 19th century, Mary’s absolute holiness was a belief of Christians since the early centuries of the Church. In the East, there was a feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary celebrated as early as the 7th century. All agreed that Mary was preserved from all personal sin, but through the centuries, especially in the Middle Ages, there was much debate about whether or not Mary had contracted original sin. Some felt that immunity from original sin would compromise the important teaching that original sin had to be remitted by Christ, the Redeemer, and no one could be redeemed apart from Him.

A theological solution to this dilemma was proposed by Blessed Duns Scotus, a Franciscan theologian of the 13th century. He defended Mary’s privilege of immunity from original sin from the moment of her conception. He explained that this did not detract from the Redemption brought by Christ. Mary too was included in the Redemption and she received it from her Son at the moment of her conception. This is called “preservative redemption.” That is why in the dogmatic definition, the Pope said that Mary’s Immaculate Conception was “a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ.” This settled the controversy.

The universality of the redemption remains intact. Mary was really redeemed by her Son at the first moment of her existence. Mary was truly, as the angel Gabriel announced, “full of grace.” She was accorded the grace of redemption “in view of the merits of her Son.” Why was this? It was part of God’s plan. God destined Mary to become the Mother of his Son. How could she, even for a moment, have been in the power of the devil? The one who was to bring forth the Savior could not have been subject to the corruption that derives from original sin.

Mary always by our side

Mary’s holiness is an encouragement for us to seek her help and her protection in our efforts to overcome sin and to grow in holiness. Like us, she has been redeemed by Christ, but in an eminent and a privileged way. In this, she is like a sister to us, as well as our spiritual mother.

The Blessed Mother is with us in the concrete situations of our lives. She helps and comforts us to face the trials and challenges of daily life. She watches over us from heaven. She guides our steps in the way of her Son. She helps us to make progress in our Christian lives, helps us with her motherly care to follow Jesus.

May Mary Immaculate accompany us on our Advent journey! May she lead us to know, love, and adore the Son of God who became man in her holy womb!
Addressing U.S. bishops, pope defends Church efforts on sex abuse

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a speech to U.S. bishops, Pope Benedict XVI defended the Church’s “honest efforts” to confront the priestly sex abuse scandal with transparency, and said its actions could help confront society respond to the problem. While the Church is rightly held to high standards, all other institutions should be held to the same standards as they address the causes, extent and consequences of sexual abuse, which has become a “scourge” at every level of society, the pope said Nov. 26.

On wider issues, including the institution of marriage, the pope encouraged the bishops to speak out “humbly yet insistently in defense of moral truth.” Responding to the challenges of a secularized culture will first require the “re-evangelization” of the Church’s own members, he said.

The pope made the remarks in a speech to bishops from the state of New York, who were in Rome for their “ad limina” visits. The group was led by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, who as president of the U.S. bishops’ conference has spoken of the need to restore the Church’s credibility and its evangelizing capacity.

The pope began his talk by recalling his 2008 visit to the United States, which he said was aimed at encouraging Catholics in the wake of the sex-abuse crisis. He said he wanted to acknowledge the suffering inflicted on victims as well as the Church’s efforts to ensure the safety of children and deal “appropriately and transparently with allegations” of abuse.

“It is my hope that the Church’s conscientious efforts to confront this reality will help the broader community to recognize the causes, true extent and devastating consequences of sexual abuse, and to respond effectively to this scourge which affects every level of society,” the pope said.

“By the same token, just as the Church is rightly held to exacting standards in this regard, all other institutions, without exception, should be held to the same standards,” he said.

Pope Benedict’s speech was the first in a series of five talks he is expected to deliver in coming months, as 15 groups of U.S. bishops make their consultative visits to Rome. He said he planned to focus primarily on the urgent task of “new evangelization.”

He said many of the U.S. bishops had shared with him their concern about the “grave challenges” presented by an increasingly secularized society in the United States. He said it was also interesting to note a widespread worry about the future of democratic society in general, by people who see “a troubling breakdown in the intellectual, cultural and moral foundations of social life” and growing insecurity about the future.

“Despite attempts to still the Church’s voice in the public square, many people of good will continue to look to her for wisdom, insight and sound guidance in meeting this far-reaching crisis,” he said.

In that sense, he added, the present moment is “a summons to exercise the prophetic dimension of your episcopal ministry by speaking out, humbly yet insistently, in defense of moral truth, and offering a word of hope, capable of opening hearts and minds to the truth that sets us free.”

At the same time, the pope said, the seriousness of the challenges facing the Church in the United States cannot be underestimated. He said one key component was the secularization affects the lives of Catholics, leading at times to “quiet attrition” among the Church’s members.

“Immersed in this culture, believers are daily beset by the objections, the troubling questions and the cynicism of a society which seems to have lost its roots, by a world in which the love of God has grown cold in so many hearts,” he said.

For that reason, he said, modern evangelization is not something aimed only at people outside the Church.

“We ourselves are the first to need re-evangelization,” he said. That must include critical and ongoing self-assessment and conversion, and interior renewal in the light of the Gospel, he said.

The pope praised the U.S. bishops for their response to the issues raised by increasing secularization, and their efforts to articulate a common pastoral vision. He cited as examples the bishops’ recent documents on political responsibility and on the institution of marriage.

“In the end, the pope said, the effectiveness of the Church’s witness to the Gospel in the United States is linked to “the recovery of a shared vision and sense of mission by the entire Catholic community.”

He said Catholic universities have an important role in promoting this renewal and ensuring the success of “new evangelization,” especially among younger generations.

“Young people have a right to hear clearly the Church’s teaching and, most importantly, to be inspired by the coherence and beauty of the Christian message, so that they in turn can instill in their peers a deep love of Christ and his Church,” he said.

The pope also spoke about the implementation of the revised translation of the Roman Missal, which is being introduced in the United States during Advent. He thanked the bishops for making this a moment of catechesis about the liturgy, saying that “he said.

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Penn State crisis shows sex abuse pervasive in US society, many say

BY LIZ O’CONNOR

LEVITTOWN, Pa. (CNS) — The child sexual abuse crisis at Penn State University brings into focus the harsh reality that the problem is pervasive in U.S. society, according to experts in the field and Church officials.

Former defensive coach Jerry Sandusky has been charged with sexually assaulting eight boys over a 15-year span. Other college officials have been indicted for a failure to respond appropriately to reports that Sandusky was seen engaging in sexual behavior with children recruited through his connection with the Penn State football program.

The school fired football coach Joe Paterno, who was in his 46th year, and the university president for not doing enough to act on reports of the alleged abuse.

Linda L. Dunlap, a psychology professor at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., said if the 74-year-old Paterno had “just been some coach at some college somewhere,” and not a coach with such a stellar reputation, the Penn State case might have made the local news, but not drawn national attention.

Such abuse of children “is not happening more with coaches than with other groups,” Dunlap said; most abusers are family members.

The news of Penn State’s problems “has opened a wound in the Church as well,” New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan said Nov. 14 at a news conference in Baltimore during the bishops’ fall general assembly.

“It shows the scourge (of sex abuse) is not limited to any one faith and certainly not limited to priests,” said the president of the U.S. bishops’ conference. “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, becomes more aware of the warning signs of child sexual 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.

The Penn State situation makes everyone aware that “we’re looking at a societal issue,” agreed Deacon Bernie Nojadera, executive director of the U.S. Catholic bishops’ Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection.

The Church’s response — in line with the bishops’ “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” first adopted in 2002 and revised in 2005 and last June — focuses on reporting, putting the children’s needs first and ongoing education, Deacon Nojadera told Catholic News Service.

“Education has been absolutely key” to giving parents and children a voice, he said. “Anyone working with a vulnerable population should absolutely know about ways to prevent abuse and how to report abuse if they suspect or witness it. “Our children should know that they are safe and protected.”

What the Church specifically has to offer, Deacon Nojadera said, is that “we realized we made mistakes” in the past “and we’re learning from those mistakes.”

The Church also is aware, he said, that simply acknowledging past mistakes doesn’t mean the need for action is past, or ever will be past.

“Vigilance (remains) paramount, and there is for everyone to be vigilant in this matter.”

Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Spokane, Wash., immediate past president of the bishops’ Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People, agreed that the work of the Church, especially the “causes and context” study done in conjunction with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, has shown the abuse of children is a problem throughout society.

The situation at Penn State, where college officials to whom the abuse was reported failed to follow through with investigation and report to law enforcement even after all the publicity, he said, is “stunning — that they didn’t see it (the scandals in the Catholic Church) as a wake-up call.”

The bishop said a complete, organic safe environment program must be in place, including background checks, clear guidelines for reporting abuse, and the education of children and adults about what is and isn’t appropriate behavior with children and young people.

“This work is never over. We have to create a culture where kids come first,” he said.

Al Notzon of San Antonio, chair of the bishops’ National Review Board, also addressed the importance of reporting abuse. “You report it when you see it, and you report it to law enforcement,” he told CNS. It also should be reported within the organization involved, but must be reported to legal authorities.

Charol Shakeshaft, professor and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership at Virginia Commonwealth University, was an early researcher in the area of sexual abuse of children in public schools.

She said the first thing the Penn State staff should have learned from the Catholic Church’s experience was to “report immediately.”

Too often, she said, reports are made within institutions but go nowhere. Despite any concerns for the reputation of the institution or individuals, she said, “when you do start to disclose, disclose fully and honestly.”

Preventing abuse in the first place is the most important thing, Shakeshaft said, and being aware that a seemingly kind, good person may be an abuser.

Penn State and Nebraska football players and staff joined at midfield for a prayer prior to their NCAA football game in State College, Pa., Nov. 12.

Many say the Penn State abuse crisis shines the spotlight on just how pervasive the abuse problem is in U.S. society.

In fact, several experts note that abusers are often seen as the most popular, generous, outgoing people in a group — characteristics that give them access to children.

According to Shakeshaft, many organizations have a protocol that keeps the mandated reporting of suspected child abuse within the organization, as happened at Penn State.

But, she said, “when you see a child being abused, you are witnessing a crime, and you call the police.” Just as with any other crime, “if you see it, if it’s reported to you, you call the police.”

She said progress has been made in preventing child abuse, including good training programs, some of them developed within the Catholic Church; taking the problem seriously; and wider reporting of offenses. But the Penn State case, she said, shows us how much further we still have to go.

Any place where there are children, she said, “there’s likely to be sexual abuse, because ‘people who sexually abuse kids go to places where there are children.’”

As Notzon put it, “healthy adults do not socialize one-on-one with children,” and there should be no relationships that involve keeping secrets from the child’s parents or from supervisory personnel.

Other examples of boundary violations mentioned by experts included such things as a teacher having been fast alone with a child before school, giving a child his or her personal cell phone number, driving alone in a car with a child to a school sports event, or giving a child a valuable gift.

Training must be ongoing, Notzon said, because there are always new children, coaches, teachers, priests and volunteers coming into the system, and organizations have to keep monitoring and evaluating their policies.

“The Church also has to protect its members,” she said, “and its name.”

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“Every institution in society” has to look at everything they are doing with a focus on children, he said. “We’ve got to protect them.”
Homenaje a la Santísima Virgen de Guadalupe

Diocesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend

San Antonio de Padua, Angola
11 de diciembre del 2011
4 p.m. — Misa en Honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Inmediatamente después los jóvenes presentarán “Apariciones”

San José, LaGrange,
12 de diciembre del 2011
5 p.m. — Apariciones-Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y San Juan Diego, Drama
5:30 p.m. — Misa Presidida por Monsenor Kevin C. Rhoades

San Vicente de Paul, Elkhart
10 de diciembre del 2011
4:30 a.m. — Rosario, seguido inmediatamente por el drama de las Apariciones de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, mañanitas y desayuno.
11 de diciembre del 2011
4:30 p.m. — Procesión desde Parroquia Santo Tomas hasta San Vicente Seguido por Misa 6 p.m.
12 de diciembre del 2011
6:30 p.m. — Misa Bilingüe en el Auditorio del Liceo

San Patricio, Fort Wayne
10 de diciembre del 2011
7 p.m. — Obra Apariciones de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
San Juan Evangelista, Goshen
11 de diciembre del 2011
12:30 p.m. — Misa, seguida por las Apariciones de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y San Juan Evangelista, Goshen
San José, Fort Wayne
11 de diciembre del 2011
11:30 a.m. — Misa, seguido por un almuerzo “putluck” patrocinado por el grupo Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo
12 de diciembre del 2011
6 a.m. — Las Mañanitas
8 a.m. — Misa en Honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
San Juan Evangelista, Goshen
11 de diciembre del 2011
1 p.m. — Misa (Regular) y convivencia
10 p.m. — Representación de las Apariciones
11 p.m. — Misa — Vigilia Solemne
12 a.m. — Mañanitas Santísima Virgen de Guadalupe (medianoche)
12 de diciembre del 2011
6 p.m. — Drama
7 p.m. — Misa — Conmemorativa
8 p.m. a 10 p.m. — Convivio

Inmaculada Concepción, Kendallville
3 al 12 de diciembre — Novena a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
7 p.m. — Rosario, seguido por refrigerios
12 de diciembre del 2011
11:45 p.m. — Mañanitas, Misa y cena en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
San Patricio, Ligonier
11 de diciembre del 2011
11 p.m. — Apariciones y Mañanitas
12 de diciembre del 2011
4:30 p.m. — Nos reuniremos en el Gazebo al lado de la estación de bomberos para organizar la procesión
5 p.m. — Procesión hasta la Iglesia San Patricio
6 p.m. — Misa en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
San Miguel, Plymouth
10 de diciembre del 2011
5 p.m. — Misa seguida por una gran celebración y fiesta en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
San Adalberto y San Casimiro—Todos los servicios se harán en San Adalberto
3 al 10 de diciembre — Novena a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
6 p.m. — Rosario en el edificio de las oficinas de San Adalberto
11 de diciembre del 2011
10:30 p.m. — Misa
12 de diciembre del 2011
5 p.m. — Danza
6 p.m. — Misa de Clausura
St. Dominic, Bremen
11 de diciembre del 2011
12 de diciembre del 2011
11 p.m. — Apariciones, Rosario y Convivio
12 de diciembre del 2011
6 p.m. — Nuestra Señora de Hungría, South Bend
11 de diciembre del 2011
5 p.m. — Procesión hasta la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
12 de diciembre del 2011
6 p.m. — Rosario
6:20 p.m. — Danza
7 p.m. — Misa Española
8 p.m. — Cena del Niño Jesús
San Patricio, Ligonier
11 de diciembre del 2011
6 p.m. — Misa
6:20 p.m. — Danza
7 p.m. — Misa Española
8 p.m. — Cena Edificio Escolar
Nuestra Señora de Hungria, South Bend
10 de diciembre del 2011
7 p.m. — Celebraciones continuas en este orden: Danza de Niños, Apariciones, Rosario, Mañanitas con Banda, Misa, Convivio en el gimnasio de la escuela
12 de diciembre del 2011
7 p.m. — Mañanitas, Misa, Convivio en el sótano de la Iglesia

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw
Homenaje a La Santísima Virgen de Guadalupe
3 al 10 de diciembre del 2011
6 p.m. — Novenario: Misa con Rosario y Convivio
11 de diciembre del 2011
11 p.m. — Misa
12 Medianoche — Mañanitas con Mariachis y Convivio
12 de diciembre del 2011
5 p.m. — Danza
6 p.m. — Misa de Clausura

San Patricio, Ligonier
11 de diciembre del 2011
12 de diciembre del 2011
11 p.m. — Apariciones, Rosario y Convivio
12 de diciembre del 2011
6 p.m. — Nuestra Señora de Hungría, South Bend
11 de diciembre del 2011
5 p.m. — Procesión hasta la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
12 de diciembre del 2011
6 p.m. — Rosario
6:20 p.m. — Danza
7 p.m. — Misa Española
8 p.m. — Cena del Niño Jesús
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12 de diciembre del 2011
7 p.m. — Mañanitas, Misa, Convivio en el sótano de la Iglesia

St. Dominic, Bremen
11 de diciembre del 2011
12 de diciembre del 2011
11 p.m. — Apariciones, Rosario y Convivio
12 de diciembre del 2011
6 p.m. — Nuestra Señora de Hungría, South Bend
11 de diciembre del 2011
5 p.m. — Procesión hasta la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
12 de diciembre del 2011
6 p.m. — Rosario
6:20 p.m. — Danza
7 p.m. — Misa Española
8 p.m. — Cena del Niño Jesús
San Patricio, Ligonier
11 de diciembre del 2011
6 p.m. — Misa
6:20 p.m. — Danza
7 p.m. — Misa Española
8 p.m. — Cena Edificio Escolar
Nuestra Señora de Hungria, South Bend
10 de diciembre del 2011
7 p.m. — Celebraciones continuas en este orden: Danza de Niños, Apariciones, Rosario, Mañanitas con Banda, Misa, Convivio en el gimnasio de la escuela
12 de diciembre del 2011
7 p.m. — Mañanitas, Misa, Convivio en el sótano de la Iglesia

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This week's featured book is...
Death penalty opponents praise Oregon governor for deeming moratorium

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Catholic and other opponents of the death penalty praised Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber for placing a moratorium on executions.

Kitzhaber, a Democrat, said Jan. 22, he regretted allowing two men to be executed during his first term in office in the 1990s. A Democrat, he was out of political office for eight years before being elected again in November 2010.

His new term began in January and ends in January 2015. Having received letters and petitions from Oregon and other states, the governor said he is morally opposed to the practice and supports life without parole as the prefered punishment. He ordered that he not have the death penalty. Of those 16, Illinois is the most recent one to abolish it, in 2011. His decision halts another execution.

Oregon joins 16 other states and the District of Columbia that do not have the death penalty. Of those 16, Illinois is the most recent one to abolish it, in 2011. His decision halts another execution.

The appointment of the new nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop-designate Brown, is the most recent one to abolish it, in 2011. His decision halts another execution.

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Bishop Kitzhaber said during a news conference Jan. 22 that the ban is in place because he believes the system is broken.

The appellate judges put the case on hold and asked the California Supreme Court to decide the matter.

The court, said that “it is essential to the integrity of the initiative process — that there be someone to assert the state’s interests in an initiative’s validity on behalf of the people when the public officials who normally assert that interest decline to do so.” That was a victory for ProtectMarriage.com as a proponent of Prop 8, and it allows the 9th Circuit Court to now resolve the critical question in the case — whether or not Prop 8 is constitutional — although it is expected the 9th Circuit Court will have the final word.

The pope, addressing officials of Caritas Italy Nov. 24 at the Vatican, said true charity requires not only concrete gestures but also critical reflection on causes.

The pope, addressing officials of Caritas Italy Nov. 24 at the Vatican, said true charity requires not only concrete gestures but also critical reflection on causes.
St. Joseph, Garrett, hosts mission

GARRETT — St. Joseph Church in Garrett will host a parish mission from Dec. 10-14, with Franciscan Father David Mary Engo as speaker each evening at 6:30 p.m. The theme is “The Door to Christ is Open.” An evening of Reconciliation will be held Dec. 13 with Father Andrew Nazareth of St. Joseph Parish and other area priests. A closing 6:30 p.m. Mass on Dec. 14, will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Light refreshments will be served. childcare will be provided Dec. 10, 12 and 14.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School wins in ‘We the People’ competition

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School eighth graders competed and one class won in the overall class score at the district competition of “We the People” on Nov. 11 at the University of St. Francis. “We the People” is a program that promotes civic competence and responsibility among upper elementary and secondary students. Since the program’s start in 1987, more than 30 million students have participated in this innovative course of civic study. The students, broken up into six units, prepared four-minute speeches to present before a panel of judges, and then responded to question-and-answer sessions. Among the units questions were: What were the founders’ basic ideas about government? What shaped the founders’ thinking about government? How was the Constitution used to establish our government? How does the Constitution protect our basic rights? What were the founders’ basic ideas about government? What shaped the founders’ thinking about government? How was the Constitution used to establish our government? How does the Constitution protect our basic rights?

Past SJSE scholarship recipients who have renewed their status as Carson Scholars are Michelle Rogers, an eighth grade,” said St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School Principal Lois Widner. “They did an excellent job preparing for this competition. What an outstanding group of students. We are looking forward to the state competition on Dec. 17.” Class 8A, moderated by junior high teacher Cristi Hagan, also won first place in units 2, 4 and 5. The class of 28 students will now travel to the “We the People” state competition at Plainfield High School in Indianapolis on Dec. 17 to compete against the other school district winners from throughout the state of Indiana.

Sacks of Thanksgiving food were given away to over 700 low income people, who formed a long line at Miss Virginia’s Mission House on South Hannah Street in Fort Wayne on Tuesday, Nov. 22. Bishop Dwenger graduate and former NFL player Jason Fabini led a team of volunteers, including Fabini’s four sons and father, in distributing the food. Two-hundred-eighth turkey roasts were donated by Cooper Farms, and additional holiday food was provided by the students of St. Charles Borromeo School and Community Harvest Food Bank.

Awards ceremony, Schroeder was selected by her teachers based on the following criteria: academic excellence, service to school and community, and being a role model to others. The Carson Scholarship is a monetary college scholarship created by Dr. Ben Carson and his wife Candy.

Past SJSE scholarship recipients who have renewed their status as Carson Scholars are Michelle Adgalanis, Mark Hellinger and Samantha Rahrig.

Live a life of no regrets

DECATUR — Robert Rogers will be speaking at St. Mary’s of the Assumption Parish on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. Rogers experienced a tragedy when he lost his wife and all four children in a flash flood in Kansas in 2003. Rogers started the “Mighty in the Land” ministry in January 2004 to change the way people live their Godly and family relationships — through a compelling message of hope, encouragement and priorities.

Rogers has risen above his pain to share his compelling story of how one can “Live a life of no regrets.” Rogers has also released several music CD’s of hope and praise that will be available the night of the talk. Call (260) 724-2605 for details.

USF hosting ‘Star of Bethlehem 2011’

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will host an annual Christmas presentation, “Star of Bethlehem 2011,” in the Edwin Clark Schouweiler Memorial Planetarium in Achatz Hall of Science for three weekends in December.

The show will present possible explanations for the biblical Star of Bethlehem, taking the audience back in time to follow the journey of the Magi under the Eastern sky of 3-2 B.C. “Star of Bethlehem” begins with the sky of Christmas this year and the current planet positions.

Following the formal show, planetarium staff will lead a tour of the night sky and instruct on how to see all five visible planets in one night. A preview of the May 2012 Venus/Jupiter conjunction, similar to a conjunction reported biblically as seen by the Wisemen in 3-2 B.C., will also be discussed.

“A Star of Bethlehem” is open to the public, and tickets can be purchased at the door. Admission is $4 for adults and $3 for senior citizens and children under age 18. The maximum charge per family will be $14. The staff advises parents of children under age 5 to prepare their youngsters to sit quietly in near-darkness for 35 minutes. The entire show lasts approximately 90 minutes.

Those arriving early for tickets will be seated in adjacent Gunderson Auditorium for a pre-show update on International Space Station (ISS) news, recent cargo and crew transport launches and the on-orbit work of ISS crew members. A schedule follows.

• Saturday, Dec. 3, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.
• Sunday, Dec. 4, at 1:30 and 3 p.m.
• Friday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.
• Saturday, Dec. 10, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.
• Sunday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m.
• Friday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m.
• Saturday, Dec. 17, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.
• Sunday, Dec. 18, at 5 p.m.

Achatz Hall of Science is located on Leesburg Road. For more information, visit www.sfu.edu/planetarium, call Jean Sorg at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8211 or email to jsorg@sf.edu.

Sack of Thanksgiving food was given away to over 700 low income people, who formed a long line at Miss Virginia’s Mission House on South Hannah Street in Fort Wayne on Tuesday, Nov. 22. Bishop Dwenger graduate and former NFL player Jason Fabini led a team of volunteers, including Fabini’s four sons and father, in distributing the food. Two-hundred-eighth turkey roasts were donated by Cooper Farms, and additional holiday food was provided by the students of St. Charles Borromeo School and Community Harvest Food Bank.

A Thanksgiving Day guest at St. Mary Parish, Fort Wayne, was among approximately 1,500 who were served a full course turkey dinner with dressing, potatoes, cranberries, rolls and dessert. Everyone present joined Father Phillip Widmann, pastor, in an opening prayer and Thanksgiving song. It was one of the largest number of guests ever served at St. Mary’s at this annual event.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

King),” said Coyne. “Father Neil is pastor at Christ the King and a 1984 graduate of the school. Father Wack is excited to be completing the work begun by Father Funke (Holy Cross Father Clement Funke, pastor at that time) and parishioners who built the church 50 years ago.”

Coyne noted that founded in 1933 as an offshoot of Sacred Heart Parish at Notre Dame, the little white church by the highway opened its doors in 1935. It was not long before the parish community outgrew the small church, so plans were made to build a bigger church on the property. The new church was completed, but without the resources necessary to include the stained glass windows in the original plan.

Members of the Knights of Columbus and several Holy Cross priests accompanied Bishop Rhoades down the aisle at the beginning of Mass. He thanked the community for their generous donations and support of this church.

“It is a wonderful demonstration of your faith, your commitment to your parish, and your desire to make this sacred place, dedicated 50 years ago to the glory and honor of Christ the King, an even more beautiful house of God. We remember in our prayers today all the faith-filled and generous parishioners since this parish’s founding in 1933, 78 years ago. We remember all the priests and sisters who have served here. In a special way, we remember the first pastor of Christ the King Parish, Holy Cross Father Clement Funke. I am using Father Funke’s chalice for this Mass today,” said Bishop Rhoades.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades talked about the kingdom of God and the differences between Jesus and other rulers and kings in history.

“In today’s Gospel, we heard the last teaching of Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel before His entering Jerusalem to face His crucifixion and death. The parable presents the great scene of the last judgment, with the Son of Man, Christ the King, seated upon His glorious throne. The Lord of history and King of the universe separates the sheep from the goats. The judgment is based on their acceptance or rejection of Jesus, who identifies Himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the ill and the imprisoned,” said Bishop Rhoades.

“Afer Jesus taught this parable, He made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem,” continued Bishop Rhoades. “Christ the King entered into the holy city not on a great chariot of war, like other kings, but He entered riding on a donkey, the animal of the common man and of the poor. He is not a king who dominates by political or military might. He is the King who reigns with humility and meekness.

“Our King entered the world as an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger,” he said. “Our King brought peace to the world through the cross, the sign and instrument of reconciliation and forgiveness, the sign that love is stronger than violence and hatred, stronger even than death. Through the cross, evil is conquered by good, by love.”

The homily was concluded with enlightenment on the feast of Christ the King and how it enters our lives today: the mystery of Christ’s Kingship and His Kingdom. We enter into communion with Christ and one another through the Eucharist, the sacrament that makes the Church. Christ’s sacrifice of love becomes present on the altar.

“We who are nourished by Jesus’ Body and Blood are thus strengthened to go in peace when the Mass is ended, to go forth as loyal subjects of Christ the King, not with weapons of war or earthly power, but with the gift of self, with love carried even to our enemies.

“Jesus does not conquer the world with the force of arms, but with the force of the cross, which is the true guarantee of victory (Pope Benedict). As disciples of Jesus, we are to be His envoys, His ambassadors, as St. Paul said. This means that at times we must deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Him. The Eucharist strengthens us to do so,” encouraged Bishop Rhoades.

He concluded, “Being members of a parish with the title of ‘Christ the King,’ you are particularly led to reflect on the mystery that the whole Church celebrates today: the mystery of Christ’s Kingship and His Kingdom. We honor and serve our King when we practice the works of mercy, when we recognize Him in the least of our brothers and sisters. May we all serve our King with love and fidelity.”
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Pope’s critique of global economic system resurfaces in Africa

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A few minutes after landing in Africa, Pope Benedict XVI delivered a stem warning against the “unconditional surrender to the law of the market or that of finance” in Africa and throughout the global economic system.

His words were immediately seized upon by those wondering where the German pope stood on a recent Vatican document that proposed the creation of a world political authority to regulate financial markets and rein in the “inequities and distortions of capitalist development.”

In short, it seemed the pope was speaking the same language as the document’s authors.

In his own document unveiled during the Nov. 18-20 trip to Benin, the pope asked all members of the Church to “work and speak out in favor of an economy that cares for the poor and is resolutely opposed to an unjust order which, under the pretext of reducing poverty, has often helped to aggravate it.”

He specifically denounced business groups that exploit African resources and leave local populations impoverished.

All of this seemed to echo the tone of the 41-page text on global financial reform released in late October by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. Such admonitions, however, are nothing new for Pope Benedict. Those who have paid attention in recent years have long been expected to get in this brief moment of life. Consumerism, selfishness and entertainment alone are worthwhile. This is life. This is how we must live. And once again, it seems absurd, impossible, to oppose this dominant mindset. It is about making a simple prepa-

Reflection

In Advent, the Church clearly, frankly and directly calls people to remember who they are as humans and to realize sin’s devastating results. Such was the message of John the Baptist. These steps require frankness and humility. We first must admit our sin and also our human limitations. We must see what sin, total estrangement from and rejection of God, actually is. It is the cause of eternal death and often of misery in earthly existence. The ultimate message, nevertheless, is not of doom and gloom. While we are limited and have sinned, and we may have made quite a mess for ourselves and for others, all of this weekend’s readings remind us that God’s mercy is overwhelming and unending. So, we have reason to hope. God will forgive us. God will strengthen us.

The key to obtaining this mercy personally is in admitting our personal sin and repenting. God does not brush us kicking and screaming into heaven, so we must turn to him. The key to obtaining this mercy personally is in admitting our personal sin and repenting. God does not brush us kicking and screaming into heaven, so we must turn to him.

Advent etiquette

During the beginning of Advent, I always hope to come up with something more meaningful, amazing and inspiring than the previous year. This is silly. While we’ve done, as a family, some wonderful Advent readings, made some pretty nice Advent calendars, and spent fruitful time lighting Advent candles and trying to integrate spiritual reading with family traditions, we seem to remember, until after I’ve fretted about the current year’s preparations, that Advent is not about preparing or expectation of things to come. It’s about making a simple prepa-

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

ly, in language that leaves no doubt about where he stands.

In 2007, for example, he deployed materialistic ideologies that tell poor people that they can get in this brief moment of life. Consumerism, selfishness and entertainment alone are worthwhile. This is life. This is how we must live. And once again, it seems absurd, impossible, to oppose this dominant mindset.

A reason for hope

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday in Advent

Mk 1:1-8

The second part of the Book of Isaiah provides the first reading for this second Sunday of Advent.

When this book was written, God’s people were very happy. Their long, dreary exile of four generations in Babylon was about to end. They were looking forward to returning to their homeland.

Also, and importantly, these verses well convey the sense that this happy circumstance has occurred as a result of God’s mercy and of God’s faithfulness to the Covenant.

It was not as if the people had earned God’s munificence in this regard, or that they had been unusually loyal to the Covenant themselves. To the contrary, their sins had brought misfortune upon themselves.

But, nevertheless, God’s mercy endured! So, the prophet insists that upon returning to their homeland, the people must go to Jerusalem, to the holy mountain where stood the temple, and there proclaim aloud the goodness of God.

For its second reading this weekend, the Church presents a passage from the Second Epistle of Peter. Its theme differs from that of the first reading. The first reading was wonderfully optimistic. This reading is grim in its predictions of dark days and of unwelcome possibilities in the future. However, and this is critical, it does not predict everlasting death. Bad things will happen. Difficult times will come, but God always will protect the faithful. In this last reflection, the reading parishes consistently taken a wary and critical view of the global economic system and the disparities it has generated. Adherents of this new pattern of consumption that seem to be built into the structures of modern capitalism. He has done so repeated-

Readings


Monday: Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab-14 Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10-13 Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-8, 10 Mt 11:28


Friday: Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-6 Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Everyday Catholic

THERESA A. THOMAS

water and make the sign of the cross. While doing so, we quietly pray, “May this holy water cleanse my mind from all vain, evil or distracting thoughts.”

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Theresa Thomas can be reached at TheresaThomas@EverydayCatholic@gmail.com.
Catholicism is in crisis all over Old Europe. Nowhere is that crisis more pronounced than in Ireland, where clerical corruption and disastrous episcopal leadership have collided with rank political expediency and a rudely anti-clerical media to produce a perfect storm of ecclesiastical meltdown. The country whose constitution begins “In the name of the Most Holy Trinity...” is now thoroughly post-Christian. And while there has been no one cause of that radical secularization, the Church in Ireland had best look to itself, its sins, its errors, and its unbecoming alliance with political power as it considers how to begin anew.

That reconsideration would be aided by dramatic Vatican action that includes a major downsizing of the Irish dioceses. There are currently four metropolitan sees and 22 dioceses in Ireland, for a total of 26 ecclesiastical jurisdictions. Ireland’s total population is some 4.6 million, which is less than the total Catholic population of the archdiocese of Los Angeles. That there are 26 dioceses in Ireland is manifestly absurd.

So one step toward the reform of the Church in Ireland will be to rationalize what has become an irrational ecclesiastical structure: an overgrowth that over time, become an impediment to the Church’s mission. And rationalizing, in this instance, means downsizing. What was once a matter of retribution (“You made a colossal mess, so you have to be punished”). The point is to create structures through which the new evangelization in Ireland, which is going to be a struggle in any case, can flow. The downsizing should not be symbolic, but deep, mirroring the deep reform to which the Church in Ireland is called. Halving the number of current Irish dioceses by combining some sees and suppressing others would put an average of 354,000 Catholics into each restructured Irish diocese. That’s still less than half the Catholics in Pittsburgh, so it would be a key point in his 2009 encyclical “Caritas in Veritate” (Charity in Truth), which said financial speculation for “short-term profit” was a cause of global financial insecurity.

Last July, the pope said world hunger was also a consequence of the current economic model: “How can we be silent about the fact that even food has become the object of speculation or is tied to the course of a financial market that, lacking definite rules and poor in moral principles, appears anchored to the sole objective of profit?”

The document by the justice and peace council was more specific than papal pronouncements in proposing concrete measures to correct economic imbalances, and that’s where it drew the most criticism. In particular, its call for a “central world bank” to regulate monetary exchanges was seen by some as violating the Church’s teaching about subsidiarity — the principle that a central authority should perform only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more local level.

Writing about economic and social justice in his document on Africa, Pope Benedict reiterated that principle and cited the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church: “In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, neither the state nor any larger society should substitute itself for the initiative and responsibility of individuals and intermediary bodies.”

But Pope Benedict also has expressed his view that current modes of regulating the financial system have failed, and that new structures and institutions may be needed.

Addressing the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in 2010, the pope strongly argued that the market is not a self-calibrating mechanism and that oversight may have to take new forms. “The worldwide financial breakdown has, as we know, demonstrated the fragility of the present economic system and the institutions that constitute it. It has also shown the error of the assumption that the market is capable of regulating itself, apart from public intervention and the support of international moral standards,” he said.

Downsizing-to-grow in Ireland
Saint Joseph’s finishes as state 3-A runner-up

BY CHUCK FREEBY

INDIANAPOLIS — In this case, the sequel wasn’t any better than the original.

For the second straight year, Saint Joseph’s played in the Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 3-A state football finals. For the second straight year, the Indians suffered a 14-point loss to Bishop Chatard of Indianapolis — this time by a 21-7 count at Lucas Oil Stadium.

“When you play a team like Chatard, if you get off to a slow start, it’s darn near impossible to come back,” said a disappointed Saint Joseph’s Head Coach Ben Downey. “I’m very proud to have made it here two years in a row, but I would have liked a better ending.”

Indeed, the Indians had difficulty getting on track against the bigger Chatard squad. As he did in 2010, Ryan Kleinschmidt led the Trojan backfield, racing 45 yards through a hole on the left side to give the Trojans a 7-0 first quarter lead.

Anthony Rulli’s fumble recovery put Saint Joseph’s in business at its own 44, but a drive stalled when the Indians failed to convert a fourth-and-two early in the second quarter. Chatard embarked on an eight-play 67-yard march, capped by Kleinschmidt running behind a wall of blockers for an eight-yard jaunt to paydirt to make it 14-0 midway through the second quarter.

The senior running back finished the day with 136 yards on 28 carries.

Senior quarterback Nick Carmola hit Patrick Klima for 29 yards and Collin Hickey for 30 to move the ball downfield. Carmola capped the drive on a fourth-down quarterback sneak, rolling over the back of a defender to extend the ball across the goal line and narrow the margin to 21-7.

The Indians’ defense, led by 12 tackles from safety Ray Kowalski, kept Chatard off the scoreboard the rest of the game. Missed opportunities would doom the Indians. A fourth-quarter interception and fumble — both in Chatard territory — sealed the Tribe’s fate.

“We came here knowing we couldn’t have turnovers and we had turnovers,” said a dejected Carmola afterwards. “We played hard all season. I love these guys like brothers, and that’s what makes it so hard to come up short.”

“It’s been such a privilege and an honor to play at Saint Joe for four years,” stated an emotional Hickey, who missed part of the season due to a heart ailment. “People just have no idea how special it is. I wouldn’t trade any second of these four years. I love everybody who is a part of this program. The second-half effort today really showed what we are all about. Unfortunately, we just ran into a great team today.”

For Coach Downey, two state finals trips in his first two years as a head coach did offer some solace.

Morken honored with Mental Attitude Award

INDIANAPOLIS — In addition to winning a third straight football state championship title on Friday, Nov. 25, Bishop Luers High School also earned the distinction of having one of their senior players named as the 2011 Class 2-A Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award Winner.

Andrew R. (Drew) Morken was nominated by his coaches and principal then selected by members of the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) executive committee as this year’s victor after Bishop Luers’ 41-17 rout over Evansville Mater Dei.

The award, named in honor of the IHSAA’s third commissioner from 1962-76, is presented annually to a player in grade 12 in each classification of every sport who best demonstrates excellence in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability.

Morken maintains an 11.6 grade point average on a 12.0 scale, ranking in the top five percent of the 2012 senior class at Bishop Luers.

He plans to study psychology at either Wabash College or Indiana University next fall.

In addition to football, Morken has played as an outfielder for the Knights’ baseball team the past three years, has been involved in the World Culture Club, is a peer tutor at the school and holds a part-time job at Bobick’s Golf.

Morken also received the great honor of being chosen as a Pontifical altar server for Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Morken is the oldest of five children born to Dan and Becky Morken.

The oldest boys have been Catholic since the Morken family in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish where Drew serves as an altar server, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion and greeter.

Father Andrew Curry, parochial vicar of St. Elizabeth, marveled at Drew’s special talent-kindness, and added, “It is very inspiring to see a young man like Drew so involved in our parish.”

Football season is a busy time for the Morken family where all three of the oldest boys have been Catholic Youth League (CYO) standout and father Dan has coached. Nic, a sophomore, also a member of the championship Luers squad, scored a 20-yard touchdown-run just after the half to put the Knights up 28-7, while Isaac, an eighth-grade running back helped lead the St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth/St. Andrew system.

Andrew Morken, center, poses with his parents Dan and Becky Morken after receiving the Mental Attitude Award.

Aloysisi/S.J. Therate (JAT) team this past season.

Dad, Dan, a nosesman in his day, wore the red and black from 1980-1983. Humbled and tear-eyed, both proud parents were interviewed by television reporters after the award.

Dan referred to Drew’s leadership on and off football field and big heart while Becky explained, “Words can’t express our joy. We are blessed to be part of this Bishop Luers community.”

The tight end added a third state ring to his collection, but no season compares to his senior year. Privileged to be part of the special teams unit his sophomore year, Morken made his first appearance at Lucas Oil Stadium against Monrovia.

As a casted junior, Morken high-fived with his good arm cheering on his teammates from the sideline in the win over North Putnam.

After surgery to repair his dislocated shoulder and months of physical therapy, Morken worked his tail off to gain strength back and earn a spot his senior year.

“It was so awesome making a third trip. We have a tight knit group who became like family. I couldn’t have asked for a better way to close out my senior year,” summarized Morken.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA’s corporate partner, presented a scholarship check for $1,000 to Bishop Luers High School in the name of Morken.

Bishop Luers has made 14 appearances at the state title game, but Morken is just the fourth player in the school’s history to receive the distinguished award. Cal Miller was the first in 1985 then Jeff Goeglein in 1992. Kyle Lindsay was the last to be honored in 2001.
LUERS SCORES A THREE-PEAT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AT LUCAS OIL STADIUM

By Michelle Castileman

INDIANAPOLIS — For the third straight year, Coach Matt Lindsay and the Fort Wayne Bishop Luers Knights trekked south to Lucas Oil Stadium and brought home the state of Indiana Class 2-A Football championship. The three-peat adds yet another shiny bullet to the already illustrious resume Lindsay has compiled over the last quarter century while at the helm of the Knights’ dominating grid-iron program.

For the Knights (13-1), the outcome represented a first state title and 10th overall in 14 final appearances.

Despite losing an outstanding senior class year after year, Bishop Luers consistently keeps their revolving door of talent hauling in the titles and 2011 was no exception.

Crushing their opponents week after week in the post-season, the 10th state football title came on Friday night, Nov. 25, when the No. 1 ranked Knights beat Evansville Mater Dei, 41-17.

For Luers Coach Lindsay, it is the ninth state championship, tying him with Sheridan’s Larry “Bud” Wright for the most in Indiana.

Relying on his powerful arm and intricate field general skills, senior James Knapek is always quick to credit the great receivers he targets. However, after fumbling Luers’ first play from scrimmage, the dazzling quarterback was nearly perfect through the air going 17-25 for 190 yards. The Bowling Green recruit had a pair of touchdowns when he connected twice with Mike Rogers. Running scores in the ambush came from Jaylon Smith (2), Tyvel Jemison and sophomore Nic Morken. The misfit defense also had a stellar performance all night stifling the prolific Wildcats.

The dynamic Luers offense accumulated 463 yards and averaged 7.7 yards per play. The Knights averaged 39.2 points against their five playoff opponents.

For Mater Dei (13-3), quarterback Dune Maurer passed for 126 yards and a touchdown on 12-24 and ran for 79 yards. Cody Hess rushed for 106 yards.

On tying Sheridan coach Bud Wright with his ninth state championship, Coach Lindsay told IHSAA reporters, “This is pretty sweet. We wanted to play our best and we did. This is a great group of guys. A great venue. A great win and it means a lot to our community.”

Coach Lindsay said of the game,

“We expected this. I knew we could have a great game but I knew (Mater Dei) would do that to us, too. This was a pretty dominant performance by our kids against a very good football team,” Lindsay added.

“We came down here and played the best we could play. It makes you feel good as a coach. I couldn’t be any happier.”

Of quarterback James Knapek’s performance, Lindsay said, “He’s a quality quarterback and he finished in style. We’ll miss his talents and leadership, as we will all our seniors.”

“The offensive line set the tempo from the get-go,” he said. “And our execution was really good. The way we came out and took control of the line scrimmage, I applaud our kids for their effort.”

Fort Wayne Bishop Luers’ Andrew Morken was selected by members of the IHSAA executive committee as this year’s winner of the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award in Class 2-A Football. The award, named in honor of the IHSAA’s third commissioner from 1962-76, is presented annually to a senior in each classification who best demonstrates excellence in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability.

Assembly

In what has become the conventional means for Bishop Luers football teams to close out their season, the Knights held a medal ceremony Monday afternoon in the high school gymnasium. Once again for 2011, the medals around each player’s neck were hung on a blue ribbon.

Master of ceremonies, Coach Lindsay, welcomed the team, his coaching staff, the entire student body, family and friends of the players, media and honored guests.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades gave a special blessing and congratulatory address explaining that he was at the Vatican when he received word of the win via a cell phone call from Bishop Emeritus John M. D’Arcy.

Co-chaplains Bishop D’Arcy and Father Drew Curry were also thanked and recognized. Bishop D’Arcy read a special letter sent during the season to Lindsay from former Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz detailing the honesty and integrity it took to bring attention to the fact Lindsay played an ineligible player and forfeited a Bishop Luers victory.

Lindsay then introduced each player by class starting with the six freshmen all the way to the outstanding senior class as the student body erupted in applause.

Mental Attitude Award winner, Morken, was given special recognition and a standing ovation by his teammates.

Next up, an emotional principal, Mary Keefes, shared a few special behind-the-scenes stories that come with a state championship — a bouquet of roses from Indianapolis Cathedral and note from a Bishop Dwenger parent complimenting the team’s quarter-back, MVP and mental attitude award winner for their polished responses to media in post-game interviews.

Superintendent Dr. Mark Myers added his thanks for the impressive way Bishop Luers represents the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Finally, the senior captains presented the state trophy to the school.
LeighAnn Palmer Mental Attitude Awards announced

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The LeighAnn Palmer Mental Attitude Award was established in the fall of 1995 and has been given to a St. Therese Crusader volleyball player each season ever since. The honor was designed to go to the young lady on the team who best demonstrates character, attitude and support of the team.

LeighAnn’s parents, Lisa and Mike, set up the award after the accidental drowning of their daughter on May 28, 1995, just before her fourth birthday.

Lisa Palmer, who has either played or coached volleyball since the fifth grade, retired this season after 30 years of coaching. Although Palmer was never able to coach her own daughter, she continued coaching the sport she loved and was also honored at the recent athletic banquet for her dedication and passion.

“I was not expecting anything and was very surprised. It has been an emotional year for so many reasons,” she explained.

For all but one season, when she honored each of her eighth graders because it was the year LeighAnn would have been an eighth grader and one to a Bishop Luers-bound, St. Therese eighth grader and one to a Bishop Luers cheerleader from proceeds from the LeighAnn Palmer golf outing.

Jackson and Alyssa Reeder — were awarded the LeighAnn Palmer Mental Attitude Award. Mackenzie Whitman, Sara Ormiston, Claire Rorick, Krista Jackson and Alyssa Reeder were awarded the LeighAnn Palmer Mental Attitude Award.

All six of St. Therese, Fort Wayne, Crusaders volleyball eighth graders — Sarah Braun, Mackenzie Whitman, Sara Ormiston, Claire Rorick, Krista Jackson and Alyssa Reeder — were awarded the LeighAnn Palmer Mental Attitude Award.

LeighAnn’s eighth graders — Sarah Braun, Mackenzie Whitman, Sara Ormiston, Claire Rorick, Krista Jackson and Alyssa Reeder — were awarded the LeighAnn Palmer Mental Attitude Award.

Mackenzie Whitman, Sara Ormiston, Claire Rorick, Krista Jackson and Alyssa Reeder were awarded the LeighAnn Palmer Mental Attitude Award. They wrote notes and sent their congratulations and memories. Palmer was presented with a box decorated with team pictures and articles and a signed 2011 team picture. The parish also presented her a beautiful plaque and gift certificate.

“It was very touching,” a teary-eyed Palmer concluded. The Palmers also awarded two scholarships in the spring each year — one to a Bishop Luers-bound, St. Therese eighth grader and one to a Bishop Luers cheerleader from proceeds from the LeighAnn Palmer golf outing.

St. Jude’s Emma Wolfe attempts to get around St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel’s Kayla Knapke. The two squared off at the Queen of Angels Invitational over the Thanksgiving weekend featuring a preview of the CYO’s finest before they kickoff the 2011-2012 season.
What’s Happening?

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or email: fhogan@diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Christmas concert at Bishop Luers
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Music Department will have a Christmas concert Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium. There is no charge.

Mass and healing service planned
Fort Wayne — The St. Peter Parish Holy Name Society will have a Mass and healing service with Father John Raphael Hadnagy, OFM Conv, on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m. The service, with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, will be Mass.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Deacon James Fitzpatrick will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Deacon Fitzpatrick serves at St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Bus trip planned to Washington D.C.
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 is sponsoring a bus trip to Washington D.C. The bus trip planned to Washington D.C. is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Pancake, sausage breakfast with Santa
Fort Wayne — The St. Charles Athletic Association will have a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, Dec. 11, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria, door No. 9. All the pancakes you can eat and a chance to sit on Santa’s lap. The cost is $5 per adult; $3.50 per child (ages 12 and under), or $18 for the entire family. Proceeds benefit St. Charles athletics.

Fish fry
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 9, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the council hall. Cost is $8.50 for adults and $4 for children ages 6-12.

Breakfast is served
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a pancake breakfast after the 8:30 and 11 a.m. Masses on Sunday, Dec. 11, at the Sacred Heart Parish hall. Proceeds will benefit Priests for Life.

Quiet day of reflection
Donaldson — Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center will have a Quiet Day of Reflection titled, “Grieving and Finding Peace During the Holidays.” on Monday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For those who have recently lost a loved one, the workshop will give participants tools to help navigate through the holidays. Speaker Donna Sikorski is certified in the study of death, dying and bereavement. Program fee is $35 and includes a noon meal. Registration deadline is Monday, Dec. 5. (574) 935-1763.

Theology on Tap planned
Fort Wayne — Young Adult and Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will host Theology on Tap, for young adults ages 21-39 on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 7-9 p.m. at Calhoun Street Soups, Salads, & Spirits, 1915 S. Calhoun St. The topic, “Contemplating the Mystery of Christmas,” will be presented by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/ICYAM for information.

DCW booth at the Christ Child Festival
Fort Wayne — The Deaconess Council of Catholic Women group will have a booth at The Christ Child Festival at the War Memorial Coliseum, on Friday, Dec. 16, from 6-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17, from noon to 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 18, from noon to 6 p.m.

The Christ Child Society plans annual cookie walk
Fort Wayne — The holiday cookie walk and bake sale will be Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church at Auburn and Wellen Road in the church hall.

Proceeds benefit the Christ Child Society’s programs that help infants and children in the community.

Cookie walk planned for Mishawaka
Catholic early childhood program is planning a cookie walk and bake sale will be available. For information call Jackie Maloney at (574) 257-8307.

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He doesn’t need toys. He makes do with those he has. What he needs is comfort; the kind that comes from having a warm home, food and clothing and the feeling that things are going to be all right. You can be the one to provide that feeling by giving generously to Catholic Charities.

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December 4, 2011

TODAY'S CATHOLIC 15

Ebhart
Charles J. Glueckert, Jr., 82, St. Vincent de Paul
Fort Wayne
Helen J. Kessler, 78, St. Charles Borromeo
Mary C. Parquette, 100, St. Peter
Daniel M. Harigh, 49, Our Lady of Good Hope
Clifford Leo Gamble, 92, St. John the Baptist
Rosella C. Hartzog, 91, Saint Anne Home Chapel
Robert A. Kramer, 89, Our Lady of Good Hope
Edna L. Spatt, 88, St. Patrick

Huntington
Sister Priscilla Wilke, OLVM, 84, Victory Noll

Mishawaka
James W. Copeland, 77, St. Joseph New Carlisle
Carrie H. Kafka, 93, St. Stanislaus Kostka
Notre Dame
Volker Uwe Blankenstein, 40, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Marianne Martin, 80, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
South Bend
Rose Marie Foster, 83, Little Flower
Evelyn M. Mrozinski, 93, St. Anthony de Padua

Mary M. Newcomer, 83, St. Anthony de Padua
Mary Ann Sinkovics, 47, Christ the King
Marlene A. Blasko, 73, St. Monica
David W. Levendoski, 59, Holy Family
Joan Rose Wallowski, 81, St. Matthew Cathedral
Anthony C. Zakrowski, 72, St. Casimir
Warsaw
Joseph William Mueller, 77, Sacred Heart

Thee CrossWord

December 4 and 11, 2011

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T A B L E

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S C U L T U R E

W A R A M A P

C A R T O O N

C A R T O O N

A L P I N E

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

watching us and all the people we love. We are going to spread that greatness to the call to glory. Are you ready? We are ... called to glory!”

Jacqueline Jackson-Moran from the Archdiocese of Detroit sent her “Called to Glory” message to her mother, siblings, grandmother and aunt. “It was a great conference,” she told The Criterion, the Indianapolis archdiocesan newspaper. “I loved it. I’m blessed to be here today, and I’d like to come again in 2013. I liked seeing all the bishops and priests and deacons.”

Bishop Coyne was the principal celebrant for the closing Mass, which was concelebrated by eight bishops and 250 priests from throughout the country. Thirty deacons and 175 seminarians from many dioceses also participated in the Mass with talented teen-agers and music ministers.

“It’s just wonderful to be gathered here tonight with all 23,000 of you,” Bishop Coyne told the gathering at the start of the liturgy, “and welcome you on behalf of the entire Catholic community here in Indianapolis. It’s been a glorious three days, and it’s going to be a glorious celebration of the Mass.”

Bishop Coyne’s homily focused on God’s call to service and charity, and included a visual aid and joke. He held up a poster-size image of his bishop trading card — conference organizers created trading cards, designed like baseball cards, for several bishops in attendance.

Bishop Coyne joked that he wanted to order copies of his card for all of the parishes in central and southern Indiana. Then he got serious about the need to live a faith-filled life that honors God.

Popular culture wants people to believe “the idea that ‘it’s all about me,’” Bishop Coyne said, “the idea that what I need is the only thing that matters. That’s what gets us in trouble.”

God calls us to choose what is right and good, and to reject what is sinful and wrong, he said, instead of acting on our selfish needs and desires in daily life situations.

Heather Coyne, a mother and grandmother from Christ the King Parish in South Bend, told Today’s Catholic, “As a parent, my personal favorite was the closing Mass — 175 seminarians, 10 deacons, 230 priest and eight bishops, along with the 23,000 teens plus their chaperones. The procession took longer than Communion for 25,000 people.

As the priests and bishops left the stage, everyone was singing then cheering, and the kids near their path were high fiving them like they were rock stars. It was amazing. A great example of all that is good in the world with that age group.”

Adam Coyne, a sophomore at Saint Joseph’s High School in South Bend, told Today’s Catholic, “I went to NCYC in Indianapolis, and I think it was a really good experience. I learned a lot about my faith, and had fun doing it.”

“The activities were specially designed for teens. We were constantly involved, had fun, met a ton of new people, and it was not confined to a small space, as everyone had options as of what to do depending on their interests,” he said. “It was great to be with 23,000 Catholic teens from all over the country. It is mind-blowing to see how many people share your values.”

Patrick Sweeney, of Christ the King Parish in South Bend said, “NCYC was an experience that made me look at my faith in a totally different way. I used to be on the fence about whether God even existed, but no matter how cheesy it may sound, NCYC helped me believe again. The experience helped me rekindle my faith and my trust in God.”

Sean Maxwell, another parishioner of Christ the King, said, “Before NCYC I would never imagine what could be possible from such a large number of people. I would have never thought that so many people could be in a single place and all focus on one single idea, that is the love of God.”

Tim Johnson contributed to this story.

National Catholic Youth Conference attendees from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend pose with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. From left, are Patrick Sweeney, Greg Sweeney, Amanda Fontenot, Bishop Rhoades, Adam Coyne, Judd Emmendorfer, Briana Konkle and Sean Maxwell.

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