VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his Lenten message, Pope Benedict XVI called on the faithful to be concerned for one another and “not to remain isolated and indifferent” to the fate others.

Materialism and a sense of self-sufficiency are obstacles to a Christian life of charity, the pope said.

Instead of looking first to God and then to the well-being of others, people often have an attitude of “indifference and disinterest born of selfishness and masked as a respect for ‘privacy.’”

He said that God’s commandment to love “demands that we acknowledge our responsibility toward those who, like ourselves, are creatures and children of God.”

The annual Lenten message was presented during a Vatican news conference Feb. 7 by Cardinal Robert Sarah, president of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the office which handles the pope’s charitable giving, along with Msgr. Segundo Tejado Munoz, the council’s undersecretary.

The cardinal highlighted the pope’s call for “fraternal correction” and the Church’s prophetic mission in denouncing situations of injustice and poverty in the world.

To overcome such injustices, one must get to the moral roots of such situations, he said. Corruption, accumulation of wealth, violence, and living off the work of others without contributing are all cancers that weaken a society from within, the cardinal said.

But, he said, the true root of the world’s injustices stems from ignoring or denying God’s existence. By not acknowledging there is a creator and Lord who is greater than man, society degenerates into a “conflictual individ-

Pope Benedict XVI greets Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, during a Feb. 9 meeting with U.S. bishops on their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican. Bishops from Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin were making their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses. For more see page 20.
US bishops urge action on conscience rights

Conscience rights, religious liberty violated by sweeping HHS contraceptive mandate

WASHINGTON — The following letter was inserted in many parish bulletins across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the nation. The U.S. Bishops are urging the faithful to contact their U.S. congressmen and senators to support legislation that would protect conscience rights. The letter follows:

On Jan. 20, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reaffirmed a rule that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients and contraception. The exemption provided for “religious employers” is so narrow that it fails to cover the vast majority of faith-based organizations, including Catholic hospitals, universities and service organizations that help millions every year. Ironically, not even Jesus and His disciples would have qualified, because of their commitment to serve others.

To correct this threat to religious liberty and conscience rights, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act has been introduced in Congress (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). This measure will ensure especially urgent. Please ensure that the rights of conscience of all participants in our nation’s health care system are respected.”

The following is a list of U.S. representatives that serve the people within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the U.S. senators:

Congressman Joe Donnelly, 2nd District of Indiana
1530 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3915
Fax: (202) 225-6798

Congressman Marlin Stutzman, 3rd District of Indiana
1172 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4436
Fax: (226) 9870

Congressman Dan Burton, 5th District of Indiana
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001
Phone: (202) 225-2276
Fax: (202) 225-0016

Congressman Mike Pence, 6th District of Indiana
100 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3021 office
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Senator Richard Lugar
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1401
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Senator Dan Coats
United States Senate
493 Russell Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5623
Fax: (202) 228-1820

When:
Now is the time to build cosponsors. Please act today! Thanks!
For more background information, go to www.usccb.org/conscience.

**Lent**

**Continued from Page 1**

Lent

“Whatever goes, protects and promotes life, brotherhood and communion.”

The pope warned against what he called “spiritual anesthesia,” which numbs people to the suffering of others. Only a humbleheart and the personal experience of suffering can awaken within us a sense of compassion and empathy,” he said.

The suffering of others is not only physical or material, he said, but it is also spiritual, and he encouraged Christians to remember their “spiritual responsibility” toward their neighbor. He called for a renewal of a forgotten aspect of the Christian life, that is, “fraternal correction.”

Fraternal correction, he said, is a kind of Christian charity that speaks out against people indulging in sin.

“We must not remain silent before evil,” he said.

“The attempt to build cosponsors. Please act today! Thanks!”

When:
Now is the time to build cosponsors. Please act today! Thanks!
For more background information, go to www.usccb.org/conscience.
Government has no authority to redefine marriage, say Catholic leaders

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The archbishops of Los Angeles and New York criticized a federal appellate court decision Feb. 7 that ruled unconstitutional California’s Proposition 8, a 2008 voter-approved initiative that forbade same-sex marriage in the state.

“The government has no competence and no authority to ‘redefine’ marriage or ‘expand’ its definition to include other kinds of relationships,” said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles in a Feb. 7 statement. “To do that is to say that marriage no longer exists. And this would have grave consequences for children and for the common good of our society.”

“Our government has a vital interest in promoting marriage for two reasons,” Archbishop Gomez said. “First, because marriage is the foundation of society. Second, because government has a duty to promote the well-being of children who have the right to be born and raised in a family with both their mother and their father.”

He added, “This debate over marriage is not about equality or about the needs of individuals. It is much bigger than that. It is about the nature of a human person and the nature of society.”

Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York called the 2-1 decision by a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals “a grave injustice, ignoring the reality that marriage is the union of one man and one woman” in a Feb. 7 statement.


The majority opinion included in Proposition 8 violates the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees citizens due process and equal protection under the law.


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“Our society does not operate in an absurd or valueless vacuum,” said Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage. “To flourish, it must be infused with moral direction that is grounded in the truth. Of course, the true meaning of marriage, like the gift of human life, is ultimately not subject to a vote or court ruling,” Bishop Cordileone added in a Feb. 7 statement.

“However, in reality they are steadily losing support among Americans. Every single time the issue of same-sex marriage has come to a vote by the people, it has failed. In 31 states, Americans have rejected attempts to redefine the one institution that is fundamental to the continued existence of every society.”

Proposition 8 passed with 52 percent of the vote, although backers of same-sex marriage in California are gathering signatures for a new ballot measure that would explicitly overturn Proposition 8.

California bishops Gerald W. Wilkerson of Los Angeles, president of the California Catholic Conference, expressed disappointment in the ruling but also confidence that it would be reversed.

“We are disappointed by the ruling today by a panel of the 9th Circuit that would invalidate the action taken by the people of California affirming that marriage unites a woman and a man and that children are the fruit of their union,” he said in a Feb. 7 statement. “However, given the issues involved and the nature of the legal process, it’s always been clear that this case would very likely be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. Marriage between one man and one woman has been — and always will be — a sacred and inviolate building block of the family and of our society,” Bishop Wilkerson added.

“In the end, though sound legal reasoning, we believe the court will see this as well and uphold the will of the voters as expressed in Proposition 8. We continue to pray for that positive outcome.”

Supporters of the court’s decision included Suzanne Bennett Johnson, president of the American Psychological Association.

“Research shows that marriage provides important health and wellness benefits and that same-sex couples are similar to heterosexual couples in essential ways including the fact that they are just as likely as opposite-sex couples to raise mentally healthy, well-adjusted children,” she said in a Feb. 7 statement. “There is no scientific basis for denying marriage equality to same-sex couples,” she said. The 51,000-member association said it has been a strong advocate for full equal rights for gays for 35 years, based on social science research on sexual orientation.

“The decision ‘affirms basic American values and helps tear down a discriminatory barrier to marriage that benefits no one while making it harder for people to take care of their loved ones,’” said a Feb. 7 statement by Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry, which advocates legalized same-sex marriage.

“The court, he added, “rightly held that a state simply may not take a group of people and shove them outside the law, least of all when it comes to something as important as the commitment and security of marriage.”

Advocates of same-sex marriage cheer during a rally outside the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco Feb. 7 moments before hearing the court’s decision on Proposition 8. By a 2-1 vote, a three-judge panel struck down the California ban on same-sex marriage, saying that it violates the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees citizens due process and equal protection under the law.

A Fasting and abstinence during Lent

Fasting is obligatory for all Catholics from ages 18 to 59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and all Fridays during Lent.

Fasting is obligatory for all Catholics from ages 18 to 59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of the fast means that only one full meal may be eaten. Two smaller meals are permitted, but they should not equal one full meal.

For the fourth year of the Church’s fast, “You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.”

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this precept “ensures the times of ascesis and penance, which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.”

The Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates will be celebrated in the cathedrals of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on the first and second Sundays of Lent. These rites will take place in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne on Feb. 26, the First Sunday of Lent, at 2 p.m., and in St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, on March 4, the Second Sunday of Lent, also at 2 p.m.

Catechumens are those unbaptized people who will be entering the Church on Easter Vigil by receiving the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil on the night of April 7.

Candidates are those who are already baptized and are now preparing to complete their initiation or enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

The catechumens and candidates come from parishes throughout the diocese. During the liturgy, each catechumen and candidate, as well as his or her godparent or sponsor, will be presented for recognition to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, ordinary of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. All together, around 600 catechumens and candidates — along with their godparents, sponsors, families and guests — are expected to attend the liturgies.

Prior to the attending the ceremonies, many of the catechumens and candidates will take part in an optional rite at their respective parishes, whereby they are official sent forth to meet the bishop. The catechumens inscribe their names within the “Book of the Elect,” which will be presented for Bishop Rhoades to sign during the Rite of Election, in an event referred to as the “elect,” because they will have been officially declared ready to receive the Easter sacraments this year.
Stories of holiness shared by religious leaders at ND conference

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — A Buddhist monk, a Sikh faith leader, an Arab Catholic layman, an Israeli Jewish woman and a Trappist monk were among the speakers at an interfaith conference on holiness at the University of Notre Dame Feb. 5-8.

The conference, entitled “Stories of Practical Holiness,” was convened by Notre Dame’s Institute on Church (ICL) to present concrete examples of holiness from diverse faith traditions. The objective of the conference was to deepen inter-religious understanding by demonstrating how the faith of various religious traditions motivates acts of love, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation.

John C. Cavadini, McGrath-Cavadini director of the ICL, told the opening session that the word “holiness” in the conference title was being used in “a rough and ready way,” not to canonize someone in the Catholic sense. Rather, he said, the term was being used in an experimental way to indicate a certain kind of objective or public pursuit of goodness achieved by a person out of motivation from, and fidelity to, his or her own religion.

The term “practical,” he continued, did not mean that holiness must have a practical application, but rather that it has religious inspiration and character that can carry “a transformative” implication for society or culture and promote peace.

“Holiness often by its very nature — and not as a practical application — strives for social or cultural renewal and inspires the desire to strive for such renewal in others,” Cavadini explained.

The practical dimension of holiness provides a beginning point for inter-religious understanding, Cavadini continued, because everyone understands a community of love, forgiveness, the pursuit of justice and heroic stands or inspiring zeal. And to see how this is connected to religious practice and fidelity helps one to understand different religions in a new way.

The presentation of stories about holiness is not a theoretical exposition of religious ideals or doctrines, Cavadini said, but rather the stories about putting faith into action provide valuable insights at a time when across such religious and cultural boundaries may open a path to interfaith understanding and help eliminate stereotypes.

The invited speakers visited Notre Dame theology classes during the mornings of the conference, and individual speakers presented in the afternoons and evenings.

Buddhist Dharma Master Hsin Tsoo of Taiwan spoke about dedicating his life to following the spiritual example of the Buddhist deity, Bodhisattva Kuanyin (known in English as the Goddess of Mercy). He became a monk, and after many years of solitary ascetic practice, established a cultural foundation and a monastery. He also founded the Museum of World Religions in Taiwan in 2001 and in 2002 established the Global Family for Love and Peace.

Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia is a Sikh faith leader who is chairman of the religious charitable organization Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha in Birmingham, England. The organization was founded on the principle of selfless service to humanity and has branches in India and Africa. An engineer by training, he has provided assistance in developing countries and participates in numerous international inter-religious organizations.

Abdolrahim Gavahi of Tehran, Iran, was scheduled to speak about Ismael Dulabi, a contemporary Muslim religious healer. However, Gavahi, who is president of World Religion Research Center, was unable to obtain a visa to travel to the United States. His presentation was given by video and narrated by Rasoul Rasoulipour, visiting associate professor of theology at Notre Dame.

Dalia Landau, an Israeli Jew, and Khader Al-Kalak, an Israeli Catholic with Palestinian roots, spoke about Open House in Ramle, Israel. The project, which they co-direct, is a peace-building program based in the family house of Bashir Al-Khayri, a Palestinian Muslim. Al-Kalak, told the story of how his family and other Arabs were forced out of their homes in 1948 to make way for the settlement of Jews in the new Israeli state. One of those displaced families was the Al-Khayri family, and their home was given to the Jewish family of Landau, who immigrated from Bulgaria.

After Landau reached adulthood and had inherited the house, she realized the injustice of taking homes away from Arab families. She wanted to make amends, so she contacted the Al-Khayri family and asked what would be the best use of the house. The family asked for a pre-school for Arab children, since there was none in Ramle. The nursery school is thriving, and Open House has added peace-building programs for Christian and Arab teenagers and adults.

Also speaking about Open House was Yehezkel Landau, the former husband of Dalia Landau. He is a dual citizen of the United States and Israel and a co-founder of Open House. A faculty associate at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, he remains involved in Open house through his work with the Friends of Open House network. He translated Al-Kalak, who spoke in Arabic. Trappist Father Armand Veilleux is abbot of Scourmont Abbey in Belgium. He told the story of the seven Trappist monks at Tibhirine, Algeria, who were kidnapped and killed by Islamic terrorists in 1996. In spite of the fact that other Christians had been killed by Islamic terrorists, the monks decided to stay in Tibhirine because it was their home, and they had developed such a warm relationship with the local Algerian Muslims and had started an effective Christian-Muslim dialogue.

Father Veilleux praised the monks as models of holiness because of their fidelity to their monastic vocation and because they felt they could not leave a population that was suffering. For these Christians to stay was “affirming” to Algerians who wanted to be different from those who were perpetrating violence, he said. A film based on this story, entitled “Of Gods and Men,” was shown twice during the conference.

The conference was co-sponsored by Notre Dame’s Center for Social Concerns and the office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services, with the support of the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo, Mich.
Lifetime ban on Food Stamps for reformed drug offenders being reconsidered

INDIANAPOLIS — Kanda and her husband were both employed and working hard to save money before their son’s birth. When the recession hit, both Kanda and her husband unexpectedly found themselves unemployed. Pregnant, with no income or food, Kanda applied for food stamps, but was denied. The reason — she had a previous drug-related conviction on her record that bans her for life from receiving food stamps.

Kanda’s story is not uncommon, said Cheryl Ashe, founder of Information Referral and Ex-Offender Services, a ministry at St. Augustine Church in South Bend, who helps ex-offenders successfully transition back into the community after incarceration.

“The road back to becoming a productive citizen is hard enough, but it is especially difficult for those who have a drug felony conviction,” said Ashe. That is something Ashe would like to see changed. And she is not alone.

Sen. John Broden, D-South Bend, would too. Broden, who is authoring a proposal, SB 102, to address the problem, said he became aware of the issue when he attended a dinner at Dismas House in South Bend, and heard first hand the frustration these individuals encountered. To Broden’s surprise many of them were mothers with children.

“I felt that if people could demonstrate they had successfully completed a respected drug treatment program and had remained drug free, that they should be eligible to get food stamps,” said Broden.

The Indiana Catholic Conference, the Church’s official representative on public policy matters, supports Broden’s proposal.

According to Ashe, the drug felony ban was introduced with the Welfare Reform Act as an opt-in proposal for states. It gave states the choice to make former drug offenders ineligible for Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, a move intended to discourage drug offenders from exchanging food stamps for drugs. Indiana is only one of 12 states that still has a lifetime ban on people convicted of a drug felony from getting food stamps.

But once a state opts in, state officials may also decide to reverse course, opting back out of the ban through legislative action. Currently, 37 states and the District of Columbia have restored nutrition benefits to people with former drug offenses.

Broden’s proposal would allow Indiana to opt-out of the federal law. SB 102 would allow people convicted of a drug felony to receive food stamps, if they meet income guidelines and are enrolled in a drug treatment program or lived in a nonprofit halfway house or had not committed another drug offense in the last five years and are drug tested every two months.

Broden said, that while the federal legislation was well intended, it ignores individuals who have received treatment, are in recovery and have reformed their lives. “If an ex-offender can stay drug free, then they have less chance of committing a crime to support a drug habit,” said Ashe.

The federal government allows people living in drug treatment programs to use their food stamps to pay for meals furnished by the organization, “This would include the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Centers in South Bend, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Gary, and shelters like the YWCA of North Central Indiana and Center for the Homeless. People in Indiana convicted of a drug offense are currently ineligible for a food stamp card.”

“Allowing the clients to pay for meals using food stamps helps the organizations lower their food cost,” said Ashe. “These organizations are not able to receive food stamp money for these individuals even though they are feeding them. SB 102 would allow these agencies to recoup the cost of feeding ex-offenders convicted of drug felonies.”

Even though SB 102 did not receive a hearing in the Senate, Broden said he’s hopeful the language in SB 102 could still have a chance of passing this year. Broden said he’s working on finding a new home for his bill and hopes to get it amended into an existing bill that’s moving. “And if we can’t get it passed this year, I will try again in 2013,” he said.
BY NANCY FRAZIER O’BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a move that appears unlikely to end the controversy over a federal mandate that all health insurance plans include contraceptive and sterilization free of charge, President Barack Obama outlined a plan that would allow religious employers not to offer such services to their employees but would compel insurance companies to do so.

The president announced the policy in a brief statement Feb. 10 but took no questions.

“No women’s health should depend on who she is, who she works for, or how much money she makes,” Obama said. He said the new policy remains faithful to the “core principle” of free preventive care, but also honors the principle of religious freedom, which “as a Christian, I cherish.”

In a statement issued late Feb. 10, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said Obama’s decision to outline a plan that would allow religious employers not to offer such services to their employees but would compel insurance companies to do so. The bishops pledged to “continue — with no less vigor, no less sense of urgency — our efforts to correct this problem through the two other branches of government.” They have urged passage in Congress of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act and are looking into the possibility of filing suit against the mandate.

Two colleges — one Catholic, the other Protestant — and the Eternal Word Television Network already filed lawsuits against the policy.

Although HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said the final rule was to be published in the Federal Register Feb. 10, officials later said it would appear sometime during the week of Feb. 13.

But U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a Catholic who has co-sponsored the bipartisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus since 1982, said the policy announced by Obama “is the discredited old policy, dressed up to look like something else.”

He said the requirement that insurance companies provide contraception and sterilization free of charge to all employees of religious organizations would still place the cost ultimately on the religious employers. “Who pays for the insurance policy?” he asked. “The religious employer.”

Obama said he had spoken to Catholic officials directly “from the very beginning of this process” and had promised them that “we would spend the next year working with institutions like Catholic hospitals and Catholic universities to find an equitable solution that protects religious liberty and ensures that every woman has access to the care that she needs.”

He said the policy announced Jan. 20 had prompted “many genuine concerns, ... as well as, frankly, the more cynical desire on the part of some to make this into a political football.” Because of that, Obama said, he directed HHS “to speed up the process that had already been envisioned.”

But the USCCB statement said the conference was “not consulted in advance” about the Obama announcement.

“Stepping away from the particulars, we note that today’s proposal continues to involve needless governmental intrusion in the internal governance of religious institutions, and to threaten government coercion of religious people and groups to violate their most deeply held convictions,” the statement said. “In a nation dedicated to religious liberty as its first and founding principle, we should not be limited to negotiating within these parameters.”

The bishops pledged to “continue — with no less vigor, no less sense of urgency — our efforts to correct this problem through the two other branches of government.”
USCCB official: Revision in coverage still violates religious liberty

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A revision in a federal health care mandate that would strip coverage of contraception and sterilization from religiously affiliated health insurance plans remains a threat to religious liberty, said Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York, Feb. 13 that President Barack Obama’s revision to the contraceptive mandate in the health reform law did nothing to change the U.S. bishops’ opposition to what they regard as an unconstitutional infringement on religious liberty.

“We bishops, pastors, we’re not politicians, and you can’t compromise on principle,” said Cardinal-designate Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“And the goal hasn’t moved and I don’t think there’s a 50-yard line compromise here,” he added.

“We’re in the business of reconciliation, said, ‘that we hold fast, that we’re stubborn ideologues, no. But we don’t see much sign of any compromising here.’

What Obama offered was next to nothing. There’s no change, for instance, in these terribly restrictive mandates and this grossly restrictive definition of what constitutes a religious entity, he said. “The principle wasn’t touched at all.”

Announced Feb. 10, Obama’s revision to the mandate was the result of negotiations between the Department of Health and Human Services’ contraceptive mandate left intact the restrictive definition of a religious entity and would shift the financial burden of contraceptive mandates left intact the restrictive definition of a religious entity and would shift the financial burden of contraception from individuals and institutions that would not enjoy exemption under Obama’s proposal.

“My brother-in-law, who’s a committed Catholic, runs a butcher shop. Is he going to have to pay for the checks for a good chunk of stuff that he can’t use,” Dolan said.

Obama’s revised HHS mandate won’t solve problems, USCCB president says

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

CARDINAL-DESIGNATE Timothy M. Dolan of New York discusses the new birth control mandate on “CBS This Morning” Feb. 9.

Obama called him the morning of his announcement to tell him about the problem.

“We’re going to,” Dolan said. “We’re going to have to do now is be more vigorous about making sure that people understand what’s at stake here.”

Cardinal-designate Dolan said Obama called him the morning of his announcement to tell him about the problem. “We’re going to,” Dolan said. “We’re going to have to do now is be more vigorous about making sure that people understand what’s at stake here.”

Cardinal-designate Dolan said about the need for legislative action to enact a religious right to conscience protection into federal law.

“Our religious freedom is too precious to be protected only by regulations,” Bishop Lori said. “It needs legislative protection. More legislators, I think, are looking at it. There’s more bipartisan support for it. There should be a lot more pressure exerted on Congress to federal and for the president to sign it.”

In Rome Cardinal-designate Dolan said that some “very prominent attorneys who are very interested in religious freedom who say, ‘Count on us to take these things as high as you can.’ And we’re going to.”

He said the bishops draw hope for that fight from the Supreme Court’s recent unanimous ruling in Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC, a case regarding the ministerial exception.

“You’d think that the (Obama administration) would be able to read the tea leaves, that these things are going to be overturned,” the cardinal-designate said.

Bishop Lori suggested that Obama administration officials would have better understood the concerns religious organizations have about the mandate if they had tried to talk with the Catholic bishops, evangelicals and Orthodox church leaders who object to the measure.

“We are religious leaders, who say, ‘We want to help you on this one.’ We’ve got very prominent attorneys who are very interested in religious freedom who say, ‘Count on us to take these things as high as you can.’ And we’re going to.”

He said the bishops draw hope for that fight from the Supreme Court’s recent unanimous ruling in Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC, a case regarding the ministerial exception.

“You’d think that the (Obama administration) would be able to read the tea leaves, that these things are going to be overturned,” the cardinal-designate said.

Bishop Lori suggested that Obama administration officials would have better understood the concerns religious organizations have about the mandate if they had tried to talk with the Catholic bishops, evangelicals and Orthodox church leaders who object to the measure.

“He’s in a bind,” the cardinal-designate said of Cardinal Dolan. “When she’s talking to (HHS Secretary Kathleen) Sebelius, and she’s saying, ‘Hey Sebelius, you know president of the United States, in some ways, these are people who are signing the checks for a good chunk of stuff that goes to welfare.’

“Don’t have to be. But we do it for the good of the country. We do it for the good of the country. We do it for the good of the country.”

“Cardinal Dolan actually intervened,” the cardinal-designate said. “He said, ‘If you’re going to try and deal with the problem, you ought to talk to people who have the problem,’ said Cardinal Dolan, explaining that in revising the mandate, the White House itself was in touch with any bishop or conference official.

Cardinal Dolan said the White House only called Cardinal-designate Dolan as well as the USCCB the morning of Feb. 10 hours before its announcement to provide details about the rule change.

White House officials subsequently visited the USCCB to explain the revision and answer any questions, Cardinal Dolan added.

An administration official told CNS in an email Feb. 13 that the Obama administration would work with faith-based organizations, insurance companies, and other interested parties to develop policies that respect religious liberty and ensure access to preventive services for women enrolled in self-insured group health plans sponsored by religious organizations.

The official said a series of meetings would be held “in the coming days” with faith leaders, including Catholic bishops, to “work on solutions and develop a policy ‘collaboratively so that the ultimate outcome works for religious employers, their workers and the public.’”

A USCCB leadership group formally decided to retain the contraceptive mandate “is both unsupported in the law and remains a grave moral concern,” Dolan said at the time and said the continued “lack of clear protection for key stakeholders ... is unacceptable and must be corrected.”

In a phone interview with Catholic News Service in Washington, Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, echoed what
News Briefs

Florida Catholics will make pilgrimage to Cuba for pope’s visit

MIAMI (CNS) — When Pope Benedict XVI visits Cuba March 26-28, something will be different. “That desire that remained a desire (14) years ago and now is a possibility — the desire for a pilgrimage, “said Bishop Emilio Aranguren Echeverria of Holguin, Cuba, during a visit to Miami at the end of November. That possibility is now a reality. As of Feb. 10, the Miami Archdiocese confirmed that 310 people will be going to Cuba, enough to fill two planes. Nearly 1,000 people had inquired about the pilgrimage after Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski announced Jan. 12 that he would lead one to Santiago and Havana. The deadline for applying for the trip was Feb. 3. “Because of the time needed to obtain visas from the Cuban government, “We travel in solidarity with the Church in Cuba — and in response to their invitation to share with them this historic event,” Archbishop Wenski said at the Jan. 12 news conference. Participants will have the option of taking part in both papal Masses as well as a Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Wenski in Havana’s cathedral. When the Vatican announced that Pope John Paul II would become first pope to visit the island in January 1998, a pilgrimage by cruise ship was arranged but was canceled because of the controversial opposition by sectors of the Cuban exil community. Instead, Archbishop John C. Favalora, then head of the Miami Archdiocese and now retired, flew to Havana to take part in the final papal Mass with a small group of south Florida priests, religious and laity. “Things have changed considerably” in the intervening years, said Archbishop Wenski, a Miami auxiliary bishop who has been in Cuba since 1998. “Last year, a group who opposed the pilgrimage (then) changed their mind a week later,” after they saw the Cuban people’s reaction to the pope.

Georgia Supreme Court ruling strikes down law on assisted suicide

ATLANTA (CNS) — A unanimous decision by the Georgia Supreme Court that struck down a law banning people from publicly advertising to help with assisted suicide puts the elderly and people with disabilities in “grave danger,” said a national pro-life lawyer. The Georgia law did not prohibit assisted suicides, but it made it a felony for those who promote that they could assist with a suicide. In its Feb. 6 decision, the court said the law violated free speech rights. “The ruling by the Georgia Supreme Court puts the lives of older people and those with disabilities in grave danger because it opens the door for the fringe advocates of doctor-prescribed death to openly advertise the practice in the state of Georgia,” said Bur kal Holick, director of National Right to Life’s Pew Center for Medical Ethics. “This ruling essentially says if you want to advertise helping people jump off a cliff, you can hang out your single in Georgia,” he told National Right to Life News. The Supreme Court’s 7-0 decision means that four members of the group Final Exit Network, charged in 2009 with helping a 58-year-old man with cancer die at his home in Georgia, will not have to stand trial. In its eight-page ruling, the court pointed out that if the state had “truly been interested in the preservation of human life it could have imposed a ban on all assisted suicides with no restriction on protected speech whatsoever. Alternatively, the state could have sought to prohibit all offers to assist in suicide when accompanied by an overt act to accomplish that goal. The state here did neither.”

Washington state passes bill legalizing same-sex marriage

SEATTLE (CNS) — Members of the House of Representatives in Washington state voted Feb. 8 to legalize same-sex marriage, and Gov. Christine Gregoire was expected to sign the bill into law by mid-February. The vote came one day after a federal appeals court in California struck down that state’s voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. In Washington, the legislation passed with a 56-42 vote in the House. On Feb. 1, the state Senate approved it 28-21. Once it becomes law, Washington will be the seventh state in the nation, along with the District of Columbia, where same-sex marriage is legal. Several Republicans in the House argued against the tradition of marriage. In Jan. 23 testimony before a Senate committee, Seattle Archbishop J. Peter Sartain urged lawmakers to oppose the measure “based on the grave challenge this legislation poses to the common good. By attempting to redefine marriage, it ignores the origin, purpose and value of marriage to individuals, families and society.” In a statement released Jan. 13, the state’s three Catholic bishops called on Washington citizens to support traditional marriage and contact their state senator and representatives to urge them to “defend the current legal definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman.”

Don’t wait for explosion: Speakers say Church must prevent abuse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The take-away message from a Vatican-backed symposium on clerical sex abuse was clear: Victims, truth and justice come first. And the Church can no longer wait for a crisis to erupt before it begins to address the scandal of abuse. “We do not need to wait for a bomb to explode. Preventing it from exploding is the best response,” said Philippine Archbishop Luis Tagle. The archbishop of Manila was one of more than 200 bishops, cardinals, priests, religious and laypeople who attended a landmark symposium Feb. 6-9 in Rome. The conference aimed to inspire and educate bishops’ conferences around the world as they seek to comply with a Vatican mandate to establish anti-abuse guidelines. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the office that issued the mandate, said more than 4,000 cases of sexual abuse have been reported to the doctrinal office the past decade. Those cases revealed that an exclusively canonical response to the crisis has been inadequate, he said, and that a multifaceted and more proactive approach by all bishops and religious orders is needed in countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia and Germany are among those with the most comprehensive and binding guidelines and norms, Cardinal Levada said. “But in many cases such response came only in the wake of the revelation of scandalous behavior by priests in the public media,” he added.

Sex abuse lawsuit against Vatican withdrawn

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A high-profile federal lawsuit accusing Pope Benedict XVI of covering up sexual abuse has been withdrawn. Lawyers for the plaintiff in John Doe 16 v. Holy See filed a notice of voluntary dismissal Feb. 13, bringing the case effectively to an end. The lawsuit was filed in April 2010 in the U.S. District Court in Milwaukee by an unnamed Illinois man who claimed he had been molested by Father Lawrence Murphy during the latter’s time on the staff of Milwaukee’s St. John’s School for the Deaf. The lawsuit claimed that the Vatican “has known about the widespread problem of childhood sexual abuse committed by its clergy for centuries, but has covered up that abuse and thereby perpetuated the abuse.” The lawsuit also sought to prove that the Vatican is a global business empire, engaging in “commercial activity” in Wisconsin and across the United States, and holding “unqualified power” over each diocese, parish and follower. Jeffrey S. Lena, an American attorney for the Holy See, welcomed the withdrawal of “fallacious allegations of Holy See responsibility and liability in John Doe 16’s abuse. A case like this one against the Holy See, which was held together by no more than a generalized web of allegations of international conspiracy, amounted to a misuse of judicial process and a waste of judicial resources,” Lena said in a statement.

Catholics at risk of losing their connection to the land, says speaker

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics are at risk of losing their connection to the land, according to a professor from the University of St. Paul, Minn. “There are 244 Catholic degree-granting institutions in the United States, and not one offers an undergraduate degree program in agriculture,” said Christopher Thompson, academic dean at the St. Paul Seminary School of Theology, which is housed at the university. In the classes he teaches, he said he was baffled by his students’ seeming ignorance of even some of the basics. Thompson said a student asked him what a kingfisher was. “(It is a bird.) Another student asked what an aspen was. (It is a tree.)” After going on a Thompson-led weekend retreat that visited three farms in Minnesota, remarked: “I didn’t know they raised animals in Minnesota.” A grasp of Thompson’s “Spirituality and Sustainability” class not only had never heard of the chemical giant Monsanto, he had trouble pronouncing its name. Another student told the professor, “I’ve heard that sap from maple trees is poisonous.” (No, it is used to make maple syrup.) Yet another student asked, “Is it safe to put rainwater on a garden?” Thompson told members of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference during its Feb. 11 meeting as part of the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington: “God does all the time.”
AROUND THE DIOCESE

USF PTA Studies
Department hosting health fair

FORT WAYNE — The Department of Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Studies at the University of Saint Francis will host a PTA Health Fair, Monday, Feb. 20, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the first floor of the Doerner Center for Health Science Education.

The health fair will bring to the public health-related topics to increase awareness and promote positive lifestyle changes. Groups of PTA students have collaborated to present displays and materials on the following topics:

- **Walking for Life**: A therapeutic walking program for those who wish to take a step in the direction for better health will be led by Andrea Aboufadel.
- **X-Box Kinect**: Participants will learn how new advances like the X-Box Kinect are bridging the gap between gym and home theater. Jeremy Oyer will lead.
- **Active lifestyles in Geriatrics and the Retired Population**: Staying active and healthy for older adults is very important. Strategies and programs to achieve this will be led by Daniel Gloy.
- **Workstation Ergonomics**: More demands are being placed on today’s workforce than ever before. Along with an increase in hours, workers and employers often neglect important instructions in ergonomics. Christie Wagner will lead.
- **Insanity Workout**: Another demand of today’s fitness consumer is convenience and efficiency. The insanity workout offers both in a fast-paced, intense environment. Chelsea Dick will lead.
- **Physical Benefits of Multisport Training**: With the stressful demands placed on the knee joints during running, many people seeking a fun way to accomplish their fitness goals are turning to triathlon training. Matt DeBolt will lead.

The 26 USF PTA students involved are researching selected topics and preparing educational materials for the community as course requirements for one of the last courses in their curriculum, PTA Seminar, prior to graduation.

For more information on the PTA Health Fair, contact Department of PTA Studies Chair Mary Kay Solon at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8547.

Forever Learning Institute
opens spring semester registrations

SOUTH BEND — The Forever Learning Institute will offer open registration for its spring semester classes on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 21 and 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Little Flower Parish Center, 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend.

FLI offers 74 classes and clubs this spring semester that include ballet for adults, history courses, beginning calligraphy, cooking classes, English and writing, dancing, music, skills and sports, social studies, exercise, spiritual and discovering antiques.

Classes will run from March 5 to May 11. Course guides with class listings and registration forms can be found at the South Bend, Niles, Mishawaka and Elkhart public libraries, online at www.foreverlearninginstitute.org, or call (574) 282-1901.

Bishop Luers Show Choir Invitational March 2-3

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers Show Choir Invitational will welcome six local middle schools on March 2 and 19 high schools to the 38th annual competition on March 3.

The middle school competition on Friday, March 2, will offer six premier middle school competitions. The program will begin at 6 p.m. and the cost is $5 per ticket.

Bishop Luers High School, host of the longest running show choir competition in the nation, will welcome show choirs from 19 high schools to its annual competition on Saturday, March 3. Some of the most talented high school singers and dancers in the region will provide entertainment throughout the day and night.

The day competition begins at 8 a.m. and runs until 6 p.m. The evening competition begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are sold at the door.

Bishop Luers High School will be broadcasting the invitational live across the nation in partnership with Incommark Broadcasting, at www.bishopleurs.org/luersLIVE.

Tickets are $10 for the day show and $10 for the evening show, or $15 for the day and evening programs. For more information call Bishop Luers at (260) 456-1261.

Daniel Schumick earns Eagle Scout Award

FORT WAYNE — Daniel Schumick was awarded his Eagle rank during a ceremony on Jan. 29 at the St. Vincent de Paul Boy Scout Troop 2 Lodge.

Daniel Schumick, son of Doug and Diana Schumick of Fort Wayne, began his Scouting adventure as a Cub Scout in 2004 in Stuttgart, Germany. He joined Boys Scouts in February of 2008 at St. Vincent and has earned 52 merit badges so far. Schumick’s Eagle project consisted of constructing benches for St. Vincent School and improving the landscaping in front of the church.

Bishop Luers News Hour group, a student-run discussion group of sophomores, juniors and seniors, and facilitated by Meg Ryan, gather every Friday during four-period-class to watch news and discuss current events and global issues. The group then blogs regularly on Facebook with a group of Bishop Luers-sponsored Teach on the Beach students in Ghana, whom they Skype with each month. Five of the News Hour group students, Amelia Castlaman, Alexandria Clinger, Ross Barrientos, Corryn Chamberlain, and Casey Westrick will accompany Ryan to Ghana this summer to assist with Teach on the Beach activities.

Marian students earn Scholastic Writing Competition awards

MISHAWAKA — Marian High School students won a total of five Gold Keys, nine Silver Keys, and five honorable mentions for their contributions to the Scholastic Writing Competition. The winning entries included short stories, poetry, humor, science fiction and journalism. The winners were Seowo Park, honorable mention; Rubie Hoffman, two gold and two silver; Cassie Sloma, honorable mention; Mary Gring, gold; Hayden Spiess, gold; and Annamarie Kovalenko, honorable mention; Andrew Smith, silver; Catherine Chustak, silver; Allyson Schmidt, silver; Stacie Skowron, one gold and one silver; Cait Bartlett, silver; Patrick Hunsberger, honorable mention; Colin Kibbe, honorable mention; Nicolette DetPrete, silver; and John DeBuysers, silver. Ryan Dainty of the Marian English Department coordinated the submissions.

Dr. Edward Sri to present adult formation on revised translation of Mass

MISHAWAKA — Marian High School will be the host for an evening with Dr. Edward Sri entitled “A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: Understanding What We Do as We Do It” on Thursday, Feb. 23, from 7-9 p.m. Dr. Sri will take participants on a unique tour of the liturgy. Based on the revised translation of the Mass, which went into effect Advent 2011, this book explores the biblical roots of the words and gestures experienced in the liturgy and their profound significance. The presentation is free to attend; however, registration is required. Contact Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or email at jmartin@diocesefwsb.org to register.

Musicians tuning up for Battle of the Streets

FORT WAYNE — Local bands will tune up for the Battle of the Streets, on March 3 at 6 p.m. in the new University of Saint Francis (USF) Performing Arts Center at the former Scottish Rite Center in downtown Fort Wayne.

The USF Music Technology Department will host the competition in association with radio station WILD 96.3 in the center at 431 W. Berry St. Battle of the Streets is a live musical battle in which artists from the Fort Wayne area pit their music talents against each other until only one remains standing.

Registration deadline is Feb. 27. A registration label executed from across the country will judge the musicians, and the winner(s) will receive cash and prizes and a chance to perform before a national producer. Admission is $5.

Solo or group artists can sign up for the battle for a half-price of $5 by calling the radio station to register at (260) 747-1511, by Feb. 27.
This is what one of the 15 Top Health Systems in the country looks like.

Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center has been named one of the best healthcare systems in the country by Thomson Reuters, one of the world’s leading sources of measurement in the healthcare industry.

That distinction means we set higher patient safety standards. Find ways to reduce hospital stays. Think not just about short-term recovery, but about long-term outcomes as well. This award also shows our commitment to the community — that we offer unparalleled patient care and safety.

It’s what we’re called to do.

NOW - THE TRUTH OF THE EUCHARIST REVEALED AS...

"Science Tests Faith"

This DVD presents a fascinating journey as the Catholic Church invited Science to test a modern-day Eucharistic Miracle. The astounding results support belief in the REAL PRESENCE OF JESUS in the Eucharist! The Investigative Team found in the Consecrated Bleeding Host the presence of Flesh and Blood, Human DNA and Heart Muscle Tissue containing White Blood Cells that can only exist if fed by a living body.

SEE AND HEAR THE STORY UNFOLD... WHAT SCIENCE DISCOVERS WILL CONFRONT THE MIND AND HEART OF EVERY PERSON.

The DVD includes an exclusive interview with the Investigative Team! (Recorded Live at Transfiguration Catholic Church, W. Milton, Ohio)

To view a short clip of the Science Tests Faith DVD or order for $16 with credit card, visit our web site at: www.loveandmercy.org or mail your order with $16 to: Love and Mercy Publications, P.O. Box 1160, Hampstead, NC 28443

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Lent offers a

This Lenten season is a 40-day journey into the love of Christ that will help us resolve to move deeper into the love of Christ through prayer, penance and sacrifice. Display a special bowl or basket in a prominent place in the bowl or basket. Draw one Lenten activity strip each day and put your faith into action.

- Create a Lenten prayer that you can recite each day till Easter.
- Place a crucifix or picture of Jesus in prominent place to keep your focus on Him during Lent.
- Perform an anonymous act of kindness for one person.
- Send a letter to a seminarian to underscore your prayers for vocations.
- Clean a cabinet or closet and donate items to a charity.
- Choose a meaningful Scripture, write it down and memorize it. Share it with someone.
- Give up 10 minutes each day till Easter and spend it in prayer.
- Pray for someone you don’t like today.
- Smile at a stranger.
- Attend a fish fry or share a meatless meal and tell why you are abstaining.
- Look for evidence of God in your work or school today. Share your finding with someone.
- Give up something you really enjoy — just for today.
- Choose a saint and learn about him/her. Pray for the saint’s guidance during Lent.
- Attend a Reconciliation service or go to private Confession this week.
- Forgive someone who has hurt you.
- Ask Jesus to heal you of anything that separates you from His love.
- Perform some act of service for your parish or school.
- Go to a room, close the door and pray in secret.
- Resolve to go the entire day without judging anyone today, including yourself.
- Eat pretzels today as a reminder that Catholics used to fast from milk, cheese and meat.
- Save your change all week and give it to charity.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross and meditate on each one.
- Fast from dessert today.
- Give your piece away.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross and meditate on each one.
- Fast from dessert today.
- Give your piece away.
As the season of Lent approaches, the dark winter becomes a time of hope as the Church faithful prepare for the commemoration of the Passion and death of Jesus Christ and the celebration of His resurrection during the three holy days of the Easter Triduum. This 40-day spiritual journey becomes a means of deepening faith and practicing new ways to live out the Gospel message.

Traditionally, this penitential season has a focus on prayer, fasting and alms giving or acts of charity. It is a quiet time of self-examination and subsequent action with a call to conversion that enriches faith and deepens the relationship with Jesus Christ. French-Catholic philosopher A.G. Sertillanges writes, “Conversion means a willingness to see the truth of things and conform one’s conduct to it.”

So in response to prayer and contemplation during the six weeks of Lent, action is called for. Past generations of Catholic children were first introduced to the practice of Lent through self-sacrifice. The daily struggle of giving up gum or carbonated beverages for six weeks was penance enough as the young challenged their own self-discipline.

The notion of mindful service came on the scene as a viable alternative to giving up a pleasure for many of those children as they grew into adulthood. Attending extra Mass or serving at the soup kitchen added motion to their Lenten sacrifice. But “doing” should never replace the act of self-sacrifice.

Mgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, says, “There is actually an important reciprocal relationship between the kinds of sacrifices undertaken and the acts of charity and good works that issue forth. It has been fashionable to suggest that ‘giving up’ something is less important, and that ‘doing something positive’ is where it’s at. This is too simplistic and fails to understand the nature of the sacrifices undertaken precisely as the condition of possibility for the positive deeds of charity to be done; it is precisely by sacrifice in communion with Christ that we can be liberated from our enslavement to ourselves and become in fact freer to engage in active charity.”

Sacrifice in communion with Christ can bring hearts out of the “self” and into the sacred place of self-giving — the two go hand-in-hand. And while it is the conversion of self through giving up or doing that the faithful strive for during Lent the focus must always remain squarely on Jesus.

Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne agrees saying, “It seems to me that Lent easily becomes a season focused on self. It is a season when we focus on our sins, when we name our virtues and vices and work on the changes needed in our lives. It is also a season when we take action — setting into place sacrifices and practices, which will help us grow in virtue and offer a gift to the Lord.”

“All of this is good and worthwhile,” Father Shoemaker says. “But the main focus of Lent probably shouldn’t be on self. It should be on Jesus. Jesus loves us enough that He has given His life to save us. He is our Savior, He is our Lord, and He is our goal. Surely Jesus should be the focus of Lent. Maybe the best Lent is one in which we make more time to be with Jesus.”

The simplicity of that focus is not lost on Mary Glowaski, Secretary for Evangelization and Special Ministries, who recalls her childhood Lenten practices. “When I was a little girl we would give things up, never eat meat on Friday and my mom would encourage us to think of something good to do for others. ... Lent was a time of focus and simplicity; a time when although we worked very hard to be aware of our sinfulness we also had a deeply rooted understanding it was also a time of hope and the promise of forgiveness and new life.”

“At times when we are reminded of just how much we matter to God. It is a time that we can overly, and intensively turn our hearts to God, to focus on Him and His love for us and to walk with Him as we carry our own crosses in the confidence and comfort of God’s love and the hope of the Resurrection.”

So how does one go about making a good Lent?

Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne implemented a challenge to his fellow parishioners at the start of the New Year that he says may be adapted for Lent. In the tradition of New Year’s resolutions, the faithful were invited to commit to three spiritual resolutions — a trip to daily Mass once each month, learn a new prayer and teach it to someone each month, and gather with family to read and discuss Scripture for 30 minutes each month with no electronic interruptions. Many have taken the challenge and found a deeper sense of faith.

Deacon Fitzpatrick says an adaptation of these faith formation practices might be, “to go to daily Mass one time each of the six weeks, or pray a different Station of the Cross each week. Take time once a day for contemplation. They can go to the Stations of the Cross each week. Many parishes pray them on Fridays.”

Whatever Lenten practice is chosen, the 40 days leading to the Resurrection celebration can be a deeply moving time of communion with Jesus as the faithful turn inward in prayer.
Lenten opportunities offered at Victory Noll Center

HUNTINGTON — Lent is a special time, a time to change, to emerge from darkness into Christ’s marvelous Light and to bear witness to transforming love in the world.

Victory Noll Center is offering several opportunities during Lent to deepen relationships with Christ.

Programs begin Feb. 28 with a weekly non-time book study that includes lunch of bread and soup. There are also three retreat opportunities with a one-day event on March 14, the four-day Way of the Desert directed retreat March 25-28, and a two-day Holy Week retreat April 5-6.

In addition, the outdoor Stations of the Cross will be accessible daily during the Lenten season. Victory Noll Center is located on the Victory Noll campus at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

Lenten programs to be offered are:

- Lenten Soup and Bread Book Study — Held on Tuesdays during Lent from noon to 1 p.m., Victory Noll Center director Sue Wilhelm directs discussion of Mary Jo Leddy’s book “The Other Face of God.”

The book speaks to the warps in society when borders are becoming walls and strangers, like the one in the biblical parable of the Good Samaritan, are being ignored or harassed. For Leddy the Church must stand apart from the larger culture and heed the call of the newcomers and learn from them what has been forgotten about justice, human rights, respect and inclusivity. Mary Jo Leddy is the founder of Romero House in Toronto. She has a doctorate in philosophy and serves as a senior fellow at Massy College, University of Toronto. Her many books include “Radical Gratitude.”

“The Other Face of God” may be purchased through Cathedral Book Store in Fort Wayne or ordered by calling Kara Slocum at (260) 399-1442.

Dates for the book study are Feb. 28, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27 and April 3.

Lunch of bread and soup will be provided. Free will donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the meal. Reservations are required by the Friday before each session.

- Lenten Retreat — This retreat will be held Wednesday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It features a day of prayer, preaching, and pondering the Word with retreat leaders Sister Maureen Mangen and Father Keith Hosey, who have more than 70 years of retreat experience between them. Sister Maureen Mangen is a Sister of the Precious Blood of Dayton, Ohio, and is currently ministering as spiritual director and retreat facilitator with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tipton. Father Patrick Keith Hosey is a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette and currently is the resident chaplain for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tipton.

The cost of the retreat is $35, and registration is required by March 7.

- Way of the Desert — This directed retreat runs from 5 p.m. Sunday, March 25, through 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28.

Directed retreats offer extended time to tend to the movement of God in a life. It is a special time to go apart and listen, to draw close to the Presence and be refreshed in the inner spirit. Participants may also take part in centering prayer and group “Lectio Divina.” Components of this retreat focus on silence, solitude and prayer. Retreatants usually spend three to five prayer periods per day of one hour in length, depending on one’s prayer rhythm and unique relationship with God.

Retreat leaders are Nancy Brousseau and Sue Wilhelm.

The cost for the directed retreat is $290 for single occupancy and includes accommodations and meals. Early registration is encouraged, with the retreat limited to the first 10 who register.

- Holy Week Retreat: Entering the Kenosis of Christ — This retreat begins at 5 p.m. Holy Thursday, April 5, and runs through 3 p.m. Good Friday, April 6. The program beholds the deep Love of God in the Holy Mysteries of Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Participants are invited to enter the Kenosis of Christ, His great outpouring of love, as He emptied Himself. This retreat includes participation in the liturgy, praying with Jesus through the night, the Stations of the Cross and meditating on the Passion narratives.

The cost is $60 and is limited to the first 10 who register.

- Outdoor Stations of the Cross — During Lent, individuals or groups are welcome to walk the outdoor Stations of the Cross on the property of Victory Noll from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Visitors must check in at the front desk of the Victory Noll Administration Building. Station booklets will be available for those who wish to use them.

There is no cost to visit the Stations of the Cross.

To register for any of the programs, or for more information about the programs or Victory Noll Center, contact the center at (260) 356-0628, ext. 174, or by e-mail at victorynollcenter@olvm.org. More information is also available on the center’s website at www.olvm.org/vncenter.html.

No one is ever turned away from a program because of inability to pay. Payment plans or other arrangements may be made by contacting Victory Noll Center.
Lenten text messages by Father David Mary Engo offered this Lent

BY TIM JOHNSON

YODER — Franciscan Father David Mary Engo of the Franciscan Friars Minor in Fort Wayne will offer daily Lenten messages that will be sent via text messaging to cell phone numbers subscribed to www.CatholicTextMessaging.com, a Catholic text messaging service approved by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Mark Michuda, Grand Knight of Council 13142 at St. Aloysius, Yoder, is spearheading the messaging initiative as “a tool used for spiritual growth and evangelization via cell phone.”

The Lenten messages target the 15 to 40 year olds who communicate primarily through texts. Each message, according to Father David Mary, will be a few sentences or short paragraph.

“We have to get into the same venues that are influencing our young adults,” Michuda said, but “all of us will benefit from the text messages during the Lenten season.”

In a telephone interview with Father David Mary, he said each message will “focus on our deepening conversion towards God as we’re drawn to turn to Him because of the attractiveness in the greatness in His love for us and the dignity that we receive from that love.”

Father Engo said the messages are designed for daily living. “It is very direct in the ability to examine our own consciences,” he said.

Subscribers to the messages become aware of “how we make decisions during the day and try to be conscious of the presence of God throughout the day, each day through Lent,” Father David Mary noted. “Some helps in prayer will come out here and there.”

The Knights of Columbus’ state chaplains have been working together on a national level searching for ways to bring members closer to the Church resulting in new evangelization. The council at St. Aloysius Parish has experimented with text messaging over the last two years with members of their parish and has found success across all ages.

“A as a parent myself, I need ways to encourage my children regardless of age to become more active in the Catholic Church,” Michuda said. “I hope that parents will sign their children up for the same reason.”

Subscribers will get a reminder every day that will help them grow and live their faith and become more engaged during the Lenten season.

“At Baptism, godparents make a vow to help the parents raise these children in the Church,” Michuda noted. “Our children need all of our prayers and support. Godparents can share these Lenten text messages as a spiritual resource that supports their godchildren.”

Michuda said the messages will be sent daily from Ash Wednesday through the Easter Triduum.

The web site posts a fee per subscriber to sign up to receive the messages, but for a limited time, and through a grant offered by Our Sunday Visitor, “we have an opportunity to offer it a no cost to the first 2,500 subscribers,” Michuda reported.

There are two ways to sign up for the text messages at no charge within the diocese. Dial 30200 and text “Go Catholic” from the cell phone of the subscriber. The second means is to send an email to catholictextmessaging@gmail.com and enter “Go Catholic” in the subject line and the cell phone numbers of those to be subscribed.

Sean McBride, director of communications for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, said, “We are very excited about this initiative.”

For more information, or to sign up, visit www.catholictextmessaging.com.

Lenten journey takes on deeper meaning through Operation Rice Bowl

BALTIMORE, Md. — Catholics around the world will begin their Lenten journey on Feb. 22. Many American Catholics find that their journey is enriched by participating in Catholic Relief Services’ Operation Rice Bowl.

For the six weeks of Lent, Operation Rice Bowl introduces participants to countries where poor communities are being strengthened by the work of the Catholic Church through Catholic Relief Services.

CRS Operation Rice Bowl materials are available free at orb.crs.org and include a cardboard rice bowl and daily reflection calendar, full color poster, lesson plans and school activities for educators in grades 1-12, coordinator’s guide for parish administrators and volunteers, videos featuring stories of beneficiaries from India, Madagascar and El Salvador and recipes of meatless meals from Vietnam, Zambia, India, Madagascar and El Salvador. For more information about CRS visit www.crs.org.

Simple Meal Recipes for Lent

Lent: Week 1

Vary amin’anana from Madagascar

Hot rice served with fresh greens and juicy tomatoes. A dash of ginger makes this a fragrant and delicious dish.

Ingredients

• 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
• ½ small onion, minced
• 1 tsp ginger, minced
• 1 tomato, diced
• 3 cups collard greens, thinly sliced
• 1 cup rice
• 2 cups water
• salt, to taste

Directions:

Heat oil in a medium pot. Add onion, ginger and tomato. Sauté for about 2-3 minutes, until tender. Add
• 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
• ½ small onion, minced
• 1 tsp ginger, minced
• 1 tomato, diced
• 3 cups collard greens, thinly sliced
• 1 cup rice
• 2 cups water
• salt, to taste

Nutrients per Serving

| Calories | 211.71 |
| Protein | 3.89 g |
| Carbohydrates | 35.02 g |
| Dietary Fiber | 1.58 g |
| Cholesterol | 0 mg |
| % Calories from fat | 26% |
| % Calories from carbs | 67% |

| Fat - Total | 6.07 g |
| Saturated Fat | 0.52 g |
| Vitamin A RE | 223.81 mcg |
| Vitamin C | 8.22 mg |
| Sodium | 6.71 mg |

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Statues and Rosaries

Gifts for R C I A

Makes 4-5 servings

Ingredients

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• ½ small onion, minced
• 1 tsp ginger, minced
• 1 tomato, diced
• 3 cups collard greens, thinly sliced
• 1 cup rice
• 2 cups water
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Behind closed doors

During a quick trip to the grocery store recently I ran into an acquaintance who had recently lost her husband following a long battle with cancer. After our exchange of social pleasantries, her reply to my gentle prodding was “I’m fine, really.”

But the glazed look of confusion and pain in her eyes communicated a much different story. In her defense, the grocery store is one of the least likely places in which a widow, or anyone in grief for that matter, is sometimes so overwhelmed that the weight of grief is barely cleared the one-year mark.

The news was part of a ping pong of social media that started with Williams describing the latest YouTube sensation: a golden retriever bobbing its head to the structure of “I Will Follow You into the Darkness.”

Broadcasters tout iPads to remind us that they’re hip, sliding graphics with their index fingers. Reality TV’s before-and-after for-

Dear, can relate to her angst. As one who revels in the spoken word, I did not understand, all those years ago, that there would eventually come a time my grief journey, plotted unwittingly by the Lord, would lead me to a house. Then thatch was laid together by mud. It kept out the wind and rain.

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SUNDAY GOSPEL

Mk 2:1-12

Jesus. The lesson is that God will forgive, through Jesus. Still, despite their knowledge, they did not or could not recognize Jesus. As Son of God, the identity Mark so carefully asserted. This reading, and the context of the times, link this man’s paralysis and sin. Pious Jews of that day looked upon physical maladies as the result of sin. Perhaps the victim of the maladies had sinned. Perhaps ancestors had sinned. Jesus confirmed this link by forgiving the man’s sins.

Reflection

Since Christmas, through the readings at Mass, the Church’s emphasis has been on Jesus as Savior, and as Son of God. With Jesus as Son of God, and lowering him through a paralytic’s anxious hope for a cure is obvious. Still, the connection between his physical plight and sin very likely was on his mind. The Lord’s forgiveness came as much as a disabling of the effect of sin as a restoration of physical wholeness. He accepted Jesus as Son of God. The paralytic’s anxiety for a cure was “It was a powerfully energizing yet transcendent meditation in Fairfield, Iowa.”

“Housewives, shop clerks, engineers, waitresses, lawyers, massage therapists and — we all gathered in our dome for the sole purpose of being still,” she wrote. “It was a powerfully energizing yet calming reminder, I didn’t want to end it.”

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

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Claude la Colombiere

1641-1682

February 15

Born in southeastern France, Claude entered the Jesuits at Avignon and completed theology studies in Paris. After ordination, he preached in Lyon. In 1675, he was named rector of the college at Paray-le-Monial and became confessor of the visionary Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque. He helped her spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1676 he was sent to London and reconciled many Catholics to the church they had abandoned. He was arrested and expelled in connection with an alleged plot to kill the king, and died upon returning to France.

The case for silence

Brian Williams took time from his nightly newscast earlier this month to announce that comedian Russell Brand had filed for divorce from singer Katy Perry, ending a marriage that had barely cleared the one-year mark.

The news was part of a ping pong of social media that started with Williams describing the latest YouTube sensation: a golden retriever bobbing its head to the structure of “I Will Follow You into the Darkness.”

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The Obama administration’s recently-announced HHS regulations, which would require Catholic institutions to subsidize health insurance coverage that provides sterilization, abortifacient drugs and contraceptives, should be located within the context of the administration’s three-year-long effort to define religious freedom down. As the administration has demonstrated in its international human rights policy, it regards religious freedom as a kind of privacy right: the right to freedom of worship, which the administration seems to regard as analogous to any other, optional, recreational activity. No serious student of religious freedom, however, takes the redefinition of religious freedom as freedom-to-worship seriously. For if that redefinition were true, there would be “religious freedom” in Saudi Arabia, so long as the “worship” in question was conducted behind closed doors. And that is manifestly absurd.

The HHS regulations announced on Jan. 20 are one domestic expression of defining-religious-freedom-down. The administration does not propose, to say, restore the 1970 ICEL translations of the prayer-texts of the Mass; that, even HHS might concede, is a violation of religious freedom. But the administration did not think it a violation of religious freedom for its Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to try and overturn the longstanding legal understanding, which held that religious institutions have a secure First Amendment right to choose their ministers by their own criteria — to the normal we once knew and to eliminate the cast of mind as religious-freedom-expression of one domestic branch. (which tries to do to banks what Obamacare did to insurance). But the administration did propose to, say, restore the 1970 regulations, which would have been an act of gratitude to the Catholic Church for its Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to try and overturn the longstanding legal understanding, which held that religious institutions have a secure First Amendment right to choose their ministers by their own criteria —

The social doctrine of the Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of the mediating institutions of civil society in living freedom nobly and well. The Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of the mediating institutions of civil society in living freedom nobly and well. The HHS regulations, which would require Catholic institutions to subsidize health insurance coverage that provides sterilization, abortifacient drugs and contraceptives, should be located within the context of the administration’s three-year-long effort to define religious freedom down. As the administration has demonstrated in its international human rights policy, it regards religious freedom as a kind of privacy right: the right to freedom of worship, which the administration seems to regard as analogous to any other, optional, recreational activity. No serious student of religious freedom, however, takes the redefinition of religious freedom as freedom-to-worship seriously. For if that redefinition were true, there would be “religious freedom” in Saudi Arabia, so long as the “worship” in question was conducted behind closed doors. And that is manifestly absurd.

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Squires, Huntington Rams claim CYO weekend victories

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN
FORT WAYNE — In junior varsity Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) tournament action, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel hosted the small school 2012 championship on Sunday, Feb. 12.

For the girls, the hosts got by the St. Rose-St. Louis Twins, 32-17, in a hard-fought battle. The Twins hung tough the first half trailing by just two at the break, 11-13, but a big third quarter by the Squires was too much for them to handle.

Returning to the bench after 26 years of coaching both at Hessen Cassel and Bishop Luers, Coach Ed Merz said, “I could not have picked Knapke and Bishop Luers, Coach Ed Merz as assistant this season. I told them at our first practice we were going to make this fun for both of us, learn the game of basketball and be good Christians on the floor.”

“All season we have talked about starting to get out of their rhythm. ‘This is amazing,” Kubsch said in the postgame celebration. “This is the greatest feeling of my life. I didn’t have even a little bit and got rattled,” said Marian coach Pat Catanzarite. “Look at how many times we either didn’t make a pass or made one pass and then shot. They (Saint Joseph’s) didn’t have to spend any energy on defense.”

When the Indians did use their speed and quickness on defense early in the second half, Marian made a price. The Knights made turnovers on eight of their first nine possessions of the half, many converted into points by Saint Joseph’s. Senior Alex Kubsch led the onslaught, finishing the game 10-0 run by the Indians.

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Kubsch received plenty of help from underclassmen.

Weaver tallied 15 points and six boards, while sophomore Nicole Francouer finished with eight points. Another sophomore, Erin Guzicki, led Marian with eight points.

Defense was a big part of the story for Saint Joseph’s. The Indians forced 25 turnovers, while holding Marian to just 18 percent shooting. Francouer and point guard Nicole Prybylsiak held Marian’s inside-outside scoring duo of Katie Barnard and Katie Kavanagh to just eight points collectively.

A young Marian squad closes its season with a 13-12 mark. The Knights graduate just one senior, so hope for next year abounds.

But for the Indians, there’s hope for next week, as Saint Joseph’s puts its 17-6 record on the line against 18-6 Griffith in the regional at 1 p.m., EST.
Saints, Christ the King in ICCL semifinals

BY MAT S OBERALSKI

MISHAWAKA, SOUTH BEND — The quarter finals of the Inter-City Catholic League’s post-season tournament started with games at Marian High School and Saint Joseph’s High School’s Alumni Gym. The opening game at Marian High School saw the Martin De Pores Division champion Mishawaka Catholic Saints taking on a Corpus Christi Cougar team that defeated the Our Lady of Hungary Bulldogs in their first game of the tournament.

The game was controlled early by the Mishawaka Catholic attack as starting guard Joe Ravotto began the game with a quick three pointer. However, Corpus Christi’s starting point guard Dominick Ferro tried to slow down the Saints’ attack as he poured in nine first quarter points to keep the Cougars in the game as the first quarter ended 25-17 in favor of the Saints. Ravotto began the game with a fast break lay-up as the Saints would push their lead to 14 in on second chance points. The Saints would use a plethora of bruisers Patrick Coulter, Nate Thomas and Anthony Blum. The Corpus Christi had no answer to the rebounding of the Saints’ Matty’s game high 12 rebounds were not enough as the Panthers fell, 40-19, and the Kings solidified their spot in the tournament semifinals.

The pesky Cougars just would not go away and fought to the very end. After a Denny Tomes lay-up, Whitfield would take over the fourth quarter. Whitfield went on his own 8-0 run that ultimately was the final blow to the hungry Cougars as the final buzzer sounded with a Saints’ 53-29 win.

The Mishawaka Catholic win clinched their birth into the semifinals where they would meet the Christ the King Kings at 3:30 p.m. The Saints put in the game high 19 points to stretch a two-point lead to an eight-point lead. The fourth quarter was the Joe Stead show for the Kings, as he poured in 11 of his game high 13 points, in the final quarter. The Panthers fought and Dominick Thomas’ game high 12 rebounds were not enough as the Panthers fell, 40-19, and the Kings solidified their spot in the tournament semifinals.

The semifinals of the post-season tournament will tip off Saturday at Marian High School with the Mishawaka Catholic Saints taking on the Kings of Christ the King at 3:30 p.m. The other semifinal matchup between Christ the King and the Holy Cross Crusaders charge passed the St. Pius X Lions, 39-27. Brendon Chappell led the Crusaders and all scorers with 18 points, while Sam Quinn poured in 15 points for the Lions. Chase Credi’s 13 points and John Byszewski’s 10 points paced the St. Joseph, South Bend, Eagles as they topped the St. Matthew Blazers, 46-22.

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Chad the King’s Riley Stesiak would not let the Panthers make a comeback in the second half as Stesiak scored seven of his 10 points in the third quarter to push the King’s lead to 12.

The fourth quarter was the Joe Stead show for the Kings, as he poured in 11 of his game high 13 points, in the final quarter. The Panthers fought and Dominick Thomas’ game high 12 rebounds were not enough as the Panthers fell, 40-19, and the Kings solidified their spot in the tournament semifinals.

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St. Vincent American Heritage Girl Scouts pledge faithfulness to God, deep respect of others’ beliefs

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — A group of young parents from West Chester, Ohio, were seeking a wholesome, Christ-centered program for their daughters in 1995. Frustrated with the increasing secular focus of other options available, they formed the American Heritage Girl (AHG), which began its first year of programming with about 100 members and 10 troops. Most of the troops met in the West Chester area and worked on badges written by the parents who developed the organization.

AHG is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. The organization offers badge programs, service projects, female leadership opportunities and outdoor experiences.

This program of character building has successfully served thousands of girls since its inception and in 2012 was launched in the Fort Wayne area at St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

The American Heritage Girl (AHG) was formed by Pam Leach, Kathy Moran and Melissa Martin. Moran explains, “We worked for a year to educate Msgr. John (Kuzmich, pastor) on the benefits of AHG. Once he gave us his blessing, we simply asked for volunteers who felt called to bring this ministry to St. Vincent.”

A team of 14 stepped forward last fall and a troop meeting was held on Jan. 17, with enough leaders to cover all five levels and 61 girls the first outing. The girls were taught the AHG oath, mission and salute as they participated in their first flag ceremony. They also enjoyed getting acquainted, making crafts, working towards their “Joining Award” and a short skit and a guest speaker — a retired veteran showing them the proper care and respect for the American flag.

The vision for AHG is to be the premier national character development organization for young women that embraces Christian values and encourages family involvement. As part of AHG, each member promises to be honest, loyal and persevering; to be helpful and willing to serve others.

In addition, they pledge to be honest, loyal and persevering; while remaining pure in mind and body. The troop must be resourceful using their time, materials and talent wisely, respectful to their country and all in authority and responsible for their actions. Finally, AHG demands reverence from their members — faithfulness to God and a deep respect of others’ beliefs.

Core concepts emphasized through the ministry include life skill enhancement, female leadership, teamwork development, building confidence and character, and social and spiritual development. The group accepts girls from kindergarten through grade 12 and divides them by age into the five different level divisions of AHG.

The first group for the youngest members is called “pathfinder.” At this level, girls can earn necklace beads for attendance, participation and Bible verse memorization. As a “tenderheart,” members earn achievement badges, service stars and activity patches for completing various responsibilities. “Explorers and pioneers” have increased expectations while the “patriot” level expects the highest skill level in all areas. “Patriot” members work closely with the unit leaders helping to plan and carry out activities, allowing them to make decisions on a regular basis.

The St. Vincent chapter will hold individual grade level squad meetings at various times over the next month, while the multi-grade troop meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month. Their plans for the remainder of 2012 include earning badges, service work and fun.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Bach Collegium to perform
Fort Wayne — The Bach Collegium will host a concert Sunday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. This concert focuses on five episodes from the last days of Jesus, to illustrate the development of choral music from the 16th to the 18th century, by means of the St. John Passion. For information visit bachcollegium.org or call (260) 485-2143.

Lenten series on Catholicism shown
Notre Dame — “Catholicism,” by Father Robert Barron, will be offered for viewing and discussion by Sacred Heart Parish Tuesdays, Feb. 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 9-11:30 a.m., and Thursdays, Feb. 23, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 7-9 p.m. Contact Michelle Kiss at (574) 631-7508 or mkriss@nd.edu to register. Admission is free.

St. Aloysius School plans winter carnival
Yoder — St. Aloysius School will have a winter carnival Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school gym, 14067 Bluffton Rd. Admission is free. Game tickets will be 25 cents each or six for $1. A raffle is planned with tickets at $1 each or six for $5. All proceeds will benefit tuition assistance.

Theology for generation X
Fort Wayne — Sainthood and Lives of the Saints will be presented by Dr. John Bequette, associate professor of Theology at the University of Saint Francis, Monday, Feb. 20, from 7-9 p.m. at Don Hall’s Gas House, 305 E. Superior St. For information call (260) 436-8704 or email jbequette@sf.edu.

Holy Cross Lenten lectures to begin
Notre Dame — Holy Cross College will begin a six-week Lenten series on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. at Holy Cross Village. Speakers will include: Brother Raymond Papenfuss, CSC, Father Dan Groody, CSC, Brother John Paige, CSC, Father Michael Connors, CSC, Jean Morrow Unsworth and Father Edward Malloy, CSC. Visit www.holycrossvillage.com.

Fish Fries
Pre-Lenten fish fry
Bluffton — St. Joseph Parish, Knights of Columbus Council 7555, 1300 N. Main St., will have a pre-Lenten fish/tenderloin fry, Friday, Feb. 17, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the social hall. Tickets are $9 for adults, $6 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under.

Knights offer fish fries all during Lent
Warsaw — The Bishop Pursley Assembly will host a fish fry on all Fridays during Lent (except on Good Friday) from 4:30-7 p.m. at the council hall. Tickets are $8.50 for adults and $4 for children ages 6-12.

Fish fry and salad bar
South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar Friday, Feb. 24, from 3:30-7 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Adults and carry-outs are $9, children 5-12 are $4 and children under 5 are 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. 24, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $8 and shrimp for $8.50 are available.

CANCELLATION
All family rosary
Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be discontinued due to lack of attendance. Continue to pray the rosary for all families in the comfort of your home.

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24 St. Louis Besancon Hall
Old US 30/Lincoln Hwy. East of New Haven
March
2 St. Aloysius Church
14623 Bluffton Road
3 Mt. Calvary Lutheran
1819 Reservation Drive, Fort Wayne
9 St. Joseph Church
Brooklyn/Hale Avenues, Fort Wayne
16 HAAA - Hoagland Pavilion
Hoagland, IN
18 Sunday at St. Louis Besancon
Drive thru Broasted Chicken Dinner 11:00 a.m.
23 Cornerstone Youth Center
19819 Monroeville Rd., Monroeville
24 Emmanuel Lutheran Church
9909 Wayne Trace, Fort Wayne
30 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Ch.
10700 Aboite Ctr Rd, Fort Wayne

Principal - South Bend, Indiana
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• is eligible for an Indiana Administrative License. Some Spanish fluency and computer literacy are strongly preferred.

For more information, contact Rhonda Scher at the Catholic Schools Office at 260-422-4611 x3335. Applications on the web at www.diocesefwsb.org/CSO. Application review begins March 1.
Bishops from Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin begin visits to Vatican

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Region VII — which includes the states of Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin — started their “ad limina” visits to Rome Feb. 9 with morning Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, before the Altar of the Tomb of St. Peter.

During their visit, which will end Feb. 17, the bishops will discuss a wide range of pastoral matters with Pope Benedict XVI and Vatican officials. A major theme is likely to be the new evangelization, which will be the subject of a Vatican synod this October. In recent weeks, the pope has told other visiting American bishops of the urgent need to defend religious freedom against the threat of “radical secularism.”

The bishops’ periodic visits are formally called “ad limina apostolorum,” which means “to the thresholds of the apostles” Peter and Paul, who were martyred in Rome. Traditionally, the visits serve as an occasion for leaders of local churches to draw inspiration as well as guidance from the center of Catholicism.

The spiritual aspect of “ad limina” visits is most evident in the liturgies that the bishops concelebrate at Rome’s four major basilicas: St. John Lateran, St. Peter’s, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major. The Region VII bishops will return to St. Peter’s Feb. 11 for Mass at the Altar of Blessed John Paul II.

Office of Family Life, Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend

Diocesan Marriage & Family Conference

Notre Dame Conference Center • Saturday, March 24, 2012

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It’s easy to lose sight of the "big picture" in the day-to-day business of raising a family and making a marriage work. The 2012 Diocesan Marriage and Family Conference aims to deepen the understanding of marriage and family life as a vocation from God and encourage an appreciation of its many dimensions. We will also be marking the 30th Anniversary of Bl. John Paul II’s apostolic exhortation on the family, Familiaris Consortio.

Pope Benedict has referred to this document as the “Magna Carta” of marriage and family ministry.

Through a combination of plenary sessions and workshops, this conference will explore the Church’s rich vision of marriage and family life as it relates to topics such as the theology of the body, family prayer, the family and work, the family as the domestic church, raising teens and dealing with issues such as infertility, divorce and homosexuality. This conference is for adults of all ages and circumstances married couples, couples preparing for marriage, single parents, college students, clergy, pastoral ministers and anyone else interested in enriching their understanding of the vocation of marriage and family life.

For the full schedule and to register, go directly to the conference website at cce.nd.edu or call the Notre Dame Conference Center at (574) 631-6691. The registration fee of $35 per person includes conference materials, continental breakfast, a boxed lunch and afternoon snacks. College or graduate students are welcome to attend any of the plenary or workshop sessions at no cost. For more information, you may call the center or the Office of Family Life at (574) 234-0687.