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Bishop Rhoades devoted a part of his homily, just as Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo 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.

“At Mass bishop encourages all to promote, defend life

By Diane Freeby

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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 Candelmas 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 have guided 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 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 and educational apostolates, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Holy Trinity, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of PROVIDENCE, Sisters of Saint Agnes, 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 in 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 within the law to allow Americans to reform the law and change this unjust regulation,” he added. “We will continue to study all the implications of this troubling decision.”


Saying it would force individuals and religious organizations “to surrender their beliefs — rooted in a 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 incorporation of a religious order 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 specific sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

These sections “refer to churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches, as well as to the exclusively religious activities of any religious order,” accordant 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 do not share its religious beliefs 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 forging their health care is literally unconscionable. It is as much an attack on access to health care as on religious freedom. Historically this repre-

sents 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 announce-

ment was a “missed opportunity to be clear on appropriate conscience protection.”

“The challenge that these regulations pose 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 John L. Nienstedt of St. Paul, Minn., 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 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 announce-

ment.

“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 cher-
ished freedoms and set a dangerous precedent.”

Even the Washington Post, in a Jan. 22 editorial, called the deci-

sion “unproductive cant-keeping that fails to address the fundamen-

tal problem of requiring religiously affiliated entities to spend their own money in a way that contra-

dicts the tenets of their faith.”

“Requiring a religiously affili-

ated 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 edi-

torial added. “Having recognized the principle of a religious exemp-

tion, the administration should have expanded it.”

CHILDREN IN BRISTOL DEFEND LIFE

Children from the third- and fourth-grade religious edu-

cation 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 proces-

ion 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 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.
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 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, God, I’m here to put my feet in the direction of what my heart believes.”

“I’m here to put my feet in the direction of what my heart believes.”

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. 22.

“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 duffle 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 brochures, 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 these 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, ralliers 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.”

Participating in the March for Life at the National Mall near the Smithsonian Castle.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
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 to receiving the scholarship,” 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. SB 296 would prohibit SB 198’s requirement that the student must be enrolled in a non-public school.

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 scholarship 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. Carlín 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 if they 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 qualify for the voucher,” said Yoder. “It puts an unnecessary burden on parents to have children in two different schools.”

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“It’s not fair to split up the siblings especially when they meet the income requirements to qualify 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.

Indiana Catholic Conference

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.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus was created to unite men in their faith, as well as help others in times of need. Since our founding in 1882 our membership of 1.8 million Catholic families have been doing just that. Together, Knights offer protection through our insurance products and by donating more than a billion dollars to countless charitable causes.

Meet one of our Agents

Keith C. Praski attends St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Angola and is a member of council 7053, Angola. Keith is the servicing agent for Angola, Our Lady of Good Hope, St. Vincent, St. Charles, St. Jude, St. Patrick, St. Mary’s, and The Cathedral all in Fort Wayne. In 2003, Keith learned firsthand the value of life insurance and financial planning when he lost his mother to breast cancer. “Because my Mom and Dad met with their K of C agent and planned for the unexpected my father was able to avoid selling his house or liquidate his 401k to pay for my Mom’s final expenses.” In his first year as an agent, Keith earned membership in the Million Dollar Round Table (top 1% of agents in the world) and the Supreme Knights Club for the Order’s best agents. To review your financial portfolio and see what the Knights can do for you call Keith today at (260) 833-2024.

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Parishioner, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne
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 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 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 less important, 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 their support. And we need to learn.” On the 39th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s decision in Roe v. Wade on Jan. 22, Archbishop Chaput said, “More than 50 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 greater and physically disabled as well.”

Neocatechumenal celebrations 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 help the engagement members to partake fully in the liturgical life of the parish. The pope encouraged the movement’s members to continue “to offer your own 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 his Church. The aim is to provide a kind of boost to the catechism of faith for the catechumenal stage in 2008 and its catechetical directory in 2010.

Cardinal Wuerl: Education a key to 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 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 urge to keep up their efforts despite obstacles

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — Biblical prophets who proclaimed God’s word often suffered for their witness, yet nonetheless 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 rejection and end of disparity in families. And last but not least, that we urge our government leaders to pass a just, equitable and comprehensive reform that provides a legal immigration system which is broken,” he said. The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City and Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda of Denver. Bishop Nevares and Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda of Denver. Bishop Nevares said Jan. 11. “How do we 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 sank off 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-Keefer Scholarship winners announced

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School has announced the winners of the 17th annual Henry-Keefer Scholarship. They are Kathryn Justice of Memorial Park School; Claire Roric 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. Ricott 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 lab will be published in the coming months as part of a graduate thesis in the Journal of Physical Chemistry titled “Adsorption of Octanethiol and Diethylthiocarbamate 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.

SJRMc named one of the nation’s top 15 health systems

MISHAWAKA — Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRMc) was named one of the nation’s top 15 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 top 15 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

LAWRENCE — 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 Cushwa-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@stmarys.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.

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 and Sister Janet Gildea, 2010, for her leadership and volunteer work.

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

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

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.

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.

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.
Bishop Luers serves special needs students with new program

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 to serve those students with special needs.

Meg Ryan works with freshman Thomas Dooley, right, and junior Dylan Gall, 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.
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 curricu-lum. 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 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 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.
St. Joseph School, Monroeville, celebrates 100 years of exemplary education

MONROEVILLE — One hundred years after opening its doors, St. Joseph Catholic School in Monroeville is planning a full year of celebration. The milestone was marked with numerous events planned by a committee comprised of Pastor Father Lourindo 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 year. The school opened under the title of St. Rose Academy. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. St. Rose Academy. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year. It enrolled 27 girls and 42 boys that first year.

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 its facilities 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.

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“Your 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.”
Experience Luers Spirit
Bishop Rhoades visits ‘a great high school of our diocese’

BY BONNIE ELBENSON

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 Abbott, 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 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 “embraced 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 и classrooms of Bishop Luers High School.
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 “Knight Capital Campaign” 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 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.

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

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 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 Condon, sacramental 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.
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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Choice Scholarships Available
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Queen of Peace Catholic School
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“Where Christ is Loved, Excellence is Expected, Character Counts, and Traditions Thrive”

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Queen of Angels
OPEN HOUSE
Preschool - 8th Grade
Sunday, January 29, 2012
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- Now offering Full & Half Day Preschool and Full Day Kindergarten
- Students earn consistently high ISTEP scores
- Accredited by North Central Association and the State of Indiana
- Comprehensive curriculum including Art, Algebra, and foreign language in middle school
- Strong Catholic Identity focus on Faith, Family, and Service
- All kids play in our sports program - no “cutting”
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- Before & After Care Program, Hot Lunch
- Easily accessible to downtown and I-69
- Now accepting registrations for Preschool 3 & 4 year olds, Kindergarten - 8th Grade
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- Schoolwide Lifeskills and Lifelong Guidelines program.

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We Promise You
Discovery
“Discovery of yourselves, discovery of the universe, and your place in it.”

—Sister M. Madeleva Wolff, CSC
President of Saint Mary’s College, 1934–1961

Visit saintmarys.edu/Discover
Our vision at St. Louis Academy is to provide a Christ-centered education as a foundation for life with all students being challenged to reach their potential academically, socially and spiritually.

Aided by small-class sizes and proven with a 95% ISTEP passing rate, we prepare students for a lifetime of learning in all subjects plus more.

Open House: February 1, 5pm to 7pm
Meg Ryan works on an assignment with freshman Thomas Dooley during a Pathways to Success class at Bishop Luers High School.

Open House Sunday, Jan. 29, 1–3 p.m.

Visit TodaysCatholicNews.org for Book and Movie reviews.

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✓ Our academic excellence
✓ Our belief that Christ is the reason for the school
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Open House to visit our schools on both campuses: February 1, 2012 - 9 AM to 2 PM

We have it all & more at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School!

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, January 29, from 12:30-2:00

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT
Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 PM

• Outstanding Academics
• Safe Environment
• Excellent ISTEP Scores
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St. Thomas the Apostle School is Catholic in character, but open to all faith traditions. Approximately 12% of our current enrollment is non-Catholic.

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 30-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 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 to brush her teeth 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 a 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.

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 episcopal orders, which took place on another Feast of Our Lady — Feb. 11, the consecration 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 “almshouse” 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 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 filled with 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 a priest, his one purpose.

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 authority, 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 to 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.

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

GUEST COMMENTARY

Our Catholic Schools

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 with a loving, knowledgeable, 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.

Our Catholic Schools Enrolled 764 Children with Vouchers

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The premarital sex ‘test drive’

During a 2011 roundtable discussion on Fox News, guest commen
tator Jay D’Arcy argued that young people should not be too concerned
when it comes to pre-marital sex, because nobody wants to be “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 reason-
able 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
forgoing a sex “test drive.”

The test drive analogy comes up in a short number of important, and premartial 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 marriage, and cement the treasure of
ourselves over to another within
such a man.” — Pope Paul

Retirement, like any stage of
life, is an invitation to closer union with Christ. I have been helping on
weekdays and Sundays in parishes
for its ancient Minoan civilization
for Priests, with 15,000 priests con-
secrated life. Many years ago, I
was the brow of the hill overlooking
the bay. It is built upon the site of the
former church. A few yards to the
west of the church is the tradi-
tional 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
there was a little chapel of St. Paul
and a spring of St. Paul between
the coastal towns of Loutro and
Aglia Roumeli. This chapel com-
memorates the site where St. Paul
spent his last days. It was a shelter
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
beach, a bay and a group of islets
in the sea. Today the existing white
chapels, commemorating St. Paul’s
arrival on Crete, is situated on the
brow of the hill overlooking the

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 pater, he says: “under-
stand what you are doing, imitate
what we are 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 offered 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 consider-
ing these words of “the Pope,
who as he once called himself, an
extraordinary theologian and pastor
was used to expensive, high per-
f ormance racing machines, and the
Cannaro felt sluggish by comparison. He walked away from the vehicle,
muttering under his breath, “I won-
der what’s the matter with that car?” Sex before marriage is a similar
kind of “test drive” — clearly unrea-
sponsible and harmful.

A sexual “test drive” mentality
is essentially exploitative in nature,
reducing a potential spouse to some-
one 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
tribalizes 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 sup-
pose 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,
pastors can feel threatened if they
think their spouse might be compar-
ing 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
wants to marry a virgin, or a woman
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 meaning of the Sacrament of
Marriage, he said: “It is more
important to have good
priests and 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 con-
secrated life. Many years ago, I
was the brow of the hill overlooking
the bay. It is built upon the site of the
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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 to 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
(300-1200 B.C.) and its ancient
paintings and ruins are very inter-
esting to see.

O. Meinardus says that St.
Paul’s ship anchored at Fair
Havens in Crete at 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 Koloi
Limenes) is the name of a small
village, a bay and a group of islets
on the southern coast of Crete.
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Sports

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 the 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 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.

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.

HONORS FOR JOHN GAUGHAN

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.

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.

THE GALLEY

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Chicken & Steaks • Banquet Facilities

Set Sail Soon!

We now have served over 3,000,000 lbs. of our FAMOUS FISH!

Celebrating our 33rd Anniversary!

622 North 13th Street • Decatur • (260) 724-8181
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 upended the Holy Family Crusaders of Holy Cross, 33-28. The upstart team from Granger, St. Pius X, are in the thick of the divisional race by upsetting 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.

Archbishop’s entertaining musings make one happy to be Catholic

REVIEWED BY PEGGY WEBER


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 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 stumbling over the how of Catholic life that I think we’ve lost the who, meaning Jesus.”

Both authors show a sense of humor in their writing and responses. Although they seem to have agreed on 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 human imbecility could have survived a fortnight.”

Although the book does not tell too much about the life of Archbishop Dolan, it does provide some great insights into what has formed and shaped him — his high school, college, 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.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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) 476-2230 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 Shamon. 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. Advance reservations only. Deadline is Feb. 6. For tickets call (260) 277-5982.

Edith Stein Project plans conference

Notre Dame — The Edith Stein Project conference organized by Notre Dame student 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-edithstein-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 Machines.” Finger foods and cash bar available. Must be 21. Call (260) 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 as a garnish potatoes, roll, dessert and beverage. Cheese pizza also available. Tickets are $8 adults, $5 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 Colt's 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, 6076 East, 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 12.

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) 277-6724 for information or reservation.

Pancake and sausage breakfast

New Haven — St. Louis Besanon 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.

Catholic Schools Week

February 5, 2012

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Texas Hosts Priest

National Parks Tour

Kings Canyon – Sequoia – Yosemite

Arches – Canyonlands – Bryce

Canyon National Parks

Capitol Reef is a beautiful and peaceful park with a variety of hiking trails and scenic views. It is the only major national park in the United States that has UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

Capitol Reef National Park

Located about 240 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, this national park is known for its stunning red rock formations and dramatic canyons. Visitors can hike along the Dry Fork Trail, which offers beautiful views of the surrounding landscape.

Yosemite National Park

Yosemite is one of the most popular national parks in the United States and is known for its stunning waterfalls, including the famous Yosemite Falls. Visitors can hike along the Mist Trail, which offers breathtaking views of Nevada Fall.

Texas Hosts Priest

Sister Petra Dasbach, 92, of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., is Texas’ newest host priest.

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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 we’re talking about the dignity of human life and things like abortion violating God’s commandment, ‘Thou shalt 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.