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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Diocesan men called to lead

BY TIM JOHNSON



JOE ROMIE

Men from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend conclude the second annual Diocesan Men's Conference with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. The conference was sponsored by Rekindle the Fire and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

FORT WAYNE — A trio of dynamic speakers, Confessions, and Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades encouraged men to accept their role as spiritual leaders at the Feb. 25 diocesan men's conference. Concentrating on the theme, "a call to lead," Father Andrew Budzinski, parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, offered a challenge to the 1,400 men gathered: "Consider how you will concretely lead in imitation of Christ in your parish, family and marriage."

Held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and Exposition Center in Fort Wayne, the Feb. 26 event brought representatives from 70 parishes across the diocese and some participants traveling from as far away as Texas, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio. Rekindle the Fire and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend presented the second annual conference.

Franciscan Father David Mary Engo began the day's talks centering on the sacrament of Reconciliation.

He described God's mercy as the ocean and when we confess our sins, it is as if we are throwing drops of water in the ocean of mercy.

Priests from across the diocese heard confessions throughout the day.

Deepen our understanding of faith

In the afternoon session, Father Engo told the men, "We need to deepen our understanding of the faith," and meet the challenges of the culture.

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THE RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL OF CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the Rite of Election and Call of Candidates to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, Feb. 26. These rites will be celebrated at St. Matthew Cathedral on Sunday, March 4, at 2 p.m. In the photo, left, Bishop Rhoades signs the Books of the Elect as Deacon Jim Tighe assists. At right, the elect, those awaiting baptism, are shown with their sponsors.

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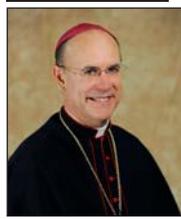
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Lent: A journey of conversion



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

“Repent, and believe in the gospel.” With these words, Jesus began his public ministry. He calls us to conversion. We hear this call anew every year during the season of Lent.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that our Lord’s call to conversion “does not aim first at outward works, ‘sack-cloth and ashes,’ fasting and mortification, but at the *conversion of the heart, interior conversion*. Without this, such penances remain sterile and false; however, interior conversion urges expression in visible signs, gestures and works of penance” (CCC 1430).

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are good and important practices during Lent and are a great help to our spiritual growth. They help us on our journey of conversion. However, these practices must not be performed only as an external fulfillment, but as the expression of our interior disposition: the conversion of our hearts, what the Fathers of the Church called *cumpunctio cordis*, “repentance of heart.”

Our external works of penance are to be accompanied by an interior desire to return to the Lord, to turn away from evil. We ask the Lord to help us to overcome sinful habits, to cleanse us of unholy desires, and to purify un-Christian ways of thinking or acting that may have crept into our lives. Sometimes, we can experience powerful forces within us, temptations to sin, that we find hard to resist. During Lent, we resolve to do battle with sin in our lives. We say to God: “Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.” We ask the Lord to take us by the hand and lead us along the way He wishes us to follow.

The Catechism describes interior repentance as “a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one’s life, with hope in God’s mercy and trust in the help of his grace” (CCC 1431).

The good news of Lent is that God gives us the strength to begin anew. He gives us his grace. We think especially of the great gift he has given us in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Jesus instituted this sacrament to offer us a new opportunity to convert and to be restored to God’s grace. It brings about a true “spiritual resurrection” in us. In a sense, we pass from death to life when we go to confession and receive absolution. I encourage all to receive this sacrament of conversion during the season of Lent.

As I mentioned, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are important forms of penance during this Lenten season. They are to be expressions of our “interior penance.” Recall the preaching of Isaiah in the Old Testament. The people were fasting and



MARK WEBER

“Repent and believe in the Gospel” were the words bestowed with ashes at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne at the noon Mass on Ash Wednesday, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

they did not understand why God did not seem to notice this or reward them for their fasting. The problem was that their exterior fasting did not express interior penance. In fact, God reprimanded them through Isaiah, telling them that their fasting was not acceptable to him because it was merely external. They were unjust in their dealings with others and ignored those in need.

It should not be surprising that God ignores fasts or other practices if those who perform them commit sins against justice and charity. God says he will have nothing to do with the hypocrisy of those who perform fasts but behave wickedly, whereas he will certainly listen to prayers and fasting if they are accompanied by acts of justice and charity. This is a warning to us not to just go through the motions of religious observance. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy are signs of authentic conversion and growth in holiness. Love of neighbor and works of mercy manifest true love of God. When we examine our consciences, it is important to ask ourselves whether the fruits of love are present in our lives.

Pope Benedict’s Lenten message this year focuses on the following passage from the letter to the Hebrews: “Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works” (Heb 10:24). The Holy Father highlights concern for others, responsibility towards our brothers and sisters, as essential to the Christian life. This “concern for others entails desiring

what is good for them from every point of view: physical, moral and spiritual.” He cites two parables of Jesus as examples for us: the parable of the Good Samaritan and the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, both found in the Gospel of Luke. “Both parables show examples of the opposite of ‘being concerned,’ of looking upon others with love and compassion.” Pope Benedict states that “reaching out to others and opening our hearts to their needs can become an opportunity for salvation and blessedness.”

Acts of charity towards our neighbor are part of our Lenten journey of conversion. I think especially of almsgiving, by which we express concrete concern for the poor.

During this Lenten season, let us not forget the priority of interior conversion, the conversion of the heart. Our hearts are moved to this conversion when we look upon him whom our sins have pierced. Saint Clement of Rome wrote: “Let us fix our eyes on Christ’s blood and understand how precious it is to his Father, for, poured out for our salvation, it has brought to the whole world the grace of repentance.”

On Ash Wednesday, we heard the words of Saint Paul imploring the Corinthians: “on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God!” This invitation rings out to us to take the Lenten call to conversion seriously. God wants to create a pure heart in us. Let us open our souls to God’s grace and live intensely this holy season, this journey of conversion towards Easter!

States, women, senators join fight against HHS contraceptive mandate

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Seven states have filed suit against the Department of Health and Human Services' mandate that nearly all health insurance plans cover contraceptives free of charge, saying that it violates religious freedom and leaves "countless additional religious freedoms vulnerable to government intrusion."

Joining the attorneys general of Nebraska, South Carolina, Michigan, Texas, Florida, Ohio and Oklahoma in the lawsuit were a Catholic nun, a lay missionary working with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, Pius X Catholic High School in Lincoln, Neb., and the Omaha-based Catholic Mutual Group, a self-insurance fund that covers more than 125 dioceses or archdioceses and 200 Catholic religious congregations in the U.S. and Canada.

The latest lawsuit was filed as protests against the HHS mandate mounted. More than 4,500 women signed a letter calling on President Barack Obama, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Congress "to allow religious institutions and individuals to continue to witness to their faiths in all their fullness."

In addition, 18 U.S. senators asked Obama to rescind the mandate, saying that its implementation "will unjustly impact religiously affiliated organizations and individuals."

The mandate requires no-cost coverage of all contraceptives approved by Food and Drug Administration, including some that can cause an abortion, as well as sterilizations, as part of preventive health services for women. A narrow religious exemption applies only to those employed by houses of worship.

In a revision announced Feb. 10, Obama said religious employers could decline to cover con-

traceptives if they were morally opposed to them, but the health insurers that provide their health plans would be required to offer contraceptives free of charge to women who requested such coverage. He also announced a one-year "safe harbor" before enforcement of the mandate would begin for religious employers.

The lawsuit by the seven attorneys general, all Republicans, followed earlier suits filed by Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina and Colorado Christian University in Denver; the Eternal Word Television Network in Birmingham, Ala.; and Ave Maria University in Naples, Fla.

"The First Amendment has, for centuries, served as a rampart against government interference with religious liberty," says the brief filed with the U.S. District Court for Nebraska. "The federal government's regulation is an unprecedented invasion of the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights to free speech, free exercise of religion and free association."

Sister Mary Catherine of the School Sisters of Christ the King in Lincoln and FOCUS missionary Stacy Molai of Omaha say in the lawsuit that they would drop their health insurance coverage if the contraceptive mandate is not overturned.

Molai has "an incurable chronic condition" and health insurance coverage "is critical in order for Molai to avoid financial ruin and possibly life-threatening consequences," the lawsuit says.

The open letter from women was organized by Helen Alvare, who teaches law at George Mason University School of Law, and Kim Daniels, former counsel to the Thomas More Law Center, under the banner, Women Speak for Themselves (<http://womenspeakforthemselves.com>).

"No one speaks for all women on these issues," the letter says. "Those who purport to do so are simply attempting to deflect

attention from the serious religious liberty issues currently at stake.

"Each of us, Catholic or not, is proud to stand with the Catholic Church and its rich, life-affirming teachings on sex, marriage and family life," it added. "We call on President Obama and our representatives in Congress to allow religious institutions and individuals to continue to witness to their faiths in all their fullness."

Alvare said the effort to collect signatures for the letter began with an email to a few of her and Daniels' friends and grew exponentially.

"Almost every email (reply) contained a letter expressing the woman's enormous relief at the chance to speak for herself," Alvare said in a news release. "It is moving to read more than 1,000 emails — particularly from doctors, nurses and teachers — expressing their gratitude for the Catholic Church's willingness to stand down the government's claim to speak for all women and women's health."

The letter from 18 Republican senators said the president's revised rule "leaves few viable options for religiously affiliated organizations and individuals to avoid using their funds to pay, directly or indirectly, for services they consider morally objectionable."

Among the options would be to drop health insurance coverage for their employees or to limit hiring only to Catholics in order to fit the administration's "narrow definition of a religious employer," they said.

"Because religiously affiliated hospitals and other organizations are major employers in many communities, ... it is hard to comprehend why this administration would deliberately implement a policy that would have such a detrimental impact," the senators said.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, March 4, 9 a.m. — Mass at Culver Academy
- Sunday, March 4, 2 p.m. — Rite of Election, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Monday, March 5 — Meeting of Indiana Bishops and Religious Superiors, Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis
- Wednesday, March 7, 1 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, March 7, 7 p.m. — Closing Mass of Parish Mission, Saint Patrick Church, Walkerton
- Thursday, March 8, 8:30 a.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Our Sunday Visitor, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne

Profit cannot be primary motive in treating infertility, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An almost exclusive reliance on technology and a focus on financial profit seem to dominate the field of medical responses to infertility, Pope Benedict XVI said.

However, what couples need and deserve, he said, is "a correct diagnostic evaluation and a therapy that corrects the causes of infertility."

Pope Benedict spoke Feb. 25 to members of the Pontifical Academy for Life, which had just held a daylong workshop at the Vatican on diagnosing and treating infertility.

The pope said he wanted "to encourage the intellectual honesty of your work, an expression of a science that maintains a correct spirit of seeking the truth to serve the authentic human good and that avoids the risk of being merely functional."

At the conference, physicians and researchers said modern medicine's almost automatic recommendation that couples having trouble conceiving try in vitro fertilization is a response that does not seek the cause of infertility, but addresses only the symptom and does so in a way that violates Church teaching.

With in vitro fertilization, a woman's eggs are removed, united with sperm in a laboratory, and then implanted in the womb

of the mother or a surrogate. The procedure is costly, and the Catholic Church teaches IVF is immoral because fertilization does not take place through the sexual union of a husband and wife. The Church also condemns the common IVF practice of destroying or freezing fertilized embryos that are not implanted.

"In effect, scientism and the logic of profit today seem to dominate the field of infertility and human procreation, reaching a point where it also limits many other areas of research," Pope Benedict said.

The physicians and scientists at the Vatican conference, however, are motivated "by the desire not only to give a couple a child, but to restore the spouses' fertility and the dignity of being responsible for their procreative choices in order to collaborate with God in the generation of a new human being," the pope said.

Doctors must help fulfill "the legitimate parental aspirations" of a couple dealing with infertility, he said, but they must do so in a way that "fully respects their dignity as persons and spouses."

In addition, he said, Catholic couples need to know that their marital vocation is not diminished if they cannot have children. The couple is still called to love and self-giving, and "to collaborate with God in the creation of a new humanity" and a better world, he said.

POPE WITH MEMBERS OF PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE



CNS PHOTO/L'O SSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves during a meeting with members of the Pontifical Academy for Life at the Vatican Feb. 25. The group had just held a daylong workshop at the Vatican on diagnosing and treating infertility before meeting with the pope.

Papal preacher calls for deeper understanding of celibacy

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — The preacher to the Pontifical Household in the Vatican headlined an impressive lineup of speakers at a Feb. 15-17 symposium at the University of Notre Dame that examined priestly celibacy.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa started the event with a keynote talk that called for a deeper understanding of celibacy based on biblical and theological roots so that celibacy is seen as “a freely accepted commitment and a gift of grace,” not simply a functional discipline that frees a man for ministry.

Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, a psychologist who has studied the priesthood, closed out the symposium with the good news that a solid majority of priests embrace celibacy as a benefit to their priesthood, especially those with a good understanding of the theological-Scriptural basis for celibacy.

In between the opening and closing speakers, two archbishops and several theologians spoke about the biblical and theological roots of celibacy and how a richer understanding of celibacy results in happier priests who are better able to shepherd their people.

Archbishop Allen Vigneron of Detroit presented a paper on “The Virginity of Jesus and the Celibacy of His Priests.” The archbishop said that the people of God need to be educated about the worth of priestly celibacy. The fact that Jesus lived in a state of virginity is “a sure point of reference” to understand the tradition of celibacy in the Church, he

explained.

The covenant between God and His people is nuptial, he continued, for God espouses His people, and Jesus gave His virginal self to the Church and to no one else. Thus, celibate priests share this identification with Christ and serve as heralds of the new evangelization.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle presented his paper on “Celibacy and the Pastoral Ministry of the Priest.” He said that the mystery of the Lord is revealed in priestly celibacy in four ways: By being a man of prayer and staying close to God; by living celibacy as an abiding presence of Jesus and as a sign of single-hearted commitment to loving God and His people; by being a good father to his pastoral family, making a gift of himself to the Church; and by his participating in the sacrifice of Christ through the Eucharistic celebration.

Mary Healy, an associate professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, spoke on the biblical foundations of celibacy. She said that in the Old Testament, celibacy as a religious ideal did not exist because marriage and children were considered a “primordial blessing.”

However, in the New Testament the entirely new concept of a “fruitful virginity” was introduced at the Annunciation, she explained. Later, Matthew, the evangelist, speaks of remaining unmarried for the kingdom of heaven as a gift given by God. And Jesus Himself implies that celibacy for the good of the kingdom is rooted in His own mystery, “the God who desires to wed His people,” with the ministry of the

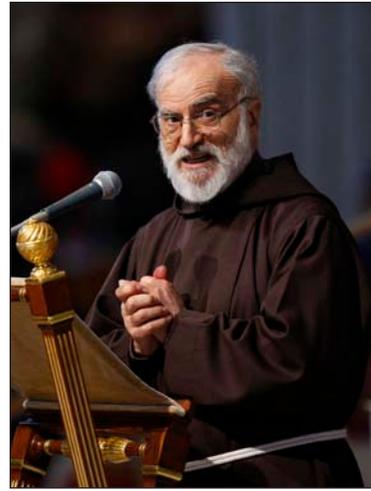
disciples being a participation with Jesus, the bridegroom, she said.

Jesuit Father Joseph Lienhard, professor of theology at Fordham University, traced “The Origins and Practice of Priestly Celibacy in the Early Church.” The reasons for embracing celibacy in the early Church were threefold, he explained: eschatological — celibacy for the sake of the kingdom; theological — the Church is the bride of Christ who brings forth children from the font of Baptism, and the celibate priest is committed fully to the bride Church; and Christological — the priest acts in the place of Christ, who is a model for celibacy.

Msgr. Michael Heintz, director of the Master of Divinity Program at Notre Dame and rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, talked about “Celibacy and Human Formation.” He said that too often celibacy is discussed only in terms of sexual renunciation. Rather, celibacy should be viewed positively as a charism, a gift, a grace that is freely and joyfully chosen so that the priesthood can be shared with, and on behalf of, others.

Father Carter Griffin, vice-rector of Blessed John Paul II Seminary and director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Washington, spoke on “The Fatherhood of the Celibate Priest.” We are accustomed to thinking of Jesus as the Son, he said, but Jesus is also a father in his own right, for the virginal Jesus acts as a father in providing physical and spiritual food, teaching, healing, protecting and generating children for the kingdom of Heaven.

Thus, the celibate priest, who is



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, shown here in this April 2, 2010 file photo delivering the homily during the Good Friday service in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, was the keynote speaker at a recent celibacy symposium sponsored by the Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame and the Committee for Doctrine of the USCCB.

configured to Christ, is appropriately called “Father,” for he is a sanctifier, teacher and shepherd who begets children for eternal, heavenly life. It is the “greatest privilege” of a priest to exercise this supernatural fatherhood, Father Griffin said.

“In an age that struggles with priestly identity, this is a compelling and refreshing way to grasp our identity as priests,” he said, for celibacy is “not a burden, but a gift to be treasured.”

The final presentation of the symposium was given by Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, clinical associate professor at The Catholic University of America, where he also is associate dean for Seminary and Ministerial Programs. He is author of the book “Why Priests are Happy: A Study of the Psychological and Spiritual Health of Priests” (Ave Maria Press, 2011).

Msgr. Rossetti said that his studies show that priests are happier than their lay counterparts, and he has the data to prove it. His 2009 survey showed that 92 percent of priests expressed happiness with their lives. Likewise, 75 percent of priests say that celibacy has been a grace for them, while only 15 percent said they would marry if the Church allowed it. The youngest priests were the most supportive of celibacy, which he attributed to the younger men being more theologically conservative and better trained in a richer understanding of celibacy during seminary.

As priests become more knowledgeable in this area, celibacy is disappearing as “a hot-button issue” among clergy in the United States, Msgr. Rossetti said.

The symposium was sponsored by Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life and the Committee for Doctrine of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, with the assistance of Lilly Endowment's Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program. Ave Maria Press will publish a book containing the symposium papers this fall that will be available from the publisher and most booksellers.

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Assisting undocumented college students gain in-state tuition

INDIANAPOLIS — Promising young, college students have come to Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg) with a problem. The problem: a new state law has brought these bright students' pursuits of a college degree to a screeching halt.

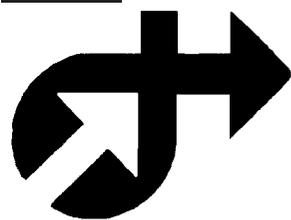
Victoria, who recently brought this to Leising's attention, is one example. Victoria, a student with junior status at Indiana University and a 4.0 grade point average in her major of international studies had her college education abruptly cut short this fall. Why? She was required to pay out-of-state tuition because of a new law effective this year, which prohibits undocumented students who reside in Indiana from getting in-state tuition.

Tuition for Victoria, now at almost three times what she was paying last year, made it impossible for her to return last fall. Victoria is waitressing now, and unsure when or if she'll be able to finish her college degree.

Leising would like to change this especially for college students who were already attending college when the law changed.

Leising is not alone. The Indiana Catholic Conference, the official public policy arm of the Catholic Church in Indiana, also supports the effort.

"We are supportive of efforts to help undocumented college students complete their college education," said Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director. "These college students are working hard to provide for themselves and should be able to do so. They and their families are paying sales, property and income taxes. In



INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

that way, they are supporting the state and its institutions and programs."

Leising offered an amendment to House Bill 1326, a bill on various education matters, to correct the problem. Her amendment would grandfather college students like Victoria who were already enrolled in college when the law changed. The amendment does not help kids that are currently in grades K-12.

Last year, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law to prohibit undocumented immigrants from receiving in-state tuition. It stipulated that students must be lawfully present to qualify for in-state tuition rates. The Indiana Catholic Conference opposed the legislation.

"Until last year, high school graduates entering college could get in-state tuition even if they did not have legal status," said Leising. "Student's like Victoria are funding 100 percent of the tuition by their hard work and hard work of their family. Undocumented immigrants are not able to get financial assistance for college."

"What I'm doing is trying to help students like Victoria and many like her who were already

enrolled in college when the law was passed and are not able to complete their college education because it is cost prohibitive to do so," said Leising.

"The young women I have talked to were brought to this country when they were in preschool," said Leising. "They have attended school from grades K-12 and are as Americanized as any other American child would be. These kids would be misplaced if they went back to their home country."

"In a sense we are throwing a road block in front of them because they can't afford the out-of-state tuition. And especially they can't because they do not qualify for any kind of state student assistance. I do not believe that they should qualify for state student assistance, I'm not advocating that, but I just want them to be able to complete their college education so that hopefully they can continue to pursue their legal status," she said.

"These kids all want to be legal," said Leising. "One young person came to see me with her immigration attorney. The immigration attorney told me that there are young adults who are in their early 20s that might have to wait

up to 20 years to achieve legal status because they have aged out of the system."

According to the immigration attorney, Leising said that when a child ages out of the system that means it basically took the system too long to grant them legal status, so the process starts all over again and the person must apply in a different category.

"These kids are in the prime of their life as far as working and career making, yet they potentially will not have access to a legal status, or may have to wait 20 years to get it," Leising said.

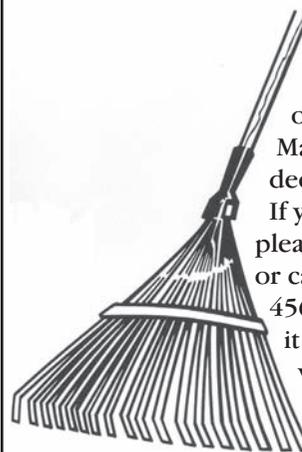
Currently, 12 states have laws allowing undocumented students who meet specific requirements to receive in-state tuition according to an October 2011 report issued by National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). California and Texas were the first to enact laws in 2001. Utah, Washington, Oklahoma, New York, Kansas and Illinois also have similar laws allowing undocumented to pay in-state tuition.

Four states including Indiana prohibit in-state tuition for undocumented students. Arizona passed its in-states prohibition in 2006. Colorado and Georgia passed a similar law in 2008.

Get Connected:

Join the Indiana Catholic Action Network — I-CAN electronically at the ICC web page. In addition to the I-CAN Update, information regarding the bills and the legislative process through the ICC Legislative Action Center is available. Under policy tools click on "issues and legislation" and access the state or federal bills by clicking "current legislation." Access the archived updates, ICC positions and other background information at the ICC web site, www.indianacc.org.

Notice of ANNUAL CLEANUP



at CATHOLIC CEMETERY

The Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne will conduct their ANNUAL CLEANUP of decorations from March 15 thru March 31. Please do NOT place any decorations during this entire time. If you wish to save your decoration, please have it removed BEFORE March 15, or call the Catholic Cemetery Office, 456-2044, by March 12, and we will hold it for you no more than 30 days, after which it will be discarded. Decorations may be placed AFTER MARCH 31. We thank you for your cooperation.

KEELEY VATICAN LECTURE

The Terrence R. Keeley Vatican Lecture, an annual lecture sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, provides students and faculty the opportunity to explore questions involving Notre Dame's Catholic mission with distinguished representatives from the Holy See.



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For more information and for an archive of previous Keeley Vatican Lectures, visit NANOVIC.ND.EDU.

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HHS mandate presents problems of principle, practicality, bishop says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Department of Health and Human Services' contraceptive mandate and its extremely narrow religious exemption present problems both of principle and of practicality, according to the bishop who heads the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty. Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., said in a Feb. 23 telephone interview with Catholic News Service that the "accommodation" announced Feb. 10 by President Barack Obama represents "an intrusion into the internal life of the Church that we think is a violation of religious liberty." On a practical level, he added, the mandate as revised by Obama "does not really address how we are organized" as Church institutions. "It seems to me that for the government to ask us to override our teachings, whether popular or not, there has to be a compelling government interest," Bishop Lori said. But he said 90 percent of insurers already cover contraceptives, with companies that object to contraception representing a "relatively small number" of employers. "The insurance plans that are in question are good benefits packages, but they don't include these things that are abundantly available elsewhere and at a reasonable cost, despite what is being said," he added. Obama's revised mandate says religious employers could decline to cover contraceptives if they were morally opposed to them, but the health insurers that provide their health plans would be required to offer contraceptives free of charge to women who requested such coverage. Bishop Lori questioned why the federal government would compel coverage of contraception but leave other decisions on "essential health services," such as coverage of high blood pressure medication or HIV/AIDS drugs, to the states under the health reform law. "It's hard to see how that is a compelling government interest" when other important treatment decisions are left to the states, he said.

Pope: Charitable works are key part of new evangelization

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An authentic Christian faith is demonstrated through concrete acts of charity and those acts are an essential part of the Catholic Church's new evangelization effort, Pope Benedict XVI told members of a Rome-based charity. "The witness of charity touches human hearts in a special way," the pope said, and "the new evangelization, especially in a cosmopolitan city like Rome, requires a great openness of spirit and a wise readiness to help all." The pope made his remarks Feb. 24 during an audience with members of the Circolo di San Pietro, which operates soup kitchens and a shelter in Rome, but also raises money for papal charities. "We know that the authenticity of our fidelity to the

NEWS BRIEFS

POPE ARRIVES TO CELEBRATE ASH WEDNESDAY MASS AT BASILICA OF SANTA SABINA IN ROME



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI arrives to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass at the Basilica of Santa Sabina in Rome Feb. 22.

Gospel is verified in part by the attention and concrete care that we try to show our neighbors, especially the weakest and the marginalized," he said. True concern for others means trying to meet all their human needs, "physical, moral and spiritual," and "overcoming the hardness of heart that makes us blind to the suffering of others," the pope said.

Maryland leaders pledge to put same-sex marriage issue on ballot

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The Maryland Catholic Conference's executive director, vowing to work with others to bring the measure to a referendum, said the people of the state "will be outraged" at how quickly the bill to legalize same-sex marriage made it through the Legislature to final passage. The state Senate approved it 25-22 the evening of Feb. 23 after deliberating just 48 hours. The House of Delegates had already approved the bill Feb. 17, and Gov. Martin J. O'Malley, the bill's sponsor, has pledged to sign it quickly into law. "I expect that the people of Maryland will be outraged at the manner in which this legislation has been rammed through the Legislature, and they will be all the more inspired to do everything necessary to ensure the opportunity to vote in support of traditional marriage," said Mary Ellen Russell of

the Catholic conference. The conference is the public policy arm of the bishops serving Maryland Catholics from the Washington and Baltimore archdioceses and the Diocese of Wilmington, Del. Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien, apostolic administrator of the Baltimore Archdiocese, said that "by daring to redefine this sacred union between one man and one woman," Maryland's politicians "unconscionably have chosen political expediency over the good of society — the fundamental charge of their office." Calling it "radical legislation, he said the lawmakers' action "poses a grave threat to the future stability of the nuclear family and the society it anchors." The Archdiocese of Washington said the measure was "regrettably" passed through "expedited hearings" and despite the fact that "Catholics and individuals across Maryland encouraged the lawmakers to protect the long-standing and proper definition of marriage as a union of one man and one woman."

Former Anglicans celebrate Mass in St. Peter's, give thanks to pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For perhaps the first time ever, Anglican hymns, chants and prayers reverberated off the marble walls of St. Peter's Basilica as some members of the world's first ordinariate for former Anglicans celebrated their

coming into the Catholic Church. "Wonderful is not a strong enough word to express how we feel to be here," where the Apostle Peter gave his life "and where his successors guarded the faith for generations," said Father Len Black in his homily. Mass at the basilica and the pilgrimage to Rome generated "a feeling of coming home," said the Catholic priest who served as an Episcopal pastor in the Scottish Highlands for 31 years. The group of about 94 pilgrims, including a dozen priests, was led by Msgr. Keith Newton, head of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, which was established in January 2011 for former Anglicans in England and Wales. After celebrating morning Mass Feb. 24 in a side chapel, the group moved to the center of the basilica and stood in front of the "Confessio" — a lower chapel honoring St. Peter's confession of faith that led to his martyrdom — and recited the General Thanksgiving, a traditional Anglican prayer. "That was very moving, thanking God for all we received this year and for the pilgrimage," he told Catholic News Service.

Vatican diplomat attends Friends of Syria summit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican diplomat attended an international summit seeking an end to Syria's yearlong civil war. Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald,

apostolic nuncio to Egypt and the Holy See's delegate to the Arab League, was an observer at the so-called Friends of Syria meeting Feb. 24 in Tunis, Tunisia, said the Vatican's top spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi. The meeting of representatives of about 60 Western and Arab states called for an immediate cease-fire and demanded that Syria open humanitarian corridors. The nations also pledged to increase aid and to set up relief depots in areas along the Syrian border. A nationwide uprising against the government of Bashar al-Assad began last March, and Syrian security forces have stepped up efforts to defeat the opposition movement, especially in Homs, a center of resistance. A U.N. report released Feb. 23 accused the regime of "crimes against humanity." The Vatican's participation at the summit, at the invitation of Tunisia's foreign minister, was "intended to show the closeness and solidarity of the Holy See with all of the Syrian people" and its wish for "peace and stability" in the region, Father Lombardi said.

Those devoted to Blessed Kateri 'walking on air' about canonization

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CNS) — Since first learning in December that Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha was to be canonized, the head of a committee named for her in the Syracuse Diocese said those who have a devotion to the saint to be "are walking on air. I can't tell you how excited we are," said Emily Garrow-Stewart, a Mohawk who grew up hearing Blessed Kateri's story in her home. "She has been a part of my life since I was a child," she said. "There was always a picture of her in the house. She is such a good role model and example. In my mind, there is always such a light about her." Blessed Kateri, known as "the Lily of the Mohawks," was born to a Christian Algonquin mother and a Mohawk father in 1656 along the Hudson River in what is today upstate New York. She was baptized by a Jesuit missionary in 1676 when she was 20. A year later she fled to Canada and died there in 1680. Her sainthood cause was opened in 1932, and she was declared venerable in 1943. In June 1980, she became the first Native American to be beatified. In December, Pope Benedict XVI advanced the sainthood causes of Blessed Kateri and Blessed Marianne Cope of Molokai by signing the decrees recognizing the miracles needed for their canonizations. On Feb. 18, the pope announced they would be canonized at the Vatican Oct. 21, along with five others. Sister Patricia Burkard, general minister of Blessed Marianne's order, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, said in a statement released the same day that the sisters "have been in joyful anticipation of hearing the date" since December. Learning of it, she said, "completes the cycle of 37 years of efforts to get us to this moment. We now go forward in joyful anticipation with the next steps of planning."

St. Thomas the Apostle offers mission

ELKHART — Franciscan Father David Mary Engo will conduct a parish mission for the community at St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, with the theme of "Behold Your Mother, Behold Your Son." Topics each evening at 7 p.m. will be: Sunday, March 11 – God the Father; Monday, March 12 – Mary, our Mother; Tuesday, March 13 – Reconciliation (with confessions); Wednesday, March 14 – Eucharist. All are welcome.

Christ the King hosts Lenten parish mission

SOUTH BEND — Christ the King Parish, located at 52473 S.R. 922 in South Bend, is hosting a parish mission, March 11-13, at 7 p.m., in the church.

Each day of the mission will explore the call to practice "truth in love" from Eph. 4:15, through prayer, reflection and song. The mission will be incorporated with evening prayer with a different priest offering the reflection each night.

Holy Cross Father Peter Jarret will speak Sunday, March 11. Noted author Holy Cross Father Ken Grabner will lead Monday, March 12, and Father Daryl Rybicki will speak Tuesday, March 13.

The mission will begin with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Sunday from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Adoration will be celebrated from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday and Tuesday. There will be an opportunity to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday evening. For more information call the parish office at (574) 272-3113.

Sacred Heart Parish offers mission

WARSAW — Sacred Heart Parish, located at 125 N. Harrison St. in Warsaw, will hold a parish mission titled "Gather Your People," March 11-15, at 7 p.m. each evening.

The schedule of speakers and topics include: March 11, Father Jason Freiburger — "Faith and Service"; March 12, Father James Seculoff — "Communion of Saints"; March 13, Father Gary Sigler — "Prayer"; March 14, Father Edward Erpelding — "Reconciliation"; and March 15, Bishop John M. D'Arcy — "Eucharist."

The mission will be held in the church. For those unable to attend the evening sessions, morning sessions will be held Monday through Thursday from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Living Well Center facilitated by Sister Joan Hastreiter.

For information call the parish office at (574) 267-5842.

St. Patrick offers parish mission

WALKERTON — St. Patrick Parish, located at 807 Tyler St.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

SEMINARIAN MAKES PLEDGE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL



PROVIDED BY PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

Seminarian Christopher Lapp of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, center, made the Profession of Faith and took the Oath of Fidelity in the presence of the seminary community and its rector Father James Wehner at the Pontifical College Josephinum in preparation for ordination to the diaconate on Feb. 10. Candidates for ordination pledge to remain always faithful to the teachings of the Church and, with their hand on the Book of Gospels, swear before God to be faithful teachers of the Gospel and never to lead the people astray with false teachings.

in Walkerton, will offer a parish mission titled, "Community: In Family, In Christ, In Parish, In Forgiveness," March 4-7 at 7 p.m. Speakers for March 4-6 include Marilyn Fech, Msgr. Bernard Galic and Msgr. Heintz, with refreshments to follow the presentations. March 7 will feature Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at 7 p.m. with a potluck dinner to follow. For more information call the parish at (574) 586-7404.

Most Precious Blood Church to host mission

FORT WAYNE — Most Precious Blood Church in Fort Wayne will hold a parish mission themed, "One Family in Christ" from March 19-21. Topics each evening at 7 p.m. will be: Monday — March 19, "Divine Adoption"; Tuesday, March 20 — "Forgiveness"; Wednesday, March 21 — "The Eucharist: Our Daily Bread."

Warsaw Knights present check to Sacred Heart School

WARSAW — The Knights of Columbus Archbishop Noll Council 4511 in Warsaw recently presented a check in the amount of \$909 to Sacred Heart School. The Knights sponsored a breakfast during Catholic Schools

Week. Paul Hurst of the Knights of Columbus presented the check to Sacred Heart School Principal James Faroh and Sacred Heart Church pastor, Father Philip DeVolder.

Franciscans Minor to honor St. Clare

FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Brothers Minor will host evening devotions in honor of St. Clare of Assisi on the evenings of March 16, 17 and 18, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Andrew Church.

Sunday, March 18, marks the 800th anniversary of the day when St. Clare of Assisi left her home and began the order of Poor Clares.

"When the world was growing dark and cold in the 13th century, God brought forth St. Francis to set the world afire with the love of God," noted Franciscan Father David Mary Engo, who will celebrate the devotions, "and St. Clare to be a light and to dispel the darkness."

The triduum event in honor of St. Clare will include nights of prayer and reflection on the life of St. Clare and her important role in the world today.

A potluck gathering will be held after devotions on Sunday, March 18.

Notre Dame conference explores theology of Pope Benedict XVI

NOTRE DAME — The Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame will host the upcoming God Is Love: Explorations in the Theology of Benedict XVI conference from March 25 – 27.

The event will be held at McKenna Hall on the Notre Dame Campus, and is open to the public. Registration is now live at <http://icl.nd.edu/> and is required for all participants.

The gathering is a reflection on the ongoing theological career and achievement of Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), which commences in the 1950s in his reflection on Augustine and Bonaventure. This career — over a period of almost 60 years — is characterized by insightful theological commentary on every conceivable theological topic, repeated soundings in biblical interpretation, consistent interventions in the public arena, faithful advocacy of the value of the Catholic tradition and its practices, and a catechetical mindset that concerns itself with the beliefs and forms of life of the average Catholic living in the modern world.

In addition to offering general characterizations of Benedict's

theological thought, the papers presented will cover Pope Benedict as a doctrinal, biblical, practical, political, and catechetical theologian. Classic texts such as "The Introduction to Christianity," "The Spirit of the Liturgy," and Pope Benedict's recent two-volume "Jesus of Nazareth" will come in for detailed discussion.

Even as pontiff, Pope Benedict remains a theologian; attention will be paid to continuity and differences between texts produced as Joseph Ratzinger and those produced by Pope Benedict XVI. The pope's encyclicals and especially "God is Love," will be a focus throughout.

A complete schedule of events as well as registration information is available at <http://icl.nd.edu/icl-events/god-is-love-theology-of-benedict-xvi-conference/>.

Local film festival features 'Walking Among Us'

FORT WAYNE — Windsong Pictures will present an original feature length motion picture titled, "Walking Among Us," at the Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, Neff Hall on March 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. and March 11 at 2:30 p.m. The inspiring family-friendly film is about six angels who are on a mission to touch the lives of people in powerful ways. With a diversified international cast from four continents around the world, this film was shot in Fort Wayne at Miss Virginia's Mission House, St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, Ave Maria House, St. Mary's Church, and many other local places.

A second Windsong film, "Alaska: The Last Frontier II", an insightful documentary about memorable people and their unique stories will show on March 10 and 11 at 1 p.m.

The film festival is sponsored by the IPFW Film Festival Club. For more information contact (260) 348-5510 or visit www.WindsongPictures.com

Holy Cross College names two new Board of Trustee members

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College has announced the appointment of two new board members to the institution's Board of Trustees: Richard Cutter of Granger, and Dr. David Hollier of Austin, Texas.

"Dick Cutter and Dr. David Hollier bring to our Holy Cross Board a spirit of generous service, complimented by their specific areas of knowledge and expertise. I am looking forward to working with them as we further the mission and goals of the college," said Holy Cross Brother John Paige, president of Holy Cross College.

The two new trustees will each serve a three-year term and be eligible for reappointment to a second three-year term in 2014.

Stewardship is a family affair

BY DENISE FEDOROW

SOUTH BEND — For generations of the Kloska family of Elkhart, stewardship of time, talent and treasure has been a way of life. Irv and Bonnie Kloska raised 12 biological children, one adopted child (now deceased) and nurtured 11 foster children in their nearly 50 years of marriage.

The high school sweethearts moved to the area from Grand Rapids, Mich., and first attended Holy Cross Church in South Bend before moving to Elkhart where they've been parishioners at St. Thomas the Apostle Church for 40 years.

Irv said when it comes to stewardship, "The first thing you tend to think of is financial. But it's a lot more than that. It's time, talent and treasure."

He said he personally likes to think of the big picture of stewardship and admits that's partially because with raising such a big family they had to make their money stretch.

"We put 12 kids through Catholic schools and college — that's why I'm still working," Irv said.

The couple believes that sending their children to Catholic schools and colleges has been a form of stewardship and they continue to support Catholic education. Irv said multiplied by the number of children it equals about 200 years of Catholic education and hundreds of thousands of dollars. Aside from supporting education and their parish, other favorite charities include the Women's Care Center in South Bend and Food for the Poor. They also sponsor a child in the Dominican Republic through Christian Foundation for Children and Aged (CFCA).

Investing in children

Irv and Bonnie feel part of their stewardship is raising a big family in the Catholic faith, taking in foster children and sponsoring children.

"We believe that was our contribution to society — wanting to help children who needed it," Irv said.

"It was good for our children," Bonnie said. "They were able to 'mother' the little infants and they knew they were here only temporarily."

They almost always took in babies as foster children with the exception of their son Johnny, who they eventually adopted and who lived with them until he died in a car accident six or seven years ago at the age of 20. Twice they took in single mothers and their children that Bonnie met at the Women's Care Center.

The couple always prayed the rosary with their family during

Lent but after their first visit to Medjugorje in 1988 that family rosary became a daily event and they continue to pray the rosary daily.

"Now every one of our kids prays the rosary with their families — even little ones can sit still for one decade," Bonnie said. "The rosary is an extremely important tradition in our lives and we've handed out hundreds of rosaries."

Stewardship of Prayer

The Kloskas have served their parish in just about every ministry over the years, giving of their time and talent where they could. These days their stewardship of time and talent is mainly through a ministry of prayers for healing.

Irv said in 1997, through a variety of means, he was made aware of a gift to pray for healing for others.

"People have come to us from all over and we've gone lots of places. It gives us an opportunity to evangelize as it seems as if most are non-Catholics or lapsed Catholics," he said.

"We tell everyone what Catholics really believe about Mary and about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist," he



PROVIDED BY IRV KLOSKA

Irv and Bonnie Kloska have passed their commitment to stewardship on to their 12 children.

said. "Everyone gets a rosary and an Immaculate Mary medal."

They have countless stories of the Lord healing these people and in many cases, conversions to the Catholic faith have taken place as well.

Eucharistic Adoration is also very important to the Kloska family. Irv was instrumental in the design of the adoration chapel at St. Thomas and memorial funds for their son Johnny went to the building fund for the chapel.

Second generation

Irv and Bonnie's children — Theresa Thomas, Cheryl Murphy, Karen Swick, Robert Kloska, Lisa Marino, Jennifer Nolan, Michael Kloska, Jeffrey Kloska, Mary Kloska, William (BJ) Kloska, Cathy Downey and Joey Kloska — are all very involved in their individual parishes, schools, school boards and various servant ministries.

"I'm so proud of them and how they're living their Catholic faith," said Bonnie. "I told them the worst thing they could do to hurt us would be to leave the Church."

Daughter Lisa Marino has been the RCIA instructor at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend for the past 12 years, but has been an RCIA instructor for 20 years since she got out of college. Daughter Cheryl Murphy ran Catholic Charities in Elkhart until she married and began her family. Their son Bobby is in charge of campus ministries at Holy Cross College in South Bend. Cathy Downey and her husband taught at Saint Joseph's High School and her husband is a football coach. Theresa Thomas writes for *Today's Catholic* and has published a book. Karen has foster children and BJ found an "app" for his phone so when he is traveling on business he can find the nearest Catholic Church within walking distance to attend Mass.

Mary has done missionary work in Tanzania and is now a hermit with an official blessed hermitage.

"Dad always told us, 'To those who have been given much, much is expected and you've been given everything,'" she said.

The Kloska children were taught that just by the grace of being born in America with all the abundance and religious freedom they've been given much.

Cheryl said her stewardship heritage is not surprising because "You are formed by what you grow up with," she said.

She doesn't remember her parents ever using the term "stewardship."

"We watched our parents; they lived it. We were aware that they supported the Church financially. They opened their home to foster children. You see it and you're



PHOTOS BY DENISE FEDOROW

Irv Kloska stands by the grotto to Our Lady in the yard of his Elkhart home.



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formed by it," she said.

She said she and her husband Mike try to do the same thing with their six children by the way they share their faith, time and almsgiving. She said there have been years when it's been easy to give to the Church and charities, and years when it hasn't. She gave an example of a time when the family they sponsor through CFCA needed to rebuild their mud hut home and Cheryl's dishwasher was broken and she was pregnant at the time. They chose to go without a dishwasher for nine months so they could send extra money to the family.

"For those months I washed dishes by hands it was a reminder to pray for the family. It made me feel more connected," she said.

Her husband is a graphic designer so the children have been able to witness him using his talents to serve the Church.

Many of the Kloska's 56 grandchildren are also carrying on the legacy of servitude. The Murphy children range in age from four to 14. The 14-year-old daughter volunteers at the Women's Care Center and is waiting to be old enough to do some things on her own. "She really loves it," her mom said.

The Murphys also take their children to the pro-life march at the courthouse each year.

They've taught their children that it's their responsibility to share their faith, explain and defend it.

"When your children can see how you approach problem solv-



Irv Kloska is shown by the altar erected in his backyard. The Kloska family home is also used for retreats for the mission teams at Holy Cross and small groups.

ing using your faith — you can't buy that kind of example for your kids," Cheryl said.

Mary said stewardship is more than just writing a check. "It's walking that extra mile — going to the store with someone in need and shopping with them. And when you don't have enough, praying for generous people to

step up."

Bonnie said the entire family pulls together and gets on the same page when God is nudging one of them in a certain direction.

Her husband Irv summed it up with this statement, "Stewardship does not only have to do with the Church, but it also has to do with the Body of Christ."

Christian stewardship — abandonment to God's will

At the core of "Christian stewardship" there is a radical sense of abandonment to God's will. This abandonment is an offering of one's heart to God like "a clump of wax," as St. Francis de Sales would say — "ready to receive the impression of God's will."

This is a matter of detachment from those things that we think are more important than God's work. Whatever it is we give up this Lent, we should be sure to give up our will and take on God's will for our existence.

Stewardship is a way in which we ask ourselves, "What is God asking to do through me?"

St. Therese Lisieux, a beautiful Christian steward, always insisted that what really matters is not the greatness of our deeds, but that our deeds are done in obedience to God's will as an expression of love for God. We should not be impressed by the grandeur of our deeds.

Most of us are not, since most of us are ordinary people living ordinary lives — humdrum day-to-day lives, made up of many petty affairs. Yet, every one of those little under-



STEWARDSHIP
A WAY
OF LIFE

HARRY VERHILEY

takings is an opportunity to express our love for God and to live His will. This, of course, means that the present moment is so important because we can abandon ourselves to God right now, in this very moment.

This "abandonment" is the Christian steward's response, just as St. Paul responded on the road to Damascus, regardless of his past sins and regardless of our past sins. At the present moment we too can ask: "Lord, what will you have me do?" — Acts 9:6.

This is Paul's response to the risen Lord after being confronted with the truth of his own sinfulness. How do we respond to the truth of our own sinfulness? Christian stewardship gives us a means of responding, not only in words, but also in action.

STEWARDSHIP, PAGE 10



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Medjugorje

2012 National Conference

University of Notre Dame

May 11, 12 and 13



Speakers include



Father Jozo Grbes, OFM was born in Bosnia-Herzegovina and was a young man when the Medjugorje visions started in 1981. Father Jozo has studied Our Lady's messages over the past thirty years and encourages all to respond to her urgent call to conversion and peace. He will give an update on Medjugorje at the conference and testimony to the tremendous good fruit that has come through Our Lady's apparitions.



Father Paul Nomellini served the Church as a religious brother for twenty years before his ordination to the priesthood in 1977. He went as a skeptic to Medjugorje in 1990. His experience there made him a believer and he has since led four pilgrimages to Medjugorje. Since his retirement as a pastor, he is busier than ever giving retreats and missions around the country. Father Nomellini's Medjugorje testimony is very inspiring.



Doctor Theodore Homa is a medical doctor from Chicago who was an atheist before his trip to Medjugorje. In 2008 he had a brush with eternity after lapsing into a coma while awaiting a heart transplant. His testimony about his near-death experience is powerful and inspiring. Doctor Homa says, "If this had happened before Medjugorje, I'd be in hell now."



Cathy Nolan is co-founder (with her husband Denis) of Mary TV, a lay apostolate dedicated to using modern communication technology to promote the call of Our Lady from Medjugorje. Cathy is co-host of the daily online rosary and writes a daily reflection on Our Lady's messages from Medjugorje. She is the mother of eight children and has the unique gift of both a scholar's intellect and a mother's heart.

Mark Forrest has filled concert halls and cathedrals worldwide with his beautiful tenor voice. His music inspires people everywhere to appreciate the importance of their faith and family. He has a number of top-selling albums of traditional Irish songs and classical hymns. Mark and his wife Muriel have eight children and are founders of the Faith and Family Foundation, established to support and encourage families with special needs.



Christine Watkins was a professional ballet dancer with the San Francisco Ballet and an avowed atheist before her miraculous conversion to Catholicism. Moving away from her previous life, she is now a well-known and very articulate speaker for the Catholic faith and the call of Our Lady. Christine is the author of a new book entitled *Full of Grace: Miraculous Stories of Healing and Conversion through Mary's Intercession*.



Father Ken Grabner, CSC is widely known for his wise and inspiring talks and homilies. His career as a monk, priest, scholar, and teacher spans over fifty years. Father Ken is the author of a number of prayer and meditation books including *Focus Your Day—Reflections on the Christian Experience* and *Gazing Into God's Open Heart—101 Pathways to Joy*.



Doctor Joseph Bagiackas has a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Catholic University of America. He is an expert on the theology of the laity and has written *Lay Person's Guides* to blessed John Paul's and Pope Benedict XVI's teachings. He will speak on the subject of loyalty to the Church and the importance of knowing our faith well and being ready to defend it.



Conference Schedule

Friday, May 11

5:00 pm...Doors open
7:00 pm...Conference begins
Guest speaker
Candlelight rosary procession to the Lourdes Grotto

Saturday, May 12

7:15 am...Doors open
8:00 am...Morning session
Holy Mass
Procession and Consecration
Guest speakers (all sessions)
1:30 pm...Afternoon session
7:00 pm...Evening session
Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

Sunday, May 13

7:15 am...Doors open
8:30 am...Morning session
Guest speakers
1:00 pm...Holy Mass
2:30 pm...Conference ends

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STEWARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

The fruit of Christian stewardship is the action of the response, and the response of a Christian steward is an act of holiness — because holiness consists of following the design of God and accepting all that comes from Him. Therefore, stewardship is a call to holiness.

Look at the lives of the saints. Every saint was truly a Christian steward. They were made holy by God, according to His plan, because they abandon themselves to God's will. Read the lives of the saints and see that they lived lives, according to their state of life, according to what God designed for them. Some saints were rich, others poor, some in mainstream society, others obscure; yet, what they had in common was that each of them — in their own state of life —

sought to please God by doing God's will. Consider your state in life and contemplate what God wants to do through you.

Christian stewardship offers us the opportunity to express our love for God by giving proportionately, according to what God has given us. But to a great extent, Christian stewardship offers us complete and total submission to God to do with us as He wills. Christian stewardship is a call for all Christians to abandon themselves to God's will.

Harry Verhiley is director of the Office of Development for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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Contraception: What's a Catholic to think?

The current controversy over the HHS mandate has elevated the issue of birth control to national prominence. In so doing, it has raised questions in the minds of many people, including many Catholics, about why the Church opposes contraception and sterilization in the first place.

What does faith have to do with family planning? Many people sincerely wonder. Does God really care how many kids we have, what method of birth control we use, and whether we get our tubes tied when our family is finished? To begin to understand where the Church is coming from on this issue, we first need to see the "big picture," from the perspective of both history and theology.

For the vast majority of Christian history, all the major churches, not just the Catholic Church, taught

that contraception and sterilization were seriously wrong. This opposition was not limited to the clergy, but was widely accepted by the Christian faithful. In fact, when Anthony Comstock, a devout New England Protestant, proposed to Congress in 1873 a federal statute, which would criminalize the possession, distribution and dissemination of information about contraceptives, it passed with little debate.

The first break in the constant teaching of the Christian churches came in 1930, when the Anglican Church decided at its Lambeth Conference to permit the use of contraception among married couples for serious reasons. A short while later, Pope Pius XI issued the encyclical "Casti Connubii" in response, reaffirming the clear and consistent Christian doctrine on the sanctity of marriage and the immorality of



LISA EVERETT

GUEST
COMMENTARY

contraception.

Then in 1960, the birth control pill was introduced, and its proponents promised, among other things, that better marriages would result from more spontaneous and satisfying sex lives free from the fear of pregnancy.

Pope Paul VI issued his prophetic encyclical, "Humanae vitae," eight years later, when the sexual

THINK, PAGE 12

In God we lack nothing



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday of Lent Mk 9:2-10

The Book of Genesis is the source of this weekend's first reading. Often, Genesis is associated with its Creation Narratives, since these particular sections of the book have prompted such warfare among those of varying opinions as to the interpretation.

However, much else is included in Genesis. A major figure is Abraham. Historians and biblical scholars agree that Abraham actually lived. He was not a myth or the product of imagination. He lived very long ago.

Historically, Jews have regarded Abraham as the first of their race. In a theological sense, Christians see Abraham as the first of their race, since Christians believe that their religion flows from the Revelation initially given by God to the Jews.

This weekend's reading is very familiar. Abraham leads his beloved son, Isaac, to the top of a high mountain, there to kill him as a sacrifice to God. As is well known, God intervenes and orders that Isaac be spared.

The story has several lessons. One lesson, usually overlooked, is the repudiation of human sacrifice by none other than God. Human sacrifice, in and of itself forever abhorrent to Jews, was much a part of the ritual of pagans who lived around the Jews.

Another feature of pagan worship was to conduct ceremonies, including sacrifices, atop high mountains.

Therefore, beyond sparing Isaac, beyond rejecting human sacrifice, in

this story God draws Abraham, and all people, away from the error of paganism. Instead, they learn from God, about the best and true order of creation. God is the best teacher, and God provides.

Isaac is a figure who, for Christians in later centuries, in a sense symbolizes Jesus. As was Isaac, Jesus was the sacrifice, killed by the ignorance and baseness of humans. However, Jesus lived. Like Isaac, Jesus did not die forever.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading. Always, inevitably, in his writings, Paul encouraged and reinforced his disciples in their faith. This section from Romans is no exception.

Typically straightforward and clear, this reading simply says that if the power of God, and the light of God, are with us, nothing can prevail against us.

The Gospel of Mark provides the last reading. As was the case with the reading from Genesis, this weekend's first reading, this selection is very familiar. It is the story of the Transfiguration.

In this story, Jesus takes Peter, James and John to the summit of a high mountain. There, in an overwhelming, stupendous, even terrifying appearance, Jesus is transfigured. He becomes visible to the Apostles as the Son of God.

Light is everywhere. In the Old Testament, God is associated with light. Indeed, the presence of God constitutes the difference between darkness and light. God is the Lord of life, and of light.

Mountaintops were the places on earth nearest to heaven. In a hopeful, awkward attempt to come as close as possible to God, humans went to the tops of mountains. Indeed, the temple in Jerusalem was at the summit of Mount Zion. Jesus was crucified on a hilltop. He ascended from a hilltop.

In this reading, all earthly fogs and veils are cast down. Jesus appears in the reality of divinity. In this divinity

is eternal life itself.

The presence of Moses and Elijah indicate that Jesus is fully and absolutely in the historic train of God's communication with, and salvation of, God's people.

Reflection

The novelty of Lent has ended. This weekend, we are observing the second Sunday of the season.

Now, the Church leads us in earnest into this period to prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

Its message is simple. It is profound. God is everything. We are humans; we are limited. Always, amid our limitations, to relieve us in our limitations, God has provided.

God provided for Abraham. God spared Isaac, but only after being assured of Abraham's unflinching faith. Faith is indispensable in our search for, and path to, God.

Faith is the opposite of selfishness and of foolishly over exaggerating our limited human abilities.

God is in Jesus. Jesus is Lord. This is the great message of the Transfiguration given us this weekend in Mark's Gospel. It was Paul's word to the Christian Romans. If we have Jesus, we have God. In God, we lack nothing.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Ps 116:10, 15-19 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11-13 Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28 Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

The plan for Lent

By the time you read this, it will be about a week into Lent. My family and I will have attended Ash Wednesday Mass and hopefully will have delved into the penance and fasting that we've planned. Perhaps we will have met our goals. Maybe we'll have earned some humility, as we will have already faltered and will need to recommit and try again.

At the suggestion of friend and editor of *Today's Catholic*, I'm going to tell you what our family is striving to do for Lent. I do so with some trepidation, however, because at this point, what I write we intend to do may or may not have become reality.

My dad used to say, "the road to you know where is paved with good intentions," stressing the point that actions speak louder than words. Of course this is true. However, the other side of the coin is also accurate: "a journey begins with the first step" and that if and when we falter the answer is not to give up, but to recommit and try again.

I share our plans hopefully to encourage. I share our plans hopefully to inspire. But mostly, I share our plans because if I write down in this column what we're proposing to do, I'm personally pressured to follow through. It's like announcing to your family that you're planning on going on a diet, and they help you. Oh, they help you.

Our family Lenten commitment will include prayer. Prayer is the cornerstone and lifeblood of our relationship with God. If our souls live forever (which they do) and our bodies on account of sin in the world will die (which they will) some suggest that the spiritual realm might be more of a reality than the physical one. Might prayer change things that even the best physical actions can't? I think so! Therefore, charging forward in conversation with God, in prayer, is critical. Our family prayer life will include more attendance at Mass (perhaps even at parishes other than our own), in Eucharistic Adoration, and perhaps at Stations of the Cross. The rosaries are coming out of the top drawer in the dining room buffet cabinet.

To that end, as in years past, our youngest will be in charge of holding up the visuals for our family rosary — 8 x 10 inch color pictures obtained from a religious goods store depicting each of the mysteries. We do this for several reasons. First, it gives the youngest child a way to be active and reduce chances of squirming. Having this "job" makes her feel important. Second, it helps the whole family visualize the mystery. Third, it helps those who may have gotten rusty in remembering the mysteries of the rosary a chance for practice. Thus, prayer is our family's first Lenten commitment.



EVERYDAY
CATHOLIC

THERESA A. THOMAS

Second, I'm also trying something I haven't done since before David and I were married—using a prayer journal to remember intentions. The communion of saints is the relationship and unity of members of the Church on this earth (Church militant) with the souls in purgatory (Church suffering) and the souls in heaven (Church triumphant). I'm reminding myself of this basic Catholic truth and including petitions from people I know in my prayers as well as bolstering prayers for the souls in purgatory and asking for the intercession of those saints in heaven.

I know myself and I know the key is to keep things simple. Therefore, writing this down in my prayer journal will keep me on track.

Third, I'm committing to some personal self-improvement. I'll keep most of that private but will share it has to do with improving my attitude towards those I love and treating them like the gifts they are.

Fourth, we're all doing some spiritual reading. For me, this means pulling out one of my all time favorite books "Introduction to the Devout Life" by St. Francis de Sales. This book has recommendations for growing closer to God through meditation and contemplation, as well as practical suggestions for daily living. Some chapters in the book include "On Friendship," "Concerning Speech," "How to Strengthen Our Heart Against Temptation," "Instructions for Married Persons," "Instructions to Widows" and "A Word to Virgins." There are also chapters on anxiety, sorrow and society and solitude. For myself during Lent, I'm rereading this gem and leading a book study with a group of moms.

Are we "giving things up?" Yes, that's a personal choice for each Thomas member. And yes, Confession "for everyone!"

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children. Watch for her newest book "Big Hearted Families" (Scepter) and read more on her blog: <http://theresathomas.wordpress.com/>

The tragedy of liberal Catholicism

In a Feb. 14 note to his people, Cardinal Francis George, the Archbishop of Chicago, commented on the question of “who speaks for the Catholic Church,” which had become a subject of public controversy thanks to the Obama administration’s “contraceptive mandate” — which is, of course, an abortifacient and sterilization mandate as well. The cardinal noted the administration’s crude attempt to play divide-and-conquer with the Catholic Church in the United States, a ploy in which some nominally Catholic groups quickly acquiesced. Yet something important in all of this was being missed, the cardinal suggested: “... the bishops of the Church make no attempt to speak for all Catholics; they never have. The bishops speak for the Catholic and apostolic faith, and those that hold that faith gather around them. Others disperse.”

The diaspora, in this case, was entirely predictable: columnists and politicians who had questioned the administration’s mandate, and organizations and associations that had raised serious questions about it when it was first announced, quickly fell back into line when the administration, on Feb. 10, announced an “accommodation” that was an obvious shell game, a ruse that didn’t change the moral issue involved one whit.

Others, however, continued to gather around the bishops, who rejected the “accommodation.” And they will prevail.

The administration is on the shakiest of legal ground in attempting to impose contraception, sterilization and

abortifacients as “preventive services” that must be provided, on demand and with no co-pay, in all health insurance programs. As my friends Edward Whelan and David Rivkin pointed out in the *Wall Street Journal* on Feb. 15, there is every reason to think that the administration’s mandate, even as tweaked by the false-flag “accommodation,” will fail two legal tests: the test of the First Amendment’s protection of the free exercise of religion and the test of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

But what about the diaspora: those Catholic individuals and organizations that re-embraced the administration as soon as Caesar announced his “accommodation” (or, in the case of Sister Carol Keehan and the Catholic Health Association, helped Caesar trot out his ruse)? These individuals and associations typically think of themselves as “liberal Catholics,” a self-description proudly trumpeted by one of their spokesmen, *Washington Post* columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. Therein, I suggest, lies a great reversal, and an even greater tragedy.

The most significant contribution to the universal Church of pre-conciliar liberal Catholicism in America was the development of a Catholic theory of religious freedom — which led, in due course, to Vatican II’s epic Declaration on Religious Freedom, to the post-conciliar Church’s history-changing defense of human rights, and to the Church’s crucial role in democratic transitions around the world. This achievement, in which the debates on religious freedom at Vatican II were pivotal, unfolded in close collaboration with the U.S. bishops. It was Cardinal



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

Francis Spellman of New York, for instance, who brought Jesuit Father John Courtney Murray to the council, where Murray became one of the intellectual architects of the Declaration on Religious Freedom. And it was Murray who, with the U.S. bishops and others, worked the council process so that it became clear to a critical mass of the world’s bishops that religious freedom was indeed congruent with what Cardinal George called “the Catholic and apostolic faith.”

That liberal Catholics of the 2012 diaspora refuse to concede the threat to religious freedom, and that they have given political cover to a gross infringement on religious freedom by a federal government, is a grave breach of ecclesial communion in itself. It also represents a tragic betrayal of the best in the liberal Catholic heritage in the U.S., even as it illustrates the utter incoherence into which post-conciliar liberal Catholicism in America has tragically fallen.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

view. If I want to raise money to send to starving children in Africa, I can, for example, hold a bake sale or rob a bank. To understand why natural methods of fertility regulation are an acceptable means of avoiding pregnancy while contraception and sterilization are not, we have to begin with the “big picture” from a theological point of view, to go back to the truth that is the foundation of our Christian faith: God is love. He is not just some “higher power” out there, or an impersonal cosmic life force. God is a communion of persons who lives in Himself a mystery of love as Father, Son and Spirit. In this communion of persons, God the Father is the Lover, God the Son is the Beloved, and the Love between them is so perfect, so real, that it is actually another person — the Holy Spirit.

This is a profound mystery that we will never fully grasp this side of eternity, but it is the essential starting point for understanding the Christian vision. Unless we understand who God is, we will never understand who we are meant to be, because we are created in the image and likeness of God. This means that both man and woman have been given a rational mind and a free will capable of knowing what is good and choosing it. But what is more, it means that man and woman also, in a sense, become the image of God by living with, and even more deeply, for one another in the vocation of marriage.

Sexual intercourse is intended by God to be the most intimate sign of the mutual gift of self, which a man and woman make to one another in marriage. It is designed to be a dialogue in which a husband and wife “say” to each other through the language of the body what they said aloud publicly on the altar on their wedding day: I accept you completely as the gift that God created you to be, and I give myself to you completely in return. And this mutual gift of self that is expressed in sexual union is not meant to end with the couple, but rather, makes them capable of the greatest possible gift: cooperating with God in giving life to a new human person.

The communion of love between a man and woman in marriage is meant to mirror the love that exists between the Father and the Son, a love which is literally “personified” in the Holy Spirit. In a similar way, through the privilege of procreation, God enables the love between a husband and wife to become “personified” in the gift of their child, who is literally the two of them in one flesh, a living reflection of their love and a permanent sign of their unity.

And what is more, this new human being bears not only the image and likeness of his or her parents, but above all, the very image and likeness of God.

Lisa Everett is the co-director of the Office of Family Life.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 4, 2012

Mark 9:2-10

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: a mountaintop experience. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JESUS	PETER	JAMES
JOHN	HIGH	MOUNTAIN
TRANSFIGURED	CLOTHES	DAZZLING
WHITE	ELIJAH	MOSES
RABBI	IT IS GOOD	LET US
THREE	A CLOUD	VOICE
LISTEN TO HIM	SON OF MAN	THE DEAD

UP HIGH

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D S K W L D U O L C A W
O E L L A A S E S O M D
O M R O J Z H A J I L E
G A C U Z Z V P H J T S
S J L O G L J O H N H O
I J O W H I T E I Z R N
T R T L B N F M G C E O
I A H E E G L S H D E F
N B E T N I A T N U O M
A B S U S E J B N A N A
E I F S Z Z P E T E R N
L X C H O D A E D E H T
  
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Simple Meal Recipes for Lent

Lent: Week 3

Casamiento from El Salvador

Black beans and hot rice seasoned with garlic, onion and bell peppers. Your family will love this traditional and hearty Latin American dish.



Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 bell pepper, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can black beans, drained, liquid reserved
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 cups cooked rice

Directions

Heat oil in a large pot. Add the onions, bell pepper, and garlic. Sauté for 2-3 minutes, until tender. Stir in the drained beans, some of the bean liquid, and salt and pepper. Cook at medium-low until heated through. Add rice and stir until cooked through. Adjust seasoning and add a little more bean liquid if necessary. Serve hot.

Makes 4-5 servings

THINK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

revolution was in full swing. In the context of a succinct but profound theology of spousal love and responsible parenthood, it reaffirmed the moral norm prohibiting contraception and instead promoted natural methods of fertility regulation as the path to happiness and holiness in marriage.

Blessed John Paul II reaffirmed the Church’s teaching and deepened her understanding of this matter through his beautiful theology of the body, which he developed largely as a defense of the moral norm prohibiting contraception.

God calls married couples to a “generous and responsible openness to life,” the Holy Father said. While Sacred Scripture and the Church have always seen in large families a sign of God’s blessing and the parents’ generosity, married couples may legitimately decide to postpone another pregnancy or to limit their family size for proportionately serious reasons — if that is what they discern, in dialogue with God and with each other, would be truly good at a particular point in their marriage.

However, the means we choose to accomplish a good end matter enormously from a moral point of

Sports

BISHOP LUERS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM HEADS TO STATE COMPETITION After defeating Seeger, 49-26, at the 2-A semistate on Feb. 25 in Plymouth, the Bishop Luers High School girls' basketball team will compete against Evansville Mater Dei on March 3 at the Hulman Center in Terre Haute. Tickets are \$15. For information, visit www.bishopluers.org.

CYO, ICCL teams battle for diocesan crowns

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The traditional matchup between the Catholic Youth Organization from Fort Wayne and the Inter-City Catholic League, pitted the best of the season's stars as they squared off at Marian High School Sunday, Feb. 26.

The day's first game showcased the Eagles South Bend St. Joseph playing host to the St. Therese Crusaders. The two teams jabbed and countered taking the other's best shot in the first rounds with the slight advantage going to the Crusaders, 18-17.

A big defensive third quarter by the visiting red clad cagers extended their slim lead to eight over the Eagles. St. Joseph would turn up the pressure in the fourth by applying a full court defense that would edge them close, but not close enough.

The Crusaders' Brandan Diss went five for six from the charity stripe to add to his point total of 22, denying a comeback by the Eagles despite 23 from John Byzewski. The final score was 41-35.

In the second contest of the afternoon, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel seemed as though they were punching their semi-annual ticket to play their foes from St. Joseph County. The Squires had made trips in 2008 and 2010.

The Crusaders of Holy Cross were competing in their second invitational in a row and had surged late in the 2012 campaign.

Both teams battled early, but the second quarter belonged to the Squires' lengthy swingman Marl Saalfrank as he netted 10 in the quarter giving the St. Joseph squad a 21-20 lead at intermission.

Holy Cross star Mark Madden was not to be outdone. As the second half began so did the heat of the Crusaders' press and the scoring of the rangy playmaker.

Madden could do no wrong as he added 15 in the second half to his 13 from the first two quarters giving him 28 and the Crusaders a come from behind 41-31 victory. Jack Johnson netted 12 for the Squires in the loss.

Finally, the top-matched tournament champions from both leagues — the Panthers of St. Vincent and the host Saints of Mishawaka Catholic — met for a showdown.

The Saints had just completed winning not only the ICCL basketball championship but adorned the football crown as well and they started play by running away with a 10-0 lead over the jet lagged Fort Wayne victors.

The Panthers would get their sea legs about them and make a run of their own and taking the lead by the narrowest of margins at half time, 18-17.

Things wouldn't get much better for the Saints as Jake Graham and his teammates stretched the lead to six, 30-24, after three.

Jitters from the free throw line and constant pressure from the Panthers spelled a long afternoon for the Saints as they shot 23 percent from the charity stripe going 6-26 and succumbing, 40-25, to St. Vincent.

Graham knocked down 17 in the victory and Jake Whitfield scored 10 in the loss.

Coaches Jeff Graham and D.J. Wagner were pleased with their team's resiliency and execution down the stretch.

The Panthers had to win games on three successive days (43-19 over rival St. Charles on Friday and 42-37 over St. Jude Saturday in the CYO title game before Sunday's diocesan championship). Jake Graham paced the Panthers in all three games with 48 total points, followed by Freimuth's 25 points and 15 rebounds, cumulatively.

In the CYO championship contest St. Vincent needed a strong fourth quarter to come from behind to knock off the Eagles of St. Jude at St. Charles. Freimuth scored six points and Jake Graham added five points in the decisive fourth quarter, as St. Vincent outscored St. Jude, 15-9, in the final stanza. With that victory, the Panthers avenged their lone CYO loss over the past four seasons, which culminated in four championships in as many years.

Great teams, chants, cheers forever beckon as Saint Joseph's Alumni Gym saw its last game played

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — Columbia blue banners of former team successes adorn the north wall, pictures and jerseys of champions welcome both fans and foes as they enter up the concrete stairs, the echoes of chants and cheers will forever beckon as Saint Joseph's Alumni Gym saw its last game.

The magical home of the Indians, since Dick Hagye jumped center in the first contest in January of 1955, has seen its share of great teams, outstanding players and unbelievable games, closed its doors for the final time Friday night.

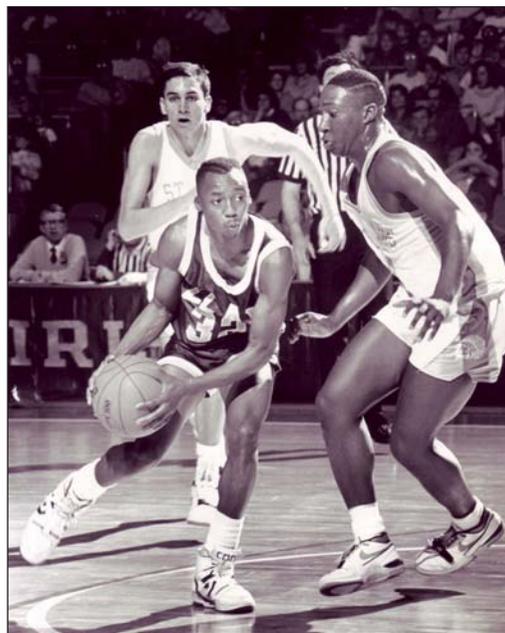
"It is truly a momentous time in the history of Saint Joseph's High School. It is bittersweet for our community as we say goodbye to this treasured place and get ready to welcome our new facility," commented Principal Susan Richter. "How wonderful it is to see our alumni return to cheer on the Indians as well as Saint Joseph's families, friends and student body."

As Father Terry Coonan gave the night's invocation he embraced the same message of sportsmanship, competition and spirituality as school chaplains Father Walter Bly, Father Camillo Tirabassi, Msgr. Michael Heintz and others had done for more than 60 years.

"I believe its so fitting that the last game played here will match the two Catholic Schools from the west end of the diocese that share the common mission in educating their students in heart and mind," explained Richter. "What an atmosphere to celebrate and pay tribute to the multitude of student athletes that have competed in Alumni Gym."

Names like Abermethyl, Lechlitrner, Hunt, Holmes, Smallbone, Dockery, Litka, Stanley and Quinn spent endless hours toiling on the unforgiving hardwood firmly constructed on concrete perfecting their crafts and marveling the faithful.

"What a night for our athletic programs; we honor our current seniors, our 1955 team will be recognized and then all of the alumni present will be called on to the floor for one last time," stated Eric Gohlke, athletic director. "Tickets to the game were sold out a week prior to tip off and we made a concerted effort to accommodate as many people as possible."



PROVIDED BY SAINT JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL

This archive photo is a Saint Joseph's vs. South Bend Clay game in the 1980s.

"Over the years the gym has hosted the games of our freshmen, junior varsity and varsity programs in both girls and boys basketball as well as volleyball and wrestling," Gohlke said, and added, tongue in cheek, "We invited everyone but the fire marshal to the game."

"Our teams practice in here from 6 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. on some days. The place is home to Inter-City Catholic League games. We have had graduations and hold our school Masses here," commented Richter. "Personally, my heart was heavy and keeping my emotions in check was really difficult, but the pure joy of seeing the Saint Joseph's family come together for this event has been forever etched in my mind."

"I fell in love with this place while watching games as a youth, then admired its nuances as I played here and cherish it as a coach," remarked Marty Harshman, assistant principal and head boys' basketball coach. "Growing up, we had some pretty good teams, and I was so

passionate about being part of Saint Joseph's and playing on the floor."

"The gym has so much character, from the permanent seating in the upper deck to the windows that line the backs of the bleachers and the steps ascending from the ground floor up to the hardwood," gleamed Harshman. "Not a lot of practicality in some respects, but it's a great old gym."

As the gym yelled a loud and boastful farewell, a fixture almost as durable as its foundation, scorekeeper Al Maenhout, (only scorekeeper at Saint Joseph's boys' basketball games since the early 1960's) tallied the last of the points made on the paint chipped rims.

Coach Harshman — fan, player, coach and guardian of the Alumni Gym — stated in simple terms, "This is a special place, whether it's in the heat of the Saint Joseph's vs. Marian game or if you are by yourself and turning the lights out at the end of the night."



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CNN to show documentary on St. Mother Theodore Guérin

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — St. Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., will be featured in an upcoming documentary on CNN.

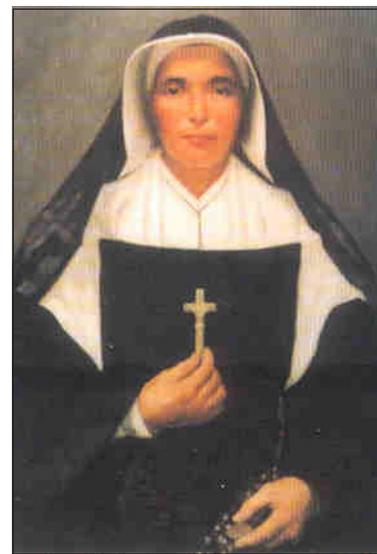
The international television network will examine the process of becoming a saint in the Roman Catholic Church. It is scheduled to be televised on Sunday, March 4, at 8 p.m., 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. (EST).

CNN producer Jen Christensen led the reporting team from CNN's Special Investigations and Documentary Unit. She made three trips to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods with photojournalists to do research and record the video. Correspondent Drew Griffin, an Emmy Award winner, did an extensive interview with Sister Marie Kevin Tighe, who served as vice postulator and promoter of the Cause for St. Mother Theodore Guérin.

"This is heaven on earth. I've never been to such a beautiful place, not just the land, but the spirit here is unlike any place I've ever been," Christensen said as she was wrapping up her work on recent visit to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. "I've been very fortunate to travel the world and to see the best and the worst of humanity. But this is singular. It makes me emotional. That's how much I really love it here."

Christensen also talked about getting to know St. Mother Theodore from a deeper perspective.

"I am struck by the determination that had to go into this cause. It's clear to me that this woman was a saint without the Vatican's



ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUÉRIN

blessing. I am so impressed with the dogged determination with the people here who want the rest of the world to know her story," she said. "I think the sisters here have the secret to life, the secret to happiness. I think Mother Guérin set the tone for that in all of the right ways."

St. Mother Theodore Guérin and five companion sisters came to the United States from France in 1840, arriving first in southern Indiana and traveling through Vincennes and the dense forest terrain in western Indiana to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Within a year, St. Mother Theodore opened an academy, now known as Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, which is the oldest Catholic college for women in the United States. Pope Benedict XVI canonized St. Mother Theodore on Oct. 15, 2006, in Rome.

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Dwenger student named to 2011 NSCAA Girls High School Scholar All-American Team

FORT WAYNE — Mary Beier, Bishop Dwenger High School senior, was selected by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America for the Scholar All-America Team. She is one of 35 in the nation selected for this honor.

Beier was a four-year varsity player and captain her senior year. Her accolades include: 1st Team All-SAC, Indiana Soccer Coaches Association — All-District Team and All-Academic, and Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association — 1st Team Academic All-State and 3rd Team All-State.

Beier's high academic standings and extensive volunteer experience were integral parts of the selection process.



MARY BEIER

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Men's breakfast to host Father Pelton
South Bend — The Little Flower Men's Breakfast group will host speaker Holy Cross Father Robert Pelton Saturday, March 3, following 8 a.m. Mass in the chapel.

Sunday breakfast at St. Pius X
Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will have a breakfast Sunday, March 11, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Pius X. Adults \$6, children 6-12 \$3.

Trivia night at St. Thomas
Elkhart — St. Thomas the Apostle School, 1331 N. Main St., will have a Trivia Night, Friday, March 9. The cost is \$100 per table of 10. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., game begins at 7 p.m. Bring your own food and snacks. Drinks will be available. All proceeds will benefit the school library. Contact Teresa Meyers at (574) 220-1693 or email tmbmeyer@hotmail.com for additional information.

Spaghetti dinner planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, March 8, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$2.50 for children 5-12.

Casino night supports St. Rose
Monroeville — St. Rose Parish will have a Casino night, Texas Hold'em tournament and hog roast Saturday, March 10, at the park pavillion, 421 Monroe St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., Texas Hold'em starts at 7 p.m. Pre-register by calling (260) 623-6368. Tournament buy-in is \$30. Cash prizes.

Card party at St. Hedwig
South Bend — The Rosary Society of St. Hedwig Parish will have a card party Sunday, March 4, at 1 p.m. in the Hedwig Memorial Center. Lunch served, bring your own cards or dice. Donation of \$5 advance sale by Feb. 26 only. Call (574) 233-8903 or (574) 229-4958.

Annual cleanup at Catholic Cemetery
Fort Wayne — The Catholic Cemetery will conduct their cleanup of decorations from March 15 thru March 31. Do NOT place any decorations during this time. If you wish to save your decoration, please have it removed before March 15, or call

the Catholic Cemetery Office, (260) 426-2044, by March 12, to have it held for 30 days.

Saints on Broadway!
Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger's Saints Alive! Preview Night is Thursday, March 1. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and include Casa's food and drink. Must be 21 or over to attend. The dinner and auction, "Saints on Broadway," is Saturday night, March 3, doors open at 6 p.m. Advanced reservations are required. Call (260) 496-4801 or visit www.bishopdwenger.com to make a reservation.

Women's fertility workshop offered
Fort Wayne — An introductory session NaPro TECHNOLOGY System about women's cycles and standardizing monthly records is being presented Saturday, March 3, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Single women, engaged and married couples may contact Theresa Schortgen

CFCP at (260) 494-6444 or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/creightonhealth>. Reservations are required.

FISH FRIES

Fish fry
Walkerton — St. Patrick Parish, 811 Tyler St., will have a fish fry Friday, March 2, from 4-7 p.m. prepared by Tyner IOOF Lodge. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-10 and children 6 and under free.

Knights plan fish fry
Mishawaka — The Knights of Columbus Council 1878, 114 W. 1st St., will have a fish fry every Friday during Lent from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children 12 and under \$5.

Fish fry
Yoder — St. Aloysius Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 2, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$5.50 for children 5-12, and free for children under 5. Carry-out available.

REST IN PEACE

Decatur Carolyn E. Ehinger, 75, St. Mary of the Assumption	Aloysius Humphrey, 71, St. Monica	Helene Janowski, 91, Christ the King
Thomas Norton Sefton, 86, St. Mary of the Assumption	Geraldine F. Allen, 61, St. Bavo	Anne Moyer, 83, St. John the Baptist
Fort Wayne LouAnn Elder, 82, Most Precious Blood	Eleanor Wrobel Morse, 100, St. Monica	Mieczyslawa Mary Stepien, 89, St. Adalbert
Linda Millsbaugh, 60, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Robert J. Hillebrand, 85, St. Joseph	Phyllis D. Strychalski, 87, St. Stanislaus
William E. Welden, 84, Queen of Angels	Monroeville Winifred J. Hanley, 97, St. Rose	Neil C. Dockemeyer, 51, Holy Cross
Maria del Carmen Rushinsky, 66, St. Charles Borromeo	New Haven Anthony Talarico, 49, St. John the Baptist	Augustina Rodela, 68, St. Adalbert
Joan M. Butler, 79, St. Charles Borromeo	Notre Dame Sister M. Helen Anthony, CSC, 82, Our Lady of Loretto	Nancy A. Staszewski, 76, Corpus Christi
Dolores A. Houlihan, 85, St. Vincent de Paul	Plymouth Maria Isabel Mata, 76, St. Michael	Walkerton Vivian D. Matusiak, 77, St. Patrick
Goshen Stefanie Kauffman, 85, St. John the Evangelist	South Bend Genevieve A. Lemanski, 86, Holy Family	Warsaw Genoveva Brito, 68, Our Lady of Guadalupe
Mishawaka Harry Eugene Bolin, Sr., St. Joseph	Irene Bickel, 84, St. Anthony de Padua	Waterloo Douglas Keith Barnett, 59, St. Michael
		Stephen R. Schannen, 45, St. Michael

Fish fry
South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary, 735 W. Calvert St., will host a fish fry Friday, March 9, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4.50 for children 6-12, children under 6 free.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 9, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3.

Speed Euchre Tournament

St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne • Saturday, March 10, 2012

Registration: 5:30 pm • Tournament starts: 6:00 pm

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MEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"God is very intolerant of sin," Father Engo said. "He hates sin so much that He sent His only begotten Son to give His life as a ransom for us that we might be set free. That's how intolerant Our Lord is of sin."

Father Engo spoke of how every relationship has rules. And following the Church's rules, he said, are how we reverence God, one another, ourselves and our marriages.

When the Church speaks on moral issues and moral truths, she is "saying them because they are truths, because she loves you, because she wants the greatest thing for you and your family, between you and your wife," Father Engo said, "because she wants you to experience the greatest dignity, because she wants you to understand the great dignity you have with God, because she wants you to reverence your call to be a saint."

Father Engo encouraged the men to honor the Blessed Mother.

"We need to entrust our families, our lives, our homes, our households, our vocations, our futures into her loving care," he said.

"We must be men of prayer. We must be men of penance," Father Engo said. "Men, I beg you to defend your household by bringing your family to prayer. ... You must guard your family from what is happening in this world."

"Be men of virtue, men of faith, men of hope, men of charity, justice, temperance, fortitude," he emphasized.

Outburst of grace

Tim Staples, keynote speaker of the day, compared the outburst of grace Jesus received while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane to the outburst of grace bestowed on couples as they ratify their marriage vows.

"In marriage we are given opportunities every day to renew the ratification of the covenant," Staples said.

To renew this ratification of vows, Staples and his wife challenge one another by finding "ways every day to say 'not my will, but thy will be done.'"

Jesus lived His life for others, noted the Catholic Answers apologist from El Cajon, Calif.

Staples acknowledged that if husbands and wives do this, there will be an explosion of grace in their families.

"It will change our lives, our wives, our children," Staples emphasized, "because it will be God, God's power working through us."

He said the essence of our spiritual lives is "to allow Christ to live in us and through us, through our cooperation with His grace, His life is lived in us and through us. We are called



Father Andrew Budzinski, left, greets the 1,400 men from across the diocese at the second Rekindle the Fire Diocesan Men's Conference on Feb. 25.

PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE



FRANCISCAN FATHER DAVID MARY ENGO



TIM STAPLES



ROBERT ROGERS

to take up our crosses daily. ... Jesus says it's every day. This is our reality. This is our lives as Catholics."

Life of no regrets

Speaker Robert Rogers, a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, experi-

enced the loss of his wife and four children in a flash flood in Kansas in 2003.

Rogers' message to the men was to "live a life of no regrets" and offered seven steps in which he told the story of his family, his loss, and how his faith supports him.

He encouraged the men to forgive others repeatedly. He said the men should love their spouse sacrificially as Jesus loves the Church. He gave His life for her.

He encouraged the men to love their family intentionally, to love their children "with all you got" and tell them "you love them." He told fathers to spend time with their children, to sit down and eat together without interference of TV or other electronics. He encouraged dads to pray and read Scripture over their families and to be "the priest of their homes."

He told fathers, "Don't live to work; work to live." He described "rocking chair decisions" as those they won't regret.

Rogers encouraged the men to "trust God absolutely," to "obey God unconditionally," to "worship God wholeheartedly" and to "know God personally."

Bishop Rhoades celebrates Mass at Men's Conference

In his homily at the Mass, which concluded the men's conference, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke of how Jesus associated Himself with sinners, first by undergoing a baptism He didn't need — John's baptism of repentance. The Spirit descended on Jesus as a dove, who anointed Him and then drove Him to the desert.

Jesus assumed our human nature, Bishop Rhoades said, "So we understand why the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert right after He was baptized by John. He went there to be tempted, to be put to the test, by Satan (which means the 'Adversary'). This was part of His assuming our human nature — experiencing temptation to sin. Also, His mission was precisely this: to overcome sin, to conquer Satan, to liberate us from evil. So the Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert."

Jesus rebuffed the devil's temptation, determined to do the Father's will.

"Notice that Jesus did not overcome the temptations of the devil with weapons of His divine power," Bishop Rhoades noted. "In His human nature, Jesus did battle with Satan."

Bishop Rhoades told those gathered for the Mass, "My brothers in Christ, spiritual battle is an essential part of our life in Christ. As Catholics, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are engaged in a battle, as Jesus was, against the powers of evil. First, the battleground is in our own souls where we are to struggle against our own tendencies to sin (what St. Paul

calls 'the flesh'), concupiscence. This spiritual combat involves the rejection of Satan and all his works and all his empty promises and glamorous seductions."

He said, "We need the power of Christ to fight the good fight. We need His grace, sanctifying and actual."

Bishop Rhoades said, "It is through the Church, the body of Christ, and her sacraments that we receive salvation and new life. ... Throughout the storms of history,

the Church has survived. It is unsinkable, as Christ promised St. Peter, when He told him that he was to be the rock upon which He would build His Church and against which the gates of hell would never prevail."

Bishop Rhoades mentioned it is good to remember this while the Church fights for reli-

gious liberty and living in a culture that has grown hostile to the Church and to the faith.

"In our individual lives, our family lives, our work lives and our community lives we can encounter various storms," Bishop Rhoades said. "We face challenges and difficulties. We face trials to our faith and temptations to sin, like Jesus faced and overcame in the desert. But we have been given an ark (like Noah) and we must not jump overboard. Christ established a Church, where He is with us always with His love and grace."

Throughout the storms
of history, the Church
has survived.

It is unsinkable,

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

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