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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Diocesan participants at national march take a stand for life

BY DIANE FREEBY

WASHINGTON — In record-breaking numbers, young people from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend poured into the streets of the nation's capital Monday, to mark the 39th anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous Roe v. Wade decision, making abortion legal throughout the land.

Over a dozen buses from Fort Wayne and South Bend traveled overnight so people could express their pro-life beliefs. The group of young people and their chaperones joined hundreds of thousands of others in a peaceful yet enthusiastic march up Constitution Avenue.

Described as a pilgrimage due to the hardships of travel, lack of sleep and bad weather, the trip was sponsored by the Office of Family Life.

Organizers say Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend doubled the number attending this year's March for Life, sending three buses and over 200 students to Washington, D.C.

Joe Watkins, a senior, has attended the march all four of his high school years and said he has seen enthusiasm and involvement grow. He's hopeful that will continue so politicians take more notice of whom is voting them into office.

Watkins is also inspired by the dedication and direction of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, and is especially encouraged by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' exhortation at the previous afternoon's Mass to stand courageously for his religious beliefs in the public square.

"I will voice my opinion and support my religious

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DIANE FREEBY

Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend and Marian High School students in Mishawaka take a stand for life in 39th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

WELCOME TO THE DRAGON



MARK WEBER

Young parishioners of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, celebrated the lunar new year with Vietnamese costumes and customs and honored Our Lady of La Vang and Vietnamese martyrs. Bishop John M. D'Arcy, bishop emeritus, was celebrant of the Jan. 22 Mass.

At Mass bishop encourages all to promote, defend life

BY DIANE FREEBY

WASHINGTON — Fort Wayne-South Bend diocesan participants of the annual March for Life gathered with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 22 for Mass and to pray for the defense of life and conscience rights.

Diocesan participants, including many students from the diocesan high schools, filled the cathedral in the nation's capital.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades said, "The legalization and the spread of abortion in our country and around the world inflicted on society and its culture what Blessed John Paul II called 'a most serious wound,' a wound, he said, inflicted 'by the very people who ought to be society's promoters and defenders.'"

"It is a wound that still needs to be healed, which is why we are here in Washington, D.C., this weekend," Bishop Rhoades said. "We are here to march for life, to pray for an end to abortion, and to bear witness to the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death."

Bishop Rhoades devoted a part of his homily, just as Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston spoke at the Mass for the National Prayer Vigil for Life later that night, about the Jan. 20th announcement from U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius that most religious organizations would have to cover contraceptives and sterilization free of charge in their employee health plans, rejecting appeals from Catholic groups to widen the exemption.

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PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

NEWS EDITOR and STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Lauren Caggiano,
Michelle Castleman, Karen Clifford,
Bonnie Elberson, Denise Fedorow,
Diane Freeby, May Lee Johnson, Sister
Margie Lavonis, CSC, Joe Kozinski and
Deb Wagner

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Sean McBride

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol
kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen (Fort Wayne area)

(260) 456-2824

Jeanette Simon (South Bend area)

(574) 234-0687

Web site: www.todayscatholicnews.org

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MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort
Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260)
456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dagoon Trail,
Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone (574)
234-0687. Fax (574) 830-1042.

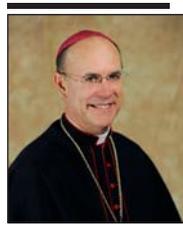
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The consecrated life



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Blessed John Paul II wrote: "The consecrated life, deeply rooted in the example and teaching of Christ the Lord, is a gift of God the Father to his Church through the Holy Spirit."

This coming week, we give thanks in a special way for the gift of consecrated life as we celebrate the World Day for Consecrated Life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. On this day, forty days after Christmas, we remember the presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple. This feast is also called Candlemas Day since it is the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. It is an appropriate day to celebrate consecrated life in the Church since consecrated men and women are called to reflect the light of Christ to all people.

We often speak of those in consecrated life as men and women religious. They are those who are consecrated to God by the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. They are religious sisters, brothers, and priests who have answered the Lord's call to serve him with an undivided heart. Most belong to religious congregations and are active in various apostolates of the Church, according to the charisms of their communities. Some live a cloistered life, devoted to prayer and contemplation.

Consecrated life is truly a gift to the Church. I think of the religious sisters who taught me through twelve years of Catholic education back home in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. I will be forever grateful for their excellent teaching and especially for their beautiful witness of the faith. One of my favorite sisters, who taught me at Lebanon Catholic High School, recently wrote to me that she has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Please remember her in your prayers. She is a beautiful woman of faith who had a very positive influence on my life and my vocation. I am sure that many who are reading this column have had similar experiences of wonderful religious sisters, brothers, and priests who helped them in their lives in a multitude of ways.

We are very blessed by the large presence of consecrated men and women in our diocese.

We have over 200 Holy Cross priests and brothers in our diocese, serving at the University of Notre Dame, Holy Cross College, and in parish, health care, and educational ministries. The U.S. Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross (priests and brothers) and the Midwest province of the Brothers of Holy Cross are headquartered here in our diocese. We have nearly 200 Sisters of the Holy Cross in our diocese. The Sisters of the Holy Cross, who sponsor Saint Mary's College, also have their provincial house here and are active in various apostolates.

We have over 70 Sisters of Saint Francis



TODAY'S CATHOLIC FILE PHOTO

Grave marker for Archbishop John Francis Noll on the grounds of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Victory, Huntington, who was instrumental in bringing the order to this diocese.

of Perpetual Adoration in our diocese. Their provincial motherhouse is in Mishawaka where we are blessed to have a Chapel of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Sisters of Saint Francis sponsor the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne and are quite active in health care and educational apostolates. The corporate offices for the Sisters' health care system, the Franciscan Alliance, is also headquartered in Mishawaka.

We have over 70 Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in our diocese. Their provincial motherhouse is in Donaldson. The Poor Handmaids sponsor Ancilla College and they are also active in health care and social outreach ministries.

The Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Victory have their provincial motherhouse in Huntington. We have over 80 "Victory Noll Sisters" who are involved in the mission of catechesis and pastoral renewal. Archbishop John Noll was instrumental in their founding and locating in our diocese.

Many of the religious sisters, brothers, and priests mentioned above are now retired from active ministry, but not retired from religious life. They continue to bear witness to Christ and to serve the Church through their prayers, sacrifices, and witness of faith.

In Fort Wayne, we also have two new communities of consecrated men and women, the Franciscan Brothers Minor and the Franciscan Sisters Minor. As new communities, they are not yet "religious institutes," but are "public associations of the faithful," according to canon law. The brothers strive to live the original Rule of Saint Francis according to the Capuchin reform. The sisters are discerning a contemplative life according to the Rule of Saint Clare.

We have many other religious men and women serving or living in our diocese (some as students at our Catholic universities) who belong to congregations that are not headquartered in our diocese. The men belong to the following religious institutes: the Friars Minor Capuchins, the Friars Minor Conventuals, the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, the Order of Friars Minor,

the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter, the Society of Divine Word, and the Society of Jesus. The women belong to the following religious institutes: Adrian Dominicans, Congregation of Saint Joseph, Daughters of Divine Charity, Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy, Dominican Sisters of Peace, Felician Sisters, Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Handmaids of the Most Holy Trinity, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Providence, Sisters of Saint Agnes, Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, and Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Third Order of Saint Francis.

Let us remember all these men and women religious in a special way in our prayers on February 2nd. They are a blessing to the Church. Let us intensify our prayers for vocations to the consecrated life. We definitely need more religious sisters, brothers, and priests, just as we need more diocesan priests. We need these witnesses of what Pope John Paul called "the radicalism of the Gospel." Living the evangelical counsels, they are a sign to all of us of our call to follow Christ and to conform our existence to him. They follow Christ in a special way and give their lives in the service of God and his Church. The Church needs men and women who devote themselves totally to God and to others out of love for God.

We are all called to holiness. Consecrated men and women remind us of this call. They follow a specific path to holiness through their profession of the evangelical counsels. How many saints of the Church were consecrated men and women religious! Just think of some of the more recently canonized saints like Holy Cross Brother, Saint Andre Bessette, and Indiana's own Saint, Mother Theodore Guerin. Later this year, we will see the canonization of another American religious, Mother Marianne Cope, who served the lepers on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. And, of course, there is Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, whom I pray will also soon be canonized. May these saints pray for us and for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life in the Church!

HHS delays, but does not change, rule on contraceptive coverage

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) —

Although Catholic leaders vowed to fight on, the Obama administration has turned down repeated requests from Catholic bishops, hospitals, schools and charitable organizations to revise its religious exemption to the requirement that all health plans cover contraceptives and sterilization free of charge.

Instead, Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, announced Jan. 20 that nonprofit groups that do not provide contraceptive coverage because of their religious beliefs will get an additional year "to adapt to this new rule."

"This decision was made after very careful consideration, including the important concerns some have raised about religious liberty," Sebelius said. "I believe this proposal strikes the appropriate balance between respecting religious freedom and increasing access to important preventive services."

But Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the Obama administration had "drawn an unprecedented line in the sand" with the decision.

"The Catholic bishops are committed to working with our fellow Americans to reform the law and change this unjust regulation," he added. "We will continue to study all the implications of this troubling decision."

U.S. Cardinal-designate Edwin F. O'Brien, pro-grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher and apostolic administrator of the Baltimore Archdiocese, called the decision "shocking and disturbing" in a Jan. 20 statement from Rome.

Saying it would force individuals and religious organizations "to surrender their beliefs — rooted in long-held Judeo-Christian tradition and practice — for the sake of political and financial expediency," he called on Catholics "to pray for our elected officials and to work to reform this unjust regulation."

Sebelius announced the mandate and a narrow religious exemption to it Aug. 1, 2011. Under the plan, after Aug. 1 of this year, new or significantly altered health plans will be required to provide all FDA-approved contraceptives, including some that can cause abortions, without co-pays or deductibles as part of preventive health care for women.

The only religious organizations exempt from the requirement would be those meeting four specific criteria — "(1) has the inculcation of religious values as its purpose; (2) primarily employs persons who share its religious tenets; (3) primarily serves persons who share its religious tenets; and (4) is a nonprofit organization" under



CNS PHOTO/DENIS BALIBOUSE, REUTERS

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is pictured in Geneva in 2010. The Obama administration has turned down repeated requests from Catholic bishops, schools and other entities to revise its religious exemption to its mandate that most private insurance policies provide no-cost contraceptive coverage. Sebelius announced Jan. 20 that nonprofit groups will get an additional year "to adapt to this new rule."

specific sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

Those sections "refer to churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches, as well as to the exclusively religious activities of any religious orders," according to a footnote to the interim final rule.

Catholic groups, including the USCCB, the Catholic Health Association and Catholic Charities USA, called that exemption too narrow, saying it would require Catholic groups to stop all services to those who were not Catholic and would inappropriately involve the government in decisions about whether an organization is "religious enough" to be exempted.

"As it stands, it is unlikely that any Catholic college or university will be exempt," said Michael Galligan-Stierle, president of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, described the Obama administration's decision as "profoundly disturbing on many levels" and called for "a national dialogue among religious groups, government and the American people to reaffirm our country's historic respect for freedom of conscience and defense of religious liberty."

Sebelius' announcement brought an outcry from Catholic leaders and a sigh of relief from groups such as Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America, which had opposed any moves to weaken the contraceptive mandate or strengthen the religious exemption.

In a video posted on the USCCB website, Cardinal-designate Dolan said the decision put the Obama administration "on the wrong side of the Constitution" and should be rescinded.

"In effect, the president is saying we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences," the cardinal-designate said in a separate statement. "To force American citizens to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their health care is literally unconscionable. It is as much an attack on

access to health care as on religious freedom. Historically this represents a challenge and a compromise of our religious liberty."

Franciscan Sister Jane Marie Klein, who chairs the board at Franciscan Alliance, a system of 13 Catholic hospitals, characterized the decision as "nothing else than a direct attack on religion and First Amendment rights."

Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, said the announcement was a "missed opportunity to be clear on appropriate conscience protection."

"The challenge that these regulations posed for many groups remains unresolved," she added. "This indicates the need for an effective national conversation on the appropriate conscience protections in our pluralistic country, which has always respected the role of religions."

Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, said he was "extremely disappointed" that the administration chose to ignore calls from religious institutions to broaden the exemption.

"With the existing restrictive definition in this mandate, the ministry of Jesus Christ himself would not be considered a religious entity," he said.

"Just as the identity of Catholic Charities is firmly rooted in the teaching of its Church, the identity of this nation includes a mandated respect of religious beliefs," Father Snyder added. "It is this long-standing history that gave us hope that as a religious institution we would be granted the freedom to remain faithful to our beliefs while also being committed to providing access to quality health care for our 70,000 employees and their families across the country."

Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., who had earlier said he would be forced to stop offering health insurance to his employees if the HHS mandate remained unchanged, said, "The callous disregard for long-held personal and ecclesial beliefs augurs a chilling moment for believing and practicing Catholics



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Jan. 29, 4:30 p.m. — Vespers and talk to priests of Corby Hall, University of Notre Dame
- Monday, Jan. 30, 11:30 a.m. — Light of Learning Luncheon, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Jan. 31, 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Jan. 31, 6:30 p.m. — Theology on Tap, Backstage Grill, South Bend
- Wednesday, Feb. 1, 11:30 a.m. — Light of Learning Luncheon, South Bend
- Wednesday, Feb. 1, 3 p.m. — Mass at Sanctuary at Saint Paul's, South Bend
- Thursday, Feb. 2, 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Saint Joseph's High School, South Bend

CHILDREN IN BRISTOL DEFEND LIFE



MARY STUTZMAN

Children from the third- and fourth-grade religious education classes at St. Mary of the Annunciation in Bristol were greeted with applause and shouts of approval as they "Marched For Life" on Sunday, Jan. 22. Their procession led them through the halls, into the Adult Education Space, through Annunciation Hall where parents were enjoying coffee and doughnuts, and finally into the high school religious education classroom. Over 30 students with their teachers Sarah Roeder, Mary Stutzman, Jacob Stutzman and Melissa Dawson processed with homemade signs made in defense for life and in memory of the over 53 million babies that have been aborted since the Roe v. Wade decision legalized abortion in 1973.

in these United States."

"I hope that no Catholic voting adult will soon forget this egregious and insensitive intrusion by our government into our rights of conscience," he added.

But it was not only Catholics who protested the HHS announcement.

"Freedom of conscience is a sacred gift from God, not a grant from the state," said Galen Carey, vice president for government relations at the National Association of Evangelicals. "No government has the right to compel its citizens to violate their conscience. The HHS rules trample on our most cherished freedoms and set a dangerous

precedent."

Even the *Washington Post*, in a Jan. 22 editorial, called the decision "unproductive can-kicking that fails to address the fundamental problem of requiring religiously affiliated entities to spend their own money in a way that contradicts the tenets of their faith."

"Requiring a religiously affiliated employer to spend its own money in a way that violates its religious principles does not make an adequate accommodation for those deeply held views," the editorial added. "Having recognized the principle of a religious exemption, the administration should have expanded it."

South Bend right-to-life marchers encouraged

BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — The struggle to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and convert the hearts of enough Americans to do it is now entering its 40th year. Total deaths by abortion in the United States alone are estimated at 53 million and for St. Joseph County, between 35,000 and 41,000, based on available statistics and trends.

Undaunted, St. Joseph County Right to Life held its annual march around the South Bend Federal Court House Jan. 20.

Tom Gill, the St. Joseph County Right to Life president, said, "I think we are making progress not only here but all across the country."

He cited that more pro-life



TOM UEBBING

March participants are shown at Friday's march in South Bend.

billings are being passed in state legislatures.

"That indicates that people are starting to turn our direction," Gill said.

Another good sign, Gill added, is that "We are finding more people that are interested in volunteering, and contributing and doing something and coming forward and saying, 'What can I do to help?'"

Gill credits the 40 Days for Life prayer movement as having an impact in reducing abortions. "It points out to so many more people that there's something wrong with abortion and any time you have that many people standing in front of a place and praying it's just going to have an impact," he said.

St. Joseph County Right to Life is "kind of switching from

the protesting kind of approach to a more 'let's be more prayerful' and try to open our hearts and minds to the women and men who have experienced abortion ... and that's really getting through to people too when they realize we're not out here to condemn ... we're here to convert them and change their hearts and minds and improve their lives by doing that."

During the march Holy Family parishioner George Brenner donned a large wooden rosary to call attention to the need to ask Our Lady's intercession. Brenner lamented the 53 million children "that are now not part of our world," and said he would be willing to adopt a child to save it from abortion.

NATIONAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

beliefs," Watkins told *Today's Catholic*.

"It's hard for us to disobey the (civil) law and our own law with God," he said, "but when I see something contradicting my faith, I'm going to have to do something about it and at least voice my opinion."

Lyndsey Cyr, a sophomore at Saint Joseph's High School, echoed that sentiment as she prepared to march through the mud and rain.

"Simply walking and showing you're not afraid to believe in something is very powerful in many ways," she said.

Although it was cold and rainy, spirits remained high throughout the march, which culminated with a gathering in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building on Capitol Hill.

The Fort Wayne-South Bend diocesan banner was hoisted near the Notre Dame Right to Life ban-

ner. They were joined by students from Holy Cross and Saint Mary's colleges and the University of Saint Francis. Pro-life groups from Indiana University-South Bend and Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne also made their presence known.

Taking Bishop Rhoades' words to heart, many young people expressed encouragement and agreed that "we have a right and a duty to make our voices heard."

"It takes more than one person," said Jesse Gettinger, a senior and president of Marian High School's Right to Life Club.

Gettinger hopes Bishop Rhoades' words, coupled with the experience of marching together in Washington

D.C., will keep the momentum going strong.

"I'm really interested in getting more freshmen involved in the club to continue the pro-life culture at Marian High School," added Gettinger.

Homeschool student Mary Johnston from Fort Wayne, making her second trip to the March for Life, summed it up as she made the last muddy leg of the journey.



DIANE FREEBY

Participants from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend rally with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for the cause of life at the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 23.

"It's all the more encouraging that people are willing to stand in the freezing rain for hours, just for this cause, which is pretty awesome," she told *Today's Catholic*.

Mark Hosbein stood on the corner of a busy Washington intersection under the steady rain Jan. 23 with a small duffel bag at his feet and a simple message for passers-by: "Please consider spiritually adopting an unborn baby who is in danger of abortion."

Handing a reporter one of his bro-

chures, Hosbein said as president of Hearts For Life, he is following the lead of the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who promoted the idea of spiritual adoptions for the unborn years ago.

People who commit to such an adoption agree to pray once a day for a year for an unborn child, he explained. "Our belief is God will save the life of the baby. It's a simple and powerful devotion."

Hosbein, a member of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis, said in the past five or six years, his organization has passed out 100,000 of his brochures.

He was among several people

handing out signs and literature to pro-lifers as they walked toward the March for Life rally on the National Mall near the Smithsonian Castle. From the castle, the Washington Monument in one direction and the Capitol in the other were barely visible, as they were shrouded in fog.

The weather in Washington was uncooperative, with intermittent rain and temperatures hovering in the high 30s.

But as most years when the weather was bad, the tens of thousands of pro-lifers, a majority of them high school and college age, were undeterred, descending on the nation's capital to mark the 39th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

As they streamed toward the rally site from various points, rallygoers carried signs that declared their pro-life views. Among the messages were: "Adoption is an option," "Every time a baby is aborted, love is denied," "Praying for a culture of life" and "If it's not a baby, you're not pregnant."

One woman wrote her message on the back of her yellow rain poncho: "God is pro-life: Thou shalt not kill." One group carried yellow balloons that simply said "Life."

She told CNS, "I'm here to put my feet in the direction of what my heart believes."

Julie Asher from Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

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Lawmakers propose expanding school choice eligibility to students currently attending non-public schools

INDIANAPOLIS — It could be a dream come true for Catholic school families — access to the choice scholarship program, also known as a state-funded voucher.

Three state lawmakers are offering proposals to be considered by the Indiana General Assembly this year to expand eligibility for school choice options to families with children currently enrolled in a non-public school.

Sen. Doug Eckerty, R-Yorktown, is proposing the most expansive of the three school choice bills this year. Eckerty's proposal, SB 198, would remove the eligibility requirement that a student must attend a public school two semesters prior to receiving the scholarship. If families meet income requirements, children currently enrolled in a non-public school would be eligible for the scholarships.

Eckerty says his bill is primarily "corrective" in nature to the education reforms passed last year.

"Under the current program, before a child can qualify for the school choice scholarship, the student must be enrolled in a public school for two semesters prior," said Eckerty. There isn't any reason or logic behind that. If you already have a child in a non-public school and qualify for the scholarship otherwise, the family should be able to receive the scholarship."

"It becomes problematic for the family and the child to be pulled from the non-public school and placed in a public school when the student is doing fine in the non-public school," said Eckerty. "But to a single mother, or a family struggling to make ends meet, a parent may do this to qualify for the scholarship.

"Parental choice is what it's all about. It is the decision of the parent, not anyone else, to decide what's best for their children," said Eckerty.

In addition, Eckerty said the legislation has a cost benefit to the state. Eckerty said it roughly costs the state an average of \$5,500 to educate a student in public school. The voucher is only \$4,500.

"So do the math," said Eckerty. "It saves the state about \$1,000 per student. The bill is a positive for the parents and a

positive for the state."

Catholic lawmaker Sen. Jean Leising, R-Oldenburg, also is proposing legislation to assist current non-public school families. Leising's proposal, SB 296, would give students, who are currently enrolled in a non-public school, an opportunity to qualify for the scholarship tax credit (STC) in grade eight. Once eligible for the STC, students could be eligible for a voucher for high school. Present law prohibits current non-public students, not previously receiving a STC scholarship, from being eligible for the voucher.

Sen. Leising explained that under the current STC guidelines, kindergartners who meet the income requirements that are eligible for the STC then would be eligible for a state-funded voucher in first grade.

"So what I'm trying to do is allow eighth graders to be eligible for a scholarship tax credit, which could allow them to be eligible potentially to receive a school voucher for ninth grade and the rest of their high school years," said Leising.

"I think it would be really helpful for parents, who want to keep their kids in a private school but aren't sure how to do so financially," said Leising. "This bill gives parents who are trying to do what's best for their children a little bit of relief."

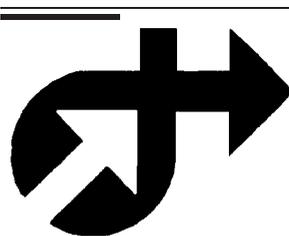
"People interested in this issue could be very helpful in getting this passed by giving their senators a little nudge," said Leising. "I would encourage parents to contact their senators and ask them to support SB 296."

Sen. Carlin Yoder, R-Bremen, is authoring a bill, SB 331, which would provide eligibility for siblings in families who receive a voucher.

"What I'm trying to do in this bill is to help families out that are already receiving vouchers," said Yoder. "It's unfair to ask families who are receiving a voucher for an older child to require their younger sibling to start at a public school first, but that's what the law requires."

Yoder said he's heard from many of his constituents that this is really a problem for families.

"It's not fair to split up the siblings especially when they meet the income requirements to qual-



INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

ify for the voucher," said Yoder. "It puts an unnecessary burden on parents to have children in two different schools.

"I don't think families should have to try out the public school for each child especially when they have other children who are having success in the non-public school," said Yoder.

Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference executive director, said, "The Church is supportive of school choice and these measures to expand eligibility. Many of our school families with low to moderate incomes could benefit greatly from these measures, and I'm hopeful they will pass this year."

Members of the Senate Education Committee will review the bills during their scheduled hearing Jan. 25. Testimony will be given on the bills. If the bills pass committee, they will move to the Senate floor for a second reading.

Choice scholarships-Vouchers

(Source — Legislative Services Agency Fiscal Analysis SB 198)

There are 3,919 students currently receiving choice scholarships (vouchers). With 3,382 of the students who attended public schools the prior year and 537 students who received a scholarship from a scholarship-granting organization the prior year.

There are approximately 26,630 students attending private schools and were eligible for free or reduced lunch — who meet the income requirements to be eligible for the choice scholarship if SB 198 passes. The students would be eligible for a scholarship equal to 90 percent of the tuition support of the school corporation where the student resides, with a maximum scholarship of \$4,500 for elementary schools.

Get Connected: Join the Indiana Catholic Action Network — I-CAN

Interested parties may join the I-CAN electronically at the ICC Web page. In addition to the I-CAN Update, one can obtain more detailed information regarding the bills and detailed information about the legislative process through the ICC Legislative Action Center. Under "policy tools" click on "issues and legislation" and access the state or federal bills by clicking "current legislation." Access the archived updates, ICC positions and other background information at the ICC Web site, www.indianacc.org



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Abortion leading to less respect for lives of disabled, archbishop says

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — A Philadelphia hospital's alleged refusal to provide a kidney transplant to a mentally disabled 3-year-old is yet another example of the harm caused in the United States by the Roe v. Wade court decision legalizing abortion, according to Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput. "The habit of treating genetically disabled children as somehow less worthy of life is growing across the country," the archbishop said in a column posted Jan. 19 on the website of his archdiocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Standard & Times*. He was commenting on the case of Amelia Rivera, whose parents say she was denied a kidney transplant at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia because she has Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome, a chromosomal disorder that results in severe developmental retardation. The child's parents say a doctor at the hospital told them that a kidney transplant would not be performed on Amelia at the hospital using a donated kidney because she was "mentally retarded." The hospital has declined to comment on the specifics of the case, citing patient confidentiality, but said that transplant eligibility decisions were "based on widely accepted, medically valid methods, with many factors considered." Archbishop Chaput said it is "unwise to assume that news media get all the details of a story like this right, or that the motives of an entire hospital's leadership and staff are as unfeeling as an individual doctor might seem." But he added, "We need to understand that if some lives are regarded as unworthy, respect for all life is at risk. We should pray that Amelia Rivera gets the help she needs, and that God surrounds her parents with the support they need." Of the 39th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade on Jan. 22, Archbishop Chaput said, "More than 45 million abortions later, the damage of that decision continues to grow — undermining our reverence for the life not just of unborn children but of the mentally and physically disabled as well."

Neocatechumenal celebrations must lead members to parish Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the Vatican approved the Neocatechumenal Way's unique rite, Pope Benedict XVI underlined that its celebrations were not "strictly liturgical" and that their aim must be to encourage members to partake fully in the liturgical life of the parish. The pope encouraged the movement's members to continue "to offer your original contribution to the cause of the Gospel," and he urged them to always make sure their "precious work" was in "profound communion with the Apostolic See and the pastors of the local Church in which they're inserted. Unity and harmony of the ecclesial body are an important witness to Christ and

PRIESTS ARRIVE FOR OPENING MASS OF PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE AT NATIONAL SHRINE



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

Priests arrive for the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 22. The annual vigil precedes the March for Life, the anti-abortion demonstration that marks the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion across the nation.

His Gospel in the world we live in," he said during an audience Jan. 20 with some 7,000 members of the Neocatechumenal Way, a parish-based faith formation program. A number of top curial officials and the Neocatechumenal Way's Spanish founders, Kiko Arguello and Carmen Hernandez, were also in the Vatican's Paul VI hall. The Pontifical Council for the Laity approved a decree that said, with the approval of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, the council "grants the approval of those celebrations contained in the Catechetical Directory of the Neocatechumenal Way, which, are not, by their nature, already regulated by the liturgical books of the Church." The decree, dated Jan. 8 and released by the Vatican Jan. 20, was signed by the laity council's president, Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, and his secretary, Bishop Josef Clemens. The decree also mentioned the Vatican's approval of the organization's statutes in 2008 and its catechetical directory in 2010.

Cardinal Wuerl: Education a key to the new evangelization

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A day after Pope Benedict XVI warned visiting U.S. bishops about the threat of "radical secularism" to American

moral values, Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl reflected on the implications of the pope's remarks, giving special emphasis to the role of Catholic education. "It's so important in our country right now that we not allow faith to be brushed aside," the cardinal told Catholic News Service. "And the only way that's not going to happen ... is a renewal of our own faith." Cardinal Wuerl was in Rome for his periodic "ad limina" visit, which included meetings with the pope and Vatican officials, covering a wide range of pastoral matters. On Jan. 19, he joined bishops from Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, and the Virgin Islands to hear a speech from Pope Benedict in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace. In his speech, the pope emphasized the need for an "engaged, articulate and well-formed Catholic laity" with the courage and critical skills to articulate the "Christian vision of man and society." He said that the education of Catholic laypeople is essential to the new evangelization, an initiative that he has made a priority of his pontificate. Cardinal Wuerl, whose recent book, "Seek First the Kingdom," encourages Catholic laypeople to affirm their faith in various dimensions of secular life, said that Catholic schools are "one of the most tried and proven ways of passing on the faith." Efforts to renew Catholic religious education were proving an

"enormous success" at the elementary and secondary levels, he said. "Where we need to concentrate now is on the level of higher education."

Pope says virginity and martyrdom of St. Agnes example of faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI held up the life of a young virgin and martyr as an example to seminarians of the total commitment to Christ required by young men seeking to enter the priesthood. The pope also said that a solid cultural background and intellectual understanding of faith was essential in the formation of priests as spreaders of the word of God. The pope spoke in a Jan. 20 audience with students from one of Rome's oldest and most prominent seminaries, the Almo Collegio Capranica. He told them that while martyrdom marks a final and heroic act, the "informed, free and mature" choice of virginity is rather the "fruit of a long friendship with Jesus" developed through close knowledge of his words and constant prayer. Legend says St. Agnes died in 304 or 305 at the hands of the suitor she spurned so she could remain faithful only to Christ. Pope Benedict said the saint faced her fate with exemplary courage. Her martyrdom illustrates "the beauty of belonging to Christ

without hesitation." The path to the priesthood requires a similar level of commitment, the pope said, as well as integrity, well-roundedness, ascetic exercise and "heroic faith." He reminded the seminary students that "faith has its own rational and intellectual dimension, which is essential to it," and that it is the student's responsibility to assimilate the "Christian synthesis of faith and reason."

Immigration advocates urged to keep up their efforts despite obstacles

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — Biblical prophets who proclaimed God's word often suffered for their work, but nevertheless kept the word burning within them, an Arizona bishop said as he urged immigration advocates gathered in Salt Lake City to keep up their efforts despite obstacles they face. Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares of Phoenix made the comments in his homily at the opening Mass for a three-day conference in mid-January that drew 230 immigration advocates from 43 states for three days of panels, workshops and networking. Titled "Immigration: A 50-State Issue," the conference was sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network. "Today, my brothers and sisters, it is our time to listen to God's word ever anew," Bishop Nevares said Jan. 11. "How do we practice that prophetic office today? By defending the immigrant from discrimination. By striving to be the voice for those who have no voice. By struggling to advocate for the dignity of every human person from the first moment of conception to natural death. By calling for the integrity and unity of all human families. And last but not least, that we urge our government leaders to pass a just, equitable and comprehensive reform to immigration law and system which is broken," he said. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City and Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda of Detroit. Later, at the conference's opening dinner, Bishop Wester in his keynote address said that while Washington legislators seem to be at an impasse regarding comprehensive immigration reform, "we must never give up hope."

Friends, family, parishioners reflect on faith of missing couple

WHITE BEAR LAKE, Minn. (CNS) — Friends and parishioners of St. Pius X Church in White Bear Lake reflected on the lives of Jerry and Barb Heil at an evening prayer service Jan. 18. On Jan. 19, divers resumed the search for 21 people still missing after a Costa Concordia cruise ship crashed into the Italian coast Jan. 13. The Heils are the only Americans who remained unaccounted for among the more than 4,200 passengers. Eleven people died. At St. Pius X, about 450 people gathered to sing, pray, reflect, light candles and pay tribute to the Heils.

Sixty-six seminarians instituted as readers

ROME — Sixty-six seminarians of the Pontifical North American College were instituted to the Ministry of Reader during a celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday, Jan. 15. Royce Gregerson of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who is in his first year of theological studies, was among those seminarians instituted.

The Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop of the Military Services, USA and an alumnus of the college, celebrated the Mass and instituted the new readers. Among the concelebrants of the Mass were the American bishops present in Rome for their "ad limina" visits with Pope Benedict XVI, including His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and Cardinal-elect Edwin O'Brien, Pro-Grandmaster of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and former rector of the Pontifical North American College.

Henry-Keefe Scholarship winners announced

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School has announced the winners of the 17th annual Henry-Keefe Scholarship.

They are Kathryn Justice of Memorial Park School; Claire Rorick of St. Therese School; Ethan Brown of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School; Leah Schroeder of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School; Noah Meiser of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School; Megan Baker of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School; Claire K. Rorick of St. Charles School; Hudson Fairchild of Memorial Park School; Augustus Serrani of St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; Joseph Wyatt of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School; Maria Lill of St. Therese; Brandon Javins of St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; and Dana Baldus of St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.

Saint Joseph's seniors compile research

NOTRE DAME — Saint Joseph's High School seniors Chris Agostino and Guido Caponigri-Guerra have been working in the lab of Dr. Alex Kandel in the Department of Chemistry and BioChemistry at the University of Notre Dame, with Dr. Thomas Loughran, through an Independent Research course offered at Saint Joseph's High School.

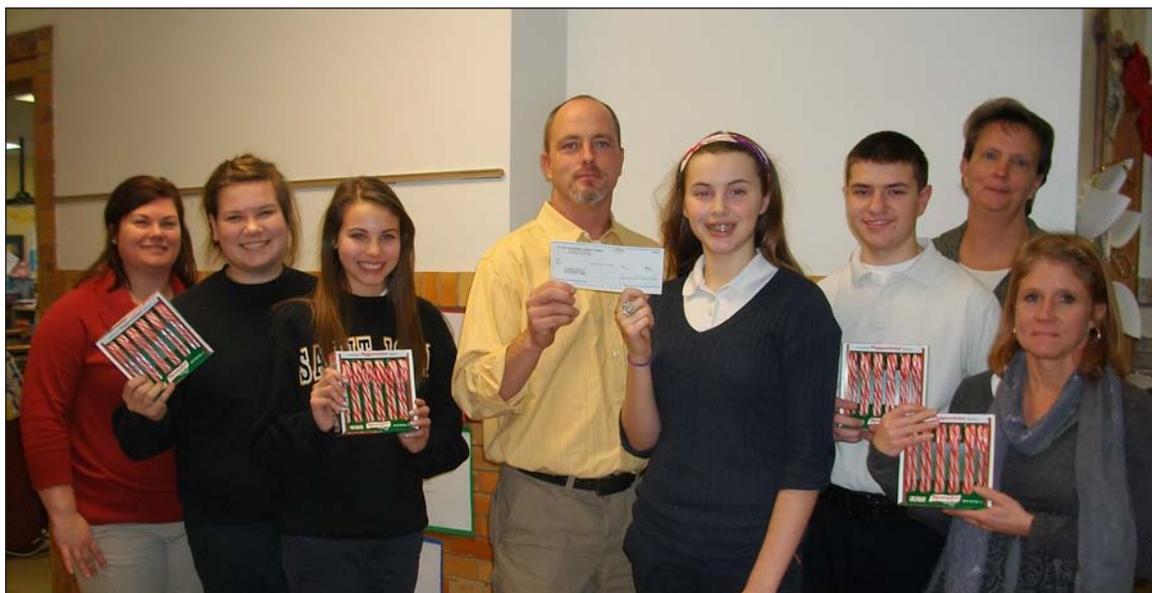
Caponigri-Guerra, who has worked in the lab for the past two summers, is researching various elements that have been exposed to radioactivity with an electron microscope.

Agostino, who spent the past summer in the lab, is focusing on expanding these elements with the heat of a laser.

The work Agostino and Caponigri-Guerra have done in the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. JOHN STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS SELLING CANDY CANES



TESS STEFFEN

Student Council members at St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne, sold over 400 candy canes before Christmas break to raise funds for The Franciscan Center in Fort Wayne. Representatives from the student council presented a check for \$250 to Tony Ley, director of The Franciscan Center. From left are Principal Amanda Robinson, Abby Jones, Megan Alberding, Tony Ley, Dana Baldus, Alex Steffen and moderators Gail Welling and JoElla Graney.

lab will be published in the coming months as part of a graduate thesis in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry* titled "Coadsorption of Octanethiol and Dialkylthiocarbamate on Au(111)." Both Agostino and Guido Caponigri-Guerra are listed as coauthors. Their summer work was directed by Professor Kandel, and Dr. Annette Raigoza, the paper's first author.

SJRM named one of the nation's top 15 health systems

MISHAWAKA — Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRM) was named one of the nation's 15 top health systems and awarded top five for small health systems (less than \$750 million in operating expenses) by Thomson Reuters, a leading provider of information and solutions to improve the cost and quality of healthcare. The top health systems were announced in the Jan. 16 edition of *Modern Healthcare* magazine.

According to Thomson Reuters' analysis of more than 300 health systems, the 15 top health systems, in matchups with their peers, are ahead of the pack in all study comparisons having better survival rates, fewer patient complications, better long-term outcomes, better adherence to accepted care protocols and patient-safety standards, shorter hospital stays and higher patient-satisfaction scores.

"Being recognized as one of the nation's top 15 health systems is a testament to our strong culture of quality and safety and our unwavering commitment to efficiency in healthcare," said Albert Gutierrez, president and CEO for Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center.

Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative hopes to SPARK new local businesses

NOTRE DAME — The Saint Mary's College Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative (WEI), the go-to place for Michiana's female entrepreneurs, has announced it will once again offer the SPARK entrepreneurship-training program.

The 11-week program, which will take place from Feb. 14 to April 26 at the college, is aimed at under-resourced, high-potential women entrepreneurs. The intent of the program is to assist women in "sparking" or launching successful businesses. It's the second time WEI has offered this program.

Those interested in taking part in SPARK must apply in person at a screening on Tuesday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the media center collaboratory (room B11) on the lower level of the Cushman-Leighton Library. Twelve to 14 women will be selected to join the program and must commit

to meeting every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A fee of \$150 is due on the first day of class. Classes will take place in the media center collaboratory.

WEI is a joint endeavor between the Department of Business Administration and Economics and the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) at Saint Mary's College. To contact Martha Smith, WEI's project director, email wei@saintmarys.edu or call (574) 284-5262.

South Bend K of C host 'Walk the Talk for Life'

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend area Knights of Columbus will host their annual "Walk the Talk for Life" event on Sunday, Jan. 29, from 2-4 p.m. This free event begins at the K of C Council 553 hall at 553 Washington St., at the corner of Hill and Washington in downtown South Bend.

Participants will gather at 2 p.m. and walk to the nearby St. Joseph Church for a prayer service. Following the service, University of Notre Dame Law School Professor Carter Snead, the incoming director of Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture, will speak on pro-life issues back at the council hall. There will be time for questions and networking, with light food and beverages served. For more information, call Bill Schmitt at (574) 232-6777.

ST. DOMINIC PARISHIONERS TAKE PART IN BREMEN MARCH FOR LIFE



MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Some of the marchers, which included these four girls from St. Dominic Parish, Bremen, took time to pause before walking during a recent right-to-life march held in the town where students and some adults walked to the downtown crossroads of Bremen. Pictured left to right are Ruby Jimenez, Arasely Gutierrez, Alexa Grendys and Madilyn Eberle.

Father Tom O'Connor 2012 Light of Christ

Encouraging next generation of servant leaders

FORT WAYNE — St. Mary Catholic Church in Fort Wayne, in cooperation with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award. The award is presented each year to an individual or group whose work reflects the strong values exemplified by Father O'Connor during his many years as a priest.

Father O'Connor, who died March 17, 2004, at the age of 74, served as pastor of St. Mary's Parish for 34 years, and is considered by many to be an icon of Catholic faith in action.

This year the award committee invites nominations of persons of faith, high school age or older, who volunteer their time in the educational realm. The award carries with it a monetary gift given in the name of the recipient to her or his designated project, school, faith community or nonprofit organization.

Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award nominations are open to persons of all faith traditions. Guidelines for nominations are available on the St. Mary's website www.stmarysfw.org and from the St. Mary Church Office, (260) 424-8231.

Previous award winners are Cliff Kindy, 2007, for his work in non-violence, Sister Janet Gildea, 2008, for her efforts among diverse cultures, William Critell 2009, for his dedication to education among the disadvantaged, University of Saint Francis student Danielle Collins, 2010, for her leadership and volunteer work to promote justice for the disadvantaged and the Volunteer Ramp Builders, 2011, for their efforts to expand the horizons of persons with physical disabilities.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 23, and additional information is available on the St. Mary's website, www.stmarysfw.org.

How to apply

1. Nominations must be made by someone who knows the nominee well.

2. Nominees, of any faith, must come from a strong faith background and be of good character.

3. The nomination must include the following information in the order listed:

- Nominee's name
- Contact information
- Age and school or occupation
- Faith affiliation
- Where the monetary award is to be directed, should the nominee receive the award
- Name and contact information of the person submitting the nomination
- Names and contact information of three references
- A brief narrative no more than two pages in length explaining why the nominee should be considered for this award.

4. Email submissions (Word document attachment) are preferred and should be sent to jan.stmarys@frontier.com. Email nominations must be received no later than noon Feb. 23.

5. Letters of nomination may also be mailed to Father Tom O'Connor Award Committee, St. Mary Catholic Church, PO Box 11383, Fort Wayne, IN 46857-1383, and must be received no later than Feb. 23.

SERRA CLUB PRESENTS SKETCH TO FRIARS' NOVITIATE



FRIAR EMANUEL VASCONCELOS

Stephen Elek, Jr., president of the Serra Club of South Bend, made a recent presentation to the St. Francis of Assisi Novitiate Friary, Mishawaka, of a sketch of Blessed Father Junipera Serra, which also contains a written summary of the California missions he founded. In the picture with Elek, right of photo, are Conventual Franciscan Brother Paschal Kolodziej, Friar Arturo Felix, Friar Andrew Burkholder, Father Camillus Gott, Father Giles Zakowicz, Friar Emanuel Vasconcelos, Friar Benedict Abugu, Friar Moises Avila, Friar Matthew Bond and Friar Thomas Fetz.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER STUDENTS SUPPORT HEARTLINE PREGNANCY



PROVIDED BY ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

High school students from St. Francis Xavier Parish, Pierceton, prepared and served a special breakfast for their parish on Nov. 6, 2011. Proceeds of \$450 from the free-will offerings collected at the breakfast were used to purchase diapers for the Heartline Pregnancy Center, Inc., in Warsaw, which offers free pregnancy testing for women in need, as well as education and resources throughout pregnancy. Pictured is the group of high school students, along with St. Francis Xavier Pastor Father Dale Bauman, in back, right, who participated in the breakfast, purchase and delivery of the diapers the week before Christmas.

Visiting author kicks off Young Authors Program

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School welcomed children's book author and illustrator Lynn Rowe Reed as a visiting author on Jan. 16. Reed spoke to the kindergarten through fourth-grade students about the writing process. Following a demonstration on use of Photoshop to enhance the art for her children's books, she read the students a few of her books.

Reed, whose books are characterized by bright, colorful and childlike illustrations, has written and illustrated 16 children's books including, "Roscoe and the Pelican Rescue" and "Please Don't Upset P.U. Zorilla."

Her visit to the St. Elizabeth campus kicked off St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School's 2012 Young Author Program, whose goal is to enrich writing skills and inspire the students to write and illustrate a book, using a blank and bound Bare Book. The program was organized by resource teacher Jaci Kaufman and school librarian Kay Lynn Isca.

Bishop Dwenger hosts Summit Show Choir Invitational

FORT WAYNE — All the excitement and entertainment of show choir competition is coming to Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne on Jan. 28, beginning at 9 a.m. with final awards at 10:45 p.m., as it plays host to multiple top-notch show choirs, solo and ensemble groups from within the tri-state area.

Participants will be performing a wide range of musical styles and precision choreographies. The choirs perform during the day for trophies in the categories of Best Choir, Best Vocals, Best Choreography, Best Band, Best Crew and Best Individual Performance Within a Choir. The top five groups from the afternoon competition will perform again in the night show for grand champion honors. Bishop Dwenger's Summit Sound and Elegance choirs will also perform in exhibition. All are welcome to this exciting all-day event.

Those who cannot attend are still able to experience the excitement through online streaming by logging on to www.icblivetv.com/show/DwengerLive.



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KAY COZAD

Meg Ryan works with freshman Thomas Dooley, right, and junior Dylan Call, center, during a Pathways to Success class at Bishop Luers High School. The Pathways to Success program is a new initiative developed by Ryan to serve those students with special needs.

Bishop Luers serves special needs students with new program

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Pathways to Success, an innovative new program implemented at Bishop Luers High School last year, is blazing trails for special needs students in search of a Catholic education in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In its third semester, the program, developed and facilitated by Meg Ryan, ensures that this Catholic high school lives up to its vision statement to “expand our challenging curriculum to include more course offerings, which address the needs of students at every

level.”

The program, housed in the old home economics room, is designed to assist any student who has a working individual educational plan (IEP) for a diagnosed disability. Those disabilities may include attention deficit disorder (ADD), Asperger’s Syndrome — a high functioning form of autism, autism, cognitive, learning, and/or physical disabilities, and other health impairments such as epilepsy.

Pathways to Success came to life after Bishop Luers Principal Mary Keefer reported to Ryan

NEEDS, PAGE 18

Most Precious Blood School provides more than the required curriculum

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne offers its students much more than the required curriculum. A unique all-day preschool program provides quality enrichment for preschool aged children. Also offered are the TV studio, community service outreach, the historic bowling alley and junior high electives.

Enrichment programs begin early at Most Precious Blood School and extend through the life of the student's experience there. While most schools offer only one-half day or part-time preschool, Most Precious Blood offers an all-day preschool program. The program focuses on five areas of child development: spiritual and emotional, social, physical, intellectual and creative. The goal is to meet the needs of the children through creative, hands-on learning opportunities.

Every sixth-, seventh- and

eighth-grade student is required to take a class titled "production." In the production class, students learn about the equipment needed to produce a segment and edit videos they have filmed. The school then sends these videos to LTV Channel 54 and Frontier Verizon Channel 24 to be aired on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. The class gives students valuable experience with adding sound, credits and other elements required to prepare the video for airing. The operating expenses to maintain and replace the equipment are paid for through a grant from the City of Fort Wayne.

The students also give back to their community through generous and consistent donations to food banks. Bloomingdale Food Bank honored the students' dedication by naming Most Precious Blood School Volunteer of the Year last year. The students also offer seasonal help by collecting money for the Holy Child Association during Advent and Riley Hospital for Children for



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD SCHOOL

Preschool students work on patterning skills.

the Christmas season.

Ali Bergman, principal at the school says, "Community service is important to our school because it allows our students to learn to live their lives by the example set by Jesus of giving and caring."

Most Precious Blood School is also quite unique in that it is



Students in the advanced robotics elective test the arm of their robot.

the only school in the diocese that has a six-lane bowling alley in the basement. The bowling alley is used by Bishop Dwenger's bowling team and rented for league bowling. The students enrolled at Most Precious Blood School also use it as a form of exercise

when it is too cold to go outside for recess.

"Students use their math skills to hand-score the games and learn how to work together on a team when bowling," reports Bergman.

The electives open to the junior high students are not only fun, but aim to prepare them for future opportunities in their areas of interest. The beginning and advanced level Spanish electives are designed to allow the student to test out of the first year of high school Spanish.

The newspaper elective has students reporting and writing on school events. An elective on strategy encourages higher-level thinking and problem solving. For students who want to explore maps, compasses and GPS, students can learn how GPS satellites work and use geo-caching to pull it all together. The robotics elective gives students the opportunity to build robots out of Lego kits, program them using computers and then learn how to use the sensors on the robots.

Students of the Diocesan High Schools of Fort Wayne-South Bend consistently outperform their counterparts on standardized tests.

- 98% go on to some form of higher education
- 86% participate in co-curricular activities and community service
- 98% graduate
- are taught by educators who instill the basic values of family, faith, respect, and discipline in their curriculum.



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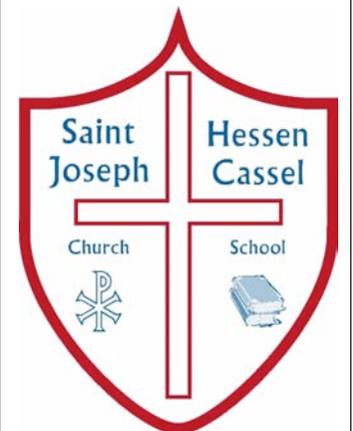


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St. Joseph School, Monroeville, celebrates 100 years of exemplary education

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

MONROEVILLE — One hundred years after opening its doors, St. Joseph Catholic School in Monroeville is planning a full year of celebration. The milestone will be marked with numerous events planned by a committee comprised of Pastor Father Lourdino Fernandes, Principal Carolyn Kirkendall and various members of the school staff, parents (past and present) and parish members.

Along with the development committee, they have been busy preparing ways to utilize the centenary celebrations to express their gratitude and to pay tribute to all the brave pioneers who came before them and have made the school what it is today. It is their hope that the year will be full of opportunities to celebrate 100 years of dedication, academic excellence, training men and women of character and of love being passed down to children from generation to generation.

Kirkendall, who has been at the helm for the past 27 years, is proud to have played a vital role in the school's illustrious history. "It is neat to see my former students now in a parent role. They want what they received from SJS for their own children," she said, adding, "It is exciting to be celebrating something so positive. One hundred years is a long time to be in our community. And it is even more exciting to be revitalizing after 100 years instead of dying off."

A commencement thanksgiving Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church has been set for March 18, to kick off the birthday celebrations with a closing Mass slated for March 17, 2013. Both dates are near the feast day of the school's patron, St. Joseph, on March 19. Other events in the works include bimonthly nostalgia days for alumni and an ongoing collection of donations to be permanently recognized on a "wall of fame."

In the fall of 1912, St. Joseph School opened under the title of St. Rose Academy. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first term. Father Norbert Feldon was pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Sixth-grader Erica Renninger greets Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during his first visit last year.

at the time and Dennis Fletter served as the original lay principal. Feldon helped to construct the first school with generous contributions from the early parishioners. The Sisters of St. Joseph, Convent of Milwaukee, Wis., taught in the school for 60 years before withdrawing in 1972.

The school was re-named St. Joseph School (SJS) after Father Charles Marr, who served as pastor from 1909-1922, sought the intercession of St. Joseph to help defray debt incurred by modernization and establishment of a commercial school. Over the last century, countless others have contributed blood, sweat and tears, along with their time, talent and treasure to ensure an excellent, quality Catholic education to all who have entered the doors of SJS.

The institution has responded to the changing times by updating many times and in many ways over the past 100 years to maintain its enviable reputation and rich legacy in the community and across the diocese.

The theme for the 12-months of activities is "The SJS Centenary: Celebrating the Past, Building for the Future." While focusing on the achievements and past successes of SJS, the

planning committee is also determined to look forward to a confident future ensuring all of their children have access to a high quality Catholic education for the next 100 years.

Considering that the current building is in need of substantial repairs and upgrading, a unique opportunity is being considered to purchase a facility in the community to build for the upcoming generations.

"The investment would be a most worthy centenary project," firmly agreed Father Fernandes. The enrollment of the school has significantly increased from a year ago to 87 students. Kirkendall attributes the growth to the hard work and dedicated efforts of the marketing committee over the years.

"Their recruitment efforts have been focused on getting new students in our doors at the start of the educational career," she said. SJS boasts a record-size kindergarten class from years past. Kirkendall also noted that the school added a few additional students in the upper grades thanks to both the newly implemented voucher system and 2010 closure of the nearby public elementary school. Father Fernandes has set a personal goal

of 100 students for the upcoming school year during the 100th year celebration.

When asked what she is looking forward to most about the upcoming year, Kirkendall quickly replied, "Retirement!" Kirkendall will be passing on the torch at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

Also, active in the planning for the upcoming festivities, the principal explained, "I feel it is

an ideal time to go ahead with my plans to retire."

Alumnus Joan Bultemeier, whose mother, children and now grandchildren have attended SJS, has been a teacher at the school for the past quarter century. She serves as a joint associate chair on the committee and marveled, "I have been amazed at the way our parish has rallied together to plan the celebration."

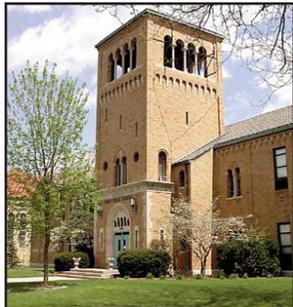


St. Joseph School



A procession at St. Rose Church, Monroeville, is shown with school students during Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades's first visit to the school last year.

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Experience Luers Spirit

Bishop Rhoades visits 'a great high school of our diocese'

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was quick to compliment students and staff during a recent school visit. "It is always a joy for me to come to Bishop Luers High School, a great high school of our diocese," he said in greeting as he began the all-school Mass, which kicked off the day's activities.

Principal Mary Keefer was equally pleased. "How honored we are that he takes a whole day out of his schedule," she said. "It shows what a priority Catholic education is for him."

Ever the teacher, Bishop Rhoades discussed the day's readings during his homily. He pointed out that St. Anthony the Abbot, founder of Christian monasticism, was an excellent example of the importance of prayer. And not only did he pray, he "put on the armor of God" in order to resist the devil. The bishop drew a comparison to the familiar figure of the school mascot, the Bishop Luers Knight, to illustrate his point.

He left students with a reminder. The way to peace and eternal joy is through faith, he told them. But faith is more than simply obeying the commandments, he said. Faith is also about following God.

Bishop Rhoades commented on the respect and attention exhibited by students during the Mass. Indeed, the reverent silence was remarkable for a student body of more than 500. However, Mass, penance service, daily Communion and class retreats are an integral part of the Luers experience. Students learn and live the beliefs, traditions and customs of the Catholic Church through participation in activities and theology courses.

Bishop Luers High School's Catholic identity is founded on faith and the teaching of Jesus Christ. Spiritual formation revolves around the presence of Christ in the sacraments, as well as living the faith through word and deed.

As is his custom, Bishop Rhoades fielded questions from students following Mass in the gymnasium. Prompted by the discussion of St. Anthony's struggle with the devil, someone asked the bishop if he has ever performed an exorcism. He hasn't, but he has said "prayers of deliverance" in blessing a home under demonic influence.

When queried whether the life of a priest gets richer over time he replied, "It's been a joyful life for me!"

When asked his opinion of popular Denver Broncos' quarterback Tim Tebow, the bishop said he admires him.

Bishop Luers High School was

founded in 1958 by the Franciscan Fathers of Saint John the Baptist Province in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the Sisters of Saint Francis Province in Mishawaka, who were its first instructors. It is named after Bishop John Henry Luers, first bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Bishop Luers High School is a co-educational, college prep high school renowned for student achievement in academics, athletics and the arts. It combines a well-rounded education with an emphasis on the teachings of the faith.

Students come from 11 Catholic and many public elementary schools. Academically, 99 percent of students graduate, with fully 95 percent continuing on to higher education and 4 percent pursuing military careers.

The average class size is 20 students and the student-teacher ratio is 18-1. The school is accredited by the North Central Association Commission of Schools and the state of Indiana. It won a first class (the highest) certification rating in 2010.

After sharing lunch with members of the student council, Bishop Rhoades visited a Spanish class and conversed with students, showing his fluency in the language. He also spent time in teacher Meg Hanlon's senior theology classes, which were studying social justice. He spoke to them at length about life issues since the 39th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion was near and several students had planned to participate in the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. He also quizzed students on their upcoming thesis topics, which included such subjects as poverty, capital punishment, the dignity of women and contraception, and recommended reference materials for many of them.

Principal Keefer points out that athletics are also an important component of the Luers experience and include both team and individual accomplishments. Students may choose from 19 varsity sports, all of which improve physical skills, build character and develop a sense of teamwork.

In 2008 Bishop Luers became the first school in Indiana high school history to win three major sports titles, for football, basketball and baseball, in one year.

A strong program in the arts allows students to develop their gifts and talents via plays and musicals, speech and art contests, art classes and music appreciation, choir and band. Indeed, Keefer announced after Mass that the Luers show choir had just won a national third-place rating, much to the delight of students, faculty and guests.

Bishop Rhoades commented



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

frequently during the day on the down-to-earth atmosphere he encountered. "There's such a family feeling here," he said. And that is exactly as planned. "Luers Spirit is a 'family thing,'" says the school handbook. It is "embodied in the vitality of the young and the wisdom of the old. It is ageless. Luers Spirit keeps generations coming back to Bishop Luers and beckons visitors to join our family." It "inspires each of us to be the very best we can be and to see the good in each other. Luers Spirit invites us to let our light shine and show Jesus Christ's love to those we encounter."

There is little doubt that Bishop Rhoades would say he "felt the spirit" during his visit to Bishop Luers High School.



Bishop Rhoades celebrates Mass in the gym with the student body, faculty and guests of Bishop Luers High School, assisted by Deacon Jim Tighe, right, and Father Andrew Curry, not pictured.



Members of the student council give Bishop Rhoades an informal tour of the hallways, library, labs and classrooms of Bishop Luers High School.

Bishop visits Marian Knights in new high-tech classrooms

BY ANN CAREY

MISHAWAKA — When Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made his annual visit to Marian High School Jan. 9, he not only celebrated an all-school Mass and visited with students and faculty, he also got to see Marian's new high-tech classrooms in action.

Marian is a little over a year into its "u.Knight Capital Campaign" to unite alumni, students, parents, grandparents and friends of Marian in an effort to update the 48-year-old building with high-tech, energy-efficient classrooms. To date, \$2 million of the \$2.25 million goal has been met, and 17 classrooms have undergone complete renovations that include new energy-saving heating, cooling and lighting, as well as new furniture, floors, bookcases and window treatments. Work on the remaining classrooms will resume this summer when students are not in the building.

Bishop Rhoades admired the new smart whiteboards in the renovated classrooms when he visited the junior Catholic morality class taught by Vicki Schwab, chairperson of the Marian Theology Department. The whiteboards are similar to the old blackboards in that the teacher can write on them, but the similarity ends there. Whiteboards also can display in large format the teacher's computer screen and are touch-enabled so that the user can select or move material with a pen or finger and convert handwriting into text.

Bishop Rhoades used the boards to write terms as he discussed with the class the dangers of moral relativism, a topic the class will study in this new semester. He explained that many people in modern society have rejected the concept of objective truth and instead believe that each person should decide for himself what is right and wrong.

"You can imagine how dangerous that is," Bishop Rhoades told the class, for this "can really damage the human community."

As Christians, we believe that God determines what is good and evil, and this is objective and universal, the bishop explained. He gave the example that murder throughout history was considered to be evil by every culture. Today, he continued, distinctions are drawn and some say it is acceptable to kill the unborn or terminally ill because they are a burden on society.

"The Catholic Church is very strong in affirming and teaching that there are objective moral truths," Bishop Rhoades said.

Thus, he continued, it can be "tough" for Christians to uphold these values in our culture today because of what Pope Benedict XVI has called this growing "dictatorship of relativism." The bishop said that upholding Christian values often results in being accused of bigotry or being



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

Referring to the Gospel for that day's feast, the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, the bishop explained that Jesus went into the water to be baptized not because He had sinned, but "as a sign that He was taking upon Himself the sins of humanity."

When the heavens opened and the Father spoke, and the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove, this was "a tremendous theophany," a manifestation, a revelation of God, Bishop Rhoades said, for by taking on the sins of humanity, Jesus enabled all to be children of God. The words the Father said to Jesus at His baptism — "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" — also belong to all, he continued, for the grace of God descends upon the person being baptized.

"We become beloved, adopted sons and daughters of God. Young people — this is your dignity; this is my dignity. ... You always need to remember that: You are beloved



Bishop Kevin Rhoades leads an all-school Mass at Marian High School, with six priests from the local area concelebrating.



Bishop Rhoades discusses this year's schedule and record for Marian High School's men's basketball team with four senior members.

close-minded, and he related that he often is criticized for upholding Church teaching on such topics as same-sex marriage.

Bishop Rhoades told the class that in some ways, Catholics and Christians are becoming more countercultural, reminding him of the first-century Christians who recognized the immoral practices in society then. Those Christians were persecuted, but eventually brought about a transformation to a Christian civilization that lasted hundreds of years, but now is being challenged, he observed.

For young people, he warned, "It's going to take more courage to be true to our faith because it's not always going to be popular."

At the all-school Mass that preceded bishop's visits to classrooms, Bishop Rhoades used his homily to encourage the 720 Marian students to always remember their human dignity as adopted sons and daughters of God.



An administrative office in Marian High School features a metal artwork depicting a jousting knight on horseback.

sons, beloved daughters of our heavenly Father. You are brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ."

Concelebrating the all-school Mass with Bishop Rhoades were several area pastors: Father Barry England, pastor of St. Bavo, Mishawaka; Father David Ruppert, pastor of St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend; Father Jeffery Largent, pastor of Little Flower, South Bend; Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, pastor St. Monica, Mishawaka; Father John Delaney, pastor of St. Jude, South Bend, and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lakeville; and Father Matthew Coonan, parochial vicar at St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart.

After the 9 a.m. Mass, the bishop visited classrooms, had lunch with student council members and met with the theology faculty. Accompanying Bishop Rhoades on his visit to Marian was diocesan school superintendent Dr. Mark Myers.

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Accepting Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' challenge to all Catholic school children to undertake projects to help support the Holy Childhood Association, two St. Joseph School, Monroeville, sixth-graders Klowie Long, left, and Siarra Small, right, organized a gently used toy drive and spent a few days advertising, organizing and selling the toys, games and stuffed animals donated by school students. The students, who raised \$160, were then able to purchase items to contribute to the Holy Childhood Association.

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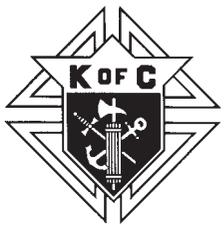
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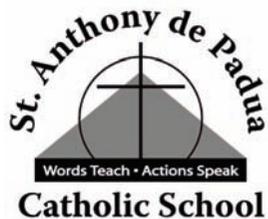
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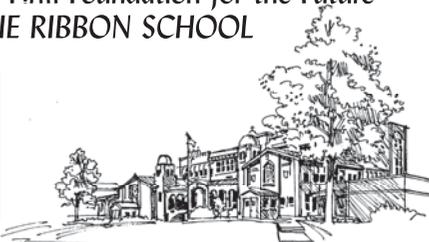
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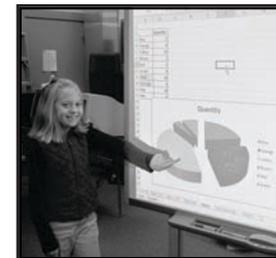
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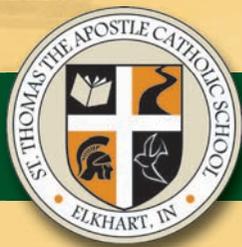
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NEEDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

that state funds earmarked for special education were budgeted through Fort Wayne Community Schools for Luers.

"She said they had money and wanted to hire a new teacher," says Ryan. The young and enthusiastic teacher took the challenge, and as a third party contract employee, set about designing a program that would meet the needs of the diverse group of students with whom she would work.

Ryan, a native of Fort Wayne and parishioner of St. John the Baptist Parish, is a 2005 graduate of Bishop Luers. She holds a bachelor's degree in education, with a minor in communicative disorders, from Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame.

After a year teaching abroad in Ghana, her initial intent was to work with elementary-aged students. But when Keefer invited her to take on this project, she admits she was intrigued. And after the initial adjustment and "establishing her turf" at the high school, Ryan says, "I love this age of student. I am comfortable and really like that I can have an adult conversation with them."

After completing a mission statement and philosophy for

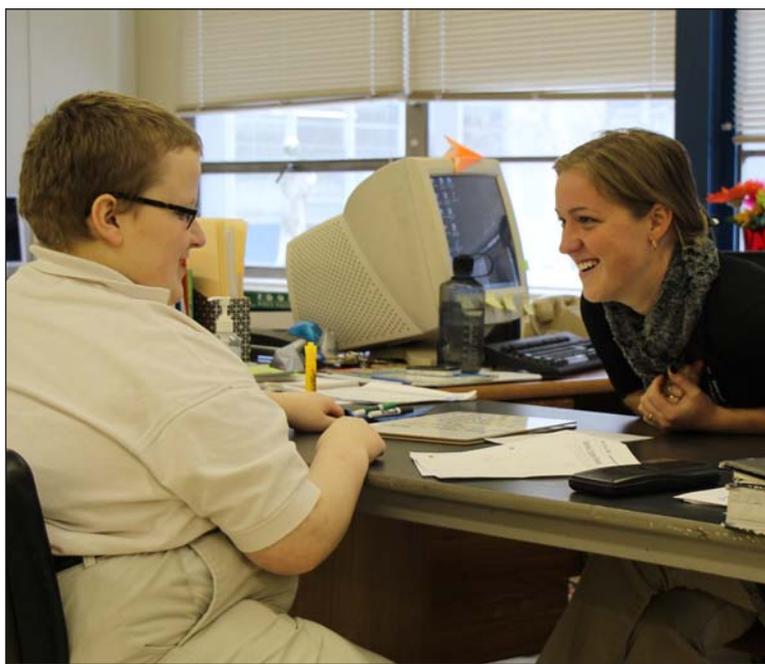
Pathways to Success, which is an elective course that earns a grade, Ryan realized that without teacher support her program would not fly. So, in August of 2010, with hopeful determination and a Power Point presentation she set out to win over Luers' 41 faculty members.

"I approached it in the light that we can serve these students the best way possible. They are still children of God and deserve to be educated," she says passionately, adding, "The teachers are really flexible here with my program. It's a learning process for all of us."

This semester 17 of 40 students who have IEPs are scheduled for the 50-minute classes throughout the day, while many come to Ryan intermittently for special assistance with assignments or exams. Many of the classes are one-to-one intervention, while others are small group study.

In what Ryan calls a guided study hall, her students are required to bring assignments or study materials to work on, along with their planner, which helps the students develop organizational skills. Twice each quarter, Ryan prints out each student's grades, with a detailed report on any missing assignments for any grades below a C-, information important for future studies.

Though academic success is the focus, the heart of the program is Ryan's ability to adjust



Meg Ryan works on an assignment with freshman Thomas Dooley during a Pathways to Success class at Bishop Luers High School.

each session to the individual student's need. She assists students with social skills, interaction, anger management and life skills, as well. One student is learning teeth brushing and basic hygiene. "Every day is different," says Ryan, adding, "There's lots of flexibility."

Developing a relationship with each student is high on Ryan's priority list and she works diligently to create opportunities to do just that.

"I have a conference once

every quarter to talk with them," she says. "I feel like at the high school level having a conversation can build a relationship."

Ryan creates a classroom that is "safe, comfortable and open."

"Kids know the boundaries, but the room is relaxed," she reports, adding, "They trust me and that means a lot to me. Through these experiences they can learn to be upstanding people."

Freshman Thomas Dooley seems to be reaping the benefit

of Pathways and says, "Actually I can do my homework because I get helped by Ms. Ryan. She's a nice teacher."

Junior Dylan Call couldn't agree more that Pathways to Success impacts his education. "I'm doing a lot better. We work on history, which is my hardest class. I can take tests here and she can read them to me. She's my best friend and hero!"

Ryan was encouraged by the meeting held at St. Charles School in Fort Wayne on Jan. 18 for parents, teachers and administrators who were interested in providing a Catholic education for their special needs students.

"Acknowledging the fact that there is a need and knowing they must address it is the first step," Ryan says.

When asked about her hope for the future of Pathways to Success, Ryan enthusiastically replies, "I'm very hopeful. Eventually I'd like the program to become Luers' own special education program run by them. I'd love for Luers to train more teachers, to serve more students."

As for her very diverse and special students she says, "My goal for them is to grow as students and individuals by the time they leave Luers. I want them to be successful in life."

No one can argue with that.

Fifty-fifth anniversary of Priestly Ordination

In a few days I will observe 55 years as a priest. The ordination in my seminary in those years took place on Feb. 2, 1957, the day the Church commemorates that moment when Mary brought her Child to the temple in observance of the Jewish law.

I am struck about how I remember almost every moment of that cold and snowy day. After a lifetime it remains so clear, etched in my memory forever. My parents. My sisters. The Cathedral of the Holy Cross. My brother priests who prostrated themselves on the sanctuary floor as a sign of offering everything.

I have never felt worthy of the gift of the priesthood, but still I reflect on the years with profound joy and gratitude.

More and more these days my prayer is turning to thanksgiving, thanksgiving to God for what happened that day through the laying

on of hands by the unforgettable Cardinal Cushing. Thanksgiving also for the gift of Episcopal orders, which took place on another Feast of Our Lady — Feb. 11, the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

As the anniversary approaches, I find coming to mind the words of two extraordinary popes, with whom I have served. The first expression clarifies the priestly vocation, and the second gives light for the future.

The great day for the pope

While at lunch with Pope John Paul II and other bishops at our “ad limina” visit, I said to him, “Holy Father, do you have a word for our priests?” His response was immediate.

“Tell your priests,” he said, “the great day for the pope was not the day when he became a bishop or a pope, but the day he was ordained



BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

GUEST
COMMENTARY

a priest and could say Mass for the people.”

“... could say Mass for the people.” This expression is filled with light and grace and theological content. It is also marked by humility, for it makes clear the gift of Holy Orders is not primarily for the priest himself, but for the people.

The priest, acting in the person of Christ, is fittingly called to make the only life that he will ever live as

D'ARCY, PAGE 20

Jesus rescues us from sin and points the way to holiness



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 1:21-28

The Book of Deuteronomy furnishes the first reading for this weekend. Deuteronomy appears in modern Bibles as the fifth book in sequence in the Old Testament. It is one of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, all of them attributed to Moses.

In this reading, Moses addresses the chosen people, whom he has led, with God's help, from Egypt where they were enslaved. He promises that God will send prophets, with whom the people can relate. If anyone presumes to take the role of prophet upon himself or herself, without having been called by God, then this imposter will die.

God will take care of His people.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. From the earliest days of Christianity, virginity has been treasured. Christians have never been forbidden to marry, although all Christians are bound to be chaste, according to their state in life. However, over the centuries, Christians have chosen lifelong virginity for religious reasons.

Corinth, in the first century, was a city notorious for its outrageous immorality. It was a busy commercial center. Visitors often availed themselves of the pleasures of the

flesh provided in Corinth. Indeed, Aphrodite, the goddess of love and carnal desire, was the city's special deity.

Paul sees virginity as a powerful Christian witness, and from a more pragmatic point of view, he thinks that Christians not obligated by marriage and parenthood can devote their whole time to God's service.

St. Mark's Gospel is the source of the third reading. It is an interesting story, the first of four references to exorcisms.

First, Mark again reveals the identity of Jesus. While Judaism has never required weekly attendance by Jews at synagogue services, going to synagogue to pray together, and to learn the teachings of the Torah, was definitely a high value for Jews during the time of Jesus, as indeed it is even among Jews today.

That Jesus went to the synagogue, and on the Sabbath at that, reveals the ongoing gift of salvation offered by God to the chosen people. Jesus fulfilled and culminated this long process of mercy and life.

Then, Jesus spoke with authority, and the people realized this.

The most dramatic moment came when a man “with an unclean spirit” appeared. This man recognized Jesus as the “Holy One of God,” affirming that Jesus has the power to do anything.

Exercising nothing less than divine power, Jesus orders the unclean spirit to leave the man, and the unclean spirit obeys.

Again, the people are amazed. No devil can overcome the power of God.

Reflection

Thanks be to God, few people today would say that they, or great numbers of people, are “possessed

by the devil,” although the Church still teaches that such possessions occur.

Still, sin is real. Evil is real. All sin, and sin is the mark of the devil's involvement to some extent at least in any person's spiritual life.

An unfortunate mark of these irreligious times is that fewer and fewer people have any sense of sin. Few think of themselves as sinners. They succumb to the age-old tactic of rationalization, abetted by this culture's increasing rejection of any transcendent religious principle, taught by any religious authority.

The contemporaries of Jesus had a strong sense of sin. They saw personal sin, and society's sin, as the root of all heartache and injustice. They knew that humans, and human communities, easily may be prey for temptation.

Jesus, the Son of God, in the words of Mark, rescues people from sin, forgiving them for sins committed, and pointing the way to holiness.

Resisting sin, nevertheless, requires personal resolve, a determination equal to that urged by Paul in his message to the Corinthians.

READINGS

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9
1 Cor 7:32-35 Mk 1:21-28

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13
Ps 3:2-7 Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a,
30 - 19:3 Ps 86:1-6 Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 Ps 32:1-
2, 5-17 Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10
Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

Friday: Sir 47:2-11 Ps 18:31, 47, 50-51
Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9-14
Mk 6:30-34

Diocesan schools enrolled 764 children with vouchers

The Indiana General Assembly and the courts have placed significant and historic trust in our Catholic schools. We are pleased to report that our teachers, principals and staff within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have responded to the new voucher laws with charity, faith and a renewed commitment to offer the Catholic school advantage to families in need. We have implemented the vouchers while remaining good stewards; our enrollment data show that we are on track.

Diocesan schools enrolled 764 children with vouchers. Our total enrollment increase was 426 students. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend acquired 19 percent of all state vouchers.

Strategy to manage growth

• Phase I — We will continue to fill empty seats in 2012 through 2014. The number of teachers presently under contract within a school defines our number of empty seats. If we have 20 teachers with maximum of 18 per classroom and the school enrolls 300, we would have 60 empty seats. Our first goal is to fill 60 empty seats in schools initially. We expect to fill the majority of empty seats with existing teachers by 2013-2014.

• Phase II — Our goal is to reach building capacity. Over the last three decades, our buildings have been used creatively, while space has been allocated to non-instructional use during a time of declining enrollments. We have estimated that within many of our buildings, we have as much as 30 percent or more available instructional space.

Therefore, our second goal or phase two is to reach building capacity. This phase of growth is much more expensive than filling empty seats because additional teachers will be required to accommodate new students and additional classrooms within a building. Should the present enrollment trends continue, we should expect to reach building capacity somewhere around 2016 or 2017.

We do have some challenges with our growth management plan, however. The demographics have changed dramatically over the last 50 years. We will need to solve the bussing issue or find additional classrooms or buildings within the diocese.

Our marketing initiatives will focus on continuing to provide information about our strong



OUR
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS

DR. MARK MYERS

Catholic education; early data show parents choose Catholic schools because of our Catholic values and our strong academic programs.

Many ask questions about the challenge of maintaining our academic standards if we admit children from public schools. Presently, about 94 percent of Catholic school children graduate from college. Our data show the children with vouchers are making the adjustments very well.

Our individual school capital campaign efforts will be even more critical as we maintain our facilities, plan for the future of Catholic education and serve new diverse populations. Funds will be required to accommodate changing demographics, renew parish schools and guarantee what the Holy Father referred to as every Catholic child's, “right to an education in faith.”

When our present kindergarten children graduate from our Catholic high schools in 2023, we can now predict without hesitation the schools will be strong financially, academically and spiritually.

Please help us spread the word about the Catholic school advantage. Please encourage Catholic parents to contact any school principal to learn more about tax credit scholarships and vouchers. Parents enroll children as a result of such discussions and our schools become stronger.

As you can see, we need your continued support; we rely upon your faithful prayers. Strong and vibrant Catholic schools will ultimately strengthen, fortify and enrich our parishes, our diocese and our faith.

Dr. Mark D. Myers is the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The premarital sex 'test drive'

During a 2011 roundtable discussion on Fox News, guest commentator Jay Thomas argued that young people should not be too concerned when it comes to pre-marital sex, because nobody would choose to "buy a car without driving it first. You don't get married, and you don't learn about sex, by not having it." Any reasonable person would prefer to avoid someone who might be, in his words, "odd in the sack," much as any reasonable person would prefer to avoid getting a lemon when purchasing a new car. Mr. Thomas, therefore, could hardly envision anyone's committing to marriage without first "kicking the tires" a bit, and going for a sex "test drive."

The test drive analogy comes up short in a number of important ways, and premarital sex is not at all synonymous with a harmless "test drive." The context in which sex occurs is everything in terms of "getting it right." Separated from its proper context of marriage, it becomes a quick path to emotional and interpersonal wreckage. Since sex takes on its proper meaning only within marriage, it cannot be properly evaluated outside the marital commitment. It might be analogous to trying to evaluate the performance of a particular car before it has even been assembled or come off the assembly line.

The story is told of a famous but irresponsible racecar driver who decided to borrow a friend's Camaro to take it for a test drive around the racetrack. He quickly ran it to the edge of the speedometer, red-lining the engine at over 100 miles per hour. He pushed it hard for several laps around the track, then finally pulled the vehicle off to the side. As he did so, the strained engine overheated, seized violently, and began to pour out smoke. He

was used to expensive, high performance racing machines, and the Camaro felt sluggish by comparison. He walked away from the vehicle, muttering under his breath, "I wonder what's the matter with that car?" Sex before marriage is a similar kind of "test drive" — clearly unreasonable and harmful.

A sexual "test drive" mentality is essentially exploitative in nature, reducing a potential spouse to someone who is easily replaced by a "better" model. When we take a car for a test drive, and don't like it, we can just return the keys and move on to the next model. But people are not cars that we can just exploit and cast aside.

The notion of a sexual "test drive" as an entrée to matrimony trivializes and degrades the serious business that marriage really is. What sorts of things would a young man be expecting to discover with a sexual "test-drive" anyway? What kinds of qualities would disqualify someone from becoming his wife? If he had lived in purity himself, and it were his first sexual experience fresh on the heels of his marriage vows, he would automatically suppose his wife to be wonderful, and no "comparisons" should even be necessary.

In the final analysis, who really wants to be sexually "compared" to others anyway? Predictably, partners can feel threatened if they think their spouse might be comparing them with previous partners. This provides a strong incentive to abstain from sex before marriage, to protect the emotional safety that spouses need to feel together in marriage. Every woman prefers to marry a man who has lived chastely. Similarly every man, in his heart of hearts, wants to marry a virgin, rather than someone who has been "test-driven" by scores of other men.

— Pope Benedict XVI.

On his pilgrimage to this country, he was interviewed on the airplane. In answer to a question about the great scandal that had fallen on the Church, he said, "It is more important to have good priests than to have many priests." As he has done many times during his pontificate; for example, in his homily at the conclusion of the Year for Priests, with 15,000 priests celebrating with him in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict XVI made clear that the future must be marked by careful discernment before a man is ordained to the priesthood. In my years as bishop, I prayed every day for an increase to the priesthood and consecrated life. Many years ago, I began to add to this prayer asking God to send more candidates for the priesthood and that only men of good quality be accepted and ordained. This reflects the teaching of the Church for centuries.

"The life of the celibate priest, which engages the whole man so totally and so delicately, excludes in fact those of insufficient psychological and moral balance. Nor should anyone pretend that grace supplies for the defects of nature



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

As one happily married woman described it on her internet posting: "I've only been with one guy; he was only with one girl — and it wasn't until our wedding night. Maybe we were both bad in bed. But, you know, neither one of us had any clue, because we'd never been with anyone else. I've never seen that as an issue."

Singer/actress Rebecca St. James, who also participated in the Fox News roundtable, echoed the same sentiments: "Can I just say married sex (and I've never been with anyone other than my husband) is wonderful. It's so cherishing and beautiful, and I'm so glad I don't have any memories with anyone else, and I'm glad my husband doesn't have anybody to compare me to. We only have each other."

Dating and marriage are about commitment and sacrificial love for another person, not comparison shopping for the best deal, or test driving the latest vehicle. Sex is a unique gift by which we hand ourselves over to another within marriage, and cement the treasure of marital love in a permanent commitment to one another.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

in such a man." — Pope Paul VI Encyclical Letter on Priestly Celibacy, 1967.

Retirement, like any stage of life, is an invitation to closer union with Christ. I have been helping on weekdays and Sundays in parishes in both offering Mass "for the people," as John Paul II would say, and also hearing confessions with my brother priests. What has caught my eye especially is the fidelity of those priests with whom I have worked these past 26 years. They have served with humility and courage through the dark days. May God bless them all.

I will give thanks on my anniversary for many things — for my parents, the main instrument of my vocation; my three dear sisters; for the gift of priesthood and I will give thanks for the 26 years I have been privileged to spend with you.

Please pray for me that I may live out these years with increased fidelity and increased devotion to Christ our Savior and to His people.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy is bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for January 29, 2012

Mark 1:21-28

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B, the healing of a possessed man. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CAPERNAUM	SABBATH	JESUS
SYNAGOGUE	PEOPLE	TAUGHT
AS ONE	AUTHORITY	A MAN
SPIRIT	CRIED OUT	NAZARETH
DESTROY US	(I) KNOW	WHO YOU ARE
HOLY (ONE)	QUIET	WHAT IS THIS
OBEY	SPREAD	REGION

FAME

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F W H O Y O U A R E N T
H E W O N K T A N A Y H
T L Y H Q D H N Z E D G
A P A M A N O A B S A U
B O D E S T R O Y U S A
B E R D D E I J O S O T
A P E Z T I T S Q E N I
S Q G H I U Y Z T J E R
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T U O D E I R C A L I P
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St. Paul preached and baptized converts

Where is Crete where St. Paul's ship was caught in a hurricane?

St. Paul was continuing his journey by ship from Jerusalem to Rome when he encountered a hurricane and unexpectedly had to land at the Greek island of Crete (or Kriti). Crete is the largest of the Greek islands in the eastern Mediterranean Sea southeast of mainland Greece. Crete is famous for its ancient Minoan civilization (300-2100 B.C.) and its ancient paintings and ruins are very interesting to see.

O. Meinardus says that St. Paul's ship anchored at Fair Havens in Crete about the end of the first week of October, AD 61. Here the ship stayed for possibly three weeks waiting for the wind to change. Fair Havens (or Kaloi Limenes) is the name of a small village, a bay and a group of islets on the southern coast of Crete.

In 1851 Captain Spratt anchored his paddle steamer where St. Paul's ship had sought shelter. On a ridge over the bay Spratt found the ruins of a Greek chapel dedicated to St. Paul, perhaps marking the very spot where Paul himself used to preach to the natives of Crete.

Today the existing white chapel, commemorating St. Paul's arrival on Crete, is situated on the brow of the hill overlooking the



HIRE HISTORY

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

bay. It is built upon the site of the former church. A few yards to the west of the church is the traditional cave where St. Paul stayed. This cave is marked by a very tall cross. There are houses in Fair Havens scattered around the bay.

Another town of Crete is called Phoenix (modern Loutro) and is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. Loutro was a better harbor for waiting out the winter. The people of Loutro maintain that St. Paul visited their town. Today there is a little chapel of St. Paul and a spring of St. Paul between the coastal towns of Loutro and Aglia Roumeli. This chapel commemorates the site where St. Paul baptized his first Cretan converts. A service is held in this chapel each year on June 29, the feast of St. Peter and Paul.

St. Paul's companion Titus became the first bishop of Crete. There is an epistle of St. Paul to Titus in the New Testament.

D'ARCY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

a gift for the people, who through his words — which are the words of Christ — are joined to the sacrifice of Christ.

This truth is expressed repeatedly during the ritual of ordination; for example, when the bishop hands the candidate the chalice filled with wine and the paten, he says: "understand what you are doing, imitate what you handle and model your life on the Lord's cross."

Only in this context can we begin to understand why the Church has for hundreds of years required the gift of celibacy for the priest. It is fitting that before the priest can offer the Eucharist, he must offer himself — body and soul.

Pope Benedict XVI

I also find myself considering these words of "the Professor Pope," as he once called himself, an extraordinary theologian and pastor

Sports

USF PROMOTES MIKE MCCAFFREY TO ATHLETIC DIRECTOR The University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne has announced the appointment of Mike McCaffrey as athletic director. McCaffrey has served as the university's interim athletic director for nearly a year, after the retirement of athletic director Mark Pope. University Provost Dr. Rolf Daniel praised McCaffrey's performance in the interim position and expressed confidence in his continued competence as athletic director.

Decatur girls' CYO team 'right on track'

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

DECATUR — Despite a sound beating by one of the top teams in the league, Coach Matt Wilder feels his Commodores are right on track.

St. Joseph, Decatur, lost to the St. Charles Cardinals on their home court Saturday, Jan. 21.

However, they have a 5-6 overall record and are 1-3 in Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) play.

"I was hoping for a .500 season," Wilder envisioned.

With some tough games ahead, Wilder is sure his team will win a few more.

"These girls work very hard," said a pleased Wilder.

He coached this same group as fifth graders in the past, then agreed to coach them again this year when they were looking for

a leader. Wilder also coached many of them on his 2010 CYO championship softball team.

With just six eighth graders on his roster, Wilder faces some challenges, but is quite content with the solid defense his team plays.

"We do well with our 2-3 zone. With so few players, we have a better chance if we can slow the pace so our girls don't wear down," he explained.

The green and gold are well rounded with Andria Schultz taking care of the ball and leading the team offensively. Rebeka Wilder and Victoria Diaz handle much of the rebounding, while scrappy Maddie Malone is typically assigned to defend the opponent's point guard. The team is completed by solid play from Devin Moser and Sierra Arriaga.

Corpus Christi girls win preseason ICCL tournament

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Message received!

In an era of text and e-mail communications, Corpus Christi's girls' basketball team delivered one in person to the rest of the field, winning the Inter-City Catholic League preseason tournament championship Sunday. Coach Jamie Kelley's Cougars blistered the field, downing the host school, Holy Family, 35-8, in the championship game.

"The girls, having had only four practices, did everything I asked of them this weekend," said Kelley, as her team clutched the championship trophy. "Their press was unbelievable and hard to stop. We're hopeful this can be a great season."

Anna Ujdak's early basket gave Holy Family a quick lead, but the Cougars responded quickly. Jeanie Freeby scored seven of her nine points in the first quarter, while Corpus Christi's tenacious pressure and crisp passes led to a 17-4 first quarter lead.

From there, the Cougars



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CORPUS CHRISTI

Corpus Christi's girls' basketball team won the Inter-City Catholic League preseason tournament Sunday at Holy Family. Members of the team shown are in front row, Sammy Jankowski and Paige Schreiber; center row, Brooke Juday; and back row, Bailey Church, Chrissy John, Rosie Freeby, Melissa Brooks and Jeanie Freeby. Not available for the photo was Sam Kambol.

showed their balance. Bailey Church came off the bench with 10 points to lead the way, while Brooke Juday and Sammy Jankowski each added eight points.

"We won because of playing as a team," stated Kelley. "We pass the ball and find each other

on the court, and that's going to win us games. I couldn't be happier with our performance."

The regular season for girls' basketball begins Friday night. The schedule is now posted on the ICCL website at icclsports.org.

HONORS FOR JOHN GAUGHAN



MARK WEBER

At a Bishop Luers High School winter homecoming basketball doubleheader, players of the first four years of boys basketball at Bishop Luers were recognized at a 50th reunion. At halftime, Principal Mary Keefer announced the establishment of a high school scholarship fund honoring John F. Gaughan, who, in addition to serving as athletic director, coached basketball, football, and taught at Luers from 1959 to 1967. In this photo, John Gaughan and wife Pat are surrounded by Luers alumni. Former players from seven states came for the event honoring Gaughan.

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ICCL teams jockey for position, head for home stretch

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA

— With only two weeks left in the regular season, the teams of the Inter-City Catholic League are jockeying for position and heading for the home stretch.

The leader of the St. Martin DePorres Division remained undefeated against their Eastern foes by dispatching the Blazers of St. Matthew, 57-13, behind a 10-point performance of Jacob Whitfield.

Trying to keep pace were the Panthers of St. Anthony as they subdued Queen of Peace, 42-9, with the help of Evan Drinkall's 14 points.

St. Thomas also stayed in the plus column as they outpaced Our Lady of Hungary in a tightly con-

tested duel, 36-30. The victorious Spartans were led by Gunner Sadowey's 15 as the 13 points of Bull Dog Davante Newbill came up short.

In the hotly contested St. John Bosco Division, the Christ the King squad remained unblemished by knocking off the Cougars of Corpus Christi, 45-22.

The Eagles of St. Joseph won in a much-needed battle against rival the Crusaders of Holy Cross, 33-28.

The upstart team from Granger, St. Pius X, are in the thick of the divisional race by upending the Holy Family Trojans, 41-28, led by John Buckley's 21 points.

Games will resume Sunday at Saint Joseph's and Marian high schools. Complete schedules are available at www.icclsports.org.

Martin De Porres

Team	Division		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Mishawaka Catholic	3	0	7	1
St. Thomas	2	1	3	5
St. Anthony	2	1	4	4
Our Lady of Hungary	1	2	1	7
St. Matthew	1	2	2	6
Queen of Peace	0	3	0	8

John Bosco

Team	Division		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Christ the King	3	0	7	1
Holy Cross	2	1	6	2
St. Joseph	2	1	7	1
St. Pius	2	1	6	2
Holy Family	0	3	2	6
Corpus Christi	0	3	3	

Archbishop's entertaining musings make one happy to be Catholic

REVIEWED BY PEGGY WEBER

"A People of Hope: Archbishop Timothy Dolan in conversation with John L. Allen Jr." Image Books (New York, 2011) \$25.

In the introduction of "A People of Hope," John Allen quotes a woman from Westchester County in New York who was moved to tears after a visit by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan to her parish.

She said, "I'm a lifelong Catholic, but the last few years, it's been so hard ... with the sex-abuse scandals, with bishops who don't seem to listen, with all of it. I came tonight, not knowing what to expect, but this guy ... I don't know, somehow he just makes me feel good about being Catholic."

Her reaction in a parish hall is what readers will probably feel after finishing this interesting and entertaining book. One feels good about being Catholic and knowing the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is being led by Archbishop Dolan as president. The archbishop will become a cardinal Feb. 19.

Even if one disagrees with Archbishop Dolan, one still has to like him. He is described by Allen at "affirmative orthodoxy on steroids."

Archbishop Dolan will not disagree with the Vatican. (Although he does say that if anyone had asked him about the current Vatican-sponsored visitation of American nuns he would have advised against it.) However, he also will not ostracize or deal meanly with those with whom

he and the Church disagree.

Archbishop Dolan says, "My hunch is that I'll have more luck trying to nudge them closer to what the Church considers to be the truth if I'm in contact, in dialogue than if I'm standing off to the side tossing rhetorical bricks."

Allen does a splendid job of introducing Archbishop Dolan and probing his mind. Allen acknowledges that this book is not a biography. Rather it lets the reader into the thoughts and personality of the archbishop who was profiled on "60 Minutes" and is what one might call a "rising star" in the American Catholic Church.

Allen also gives the readers some "inside baseball" understanding of the topics of each chapter. Yet, he is very careful not to insert himself into the book. It is very clear that this is Archbishop Dolan's book.

Both Allen and the archbishop have a clear and likeable communication style. It might have been a nightmare to edit hours of interviews and appearances but the finished product seems polished and easy.

And the book truly contains many gems by Archbishop Dolan when asked about a variety of topics. For example, in the chapter about "Affirmative Orthodoxy," Archbishop Dolan

says, "I worry that we've become a glorified Rotary Club.

We're so stumbling over the how of Catholic life that I think we've lost the who, meaning Jesus."

Both authors show a keen sense of humor in their writing and responses. Although one of the best lines is when Archbishop Dolan quotes Hilaire Belloc saying, "I've come to reluctantly accept that the Roman Catholic Church must be

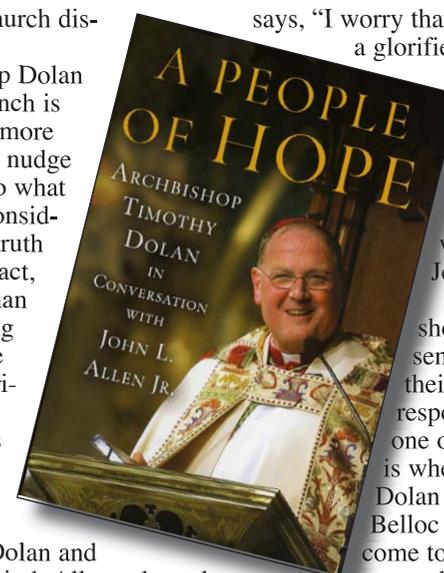
divine, because no merely human institution governed by such imbecility could have survived a fortnight."

Although the book does not tell us too much about the life of Archbishop Dolan, it does provide some great insights into what has formed and shaped him — his home parish, his education and years in Rome, his friendships.

However, Archbishop Dolan provides the most telling statement about his life. "To this day, I think of myself as a priest, not a bishop or archbishop, and there's nothing else I ever wanted to be."

His contentment and joy are apparent in this book. It is infectious and truly does make one feel good about being a Catholic.

Peggy Weber is a columnist and reporter with Catholic Communications in the Diocese of Springfield, Mass.



MOVIE CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"The Artist" (Weinstein)

A modern-made silent film proves to be a breath of fresh air without uttering a word. A

dashing star of the silent screen (Jean Dujardin) plays every role with panache: the handsome lover, the swashbuckling hero, the athletic comedian with a sidekick Jack Russell terrier. But Hollywood is changing, and the arrival of the "talkies" presages his decline. Meanwhile, an adoring fan (Berenice Bejo) gets her big break in show business and becomes destined for stardom. Their paths intersect in a film that is at turns zany and hilarious, sad and affecting, uplifting and inspiring. One obscene hand gesture, two scenes of attempted suicide. The Catholic News Service

classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Red Tails" (Fox)

Flag-waving hokum about the all-black 332nd Fighting Group of the Army Air Forces during World War II. What director Anthony Hemingway obviously intended as an enthusiastic fact-based homage to greatest generation patriotism instead comes off as shallow and cliched storytelling about a famed group of Tuskegee Airmen (including Terrence Howard, Tristan Wildes, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Marcus T. Paulk). Extensive aerial combat violence, an instance of implied premarital sex, fleeting crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Retrouvaille weekend planned for March
Angola — Retrouvaille is a program designed to help and renew marriages that are struggling. It consists of a weekend seminar and six follow-up sessions. The Retrouvaille weekend will be held at the Ramada Inn in Angola and begins at 7 p.m. Friday, March 2, and continues until 5 p.m. Sunday afternoon. There is a \$100 registration fee. Retrouvaille is a very powerful program and has helped many marriages. Additional information can be found at www.retrouvaille.org, or contact Denny and Judy Koehlinger at (800) 470-2230 or their direct line at (260) 485-1944. Retrouvaille is a non-profit organization, sponsored by the Catholic Church, but open to married couples of all faiths.

NFP classes offered

Fort Wayne — The Couple to Couple League will offer a three-class course in Natural Family Planning, with optional fourth classes for either postpartum or premenopause starting Sunday, Feb. 29, at 6 p.m. in the home of Ron and Marilyn Shannon. To register call (260) 489-1856 or email mshannon11@frontier.com.

Mid-winter dinner dance planned

South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a "Mid-Winter" dinner dance on Sunday, Feb. 12, in the school gym. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Polish-style dinner served at noon. Dancing to "Soundsations" from 1-4 p.m. Cash bar. Tickets are \$10 per person for dinner and dance or \$5 per person for dance only. Advance reservations only. Deadline is Feb. 6. For tickets call (574) 272-9982.

Edith Stein Project plans conference

Notre Dame — The Edith Stein Project conference organized by Notre Dame students addresses issues of gender, sexuality and the dignity of women in the context of the Catholic Church's teaching on authentic personhood. This year's theme is "Encountering Vulnerability: Courage, Hope and Trust in the 21st Century." It will be held in the Notre Dame Conference Center Feb. 10-11. The conference is open to the public. For more information and to register for the conference, visit conferences.nd.edu/events/2012-edith-stein-conference.

Valentine dance planned

South Bend — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 63568 U.S. 31, will have a Valentine dance Saturday, Feb. 11, from 7-10 p.m. in the social hall. Tickets are limited and are \$15 each or 2 for \$25. Music provided by "Music Machine." Finger foods and cash bar available. Must be 21. Call (574) 291-3775 for tickets or more information.

A morning for minors

Fort Wayne — The Franciscan Sisters Minor will hold a morning of activities for girls ages 4-18, every second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish. Activities include Mass, rosary, church cleaning, talking and playing with the sisters, followed by a potluck lunch. For information leave a message at (260) 744-4393.

FUNDRAISERS

ABC Fish Fry

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Athletic Booster Club will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 24, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Dan's of Huntington Fish Fry Services will include au gratin potatoes, roll, dessert and beverage. Cheese pizza also available. Tickets are \$8 adults, \$5.50 children ages 6-11, and children 5 and under are free. Drive through and carry out available.

Wild West West

Warsaw — Sacred Heart Parish and School will host "Wild Wild

West," a night of casino-style entertainment, dancing, drinks and dinner, Saturday, Feb. 18, from 6 p.m. to midnight. Live and silent auctions with items ranging from Lasik Eye Surgery to Colts tickets. Tickets are \$40 per person. Proceeds will help repair the roof of the gym. For information contact Kristine Alderfer at (574) 267-5672.

Spaghetti dinner planned

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will have a spaghetti dinner Friday, Jan. 27, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Knights hall, 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children under 12 and children under 5 free.

Knights plan fish fry

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

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 3, from 5-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

Salon-A-Thon benefits Hannah's House

Granger — A benefit for Hannah's House will be held Sunday, Jan. 29, from noon to 5 p.m. at Masters Salon, 14500 SR

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne

Jerome F. Lutzen, 63, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Frank H. Ueber, 91, St. Peter

Helen C. Elward, 99, Queen of Angels

John C. Nichter, 83, St. Therese

Fred Till, 92, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

James J. Wormcastle Sr., 74, St. Patrick

Robert D. Dickmeyer, 90, St. Vincent de Paul

Nancy L. Garman, 79, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Gordon Hickman, 82, St. Henry

Patricia L. Taylor, 81, Most Precious Blood

Gerald E. Murphy, 71, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Colleen K. Soucie, 59, St. Therese

Goshen

Edward J. Sullivan, 91, St. John the Evangelist

Huntington

Mary Ann Henry, 88, Ss. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka

Joan Martens, 85, St. Monica

Mary Madeline Meixel, 93, Queen of Peace

New Carlisle

Bernice Szilagyi, 85, St. Stanislaus Kostka

Notre Dame

Virginia Leyes, 84, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Sister M. Vibiana Weber, CSC, 95, Our Lady of Loretto

Plymouth

Elias Vaca, 61, St. Michael

South Bend

Michael A. Scheer, 65, Christ the King

Agnes Anna Tiedge, 97, St. Matthews

Rose M. Borek, 86, St. Adalbert

Martha G. Chrobot, 96, St. Stanislaus

Yoder

Marilyn Jo Lewandowski, 75, St. Aloysius

Sister Petra Daschbach,

92, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

23. A \$20 donation will receive a choice of five spa treatments plus a \$10 gift certificate for the next visit. Wine tasting by D'Avella's and appetizers by Jimmy's pizza and ribs will be provided. Call (574) 277-6721 for information or reservation.

Pancake and sausage breakfast

New Haven — St. Louis Besancon School, 15535 Lincoln Highway East, will have a Catholic Schools Week pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, Jan. 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parish hall located just behind the school. Costs \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 5-13 and children under 5 free.

Texas Priest Hosts

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Zion – Capitol Reef – Grand Canyon**
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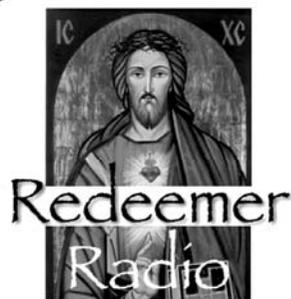
Take a relaxing trip on your luxurious coach as you travel with other Catholics through the changing desert landscapes of Nevada to the farmlands of central California. Witness the giant Redwood trees in **Kings Canyon** and **Sequoia National Parks**, then be amazed at the rock formations and waterfalls in **Yosemite National Park**. You'll also visit majestic Lake Tahoe with 72 miles of pristine shoreline and stop in historic Virginia City, Reno, Winnemucca and Elko, Nevada. In Utah tour the world's largest man-made excavation – the Kennecott Copper Mine; 2, 2/3 miles wide plus the Great Salt Lake! Next tour the unique rocks shaped by wind, water, sun and frost at **Arches' National Park**; and **Canyonlands**, with enchanting vistas carved by the Colorado and Green Rivers. Next your Catholic group will visit **Capitol Reef and Bryce Canyon National Parks** and drive through the Dixie National Forest. On Monday, July 2, you'll arrive at the grandest of all National Parks, **The Grand Canyon**, for both a day and night. Enjoy the sunset that evening and sunrise the following morning! Spend the fourth of July in exciting Las Vegas with an included day excursion to **Zion National Park**. That evening enjoy all the hoopla and excitement Las Vegas is famous for on Independence Day including free fireworks shows. Your Chaplain is Father Frank Wittouck, SCJ, from Houston, Texas. He retired as an Army Chaplain in 2010 yet currently ministers in the Cypress Assistance Ministries. His recent YMT pilgrimage was to the Holy Land. *Per person, double occupancy, includes taxes. Airfare is extra.

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Wednesday

Bishop Dwenger

Thursday

St. Joseph, H.C.

Friday

St. Aloysius, Yoder

MASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bishop Rhoades said the U.S. Bishops are "determined to fight" the decision.

"It's a terrible injustice to try to force us to violate our conscience to include in our health care plans coverage of evils like sterilization, contraception and even an abortifacient drug," Bishop Rhoades told *Today's Catholic* after the Mass. "This is an unprecedented attack on religious freedom, as (Cardinal-

designate) Archbishop (Timothy) Dolan said, 'we have a year to figure out how to violate our conscience ... that's ridiculous.'"

He added, "I think the time has come for all of us to stand up. We cannot accept this."

"This is not America," Bishop Rhoades said. "One of our founding principles was freedom of religion. Not just freedom to worship, it's also the ability to follow our conscience. The decision on Friday just was shocking."

"The Catholic community needs to be united, and also with brothers and sisters of other faiths who share our convictions on this," Bishop Rhoades said. "I'm going to call upon all the people

of our diocese to pray and to be vocal about this in the public square. We can't be silent and sit back and tolerate such injustice, such violation of religious freedom."

Bishop Rhoades said, "When I speak of religious freedom, this isn't just something granted by the U.S. Constitution, this is a fundamental human right."

After the Mass, Bishop Rhoades told *Today's Catholic* that it is a good opportunity to teach, because it's important that consciences be well formed according to the truths of the faith, and also the truths of the natural law.

"As I said in the homily, when



PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, during the homily at the diocesan Mass for the national March for Life participants, spoke of the recent announcement from U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius that most religious organizations would have to cover contraceptives and sterilization free of charge in their employee health plans, rejecting appeals from Catholic groups to widen the exemption.

we're talking about the dignity of human life and things like abortion violating God's commandment, 'Thou shall not kill,' that's not only Scripture, that's the law written on the heart of every person. It is God's voice within us, what we call 'conscience.'"

Part of the mission of the Church, the bishop said, is to teach the truth and form good consciences, so that the people will make good decisions, not only in their personal lives but also in their political and moral choices.

The number of young people who traveled to Washington for the march bolstered Bishop Rhoades.

"They know. They know abortion is immoral. They know life is a gift from God, it's sacred,

inviolable, and that's why they're here," he said.

Young people, he said, can speak up in the public square, bear witness in their own lives to the truth about human life and share this truth in conversation with peers.

He added, when the young people reach voting age, they could realize these are pre-eminent issues to consider when one is choosing a particular political candidate.

He noted the U.S. Bishops issue guidelines and dignity for life is number one. Without the right to life, there are no other rights, he said.

Among the other important issues, religious liberty and defense of marriage are other pre-eminent issues, he said.



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Saint Joseph's High School students pray the Lord's Prayer at the Washington, D.C., Mass for diocesan participants of the national March for Life. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the Mass at the St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington on Sunday afternoon.