Pope names 22 new cardinals, three North Americans

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI named 22 new cardinals, including two from the United States, and announced a consistory for their formal induction into the College of Cardinals Feb. 18.

Among those named were Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York; Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien, pro-grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem who still is administering the Archdiocese of Baltimore; and Archbishop Thomas C. Collins of Toronto.

The pope announced the nominations to the faithful in St. Peter’s Square at noon Jan. 6, before praying the Angelus.

Cardinal-designate O’Brien, who was in St. Peter’s Square when his name was announced, said his priestly life has been “a surprise at every step. I thought being appointed archbishop of Baltimore would be the last surprise, but I was wrong.”

He told Catholic News Service that the ministries he had been appointed to, and now his elevation to cardinal, were not things he could “anticipate, navigate or engineer. It's just a matter of being open and in the right place at the right time and good things happen.”

In separate statements, the North American cardinals were quick to stress the collective rather than the personal nature of the honor.

“Thank you for this very special gift,” Bishop Rhoades said.

Epiphany is a celebration of the Magi and their quest to pay homage to the newborn King. This quest is a great example of true faith and devotion to God and something Bishop Rhoades spoke of in great detail with the faithful.

During the Mass, Father Jacob Runyon, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church, sang a special liturgical-season proclamation.

“The Magi represent all the people of the world and reveal that Jesus has come not only as the Messiah of the Jewish people, but as the Savior of the whole world. As St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians: ‘the
Praying for the unity of Christians

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades

Next week begins the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, an annual observance in which Cathlics, Orthodox, and Protestants, all of us brothers and sisters in Christ through our common baptism, pray for the restoration of perfect unity among Christians. We pray, in the power of the Holy Spirit, that divisions among Christians will be overcome.

The Week of Prayer, which begins on January 18th and ends on January 25th (the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul), reminds us, as the Second Vatican Council taught, that prayer is “the soul of the ecumenical movement.” It reminds us of the priority of prayer in all our endeavors, including in ecumenical activities since ultimately the fully visible communion of all Christians is a gift of God’s grace.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity used to be called the Church Unity Octave when it began in 1908. It was founded by Reverend Paul Wattson, an American Episcopal priest, and Mother Luran White. These co-founders of the Society of the Atonement, with thirteen lay associates, entered the Catholic Church in 1909. Thereafter, Pope Saint Pius X gave his official blessing to the Octave.

In 1916, Pope Benedict XV encouraged the observance of the Church Unity Octave throughout the Catholic Church. Now, 96 years later, I wish to encourage the fervent observance of this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity throughout our diocese. Among the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions in the Roman Missal are “Masses for the Unity of Christians.” I encourage their use in our parishes during weekday Masses between January 18 and 25. The Week is also a good time for ecumenical prayer services. Excellent materials and resources are available, prepared collaboratively by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches.

Why is ecumenism important? The answer is simple: Jesus Christ wills the unity of his disciples. He prayed “that all may be one” (John 17:21). The Catholic Church’s commitment to this task is, therefore, irrevocable, despite what often seem to be insuperable obstacles in ecumenical endeavors.

The theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year is: “We will all be changed by the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:51-58).

One reason for hope is that there is already a unity, though imperfect, among Christians. While we naturally regret our divisions and separations, we should also be keenly aware of the elements of unity we share with our separated brothers. Examples include the gift of the sacrament of Baptism, the Sacred Scriptures, and the common beliefs we profess in the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds. We should acknowledge this common ground with gratitude, recognizing that there is more that unites us than divides us.

Last year, during his apostolic visit to Germany, our Holy Father visited the Augustinian convent in Erfurt where Martin Luther studied and was ordained a priest. While there, Pope Benedict spoke to various representatives of German Protestant communities about the unity we share. He said:

“Our fundamental unity comes from the fact that we believe in God, the Father Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth. And that we confess that he is the triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The highest unity is not the solitude of a monad, but rather a unity born of love. We believe in God — the real God. We believe that God spoke to us and became one of us. To bear witness to the living God is our common task at the present time.”

I was moved by the Holy Father’s deep concern about the secularism of today’s culture. He said: “The withdrawal from God.” All Christians should be concerned about this cultural challenge. Pope Benedict said that “our primary ecumenical service at this hour must be to bear witness to the presence of the living God and in this way to give the world the answer which it needs.” This means living by God’s word. It means a commitment to love. It means service of others. This is how the Christian faith becomes more credible to others.

As Catholics, we must know our faith and live it afresh. Genuine ecumenism does not mean that we would water down the truths and teachings of the faith. Genuine ecumenism does not mean that we would water down the truths and teachings of the faith. Genuine ecumenism happens when we live our faith deeply and with conviction in an increasingly secularized culture.

May the Holy Spirit inspire us and all Christians to grow in faith, hope, and charity, and to bear faithful witness to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Victory over sin and death!
Franciscan Father David Mary Engo calls men to holiness at Diocesan Men’s Conference

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The second annual Diocesan Men’s Conference, to be held on Saturday, Feb. 25, has slated a dynamic trio of speakers for the faithful men of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Director of Apologetics and Evangelization at Catholic Answers Tim Staples, author and inspirational speaker Robert Rogers and Franciscan Father David Mary Engo will each offer their own brand of insight on “A Call to Lead.”

The conference, sponsored by Rekindle the Fire and the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization, will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Expo Center, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805, and open with prayer and a blessing followed by a discussion on Confessions. The speakers will inspire those in attendance throughout the grace-filled day until 4 p.m. when they will gather for a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Keynote speaker Father Engo has a long, illustrious history of inspiring deepening or rediscovering faith in audiences across the country. His own powerful experience of rediscovering his faith as a senior in a New York high school led him to join the Franciscan order in 1986. Eleven years later he was ordained into the Franciscan priesthood.

Father Engo, who founded and is superior of the Franciscan Brothers Minor community under the authority of Bishop Rhoades, speaks highly of the diocesan-wide conference that is a ministerial outreach of Rekindle the Fire — a program that began at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne as a men’s prayer group with the mission of calling men back to their faith.

“Rekindle the Fire has grown, and now they are offering the men’s as a ministry to the diocese to call men together to rediscover and enliven their faith, so they can live it out in radical ways,” says Father Engo.

Father Engo’s message to the men of the diocese will be simple but profound.

“I’ll focus on fatherhood,” says Father Engo. “And leadership in the family and the culture. John Paul II said in his address in Central Park, specifically addressing men, that they are to lead their families in holiness and prayer.”

Another key component of Father Engo’s encouraging message will be to inspire the courage it requires to pray with one’s spouse. “The most intimate thing is to pray together,” notes Father Engo. “Praying together creates real intimacy, and then the relationship is bound in unity with God.” This message will call the men in attendance to build a family of prayer, virtue and holiness.

And he adds, “It’s very important for men to bring their sons, to see men on fire with faith and all gathered together.”

Young men of high school and college age are encouraged to attend the promising conference.

What does Father Engo hope the men of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will take from the conference? “True manliness is found in true virtue — in living a virtuous life. … I want them to know that Christ is the model for normal. Don’t measure yourself by what other men are saying. Rather ask, ‘am I as good as Christ.’”

For more information on Father Engo and the Franciscan Brothers Minor community visit www.FranciscanBrothersMoni.com.

Day of reflection to focus on Black faith and culture

BY MAY LEE JOHNSON

SOUTH BEND — The Secretariat for Special Ministries and Evangelization of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is planning a special Day of Reflection for the faithful from across the diocese on Feb. 4, when the community will join at St. Augustine Church in South Bend for SANKOFA — Celebration of Black Catholic Faith and Culture.

Dominican Sister Dr. Jamie T. Phelps, director emeritus of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of New Orleans, will be the keynote speaker.

The day will consist of breakout sessions, parish histories, personal time for prayer and reflection, and music performed by the Notre Dame Gospel Choir, as well as the St. Augustine Gospel Choir and teen African Drum group.

Deacon Melvin Tardy of St. Augustine Parish said, “This will be the first significant gathering of community dialogue involving a broad representation of Black Catholics from our diocese, and those who minister to Blacks.”

He added, “The program will look at the past, present and future of Black Catholics in our diocese. … My hope is that the historical uniqueness of this event will draw the critical mass needed to comfortably share and discuss these common experiences and issues, while also celebrating the rich diversity of our faith.”

Deacon Tardy reported that some of the issues facing Black Catholics today include keeping the younger generation involved in their faith and racism in Catholic schools.

Deacon Tardy noted that the reason for the program is to create awareness and interest across the diocese for attending the upcoming National Black Catholic Congress in Indianapolis to be held July 19-21.

The theme for the congress, which is held every five years, is “Faith Engaged: Empower, Equip, Evangelize.” Information on how to become a delegate for the event will be available at the day of reflection.

Barbara Joseph, a member of St. Augustine Parish, feels the day of reflection can benefit not only Black Catholics, but all those interested in Black faith and culture.
New US-born cardinal used to new and varied assignments

By Mark Pattison

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The priestly ministry of Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien, named a cardinal Jan. 6 by Pope Benedict XVI, has been marked by frequent assignments, so that he never stays in one place very long. And even when he is ensconced somewhere for a while, he gets to moving.

Appointed last August as pro-grand master of the Equestrian Order (Knights) of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, based in Rome, he is serving simultaneously in his previous post as archbishop of Baltimore until a successor is named.

Born April 8, 1939, in New York, Edwin Frederic O’Brien and his family were members of Our Lady of Solace Parish in the Bronx. He attended St. Joseph’s Seminary outside New York, where he received a bachelor’s degree in 1961 and master’s degrees in 1964 and 1965. In 1965, he was ordained to the priesthood, setting off a string of appointments.

For his first five years as a priest, he was a civilian chaplain at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He became an Army chaplain in Vietnam from 1971 to 1972 with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and then the 1st Cavalry Brigade. From a base of operations in the middle of a jungle, he and a Protestant minister flew by helicopter to defensive outposts, where they would provide for the spiritual needs of soldiers.

From 1973 to 1976, he studied at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, earning a doctorate in theology. On his return to New York, he was named archdiocesan vice chancellor and assistant pastor of St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Appointed archdiocesan director of communications in 1981, he helped launch Catholic New York, the archdiocesan newspaper. Two years later, he was named secretary to New York Cardinal Terence Cooke and later to Cardinal John J. O’Connor, his successor in New York.


He was named an auxiliary bishop of New York Feb. 6, 1996, and ordained a bishop March 25. He was named coadjutor archbishop of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services in April 1997. He took up the post in May and became head of the archdiocese in August when Archbishop Joseph T. Durinno resigned for health reasons. It was the cardinal-designate’s longest single appointment, but he made a point of getting out of the office to visit chaplains at bases, including a two-month tour in 2007.

As military archbishop, he had to deal with dwindling numbers of Catholic chaplains. In 2003, there were 367 chaplains for 1.5 million Catholics in all branches of the military.

In 2005-06, Cardinal-designate O’Brien served as the papally appointed coordinator for the visitation of U.S. seminaries and houses of priestly formation.

As the visitation began, he said there was no room in seminaries for men with strong homosexual inclinations even if they had been consecrated for a decade or more. “I think anyone who has engaged in homosexual activity, or has strong homosexual inclinations, would be best not to apply to a seminary and not to be accepted into a seminary,” he said, later adding that he was speaking for himself based on his prior stints as a seminary rector, not for the U.S. bishops or the Vatican.

In 2009, as Baltimore archbishop, he told an audience of 500 people gathered for a military-sponsored symposium in Omaha, Neb., that the abolition of nuclear weapons was an issue of “fundamental moral values that should unite people across national and ideological boundaries.”

The following year, in Paris, he said the path to the elimination of nuclear weapons will be “long and treacherous,” but humanity “must walk this path with both care and courage in order to build a future free of the nuclear threat.”

Last summer, he had an exchange of letters urging Maryland Gov. Martin J. O’Malley, a Catholic, not to sponsor legislation legalizing same-sex marriage. “As advocates for the truths we are compelled to uphold, the future cardinal wrote, “we speak with equal intensity and urgency in opposition to your promoting a goal that so deeply conflicts with your faith, not to mention the best interests of our society.”

Twenty-two US bishops could retire for age reasons in 2012

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two U.S. cardinals and 20 other U.S. bishops could retire because of age this year.

There are eight active U.S. bishops, including a cardinal, who have already turned 75. Another cardinal and 13 other bishops will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2012.

At age 75, bishops are required by canon law to submit their resignation to the pope.

With the retirements in 2011 of Cardinals Bernard F. Law, Justin Rigali and Roger M. Mahony and the death of Cardinal John F. O’Connor of New York, the new pope, until age 80.

In addition to Cardinal George, the 13 bishops turning 75 in 2012 and the dates of their 75th birthday are:

• Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland, Feb. 22.
• Auxiliary Bishop Roger W. Gries of Cleveland, March 26.
• Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer of San Angelo, Texas, May 18.
• Bishop Robert J. Shaheen of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, June 3.
• Archbishop John F. Kline of St. Cloud, Minn., June 11.
• Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester, N.Y., July 15.
• Auxiliary Bishop Paul H. Walsh of Rockville Centre, N.Y., Aug. 17.
• Bishop Ibrahim N. Ibrahim of the Chaldean Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Sept. 4.
• Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Latino of Jackson, Miss., Oct. 21.
• Auxiliary Bishop John C. Dunne of Rockville Centre, Oct. 30.
• Bishop Timothy A. McDonald of Springfield, Mass., Dec. 23.

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New York prelate a vigorous defender and booster of the faith

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, who was appointed Jan. 6 to the College of Cardinals by Pope Benedict XVI, has used his pulpit, be it in New York or Milwaukee, to promote and defend the Catholic faith.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1976, Cardinal-designate Dolan was secretary to the apostolic nunciature in Washington for five years before serving as rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome. In 2001, then-Mgr. Dolan was ordained to the episcopate when he was appointed auxiliary bishop in his native St. Louis. One year and five days later, he was appointed archbishop of Milwaukee.

He was one of 10 U.S. bishops appointed by the Vatican to be cardinals at the time of the 2012 conclave. The pope uses such cardinals: divided between the Order of Friars Minor and the Capuchins, the Congregation for Institutes of Equestrian Order of the Holy Legions, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, the Congregation for Migrants and Travelers, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and the Congregation for Evangelization of Peoples.

In a 2007 lecture at North American College, Cardinal-designate Dolan said Catholics need to come to terms with the role of the Church in the world: “We are surrounded by a culture that needs to reclaim that truth, to restore the luster, the credibility, the beauty of the Church.”

“I think that’s why we’re still here, that we must continue,” he said. “I think that’s why we’ve become our faith is weak and shaky. "Something tells me that’s why we’re in the world who love their faith and are trying to make it strong.”

In 2007, Cardinal-designate Dolan, now 61, was appointed to the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ international aid agency. He became chairman of the board by the end of that year and served in that capacity for three years. He stepped down from the post reluctantly from his election as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops required it.

He was a member of the USCCB Committee on Budget and Finance and the Subcommittee on the Church in Africa and a consultant to the Committee on International Justice and Peace. As a panelist for a 2004 EWTN-sponsored “town hall” meeting, Cardinal-designate Dolan said the clergy sex abuse crisis was “a societal problem, not a Catholic problem.” At the time, he was chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry.

The Milwaukee Archdiocese in 2006 reached an out-of-court, $16.9 million settlement with victims of clerical sexual abuse. Then-Archbishop Dolan said the payout would mean “sacrifices in operations and ministries” but going to trial could have been worse in terms of archdiocesan financial liability, “to say nothing about the bad PR.” The archdiocese in 2011 filed for bankruptcy protection due to unresolved abuse claims, the largest U.S. diocese to have done so.

“Cardinal-designate Dolan was appointed by the pope in New York in 2009 to succeed Cardinal Edward M. Egan, who retired. When cardinals were previously named in October 2010, Cardinal Egan was not yet 80 years old, and Vatican custom has been to avoid having two voting-age cardinals from the same diocese. Cardinal Egan turns 80 April 2.”

Shortly after becoming archbishop, Cardinal-designate Dolan suggested his style would be different, not the but substance. “The what won’t change, but the how might,” he said. “Our goal is to change our lives to be in conformity with Jesus and His Church and not to change the teachings of Jesus and the Church to be in conformity with what we want.”

In his first pastoral letter as archbishop, Cardinal-designate Dolan called on Catholics to “keep the Lord’s day holy” and reminded them that it is in receiving the Eucharist on Sunday that they sustain their faith.

In a break with precedent, in 2010, Cardinal-designate Dolan was elected as president of the U.S. Bishops’ Conference on Priestly Life and Ministry. It was the first time in the history of the bishops’ conference that a sitting vice president who was eligible for the presidency did not win the election.

In his first presidential address, Cardinal-designate Dolan told his fellow bishops in November 2011, “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.” As a result, he added, “they drift from her, get mad at the Church, grow lax, join another or just give it all up. If this does not cause us pastors to shudder, I do not know what will.”

One year to the day before he was named a cardinal, the New York archdiocese reported the passage of his predecessors to help any pregnant woman in need. “Through Catholic Charities, adoption services, lobbying on behalf of pregnant women, mothers and infants, support of life-giving alternative, health care and education of youth for healthy, responsible, virtuous sexual behavior, we’ve done our best to keep that promise and these haunting statistics only prod us to keep at it,” he said.

During a December address at the University of Notre Dame, he called the dignity of the human person “a primary doctrine” of the Catholic Church, adding that it must protect Catholics “to treat ourselves and others only with respect, love, honor and care.” That doctrine also means people must not be identified “with our woes, our flaws, our status, our possessions, our utility,” but each seen as “a child of God, his creation, modeled in his image, destined for eternity,” he said.

In 2011, he was named a member of the new Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization. On Dec. 29, just a week before his appointment to the College of Cardinals, he was appointed by Pope Benedict to help advise the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Haitian quake survivors leaving camps for a place they can call home

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It took almost two years, but Haitian earthquake survivor Sonya Mallebranche has finally left her home in a dusty camp known as Petite Place Cazeau alongside hundreds of others displaced by the powerful Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake that leveled much of the region around Port-Au-Prince. “I’m so much more comfortable. Now I can sleep peacefully. Now I have my family with me,” Mallebranche told Catholic News Service Jan. 5 via cell phone from her new home. “I am really happy to have that house,” she said through a translator. Mallebranche’s family was among 460 families that have moved from the camp into long-term housing by preparing camp dwellers frustrated by months of living in squalid conditions for a return to some sense of normalcy. The program incorporates two professional psychologists and 12 social workers to guide earthquake survivors in resolving conflict, managing money and overcoming the sense of loss that lingers two years after disaster disrupted their lives. “We realized there was a lot of fear about moving out of the camps, about restarting their lives after the earthquake,” explained Luke King, CRS country director in Haiti. “People were concerned about how to go about returning to a normal life.”

POPE GREETS ARCHBISHOP CHARLES J. BROWN DURING THE CELEBRATION OF EPIPHANY MASS AT VATican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Gomez Zavala has resigned after disclosing to superiors that he is the father of two children. The Vatican announced the bishop’s resignation Jan. 4 in a one-line statement that cited church law on resignation for illness or other serious reasons. Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez announced early Jan. 4 that Msgr. James Loughnan, a native of Ireland, was appointed apostolic administrator of the archdiocese. Archbishop Gomez told Archbishop Zavala that he had submitted his resignation to Pope Benedict XVI. Since that time, the archdiocese has reached out to the bishop’s right to privacy,” Archbishop Gomez said. “The archdiocese has taken steps to ensure that the bishop’s identity is not known to the public.”

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The home of Philadelphia’s Catholic archbishops since the 1930s will soon be sold, archdiocesan officials confirmed Dec. 31. The 10,000-square-foot mansion located on more than eight acres at 5700 City Avenue next to St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia was purchased by Cardinal Dennis Dougherty in 1935. It has been used as the home of every archbishop of Philadelphia ever since, including Cardinals John O’Hara, John Krol, Anthony Bevilacqua and Justin Rigali. Prominent visitors of the archbishops’ residence over the years have included Pope John Paul II in 1979 and President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan. While Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput did not comment on the impending sale of the house, archdiocesan officials indicated that proceeds from the sale would go to helping struggling inner-city parishes in the archdiocese and that the archbishop may reside in the cathedral rectory, which had been built originally as the residence of the archbishop. According to a 1982 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission report, Philadelphia real estate records and contemporary news accounts, the stone house was built in 1882 in the Victorian Gothic style by one of Philadelphia’s leading architects, a Quaker, Addison Hutton, for the prominent Scull family. They lived in the home and named it Egerton House, along with a home on an adjoining property, which is now the convent of the contemplative Sisters of the Visitation.
Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude parishes explore transitions in life

SOUTH BEND — For those in transition or facing major changes in life, the Catholic community of Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude parishes will host “Transitions and Discerning a New Direction” from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, at St Jude Church, located at 19704 Johnson Rd. in South Bend.

Facilitator Sister Mary Jo Nelson of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, currently a consultant and facilitator for religious communities and leadership teams throughout the United States, will discuss discernment and decision-making, with several takeaways tools for participants.

The program cost is $25 if registered by Jan. 20 or $35 after Jan. 20, or on the day of the retreat. Lunch will be provided by Macri’s Italian Kitchen, 315 W. Ireland Rd., South Bend, and is included in the fee.

For more information about the program, contact St. Jude Parish at (574) 291-0570 or email faith@stjudeparish.net. Visit www.stjudeparish.net to download the registration form.

First executive director named to run PHC foundation

DONALDSON — Terry Sanders, of Griffith, was recently named as the first executive director of the newly established Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHC) Foundation.

The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, an international congregation of women religious, has established many community-based ministries to assist people in need of shelter, education, and physical and spiritual nourishment. The PHC foundation was created for donors to support the order in supporting its many worthwhile causes.

Donaldson, home of the Poor Handmaids, includes such ministries as Ancilla College, Ancilla Beef and Grain Farm, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, Catherine Kasper Life Center for elder care, Earthworks environmental education center, and MoonTree Community art studios.

Saint Mary’s College announces 2012 Aquinas Symposium speaker

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College has announced that Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will be the speaker for the 15th Annual Symposium on St. Thomas Aquinas. The talk, which is open to the public, will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 26, in the Student Center Lounge. A campus map can be found at www3.saintmarys.edu/campus-map.

Bishop Rhoades’ lecture is titled “The Contemplation of Truth by Faith and Reason: St. Thomas Aquinas, Blessed John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI.” As the title of his lecture suggests, Bishop Rhoades will examine the great synthesis of St. Thomas Aquinas, which has informed Catholic teaching on the compatibility of faith and reason as well as the insights of other great Catholic thinkers including Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

In the words of Blessed John Paul II, “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.” Bishop Rhoades will reflect on this as he looks at the relationship of faith and reason in the face of contemporary doubt and skepticism concerning ultimate truths.

“We are honored to welcome Bishop Rhoades to Saint Mary’s so that he can participate in the vibrant theological community we have here. We’re especially pleased that he’ll be speaking with us on the subject of faith and reason, which is integral to the mission of any Catholic college and of crucial importance in the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas,” said Joseph Incandela, the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology at Saint Mary’s College.

For more information on this year’s event, call Barb Westra, staff assistant in religious studies, at (574) 284-4534 or go to saintmarys.edu/AquinasTheology.

USF hosting state’s only AMC test in February

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will host the state’s only American Mathematics Competition (AMC) 10/12, sponsored by the Blue Bell Group, on Tuesday, Feb. 7, in the Pope John Paul II Center.

First administered in 1950, the AMC’s purpose is increasing interest in mathematics and developing problem-solving ability through a series of friendly mathematics competitions for junior (grades 8 and below) and senior (grades 9-12) high school students. USF is hosting the AMC 10 for students below age 17 ½ and not a junior or senior, and the AMC 12 for students between ages 16-19 ½ and a student in high school.

Activities will begin at 6 p.m. with food and refreshments, and the 75-minute tests will follow. A two-hour AMC preparatory session will be available to parents during the test, and the event will wrap up with awards. All students who take the AMC 12 and achieve a score of 100 or more out of a possible 150 or are in the top 5 percent are invited to take the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). All students who take the AMC 10 and have a score of 120 or more out of a possible 150, or score in the top 2.5 percent also qualify for the AIME. For the 2011-2012 school year the date for the AIME is Thursday, March 15, and the AIME II is Wednesday, March 28.

The university will offer optional two-hour AMC preparatory sessions on campus in the Pope John Paul II Center on Jan. 25, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 29, at 11 a.m. For additional practice materials go to http://amc.maa.org. To register for the competition, contact Carolyn Exner at cexner@sf.edu or (260) 399-8067.

Academically qualified students who participate in the competition and apply to one of the University of Saint Francis math programs may be eligible for up to $9,000 per year in scholarships. Contact USF Department of Mathematics for information.

Bishop Rhoades Scholarship offered by Holy Cross College

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College is looking for more than a few Rhoades scholars, as in Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who wish to experience a strong liberal arts college education.

The newly-established Bishop Rhoades Scholarship will provide $3,500 annually to any student graduating from a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who is accepted to Holy Cross College. Students from area public high schools are also eligible for the scholarship by simply submitting a letter of recommendation from their pastor. The scholarship, which will be offered to new students entering in the fall of 2012, is renewable each year as long as the student maintains a certain grade point average. Over the course of a four-year college career, the benefit could total up to $14,000.

“I am grateful for the strong and close collaboration between Holy Cross College and our diocese, whereby Bishop Rhoades and I created the college his blessing at the inauguration Mass of college president, Holy Cross Brother John Paige, Ph.D.

As a part of its mission to prepare students for work and for life, Catholic identity is a priority at Holy Cross. At the same inauguration Mass last fall, Brother Paige said an Oath of Fidelity and the entire Holy Cross theology faculty made a Profession of Faith in front of the bishop.

“We value our relationship within the diocese,” says Robert Kloska, St. Matthew Cathedral parishioner and vice president of Mission Advancement at Holy Cross.

“We know we provide an excellent return on investment for families and we’d like to help our local families in a very deliberate way. Faculty and staff members of Holy Cross College are active within many area parishes, and Kloska says the Scholarship program is another way to connect and share the Holy Cross College mission.

“The Rhoades Scholarship exemplifies our commitment to Holy Cross students in our local area,” adds Marie Bensman, St. Pius X parishioner and dean of Admissions and Enrollment Management, who care deeply about local communities. The churches and the neighborhoods in our diocese have many needs. The young people on the campus of Holy Cross have many talents. We link these two in a variety of wonderful social outreach programs.”

The Bishop Rhoades Scholarship is for families who are active in our diocese to really benefit,” says Kloska.

The application process is free and may be downloaded at www.hcc-nd.edu/apply. For more information on the Bishop Rhoades Scholarship, contact Holy Cross College at (574) 239-8400.
Religious sisters shine spotlight on sex trafficking during Super Bowl

INDIANAPOLIS — A group of 11 orders of Catholic women religious in Indiana and Michigan who invest in hotel chains to affect social change is collaborating with state and local officials to curb human trafficking during festivities leading up to the Feb. 5 Super Bowl in Indianapolis. Incidents of human trafficking — or modern-day slavery — tend to spike alongside major sporting events like the Olympics, the World Cup and the Super Bowl to meet the high demand for commercial sex.

The U.S. State Department estimates that between 14,500 and 18,000 persons — many of them women and children — are trafficked into the country each year. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center reported that over 11,800 calls were made to its hotline in a 50-mile radius of Indianapolis in January, CCRIM has been contacted by hotel employees to document and report possible incidences of trafficking.

“Human trafficking is a tragic violation of human rights that devastates its victims, strips away their dignity and rights and forces them into a life of prostitution, labor and other forms of exploitation every year,” said Holy Cross Sister Joan Oestreich, Monroe, Mich., Heart of Mary, an order of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame; and Dominican Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, St. Josephine Bakhita, Grand Rapids Dominican Congregation of Saint Joseph; Sisters of Mercy, West Midwest Community; Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods; Sisters of Life, Our Lady of Victory United States alone, according to the United Nations estimates that 700,000 to 4 million women and children are trafficked around the world for purposes of forced prostitution, labor and other forms of exploitation every year.

Trafficking is estimated to be a $15.5 billion annual business in the United States alone, according to the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. CCRIM members are the Coalition for Corporate Responsibility for Indiana and Michigan (CCRIM). “These activities happen in the dark. What we are attempting to do is shine a light on sex trafficking and reduce opportunities for it to happen.”

CCRIM, whose members include the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Notre Dame, has been working with a task force comprising the Indiana Attorney General’s Office, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and other nonprofit organizations to raise awareness about human trafficking and to take steps to prevent it. Since early January, CCRIM has been contacting the managers of 220 hotels within a 50-mile radius of Indianapolis to ask four questions: Have employees received training to recognize potential occurrences of human trafficking in their hotels? Is there a protocol in place for hotel employees to document and report possible incidences of trafficking? Are hotel employees/managers aware of the local groups working to end trafficking? Is the hotel willing to make anti-trafficking information available to guests?

Follow-up plans will be developed based on the responses to the four questions. The goal of this initiative is to raise awareness, assure that hotel staff receive appropriate training, and distribute educational materials to hotels willing to make them available in lobbies and guest rooms prior to the Super Bowl. Ultimately, CCRIM seeks to have area hotels sign on to the Code of Conduct developed by Ending Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT-USA) to deter child sexual exploitation.

“Human trafficking is a tragic violation of human rights that devastates its victims, strips away their dignity and security, and tears at the fabric of our global society,” said Holy Cross Sister Joan Marie Steadman, president of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. “It is a form of imprisonment and oppression, which demands both a compassionate response to the cries of victims and action for justice for those who long for a future with hope. Compassion and justice are at the heart of the CCRIM Super Bowl 2012 Anti-Trafficking Initiative.”

“Human trafficking” is an umbrella term for activities in which one person obtains or holds another in compelled service through threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability. Forms of human trafficking include the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices, and the removal of organs.

Often described as a modern form of slavery, human trafficking occurs across borders or domestically. The United Nations estimates that 700,000 to 4 million women and children are trafficked around the world for purposes of forced prostitution, labor and other forms of exploitation every year. CCRIM members are the Coalition for Corporate Responsibility for Indiana and Michigan (CCRIM). “These activities happen in the dark. What we are attempting to do is shine a light on sex trafficking and reduce opportunities for it to happen.”

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BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, Australian Archbishop Mark B. Coleridge of Canberra and Goulburn, and Greg Erlandson, president of the Catholic Press Association and president and publisher of Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, were named by Pope Benedict XVI to help advise the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

The Vatican released the names of the new appointments Dec. 29.

Ten bishops were named new members of the council; among them are Archbishop Dolan, who is president of the U.S. bishops’ conference and a member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, and Archbishop Coleridge, who is a member of the Synod of Bishops and Pontifical Council for Culture.

Among the 11 new directors or advisers to the communications council are: Erlandson, Giovanni Maria Vian, editor of the Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano; Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, the editor of the influential Jesuit journal La Civilta Cattolica; and Dominican Sister Dominica Dipio, who is a filmmaker and head of the department of literature at Makerere University in Uganda.

In an e-mail interview with Erlandson, he told Today’s Catholic, “The appointment is a great honor, and most unexpected.”

“I am impressed by the other consultants who have been appointed, and I hope I can make some sort of contribution to the work of the council,” Erlandson said. “I am particularly aware that the United States has been in the forefront of so many recent developments in communications and mass media. We are in many ways at the epicenter of the great changes taking place worldwide in the realm of social communications.”

“Because the Church has as its mission the communication of the Gospel, this pontifical council has great significance for the overall mission of the Church in terms of the New Evangelization in the 21st century,” he added. “It will be a privilege to make some small contribution to this effort.”


Msgr. Owen Campion, associate publisher of Our Sunday Visitor, served a five-year term as consultant. His term expired in October.

Erlandson said, “I follow in illustrious footsteps. Msgr. Campion has long served the council well.”

“It is also a tribute to Our Sunday Visitor, which is dedicated to serving the Church in northeastern Indiana and worldwide and which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year,” Erlandson added. “I think that the appointment recognizes that Our Sunday Visitor is dedicated to the mission of print and electronic communication of the news of our Church and the teachings of our faith. As Archbishop (John F.) Noll often said, ‘we serve the Church by helping Catholics see their world through the eyes of faith.”’

ERLANDSON

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Phillip Stackowicz and his wife Dominika attend St. Pius X Catholic Church in Granger, where they are very involved in the community and local charities. Phillip serves the South Bend area, Bristol, Lagrange and Elkhart councils. Phillip has been an active Knight since his 18th birthday, and joined the field force a few years later. He became a member of the Million Dollar Round-Table (Top 1% of agents in the world) and Supreme Knights Club shortly after his career began. “I enjoy helping brother Knights and their families solve the puzzle to their financial future with key pieces and products. Life Insurance is the easiest way to protect a family against the what if’s in life, and I am here to help with doing so.” The Knights of Columbus have been doing just that for the last 128 years. Contact Phil Stackowicz today at (574)934-4941.

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Outs...
INDIANAPOLIS — What’s the “right-to-work” debate all about? Is it freedom for Hoosier workers, an opportunity for economic growth, and a chance to create jobs or is it a way to reduce the strength of unions and the “right-to-work for less” that critics claim? The answer is not clear. What is clear is the issue has dominated the initial stages of the 2012 legislative session.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, Speaker of the House Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, and Senate President Pro Tem David C. Long, R-Fort Wayne, have made passing a “right-to-work” bill a priority. Republicans have tied its passage to the economic well-being of the state. The Democrats, with strong labor union sympathies, have repeated last year’s strategy of not showing up to halt the process last week.

So significant are some of the moral stakes of the bill regarding the right to a just wage, free association and matters of conscience, that even the five Indiana bishops have weighed-in by issuing a two-page statement last month on “right-to-work” detailing the Church’s concerns and offering guidance.

The bishops’ statement reiterates the intrinsic value and respect for the human person as the core value of Catholic social teaching. It states, “This dignity (of the human person) grounds certain rights including (but not limited to) the right to a just wage; the right to a working environment that is not harmful to the workers’ physical health or to their moral integrity; and the right to assembly and form associations.”

While the Church will remain neutral on the specific “right-to-work” legislation under consideration, Church leaders recognize the important moral issues affecting those on both sides of the “right-to-work” debate.

In their statement, the Indiana bishops recognize both the importance of workers’ rights to receive a just wage and to form unions. At the same time, the bishops also support the right of individuals to be free from being forced to pay representation fees to the union particularly if the union supports organizations or candidates that support abortion or same-sex marriage.

The bishops state, “Workers must be paid a wage that allows them to live a truly human life and to fulfill their family obligations. The Church supports the right of groups of employees to freely associate and to form unions.”

On the flip side, the bishops address concerns with certain unions’ activities. “Of particular concern are unions that use their resources to support politicians or political parties that clearly devalue the sanctity of human life or the institution of marriage. The protection of human life, and the integrity of any marriage as the union of one man and one woman, are foundational elements to the common good.”

The bishops strongly defend the rights of individuals to follow their moral conscience and condemn practices, which may require individuals to support causes in which they are morally opposed. “The Church has a sacred reverence for the dignity of conscience and for the right to act in freedom to make moral decisions. In keeping with this, any form of coercion on the part of union membership or a union is to be condemned.”

Currently under Indiana law, employees who choose to work for an employer that has a union, while not required to join the union, are required to pay a representation fee to the union since they receive union representation. The “right-to-work” proposal would ban companies or unions from negotiating contracts that require nonmembers to pay representation fees.

Supporters pushing to pass the “right to work” legislation like Rep. Bosma say the issue is a simple matter of freedom for the employee who should not have to pay the union a dime if not a member.

“Right-to-work isn’t about unions,” said Bosma. “It is about freedom and economic opportunity. It is about giving all Hoosiers the freedom to choose a job, decide how their hard earned money is spent and bring more employment opportunities to Indiana.”

Critics of the bill including Indiana State AFL-CIO President Nancy Guyott said, “If passed, this will have a wide ranging and overwhelmingly negative impact on workers’ wages, safety conditions and rights.”

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 11 percent of Indiana workers are unionized. Currently 22 states have “right-to-work” laws. Federal law requires unions to represent all employees, even non-union employees, regardless if they pay a representation fee or not.

Industries affected by the law include workers in the building trades, industrial sector, some secretarial and administrative personnel, hotel workers, bakers, firefighters and home health care workers.

Indiana Economic Development Corporation recently issued a report that ranked Indiana sixth nationally as a good place for new businesses. A joint committee meeting of the House and Senate labor committees was held Jan. 6, to review the right-to-work proposal HB 1001, and SB 269, identical bills. Following the five-hour hearing, SB 269 passed the Senate committee, 6-4.

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Catholic school affordability: Progress made but still a long way to go

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When educational leaders look at ways to make Catholic schools more affordable, they are happy about some of the positive steps that have been made but fully aware that there is still a lot to do.

During a recent conference at The Catholic University of America, a group of panelists focused particularly on the states of tuition tax credits and how they have enabled students who would normally not be able to afford Catholic schools to attend them.

Currently, there are less than a dozen school voucher programs and scholarship tax-credit programs in the United States. Some states have more than one program.

Catholic elementary schools in Indiana experienced increased enrollment in the fall of 2011 because the state’s new school voucher program enabled more than 3,200 students to attend religious or private schools. The educational scholarship program, described as the nation’s broadest, has been supported by the Indiana Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state’s bishops.

School voucher programs in Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Utah and the District of Columbia offer private school vouchers to low-income students, students with special needs or children in failing schools.

The scholarship tax-credit programs in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island also are primarily for students from low-income families or those with special needs.

Tuition vouchers are funds awarded by a government agency to a low-income family to spend at any school of their choice. Tuition tax credits offer parents tax credits for scholarships for Catholic schools by allowing individuals and businesses to deduct a portion of their income taxes to donate to education. These donations can go to public or private schools.

Follow Christ for true life and peace

The First Book of Samuel is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Originally, First and Second Samuel were one volume. At some point in history, an editor divided them into the two volumes, and two volumes appear in Bible translations today.

As the title of the two books implies, the central figure is Samuel, a prophet active centuries before Christ.

Prophets were highly revered throughout the history of the chosen people. They were seen as God’s special representatives, but also personally very holy and devoted to God. At times, prophets resisted their calling initially. Such was the case of the great prophets, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. However, after all was said and done, they accommodated themselves to God’s will and accepted the call to be prophets.

These figures were often permitted because the call to be a prophet was seen precisely as a call, as a call from God.

In this weekend’s reading, God calls Samuel. This occurs according to God’s plan. Samuel is open to hearing God, indeed ready to hear God, but Samuel cannot hurry the divine plan.

St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading for this weekend. Many of the Pauline writings have their luster in their clear revelation of the bond between true believers and Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God, but also human, in a mystery theologians call the Incarnation.

Truly committed Christians, in faith and baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, both in a shared humanity, but also in the divine life given believers by Christ.

This supernatural bond, the very keystone of personal salvation, requires Christians not only to be of spiritual faithfulness, but bodily as well. They must not allow themselves to fall into carnal sin.

Instructing the Christian Corinthians in this fact seems for some to be excessive for Paul. However, it should be remembered, Corinth was known near and far as a virtual capital of lewd and vice.

St. John’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a story about the decision to follow Jesus by Simon, later known as Peter, and Simon’s brother, Andrew. In the story, Jesus instructs Andrew and Simon. They follow Jesus. Yet, the Lord invites them to be apostles.

They recognize Jesus as Messiah. Jesus calls Peter to a new life, even giving him a new name, Cephas — that is often translated as Peter.

The Church, in the majesty and glory of its liturgy, in a profound gaze into the reality of Jesus, born in Bethlehem, is given by the Gospels, called us all to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas.

On Christmas, the Church revealed to us that Jesus was the son of Mary, therefore a human, as she was only human despite her unique holiness and singular place in the divine plan of redemption.

Two weeks later, it celebrated for us the feast of the Epiphany, revealing then to us the fact that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, was divine, the Son of God, and that this redemption is God’s gift for all people.

So, these past several weeks have been times in which the Church, with the greatest joy and hope, has told us about the Lord. He is the Savior of the world!

Now, the Church asks us in the readings this weekend to consider how personally we shall respond to these marvelous facts. By the mere fact we are of the Church, or at least interested in the Church, with the greatest joy and hope, we are of the Church, or at least interested in the Church, with the greatest joy and hope.

How should we respond? St. Paul gives very concrete advice. Samuel, Peter and Andrew are examples. We must follow Christ. There is no other way to true life and peace.

Resolve to write in the new year

Benjamin Franklin was 27 when he dipped his pen in red ink, drew a seven-column, 13-row chart and resolved to master all the moral virtues. It was Sunday and the first day of July. The last of the 13 British colonies to be founded, Georgia, was being settled, and every colony was working out its own system of self government.

Young Franklin was ready to look within and devise his own self governance. He broke down his day — eight hours of work, seven hours of sleep, a two-hour lunch break — and dedicated one week to each of the 13 virtues he had identified, beginning with frugality.

“I was surprised to find myself so much fuller of faults than I had imagined,” he wrote in his autobiography, “but I had the satisfaction of seeing them diminish.”

It is an impulse that returns each January: to systematically detect and diminish one’s faults, day by day, row by row, like yanking weeds or drilling cavi-

This month we adjust to a new year and celebrate the patron saint of writers, St. Francis de Sales, and when the horizon of 2012 has you feeling ambitious or overwhelmed, I can think of no better response than writing.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian David McCullough owes part of his career to the fact that founding fathers like Franklin wrote prolifically.

“The loss of people writing — writing a composition, a letter or a report — is not just the loss for the record,” he told Time magazine last year. “It’s the loss of the process of working your thoughts out on paper, of having an idea and putting it down so that if you weren’t (writing) … People (research) were writing letters every day. That was cathartics for the brain.”

McCullough uses a 60-year-old Royal typewriter to pour out his thoughts on the page.

I’ve written everything I’ve ever had published on it,” he said. “It’s a superb example of American manufacturing.”

But writing is not just an intellectual exercise. It can also be a religious one.

I recently interviewed Mitch Albom, author of “Tuesdays With Morrie,” the best selling memoir in history. The Detroit journalist told me that writing is an inherently spiritual endeavor.

“You need to be infused with a certain spirit in order to be able to create,” he said, “and I believe all our talents come from God.”

We make to sense of our lives and our world, to examine who we have been and who we hope to become.

That’s what Anne Bradstreet did. Among the British colonists settling in America, she was the first to have a book of poetry published. She chronicled her first impressions, having “found a new world and new manners, at worn (her) heart rose.”

She wrote about her pregnancy, her granddaughter’s death and the burning of her home. In a poem honoring Queen Elizabeth, written 13 years after Bradstreet had arrived in Massachusetts, she wrote of “terra incognita,” — Latin for “unknown territory,” “unexplored land.”

Stepping into 2012 with our private struggles and secret hopes, our Catholic faith and our piecemeal education, each of us faces terra incognita, and we owe it to ourselves to process it on paper, every journey requires a journal.

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

Saint of the Week

Anthony Mary Pucci

Christened Eustachio by his peasant family, this Italian wanted to enter religious life, a move opposed by his father, the sacristan of the local church. But in 1837 he was able to join the Servite Fathers in Florence, taking the name Anthony Mary. After his 1843 ordination, he was sent to a rural seaside parish in Viareggio four years later where he was made pastor, at age 28, and would remain there for the rest of his life, ministering to parishioners and seeing them through two bad epidemics. The entire town mourned his passing. He was canonized in 1962.

Reading

Sunday 1 Sm 33b:10-19, 19 Ps 40, 2, 7-10 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 1 Jn 3:45-12

Monday 1 Sm 15:16-23 Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23 Mk 218-22

Tuesday 1 Sm 16:1-13 Ps 89:20-22, 27-28 Mk 22-23

Wednesday 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40:51 Ps 114:1-2,10-12 Sm 3-14

Thursday 1 Sm 18:1-9, 17 Ps 62:2, 3, 9-14 Mk 3-7

Friday 1 Sm 24:21 Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11 Mk 3:13-19

Saturday 2 Sm 1:4-11, 12-19, 23-27 Ps 80:2-3, 5-7 Mt 3:20-21
Timm Tebow is living a life that most young boys only dream about. He played football for four years at the University of Florida, winning a Heisman Trophy in his sophomore year. He led the Gators to two national championships. After college, he was drafted by the Denver Broncos as a backup quarterback.

When Denver began the year 1-4, Tebow became the starter. He came from behind in his first game (the score was 15-0 with three minutes left) to beat the Miami Dolphins. Since taking the reins, he has led Denver to a 7-2 record and a real shot at winning the AFC West.

The home-schooled son of American Baptist missionaries, Tebow was born after a medically difficult pregnancy. He survived a doctor’s recommendation that he abort.

Today, he is outspokenly pro-life and a devout Christian. He has a habit of kneeling and praying after his team wins. He has a habit of kneeling and praying after his team wins. He has a habit of kneeling and praying after his team wins. He has a habit of kneeling and praying after his team wins. He has a habit of kneeling and praying after his team wins. He has a habit of kneeling and praying after his team wins. He has a habit of kneeling and praying after his team wins. He has a habit of kneeling and praying after his team wins. He has a habit of kneeling and praying after his team wins.

Tebow's mixed reviews: We just think that there is a deeper lesson here that most young boys only dream about. He played football for four years at the University of Florida, winning a Heisman Trophy in his sophomore year. He led the Gators to two national championships. After college, he was drafted by the Denver Broncos as a backup quarterback. The only thing that most young boys only dream about. He played football for four years at the University of Florida, winning a Heisman Trophy in his sophomore year. He led the Gators to two national championships. After college, he was drafted by the Denver Broncos as a backup quarterback. The only thing that most young boys only dream about. He played football for four years at the University of Florida, winning a Heisman Trophy in his sophomore year. He led the Gators to two national championships. After college, he was drafted by the Denver Broncos as a backup quarterback. The only thing that most young boys only dream about. 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St. Charles hosts four-team tournament

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. Charles Lady Cardinals are off to a good start compiling a 16-2 (1-0 conference) record thus far in their 2011-2012 season.

On Saturday, Jan. 7, they hosted their long-standing, annual four-team tournament and won beating both Angola, 26-15, and Blackhawk Christian, 39-24. Their team is led with balanced scoring and had four girls in double digits on the day.

Kristina Burkhardt and Haley Nelligan were tops with a dozen double digits on the day.

The Cardinals are looking forward to a tournament at Maplecreek, a team they beat by 33-17, and Canterbury, 51-16, in their holiday extravaganza.

Top division teams pair up for ICCL basketball action

BY MATT SOBIERALSKI

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA — The Inter-City Catholic League resumed its regular-season schedule this past weekend after the holiday break with games at Mishawaka Marian High School and Saint Joseph’s High School. This week saw two of the top teams in the league paired up with Mishawaka Catholic Saints taking on the Holy Cross Crusaders. Not only was this a match-up of division first-place teams, but also a rematch from last weekend’s thrilling holiday tournament.

Both teams came out of the gate struggling to control the basketball. The full-court pressure from the Saints was giving the Crusaders fits. Unfortunately for the purple-and-yellow clad, they could not take advantage of turnovers. The Crusader man-to-man ball pressure gave the Saints fits of their own as neither team could find a rhythm as the first quarter came to a close with the black and blue of Holy Cross leading, 5-3.

The second quarter proved to give both teams more of a positive outlook. The Saints went to the bench and forward Nate Thomas would go on his own 5-0 run to put Mishawaka Catholic on top for the first time in the contest. The Crusaders would keep fighting on the defensive end, however, and used one of Peter Wiegand’s team-high of four steals to recaputre the lead with a Mark Madden bucket. Jake Whitfield closed the half with a lay up to give the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic a 13-11 halftime advantage.

Both teams would come out of the halftime break with a new sense of urgency as offensive became a premium. Mishawaka Catholic’s Patrick Coulter dominated the third quarter scoring 10 of this game high 14 points in the period as the Saints would extend their lead to seven points.

Madden and his Crusaders refused to go down lightly. His ball pressure led to several turnovers in the backcourt. Those turnovers ultimately led to easy baskets for Brendan Chappell and Gabe Brooks, as the black-and-blue-clad Crusaders cut the lead down to five heading into a thrilling final quarter.

In the final quarter the Saints went back to Coulier to help secure the lead. The Holy Cross Crusaders would fight until the very end and would use Madden’s athleticism to get them back into the game. Madden drove the ball from the left elbow, missed a fade away jumper but gathered his own rebound to score and cut the deficit to three.

After a made free throw by Brooks to cut the lead back down to four, an errant pass by the Mishawaka Catholic inbounder led to a steal by Brooks and an impressive drive and scoop lay up to the lead down to two with 1:02 left in the game. After a Saints’ time out, they called upon crunch-time player Jake Whitfield to sink a free throw to push the lead back up to two.

Holy Cross came down the court with 20 seconds left looking for the win. They found shooter Connor Gentry open in the corner with four seconds left, but the shot and the Crusaders’ chance at revenge rimmed out ending the game with the Saints edging out the Crusaders, 57-35.

Madden led the charge for the Crusaders with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Chappell contributed eight points as well. Whitfield finished with nine points and six assists for the Saints.

Other action at Marian saw the Lions of St. Fion X cruise by the Queen of Peace Pumas, 44-25. The Lions were led by John Bickey’s 16 points.

The Christ the King Kings used Joe Stands’ eight points to push past the Our Lady of Hungary Bulldogs, 36-12.

Games at Saint Joseph’s High School saw the Eagles of St. Joseph, South Bend, top the St. Thomas Spartans, 40-19.

Justin DeClark poured in 20 points for the Blazers of St. Matthew. They were triumphant over the Holy Family Trojans. Isaiah Henry netted 17 for the Trojans. Zach Stoczynski also threw in 11 for the Trojans.

The St. Anthony Panthers used Evan Drinkall’s 15 points and Ricky Wiegand’s 10 to down the Corpus Christi Cougars. Dominic Ferro fired in 14 for the Cougars.

Action in the ICCL continues next weekend at both Marian High School and Saint Joseph’s High School as division play begins for all teams in the Martin De Porres and John Bosco divisions.
More ‘Angels’ in Roma Downey’s future

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Just when you might have forgotten about the family-friendly television series “Touched by an Angel,” series star Roma Downey is tweaking the concept.

Downey, a Catholic, has created a DVD animated series called “Little Angels.” The premise is that twin siblings are visited by child-size angels who are ordinarily stuck on the walls of their bedroom but who come to life after the twins’ mother tucks the kids in for the night.

The angels take the children on life-lesson-learning adventures. Downey provides the voice of the children’s mother.

“Having played an angel so long on ‘Touched by an Angel,’ I shouldn’t be surprised” about being involved in a new angel-themed project, Downey said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service from her home in Southern California. “It’s always been about God’s love. It beats at the center of my own heart.”

The adventures the Little Angels take twins Alex and Zoe on link the problems that wee ones encounter with Bible stories.

“We have only 10 hours,” Downey told CNS, noting that the miniseries will cover a 10-hour miniseries on the Bible.

“We have only 10 hours. I wish we had ten hundred hours,” Downey said, as she said she expects to expand those offerings in 2012.

“Little Angels” is just the first offering of Downey’s own production company, Light Work. The next effort is decidedly more ambitious: a 10-hour miniseries to feature Bible stories.

“Little Angels”’ debut on Easter in 2013 on the History cable channel, with future episodes on successive Sundays.

“It’s a herculean task, which is thrilling — thrilling and terrifying and humbling, so keep us in your prayers,” she said.

Downey has a brother, John, who is a priest in her native Northern Ireland. “We call him Father Brother,” she said, adding that her 15-year-old daughter Riley, is preparing for her confirmation.

Downey, a Catholic actress who starred in the family-friendly television series “Touched by an Angel,” has created an animated DVD series called “Little Angels.”

The adventures the Little Angels take twins Alex and Zoe on link the problems wee ones encounter with Bible stories.

Catholic CEO goes undercover for CBS reality series

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dina Dwyer-Owens, CEO of the Dwyer Group, a collection of home service franchises, donned a wig, pearls and blue jeans to check in on her employees for an upcoming episode of the CBS reality series “Undercover Boss.”

And, by and large, she liked what she saw.

“The goal was to find out where we were, to see how we were doing,” she said.

“Just seeing how much our employees and our franchisees care — that’s what impressed me the most,” she said.

Dinah Dwyer-Owens, CEO of the Dwyer Group, a collection of home service franchises.
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.

Holy Name Society fish fry
New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Jan. 13, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the council hall. Cost is $8.50 for adults and $4 for children ages 6-12.

Fish fry in Warsaw
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 13, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the council hall. Cost is $8.50 for adults and $4 for children ages 6-12.

Breakfast benefits drama club
South Bend — Knights of Columbus Council 5570 will have a breakfast for the benefit of the Holy Family School Drama Club Sunday, Jan. 15, from 7-11 a.m. in the Holy Family Parish Center. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for children ages 6-12.

Trivia night planned
South Bend — Corpus Christi School will have an adult trivia night on Saturday, Jan. 21. All proceeds from this event will benefit the eighth-grade class trip. Tailgating begins at 6 p.m. and gameplay at 7 p.m. $10 per person to play with a maximum of 12 players per table. Cash bar, silent auction, door prizes. For information, contact Christine Zmyslo at (574) 273-2931.

Knights plan Sunday breakfast at Queen of Angels
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus council 11043 will have a breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 22, 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.

New Bible study offered
South Bend — “Pondering Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission the Church: Understanding the Mission of the Church from the New Testament to Today,” will begin Monday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. or Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 9 a.m. The last sessions are April 23 and 24. Contact (574) 273-9722 or fcoutreach@sbcglobal.net for information. Books needed will be discussed at the first sessions.

Catholic conference announced
Notre Dame — A “Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me” conference will be held at McKenna Hall Jan. 21-22. Father Les Valerio and Father Kevin Joyce from the Archdiocese in Omaha will be presenters. They will focus on how the Holy Spirit continues to make us into “living stones” through our baptismal graces. There will be five talks: “The Prophet Awakened in Me,” “Prophetic Surrender,” “Prophetic Worship,” and “Prophetic Witness.” The cost for priests will concelebrate with the Mass will be $20. For information, contact Cindy Black, director of Adult Ministry. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org or call (260) 422-4611.

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

Theology on Tap
Fort Wayne — The Theology on Tap series for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married, will be held at Soups Salad and Spirits, 1915 S. Calhoun St., Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m. on the topic “Catholic say YES to sex — Theology of the Body” with Cindy Black, director of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries. This event is hosted by the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org or call (260) 422-4611 for information.

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Fort Wayne
Philip W. Dwirer Sr., 85, St. Patrick
Robert L. Martony, 77, St. Henry
Ronald G. Malicki, 50, St. Vincent de Paul
Betty Jane Becksted, 80, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Stephen H. Reed, 89, Saint Anne Home Chapel

Holy Cross priests at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. Brochures are available. Registration deadline is Monday, Jan. 16. For information, contact Dave and Jan Torma at fisherofmendjt@msn.com or call (574) 291-5381.

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