Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod offers solidarity in defending religious liberty

By Tim Johnson

FORT WAYNE — Church leaders, students and members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations in Fort Wayne expressed their solidarity with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Catholics of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to “stand together for religious liberty.”

Gathering April 17 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, just a few blocks from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod held a procession to the cathedral. There they gathered in prayer and song with Catholics and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on the plaza in front of the cathedral and presented letters of support and encouragement “as we stand together with (the bishop) on this issue of religious liberty,” noted Rev. Charles Gieschen, academic dean of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, one of two Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod seminaries in the U.S.

Gieschen shared encouragement from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, “with our brothers and sisters in Christ, these letters and these signatures and also to assure them of our prayers in light of the recent U.S. Department Health and Human Services mandate.”

Rev. Daniel P. May, president of the Indiana District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, announced at the presentation, “We are gathered here today to stand in defense of the religious liberty and freedom of conscience that individuals and institutions should enjoy unobstructed by government intrusion or coercion as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.”

“We understand our spiritual and civil responsibilities and we cherish the role each plays in the health and well-being of this nation,” Rev. May said. “As

Ministers and representatives of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod present 112 letters with 1,396 signatures in support of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Catholics to “stand together for religious liberty” at a gathering on the plaza of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on April 17. Msgr. Robert Schulte, rector of the cathedral and diocesan chancellor, stands at the right.

Huntington-based Our Sunday Visitor celebrates 100 years

National Catholic company hosts open house May 5, 2012

Huntington — Our Sunday Visitor is celebrating its centennial in 2012, starting with an open house at its Huntington headquarters 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 5. The company serves millions of Catholics worldwide through its publishing, offertory, curriculum and communication services.

Established in 1912 by a local parish priest, Our Sunday Visitor has grown into the nation’s largest supplier of offering envelopes, online giving, websites, parish and diocesan mailings, books, periodicals, curriculum and stewardship services. Our Sunday Visitor is a not-for-profit organization, returning a portion of net earnings back to the Catholic community through the Our Sunday Visitor Institute.

“Catechetically, formationally, Our Sunday Visitor is a great treasure trove,” said Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, D.C. “I think there is something wholesome about Our Sunday Visitor. It doesn’t apologize for what we believe. It simply presents it clearly and in a refreshing manner.”

The date of the open house was chosen to coincide with the first publication of the Our
Our brothers and sisters in Christ

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

On Tuesday, April 17th, in front of our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, pastors and members of several congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod gathered to present me with greetings and letters of support for the Catholic Church’s stand against the unjust mandate of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that violates our religious liberty.

I was deeply moved by this wonderful gesture of solidarity from our Lutheran brothers and sisters. I thank them for their steadfast and unyielding defense of religious liberty and for their commitment to stand together with us in this important matter.

In front of our cathedral, Reverend Daniel May, the Indiana District President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and Reverend Charles Gieschen, Academic Dean at Concordia Theological Seminary, delivered eloquent speeches in support of our religious freedom in the face of the HHS mandate. Many area Lutheran pastors and others came forward with letters of support signed by members of their congregations and schools and presented them to me. It was a great public witness.

While we do this, we will continue to be good citizens.

“That is what we are doing today, Bishop Rhoades.” Rev. Gieschen announced, “Standing peacefully, with those under assault, and continuing to be good citizens, to pray for our leaders who serve in our communities.”

Rev. May said, “Your gesture of solidarity with the Catholic Church in the defense of our religious liberty is a beautiful witness for which I am deeply grateful,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Your letters of support and your public testimony highlight the importance of defending our first and most cherished liberty as American citizens.”

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod representatives and other leaders were there to “demonstrate against the erosion of our civil liberty.”

“The stand we are taking is not a stand against a particular policy, but for all policies that call for the separation of church and state. It is a principled stand for the protection of religious liberty,” Bishop Rhoades added in his remarks. “Because we serve and employ people of different faiths in these institutions, they have been deemed non-exempt from the government’s mandate.”

Bishop Rhoades noted that when the Church helps the poor, educates young people or cares for the sick, “we do not restrict our service to those who are Catholic or Lutheran. If we did, we would not be subject to the mandate.”

“In effect, the government is dismissing our liberty when we are engaged beyond the sanctuaries of our churches and doing the good works our faith calls us to do, contributing to the common good,” Bishop Rhoades said.

Religious liberty is more than freedom of worship—it includes the freedom to practice our faith in society without coercion from the government to violate our consciences,” he said.

Bishop Rhoades encouraged those gathered: “We must stand together in defense of our first liberty, which is enshrined in the very First Amendment of our Constitution, and for their commitment to stand together with us in this important matter.

In response to this wonderful initiative of our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Christ, I expressed my heartfelt appreciation. I shared how we are all rightfully worried that religious liberty in our country is being weakened, the most glaring example being the coerced action by the HHS to force religious institutions and individuals to facilitate and to fund products that are contrary to our moral teaching. I also said, “As Catholics, we are obliged to defend the right to religious liberty for ourselves and for others. We are happily joined in this by our fellow Christians and believers of other faiths.”

In our diocese, we are happily joined by our fellow Christians of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and many others. Together “we affirm that our faith requires us to defend the religious liberty granted us by God, and protected in our Constitution.”
Monroeville Elementary School building sold to diocese

MONROEVILLE — The East Allen County Schools (EACS) Board of Trustees held a public meeting on April 17 unanimously voted to approve the sale of Monroeville Elementary School to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on behalf of St. Rose of Lima Church, Monroeville. St. Rose of Lima Church through the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend had submitted a purchase offer of $189,000 that met the initial price required by the East Allen County Schools’ school board.

“The way is now paved for the St. Joseph School (SJS) to look forward to building a new school for many months, now it is the time for prayers of thanksgiving,” Father Lourdino Fernandes, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish, reported in an email message to Today’s Catholic.

“This was the ‘Dream Centenary Project’ adopted by St. Joseph Centennial Committee and bravely embraced by the parishioners of St. Rose of Lima,” he added.

St. Joseph School (SJS) in Monroeville is celebrating 100 years of excellence in Catholic education this year.

“The acquisition of a new building for St. Joseph’s in Monroeville could not be more timely,” said Dr. Mark Myers, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

He added, “The continuation of an active Catholic school in Monroeville will be a great benefit for the entire community of Monroeville.”

Psalm 118, “This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it,” has been St. Joseph School Principal Carolyn Kirkendall’s motto throughout the centenary celebration. Now the retiring principal is moved beyond the way is now paved for the students and staff of St. Joseph School have appropri- ated new facilities conducive to good education.

“St. Joseph School in Monroeville will relocate to the former Monroeville Elementary School in the fall with the fanfare of a ceremonial procession from the old school to the new led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. St. Joseph School is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.”

“The SJS Centenary Committee resolved that a fitting tribute to the SJS Centenary anniversary would be to commit themselves to restore and preserve and take forward the rich legacy of SJS and make St. Joseph School a beacon of excellence in Catholic education for generations of students for the next 100 years,” Father Fernandes said.

“The committee felt the purchase of the Monroeville Elementary School would help St. Joseph School have appropri- ated facilities conducive to good education.

“They strongly believed that ‘nothing would be more worthy of contribution and improvement than the means to encourage our children to achieve full development as creative, intellectual beings for the satisfaction of their own and mankind’s aspirations.’”

Father Fernandes said, “The first step in a long journey has been accomplished. The long vigil is now ended. The real work begins.”

Members of the commit- tee prayed outside of the EACS administration building prior to the meeting on April 17. Then they joined back at the school grounds to ring the church bells and join again for prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

Castleman admitted, “We were all very relieved when the sale finally came up on the agenda and was approved. It will be a lot of work, but well worth it.”

Superintendent Myers said, “We could not be more pleased to see the faith-filled parishioners at St. Rose of Lima plan well for the next century of Catholic educa- tion. The children prayed daily for the intercession of St. Joseph in order to fulfill this goal to acquire the building.”

St. Joseph School will soon undergo a historical move just a few blocks southeast in the town of Monroeville making their home this fall at 401 Monroe St.

The former Monroeville Elementary School will seem very large for the students and staff as they settle into over 63,000 square feet of space. According to Kirby Stahl, assistant superintendent of administrative services with East Allen County Schools, the building whose original bell tower was erected in 1913 and gymnasium in 1957 had its major addition built in 1977 and boasts a full kitchen and cafeteria area, 17 classrooms with contained restrooms, art room, music room and full media center.

Michelle Castleman and Tim Johnson contributed to this story.

Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

• Friday, April 27 to Thursday, May 3 — Co-Chair Meeting of International Catholic-Reformed Theological Dialogue, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga.

• Friday, May 4, 6:30 p.m. — LuersKnight, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne

• Saturday, May 5, 9:30 a.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for University of Saint Francis, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

Prepare kids for first Communion with zeal, moderation, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Preparing children for their first Communion must be done with both great zeal and moderation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Around the world, many chil- dren receive their first Communion during the Easter season, he told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square April 22 for the recitation of the “Regina Coeli,” a Marian prayer used in place of the Angelus from Easter to Pentecost.

The pope urged “priests, par- ents and catechists to prepare for this feast of faith well, with great fervor but also with sobriety.”

“For many of the faithful, this day continues to be memorable as the moment when, even if in a rudimentary way, they first came to understand the importance of a personal encounter with Jesus,” he said quoting from his 2007 document on the Eucharist, “Sacramentum Caritatis” ("The Sacrament of Charity").

He stressed the importance of first Communion and prayed that Mary would help everyone listen to God’s word with greater atten- tion “and take part worthily” in Communion in order to become “witnesses of the new humanity.”

Assignments to Vatican congregations, councils announced

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI named Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington to be a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and gave cardinals created in February their assignments as members of other Vatican congregations and councils.

The appointments were announced at the Vatican April 21.

U.S. Cardinal Edwin F. O’Brien, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, which supports the pastoral and edu- cational work of the Church in the Holy Land, was named to the congregations for Eastern Churches and Catholic Education, as well as to the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, which promotes and coordinates Catholic charitable giving.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, who was tapped by the pope to lead the College of Cardinals in a daylong discus- sion of the new evangelization of the Church, was assigned to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Cardinal Thomas C. Collins of Toronto was named a member of the Congregation for Catholic Education, which supports and guides the work of Catholic schools, universities and seminaries. He also was named a member of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Creating new cardinals — including Cardinals O’Brien, Dolan and Collins — Feb. 18, Pope Benedict said they were called to “cooperate closely with him in governing the universal Church.”

In supporting the pope’s uni- versal ministry, he said, “the new cardinals will be called to con- sider and evaluate the events, the problems and the pastoral criteria which concern the mission of the entire Church.”
Citing doctrinal problems, Vatican announces reforms of nuns’ group

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Citing “serious doctrinal problems which affect many in consecrated life,” the Vatican announced a major reform of an association of women’s religious congregations in the United States to ensure their fidelity to Catholic teaching in areas including abortion, euthanasia, women’s ordination and homosexuality.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle will provide “review, guidance and approval, where necessary, of the work” of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Vatican announced April 18. The archbishop will be assisted by Bishop Leonard P. Blair of Toledo, Ohio, and Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Ill., and draw on the advice of fellow bishops, women religious and other experts.

The LCWR, a Maryland-based umbrella group that claims about 80 percent of the country’s 57,000 women religious, was some of the most controversial parts of the world.”

The announcement from the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith came in an eight-page “doctrinal assessment,” based on an investigation that Bishop Blair began on behalf of the Vatican in April 2008. That investigation led the doctrinal congregation to conclude, in January 2011, that “the current doctrinal and pastoral situation of LCWR is grave and a matter of serious concern, also given the influence the LCWR exercises on religious congregation in other parts of the world.”

Among the areas of concern were some of the most controversial issues of medical and sexual ethics in America today.

“We have been a great deal of work on the part of LCWR promoting issues of social justice in harmony with the Church’s social doctrine, it is silent on the right to life from conception to natural death, a question that is part of the lively public debate about abortion and euthanasia in the United States,” the doctrinal congregation said.

“Further, issues of crucial importance in the life of the Church and society, such as the Church’s bibli cal view of family life and human sexuality, are not part of the LCWR agenda in a way that promotes Church teaching.”

The Vatican also found that “public statements by the LCWR that disagree with or challenge positions taken by the bishops, who are the Church’s authentic teachers of faith and morals, are not compatible with its purpose.”

According to the Vatican, such deviations from Catholic teaching have provoked a crisis “characterized by a diminution of the fundamental Christological center and focus of religious consecration.”

But the congregation’s document also praised the “great contributions of women religious to the Church in the United States as seen particularly in the many schools, hospitals and institutions of support for the poor, which have been founded and staffed by religious over the years,” and insisted that the Vatican “does not intend to offer judgment on the faith and life of women religious” in the LCWR’s member congregations.

During his tenure as the Holy See’s delegate, which is to last “up to five years, as deemed necessary,” Archbishop Sartain’s tasks will include overseeing revision of the LCWR’s statutes, review of its liturgical practices and the creation of formation programs for the conference’s member congregations.

The archbishop will also investigate the LCWR’s links to two outside groups: Network, a Catholic social justice lobby; and the Resource Center for Religious Institutes, which offers legal and financial expertise to religious orders.

The doctrinal assessment was separate from the Vatican’s “Apostolic Visitatio of Religious Communities of Women in the United States,” a study of the “quality of life” in some 400 congregations which began in December 2008. The visitation’s final report was submitted in December 2011 but has not yet been published.

Reform of US nuns group an opportunity for dialogue

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A newly announced reform of an association of women’s religious congregations in the United States offers the sisters and their bishops an opportunity to communicate and work together more closely, said the archbishop named by the Vatican to oversee the reform process.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle spoke to Catholic News Service in Rome April 22, a day after arriving for a periodic “ad limina” visit to the Vatican.

The Vatican announced April 18 that Archbishop Sartain will oversee a reform of an association of women’s religious congregations in the United States to ensure their fidelity to Catholic teaching in areas including abortion, euthanasia, women’s ordination and homosexuality.

Archbishop Sartain said that his main role in the reform process would be to “facilitate relationships and understanding.”

Saying that he hoped he could “help the sisters and the LCWR recognize that we are all in this together,” the archbishop called the reform a “great opportunity” for women religious, U.S. bishops and the Vatican to “strengthen and improve all of our relationships on every level.”
Former Haitian slave child tells his story at USF

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis and its Formula for Life fundraising event brought professional drummer and former Haitian slave child Bill Nathan to campus on April 12. He performed and told his story of becoming a musician while in slavery for a year as an orphaned child.

His father died two months after Nathan’s birth. His mother moved to Hinche, a small town on the St. Joseph Plateau, to find work to support both Nathan and his older sister, Sheila. After living in the streets, they were directed to a community of Catholic Sisters and met Sister Caroline, head of the congregation, who found them a house and some furniture. To pay back their generosity, Nathan’s mother worked in the garden and did chores for the sisters. Eventually, she found a job cooking, cleaning and ironing to pay the rent and schooling of her children.

One night Nathan’s mother cried out that she was dying, even though she was not sick. And while the three of them held hands, praying and singing, she died, leaving the children alone with no family or support.

Fortunately, a neighbor told the sisters what happened. Sister Caroline arranged for the funeral and took in the children for a couple weeks while searching for a foster family. Two families agreed to take the children, but separately.

“Sister Caroline made it very clear,” Nathan said, “that we were not to be treated as a ‘restavek,’ a French word meaning ‘slave child.’” Even though both families initially agreed to treat them as their own children, “everything changed,” he emphasized. Nathan was kicked out of the house at age 7 and made to sleep on a piece of cardboard in a summer kitchen. He was not allowed to attend school or play with the children. His only job was “to stay at the house and work.”

Nathan could not eat at the same table as the family. “I was permitted the scraps from the plates if I did all my chores! Not only that,” he added, “for no reason I would get beat up with a whip made of cowhide.”

Nathan’s main job was to get water for the family, filling a five-gallon bucket after walking miles to the water fountain. While he waited for water, he began drumming on the bottom of the bucket. “Oh Bill, you’re a good drummer!” many exclaimed. Encouraged by their support, he was last to fill his bucket and “late” getting back to the family. “That meant another beating,” he said, pointing to scars on his arm.

“St. Joseph is not only a place for children who come from the street and have been in a ‘restavek’ situation,” Nathan related, “but it’s also a guest house. That’s how we generate income to support our home.”

They also ran Wings of Hope, a facility for more than 50 physically- and mentally-handicapped children. In Haiti, many see these children as manifestations of evil and are rejected by society, explained Nathan. “Nobody wants to be involved,” he added. “They are like living pieces of furniture.”

On Jan. 12, 2010 — at eight minutes to five in the afternoon — everything changed when a massive earthquake struck Haiti. Both buildings were destroyed, and every manifestation of evil and rejection was revealed.

“The miracle thing is that none of our kids died,” Nathan exclaimed. On that day, he was on the roof of the seven-story St. Joseph’s building, urging children playing up there to go downstair, finish their chores and come to chapel. Nathan was alone on the roof when he felt the building and ground begin to shake. As he held tightly to a railing, he prayed, “God, my life is in Your hands!” He fell 75 feet into a garden. An oak tree kept the building from falling directly upon him. Eventually, Nathan was airlifted to the United States where he spent three months recovering from broken ribs, cracked vertebrae and other internal injuries.

Upon his return to Haiti, he discovered “not much had been done,” because machinery was too expensive to bring in. Nathan insisted that his “best friend” — the five-gallon bucket — be purchased to start collecting the rubble. “We took the rest of the building down, bucket by bucket,” he said.

It “took us nine months, but we did it; now, a year later, we’re about to finish rebuilding our home.” This building is a sign of hope, so we painted it with many beautiful colors, like the sunrise. We put butterflies on it because it’s a sign of resurrection! “Please, come to Haiti,” Nathan urged the listeners. “We are people full of joy who open our arms,” welcoming new friends. “Our kids will love to take your hand and lead you to enjoy the ocean. It’s a beautiful country with beautiful people. Haitians are resilient. In Haiti we do the best we can with what we have,” he concluded.

The tragic story of Nathan’s life of abuse has been chronicled in the book, “A Crime so Monstrous: Face to Face with Modern Day Slavery.”

By Vince Labarbera

April 29, 2012

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

POLISH-AMERICAN PRIESTS ASSOCIATION GATHERS AT ST. HEDGWIG

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass April 19 at St. Hedwig Church in South Bend as part of the Polish-American Priests gathering held in nearby Michigan City. In his homily, Bishop Rhoadess spoke of the zeal of the Apostles to preach the Gospel, despite threats and persecution. Bishop Rhoades noted how throughout Polish history, “We see courageous examples of holy priests who, in the face of persecution, obeyed God, rather than men. As members of the Polish-American Priests Association, it is important to keep the memory of these priests alive and to be inspired by their example.”

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Jeff McComb, his wife Shelly and their sons Jack and Quinten attend St. Michaels Catholic Church in Waterloo and he is a member of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton council. Jeff is the servicing agent for St. Elizabeth, St. Joseph Hessen Castle, Monroeville, New Haven, St. Therese, St. Charles, St. Jude, St. Patrick, St. Mary’s, and The Cathedral all in Fort Wayne. Jeff enjoys working with families and individuals in all stages of life, whether they are just starting out or they are in their retirement years to help plan and protect their future.

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USCCB appeals ruling that Constitution forbids religious accommodation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has appealed a federal judge’s ruling that the Constitution forbids religious accommodation in the delivery of services under a federal contract.

The appeal challenges the decision of District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns, who said in a March 23 ruling that the Department of Health and Human Services’ contraceptive mandate as “preventative care,” but said the Obama administration’s contraceptive mandate. The USCCB joined the lawsuit in mid-2010 as a defendant-intervenor.

The USCCB, acting as the national conference of the church’s bishop conferences, is one of several parties appealing a federal judge’s ruling that the Department of Health and Human Services’ contraceptive mandate.

Bishop urges ‘heroic Catholicism’ to fight religious liberty threats

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — “Heroic Catholicism, not casual Catholicism” is required to confront state and federal threats to religious liberty and the Church’s public ministries, Peoria Bishop Daniel R. Jenky told more than 500 Catholic men who marched through the city’s downtown in a steady rain April 14 in a public defense of the faith.

“Can we no longer be Catholics by accident, but instead be Catholics by conviction?” Bishop Jenky asked.

The bishop mentioned President Barack Obama’s three times in his homily at the rally Mass. “In clear violation of our First Amendment rights,” said Bishop Jenky, “Barack Obama with his radical, pro-abortion and extreme secularist agenda now seems intent on following a similar path” as other governments throughout history who “have tried to force Christians to huddle and hide only within the confines of their churches.”

The Obama administration’s contraceptive mandate includes a religious exemption, but leaders of various Catholic and other faith-based organizations say it is too narrow and they will still be forced to provide coverage they oppose.

The administration has defended the mandate as “preventative care,” but religious groups that oppose it say it infringes on their religious liberty.

A new federal proposal issued March 21 suggested third-party administrators pay the costs of contraceptives for religious employers who object, but the U.S. bishops said even that, the mandate remained flawed.

Letters to Congress: USCCB opposes proposed cuts in services to poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has expressed its concerns over proposed cuts in federal programs serving the country’s poorest and most vulnerable people in a series of letters to congressional leaders since April 4 as debate over the fiscal year 2013 budget begins.

The letters from Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, urge Congress to draw a “circle of protection” around programs that serve “the least among us.”

The letters were sent after the House of Representatives adopted on March 27 a $3.5 trillion budget resolution — with a $600 billion deficit — written by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

The plan calls for massive spending cuts in nonmilitary programs, turning Medicaid into a block grant program administered by the states, reshaping Medicare over the next decade, and simplifying the tax code by closing loopholes and lowering individual and corporate tax rates.

A common message in the letters focuses on the necessity of “shared sacrifice by all, including raising adequate revenues,” the elimination of unnecessary military and other spending and fairly addressing long-term costs associated with health insurance and retirement costs.

In a letter to the House Agriculture Committee, Bishop Blair said the House budget “fails to meet these moral criteria.”

Indianapolis bishop decry ‘attempted ordination’ of ex-nun

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — The apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis spoke out against the “attempted ordination” of an ex-nun to the priesthood.

“I am saddened that the woman who attempted ordination and anyone who took part in this invalid ceremony have chosen to take such a public action to separate themselves from the Church,” said an April 17 statement by Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Indianapolis, who is overseeing the archdiocese.

Attorneys for the bishops’ conference told Catholic News Service April 18 that the appeal questioned whether the ACLU was standing in the original case. He argued that the organization was not based on previous Supreme Court decisions that narrowly define which taxpayers have standing to file lawsuits in certain kinds of cases.

The second argument, Dinger explained, revolves around whether the Department of Health and Human Services’ decision to allow the USCCB to limit the services it offered was an endorsement of religion. Dinger said it was not.

For Anglicans, being welcomed by Church at Easter ‘glorious experience’

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — The journey to full communion in the Catholic Church “has taken a few twists and turns,” said a former Anglican priest who joined the Church with his community during the Easter Vigil in Indianapolis.

“I once you get to your destination, it seems so natural,” Luke Reese said. History was made at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral April 7 when 17 Anglicans, led by E. Christopher Coyne of the St. Joseph of Arimathea Society in Indianapolis, became Catholics according to rules established by Pope Benedict XVI in his 2009 apostolic constitution “Anglicanorum coetibus.”

The document provided a way for entire Anglican parishes or groups to become Catholic while retaining some of their Anglican heritage and liturgical practices. Earlier this year, Pope Benedict approved the establishment of the new U.S. Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, based in Houston, which functions like a diocese for former Anglicans in the United States and Canada.

In Indianapolis, the Anglicans were welcomed in the Church by Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator of the archdiocese.

They are the fourth group of former Anglicans to join the ordinariate.

This group performed has no valid connection with the Roman Catholic Church or is not in communion with the sacraments of the Church.

For Anglicans, being welcomed by Church at Easter ‘glorious experience’

Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, speaks during the eighth annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington April 19.

Catholic officials, religious and members of the Knights were among those in attendance at the breakfast. At left is an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
Church in Elkhart. at St. David of Wales Episcopal organ recitalist, who is professor of be Dr. Craig Cramer, international concert in honor of the late Paul organist Craig Cramer Memorial concert features Messman plans to attend Purdue Scholarship recipients may attend of education. There were 142 Lilly Lilly Endowment initiative to help scholarships are a result of a statewide community involvement, and a per- demonstrate successfully overcom - Allen County students must dem- Scholarship recipients may attend of Lilly Scholarship this year. Eligible students must demon- this, the college President Carol Ann Mooney.

Messman awarded Lilly Scholarship FORT WAYNE — Danielle Messman, Bishop Dwenger High School’s salutatorian of the class of 2012, was among five students who were awarded the Lilly Scholarship this year. Eligible Allen County students must demon- strate successfully overcoming an obstacle, financial need, academic performance, work and community involvement, and a personal statement of goals. The schol- arship is a result of a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative to help Hoosier students reach higher levels of education. There were 142 Lilly Scholarship recipients statewide. Scholarship recipients may attend any college or university in Indiana. Messman plans to attend Purdue University to pursue a degree in engineering.

Memorial concert features organist Craig Cramer LAGRO — The Friends of St. Patrick’s will sponsor a memorial concert in honor of the late Paul Bever on Sunday, May 6, at 3 p.m. at the historic St. Patrick Oratory in Lagro.

The featured guest artist will be Dr. Craig Cramer, international organ recitalist, who is professor of organ at the University of Notre Dame. He also serves as organist at St. David of Wales Episcopal Church in Elkhart.

Cramer maintains an active recit- al career across the country and in Europe. Cramer’s performances are frequently heard on the nationally syndicated program “Pipe Dreams” (American Public Radio), and he has 15 recordings to his credit. Recently released recordings include the pre- miere recording of the Notre Dame Frits organ and the new Frits organ at St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio.

In addition to the organ recital, there will be vocal selections of Paul Bever’s favorite sacred music and an audience sing-a-long of his Irish favorites.

The public is invited to this event. Refreshments will be served by the Friends of St. Patrick’s after the concert. For more information, call Janet Poole at (260) 563-1008.

National Day of Prayer observed in Mishawaka MISHAWAKA — The 25th annual observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held in Mishawaka on Thursday, May 3, from 12-1 p.m. at the Battell Center, 904 N. Main St., Mishawaka, at the cor- ner of Broadway and Main streets.

The theme, “One Nation Under God,” and the reflection on Psalm 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,” will offer an opportunity for participants to seek repentance and to pray for the gov- ernment, families, military, schools, media, churches and businesses.

The program will be led by dig- naries of the city, ministers, priests, service, military and business lead- ers of the community. Mishawaka Mayor David Wood, a member of St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka, will open the event with prayer. Franciscan Father Giles Zachowicz will lead the prayer for “Christian Liberty and the Unborn.” Derron Hess, a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, and a firefighter for the Mishawaka Fire Department, will lead the prayer for service people.

Parking is available at the Battell Center, adjacent streets, or at the First Baptist Church lot just south of Battell Center. Shuttle service will be provided before and after the event from the church lot.

WOW Garden Project begins Fourth-wheelbarrows, each with unique artistic design based on the theme of world foods, and each planted with a garden representing the herds and vegetables of a specific ethnicity or country. The possibilities for colorful, vibrant displays are myriad, as culture, art and food converge in an exhibition of the diverse international flavor of the Fort Wayne community.

The World on Wheels (WOW) Garden Project is designed to show- case local artists, promote spon- soring businesses, and raise funds and awareness for the Fresh Food Initiative. The Fresh Food Initiative provides urban farming training, land and supplies for refugees to grow culturally-appropriate foods for themselves and for market.

The WOW Garden Project begins with a kickoff event July 28 for spon- sors, artists, master gardeners and the represented cultural groups. Artists will then have several weeks to com- plete their pieces. The decorated wheelbarrows will be displayed and a voter’s choice competition will be held for the best design at the Taste of the Arts festival on Aug. 25.

After the Taste of the Arts, the wheelbarrows will be sent to the master gardeners to be plant- ed with foods representing the various ethnic or international groups. Once planted, the wheel- barrows will be displayed at various locations downtown Fort Wayne beginning Sept. 7. The project culminates Sept. 29, as the finished wheelbar- rows are displayed and auctioned off at the International Blast. The WOW Garden Project is sponsored by the Fort Wayne Downtown Improvement District.

Sponsorship levels are $500, which includes sponsorship sig- nage and recognition, or $1,500 executive level which includes logo placement on promotional material and sponsorship signature at the Last Saturday events in July, August and September, the Taste of the Arts, Be a Tourist in your own Hometown and International Blast, an invitation to the farm-to- table celebration and the option to keep the wheelbarrow.

All sponsors will receive a plaque, which will be displayed on the wheelbarrows at all the events. Selected artists will receive a $50 award.

Anyone interested in parti- cipating or sponsoring a wheelbar- row should contact Holly Chaillie at (260) 456-8969 ext. 326.

Bishop Luers Academic Super Bowl heads to state FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers Academic Super Bowl teams (math, social studies and science) earned first place in the Area Match held at Leo High School on Tuesday, April 17.

The Social Studies and Science teams received invitations to com- pete at state that will be held at Peru High School on May 5. Teams that place in the top six in the state among their division earn invitations to compete by the program director, Department of Student Programs, with the Indiana Association of School Principals.

The Bishop Luers Science team consists of Coach Alicia Fifer, chemistry teacher at Bishop Luers High School, and team members Sam Johnson, Isaiah Fisher, Anthony Harper and Tyler Post.

The Bishop Luers Social Studies team consists of Coach Jeanine Skordos, Bishop Luers parent, and team members Estaban Garcia, David Lotz, Sam Stein, Jacob Schall and Eric Trelab.

FOURTH-DAY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND THEIR SPOUSES GATHERED AT THE COUNCIL 451 reception hall on Reed Road on April 16 to host their annual appreciation dinner for bishops, priests, sisters, brothers and deacons in the Fort Wayne area. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presented Father James Seculoff, left in photo, with an honorary certificate recognizing his 50 years of service to the Church. Other honored clergy who were present included Sister Kathleen Kneuven, a Sister of Notre Dame for 45 years; Sister Mary Gertrude Ann Mueller, a Sister of Notre Dame for 55 years; Father Edward Erpelding, 45 years; Father Adam Schmitt, 55 years; and Bishop John M. D’Arcy, bishop emeritus, 55 years. The Knights also presented a check to Bishop Rhoades in support of the Franciscan Brothers Minor.

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Fourth-wheelbarrows, each with unique artistic design based on the theme of world foods, and each planted with a garden representing the herds and vegetables of a specific ethnicity or country. The possibilities for colorful, vibrant displays are myriad, as culture, art and food converge in an exhibition of the diverse international flavor of the Fort Wayne community.
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University of Saint Francis hosts Proactive Elder-Care Workshop

BY VINCE LABBARBERA

FORT WAYNE — There was a healthy atmosphere on the North Campus of the University of Saint Francis (USF) on Friday, April 20, as nearly 200 participants spent the day initially at a health fair followed by a Proactive Elder-Care Workshop.

Cherise M. Dixie, a representative of the Mayor’s Senior Advisory Council, welcomed attendees to the workshop. It was sponsored by Proactive Elder Care, Inc., The Chamber of Commerce and USF.

Dr. Diane L. Martin, assistant professor in the Physical Therapist Assistant program at USF, with Dr. Meg Wilson, School of Nursing, co-chaired the health-fair event, titled Focus on Health.

“It’s part of a wellness initiative being promoted through the School of Health Sciences wellness committee,” Martin said. Focus on Health offered many free screenings as well as low-cost blood work and mammograms. Other educational items were on hand from 40 exhibitors.

Caregivers and aging loved ones, employed caregivers and employers were invited to the workshop to become better informed on when to begin care giving. Experts discussed interactive planning in finance, law, healthcare, post acute-care continuum, community services and bioethics.

“Discussion in these key areas helps caregivers make informed decisions and obtain free screenings as well as low-cost blood work and mammograms. Other educational items were on hand from 40 exhibitors.”

Seven speakers were available for large and small group presentations as well as individual discussion. In addition, more than 20 sponsors were on hand for questions.

The presenters included:

- Mary Jo Bland, founder of Proactive Elder Care in 2010 after providing financial and healthcare oversight to her aging in-laws from 2005 to 2010.
- Kevin Noll, first vice president, financial advisor, Tower Investment Services, is enrolled in The Retirement Advisor University at UCLA Anderson School of Management.
- Jane Gerardot, principal attorney, Hoeglin, Troyer and Gerardot, worked in rehabilitation healthcare and administration for 18 years as a physical therapist prior to entering the field of law.
- Dr. Robert Musselman, family medicine, Lutheran Medical Group, is the medical director of Three Rivers Medical Associates and is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine.
- Ted Scholten, chief operating office, Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Wayne, has 24 years of experience in the rehabilitation field.
- Ruth Force, a registered nurse with Dorian Maples and Associates, Inc., has a passion for educating caregivers and their loved ones as well as assuring that quality care takes place in the homes.
- Earl Kunrifer, department chair of philosophy-theology at USF, serves as a consultant and is on several ethics committees.

The essence of all the presentations was to “plan now, delegate and consult experts.” According to Bland, the audience mix was diversified from caregivers, families, employees, employers and healthcare students. Individuals, families and employers were in attendance for various reasons.

Some attendees find it difficult to talk about care for the aging, so they used the occasion as an “ice breaker” to hold a family meeting, learning how to help the family get organized and united about their parents’ care, questioning when is the right time to take over as caregiver, particularly finances and healthcare. Others wanted to know more about the role of durable power of attorney for health and finance, and if and when to secure a guardianship. Many had questions, such as when/how to get parents to stop driving, whether to contact authorities if mom is living in unhealthy or unsafe conditions, and what to do and how to do it when dad runs out of money in the nursing home and the institution does not take Medicaid.

There were also concerns about end-of-life care, how to select people to help when needed, learning about available community services, the Proactive Elder-Care Workshop at the University of Saint Francis included the opportunity to attend Focus on Health, offering many free screenings as well as low-cost blood work and mammograms.

Mary Jo Bland, founder of Proactive Elder Care, stresses that an elder’s health determines where their roof is, whether it be at home, independent and assisted living, rehab or nursing-home care.

and getting more information about housing costs, such as in-home, independent and assisted living, rehab, memory care, nursing home care and many other options. A few had concerns about how to balance work and career while serving as a caregiver, and how to determine average costs to elder and caregiver.

A business owner wanted to learn how to work with their caregiver employees. Skilled professional caregivers, especially nurses, attended to learn more about areas outside their expertise, especially finance, for the big eldercare picture.
MISHAWAKA — Al Gutierrez, president and chief executive officer of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center has been named as one of the nation’s Top 25 Minority Executives by Modern Healthcare magazine.

With a career in healthcare that has spanned more than 33 years, Gutierrez joined Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in November 2010. Since, Saint Joseph has been named one of the “Most Wired” hospitals in the United States for its progress towards greater health information technology, as well as one of the nation’s 15 Top Health Systems, and Top 5 for Small Health Systems.

Gutierrez joins visionary leaders as Top 25 Minority Executive from institutions such as Catholic Health Initiatives, Bon Secours Health System, Harvard Medical School, Kaiser Foundation Hospital and Health Plan, United Health Group, as well as the current U.S. Surgeon General, the Assistant Secretary for Health and Human Services and the United States Chief Technology Officer. Candidates who were selected must have successfully served as a leader in a healthcare organization, shown the ability or power to effect change in the healthcare industry, demonstrate a willingness to share expertise with others in the field, serve as a role model or mentor to other healthcare executives and assumed a leadership position in the industry outside their organization.

“This is a well-deserved, but not surprising, recognition for Al Gutierrez,” said Rick O’Connell, executive vice president of Hospital Networks at Trinity Health, the Novi, Mich., parent company of Saint Joseph. “Trinity Health and Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center are fortunate to have a leader like Al, whose commitment to improving the health of our communities is unwavering, and his willingness to mentor others, as well as serve the community outside the walls of the hospital, is a true inspiration.”

St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart held their first “He and Me” father-daughter dance on Saturday, April 14. Many of the girls attended the 5:30 p.m. Mass with their “dates,” then walked to the school gym, which had been decorated in a “Spring has Sprung” theme. The girls each decorated a picture frame as a keepsake from the night. Pictured is Phil Hickman dancing with his daughters, Sydney, 6, and Elise, 8.

Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control was the recipient of a donation by the St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Friends of Rachel (F.O.R.) Club that raised money at a bake sale to benefit the animals. The club members toured the facility and attended a teen program on April 16. The club and school have adopted “Rachel’s Challenge” based on the philosophy of kindness and compassion of Rachel Scott, the first student killed at Columbine High School in Colorado on April 20, 1999.
Adopt-a-Seminarian program offers prayers, support for vocations

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — When Deacon Jacob Meyer returns home from Pontifical College Josephinum during school breaks, he often brings fellow students with him. Kurt and Julie Meyer, Deacon Meyer’s parents, observed that some of his fellow seminarians don’t always get to travel home because of distance and travel costs.

After getting to know the seminarians, the Meyers recognized their need for spiritual and financial support.

“Seminarians have no job for income,” said Julie. “They are committed to discerning their vocation, studies and serving their parish on breaks and summers. Their needs are simple: financial support for little things like laundry supplies, stamps and travel expenses.”

After the Meyers discussed their concern with their son, Deacon Meyer went to St. Pius X pastor Msgr. Bill Schooler to consider a program at the parish that would spotlight the needs of these young men. The Adopt-a-Seminarian program was developed to encourage financial and spiritual support for all Fort Wayne-South Bend seminarians.

Msgr. Schooler thought it was a great idea because “it connects young men studying for the priesthood with our parishioners and it is a good way to promote vocations within our parish.”

Betsy Quinn, director of Evangelization and Stewardship at St. Pius, invited the Meyers to become a part of a committee, which would oversee the program. During two weekends in February, multiple copies of information sheets for each diocesan seminary student were distributed to interested parishioners after every Mass.

Each information sheet included the seminary student’s picture, home parish, birthday, graduation date. The sheets also communicated some of the student’s favorite things such as treats, sporting teams, stores and needs such as laundry and toiletry items. Parishioners were also given a prayer card for vocations to read throughout the year for each seminarian’s spiritual needs.

Seminarian student Bill Meininger, who is spending his pastoral year at St. Pius X, emphasized the Adopt-a-Seminarian program provides the opportunity for a greater feeling of connection for the student with the home diocese while away.

“Knowing that we have so many people praying for us and supporting us in other ways is very encouraging and at the same time humbling, as we are reminded that we aren’t going through these years of study and formation for ourselves, but for the faithful of the diocese,” noted Meininger.

“With so much talk of the priest shortage in the Church today, the Adopt-a-Seminarian program is a wonderful way for the laity to get involved and, in a very real way, support the vocations we do have and encourage and pray that more men are willing to answer the call,” Meininger added.

Committee members Angie and John Miller expressed excitement about the development of the program at St. Pius X going forward.

“While the intent in phase one of this program was to initiate a simple exchange of a gift from a family to an individual seminarian, our long-term goal is to have a more ongoing and enduring relationship where the family is in touch on a more regular basis with letters, Facebook posts, YouTube videos, etc,” John emphasized. “We also hope that we can expand into the classrooms of St. Pius X School next year and get all the kids involved to further extend the bond.”

Angie adds, “Our hope is also that classrooms will respond in some way so our students can look to the seminarians as healthy role models.”

Out of town guests from Indianapolis who attended Mass during the Adopt-a-Seminarian kickoff were intrigued by the program’s concept and asked for contact information to start a similar program in their parish, the Meyers noted.

At least one St. Pius X family decided to deliver their gifts to their adopted seminarian in person. The Scott Null family, on vacation in Rome during this year’s spring break, met seminarian Royce Gregerson and presented him with a duffel bag full of gifts. Gregerson is currently studying in Rome at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross.

Kurt Meyer summed up the importance of parish support of vocations. “Parishioners are always looking to help. Impressed with the faith, determination and sacrifice of these young men the Adopt-a-Seminarian program seemed like a nice way to help them with basic needs during school. They represent the future of our Church, and this program can be a significant blessing to each of these young men.”
God is calling
Are you listening?

Finding the time to slow down, listen for, and consider God’s call can be difficult but what could be more important? The Congregation of Holy Cross has multiple retreat programs for high school, college, and post graduate men designed to guide you along the way as you seek to hear and answer God’s call. Contact our office to find out more. 574.631.6385 or email at vocation@holycrossusa.org.
Study: New members in religious orders younger, more educated

WASHINGTON (USCCB) — Women and men entering religious orders today are younger and more educated than new members of the recent past. They also have participated in numerous Church activities, including parish youth ministry and campus ministry, according to a national survey.

The findings were made public in “New Sisters and Brothers in Perpetual Vows,” a study of men and women religious who professed perpetual vows in 2011. The study was conducted by the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA).

Profession of perpetual vows, charity and obedience marks a final step of incorporation of new members into religious communities.

The CARA survey was commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. The survey was sent to sisters and brothers identified by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR), the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), and over 150 contemplative communities.

A total of 84 out of the 122 religious who were contacted responded, representing 52 women’s and 8 men’s religious congregations, provinces, or monasteries.

Major findings note:
• The average age among women professing perpetual vows in 2011 was 39, which is four years younger than last year’s survey respondents; among men it was 42. Half of the responding women religious are 39 or younger, among responding brothers, half are 44 or older.
• Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of those surveyed identify themselves as white while nearly one in five (19 percent) identify as Asian, and almost one in ten (9 percent) identify as Hispanic. Seventy percent were born in the United States. Of those born outside the United States, the most common countries of origin are Vietnam, Philippines and India.
• More than nine in ten (94 percent) respondents have been Catholic since birth. About eight in ten (79 percent) come from families in which both parents are Catholic.
• Nearly half of responding religious (48 percent, about equal for women and men) attended a Catholic elementary school. Respondents are also more likely than other U.S. Catholics to have attended a Catholic high school (36 percent of responding religious, compared to 22 percent of U.S. adult Catholics) and much more likely to have attended a Catholic college (25 percent of religious, compared to just 7 percent of U.S. adult Catholics).
• The responding religious are highly educated. Sixteen percent of responding religious earned a graduate degree before entering their religious institute (including 26 percent among brothers). Nearly six in ten (57 percent) entered their religious institute with at least a bachelor’s degree or more (56 percent for women and 76 percent for men).
• Many respondents were active in parish life before entering their religious institute. One-third participated in a young adult group and one in five participated in a youth ministry or other youth group. About one in four (24 percent) was active in campus ministry or a Newman Club on campus.
• Nearly all (95 percent) responding religious regularly participated in some type of private prayer activity before they entered their religious institute. Two-thirds joined in retreats (more common among women than men) or regularly prayed the rosary and three in five participated in Eucharistic Adoration before entering.
• About half regularly participated in a faith sharing or Bible study group and/or in regular spiritual direction.
• On average, responding religious report that they were 19 years old when they first considered a vocation to religious life, but half were 17 or younger when they first did so. This reflects an earlier consideration than last year’s class.
• A great majority of the religious of those professed in 2011 (86 percent) participated in some type of vocation program or experience prior to entering their religious institute.
• Most commonly, this was a “Come and See” experience (61 percent) or a vocation retreat (39 percent).
• “Religious sisters, priests and brothers are treasured by the Church, and we support their sacred commitment to be poor, chaste and obedient in imitation of Christ and at His service. By virtue of their life they help us set our heart’s goal not on this life, but on eternal life,” said Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis, chairman of the Committee for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

“In a world where human frailty is acutely felt, they remind us of God’s infinite love for our humanity, and of His compassion and grace which we have in our vocation in religious life.”

We are challenged by the Gospel of Jesus to bring the good news.

We are challenged by the Gospel of Jesus to bring the good news.

“The USCCE communications office provided this story. The entire survey can be found at http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/profession-class/.

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CARMELITE NUNS PROFESS VOWS IN 2011 AT ST. LOUIS CONVENT

Three Carmelite nuns profess their vows in 2011 in the chapel of the Divine Heart of Jesus convent in St. Louis. Love of God nurtures love of neighbor, especially in people with vocations to the priesthood or religious life, said Pope Benedict XVI in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which will be observed April 29.

We are challenged by the Gospel of Jesus to bring the passion of God’s love, healing and peace to all creation.

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Black and white, or gray?  

One widely-encountered idea today is that there is no black and white when it comes to morality, only a kind of "gray area." This is often taken to mean that we really can’t know with certainty what is right and wrong, allowing us to “push into the gray” as we make certain moral decisions that at first glance appear to be immoral.

The behavior of the semi-legendary figure of Robin Hood is sometimes mentioned as an example of this "gray area" phenomenon, since he was a character who would steal money (morally bad) for the purposes of helping the poor (morally good).

By focusing on the good intentions motivating our choices, and by arguing that morality is ambiguous and mostly "gray anyway," Peter makes more easily justify and provide cover for morally problematic actions. When we begin to scrutinize the claim that morality is "gray," however, we encounter significant problems and contradictions.

The romanticized exploits of Robin Hood, for example, end up providing little more than a “veil of gray” that quickly dissolves when we place ourselves in the first-person situation of being the victim of his thievery, having our own windows broken and our own goods plundered. Those who have been robbed of their possessions will often describe afterwards, in vivid detail, the awful awareness of personal violation, the crushing of their feeling of security, etc. In these circumstances, we see the moral problem with Robin Hood’selden, actions, and appreciate the direct, black and white character of the universal moral injunction against stealing.

Universal moral prohibitions are clearly at the heart of any discussion about the “grayness” of morality. Many human actions, when freely chosen, will always be unacceptable. These actions, referred to as “intrinsic evils,” are immoral regardless of circumstances. They go beyond being an example of an intrinsic evil. Regardless of how much a married man may desire to be with a new romantic flame, and regardless of how horrible his current marriage and sex life may appear to be, the decision to have sexual relations with someone other than his spouse will invariably constitute an act of moral depravity on his part. Every woman who has been raped, every child who has been abused, every husband who has been robbed of his wife, and every child who has been the victim of child abuse or sexual abuse, and every adult who has been the victim of rape, or has known someone who has been the victim of rape, is in no way "gray zone" for adultery. Most people who recognize that an action may be black may still be tempted to think that because it is with us now. Peter brought people to God. He brought God’s life-giving power to them. His successors continue in this wondrous exchange.

Universal moral prohibitions are clearly at the heart of any discussion about the “grayness” of morality. Many human actions, when freely chosen, will always be unacceptable. These actions, referred to as “intrinsic evils,” are immoral regardless of circumstances. They go beyond being an example of an intrinsic evil. Regardless of how much a married man may desire to be with a new romantic flame, and regardless of how horrible his current marriage and sex life may appear to be, the decision to have sexual relations with someone other than his spouse will invariably constitute an act of moral depravity on his part. Every woman who has been raped, every child who has been abused, every husband who has been robbed of his wife, and every child who has been the victim of child abuse or sexual abuse, and every adult who has been the victim of rape, or has known someone who has been the victim of rape, is in no way “gray zone” for adultery. Most people who recognize that an action may be black may still be tempted to think that because

The Good Shepherd risks everything

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday of Easter
In 10:11-18

The Acts of the Apostles again the business of an Easter season’s first reading. Peter, once more the spokesman for the Apostles, is filled with the Holy Spirit. He is not speaking on his own.

In the story, Peter restores a crippled woman to wholeness, declaring that this miraculous event came from within us. We must admit these facts.

The Lord’s sacrificial death on Calvary, the Son of God, the Savior. Jesus is the cornerstone of eternal life itself, the single source of God’s favor and everlasting life.

The first Epistle of John provides the second reading. These three epistles, given the name of John, the Apostle, are alike, and speaking of the primary deposit and in their supreme use of language.

This reading declares true believers to be “children of God.” It is a powerful term. Throughout, and in Jesus’ believers become much more than merely the creatures of God. They become God’s children. The Scriptures have many titles and names for God. He is the master, the creator, the king and the almighty. In this reading, God is the Father. The title conveys all that the relationship between a child and an earthly father suggests.

Continuing, Peter makes it clear that this miraculous event came from within us. We must admit these facts.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd, ready to sacrifice earthly life itself so that we might live.

In our greatest limitation, we humans everlasting ignorance of our own weaknesses, and inflate our strengths. We are at the mercy of death-dealing and devious forces, some with human faces. Some come from within us. We must admit these facts.

We need the Lord. Jesus is our strong, loving and giving Good Shepherd. He leads us to eternal life. Without the Lord, we risk eternal death, helpless before our enemies. He alone guides us to peace and to life.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12 Ps 118:1-9, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 29 in 31:2-1 John 10:18-19


Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1-7 Jn 10:22-30


Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-5


Religious liberty — our country’s first principle

In the Bill of Rights for the United States, in the First Amendment and in the protections of our Constitution, the founders of this country found it essential to place religion in a privileged place. It seems that it is suggested in public commentary talk about religion or politics. As a priest that pretty much would leave me out of all conversations. But the great things about our country is it was founded on the ideas of freedom of religion and free speech. The First Amendment is worth quoting:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

You have probably heard that the squeaky wheel gets the oil. Many commentaries about this or that but they often are not well informed. I bet if you asked people if the Constitution talks about separation between Church and state the majority of people would say “of course!” The reality is that it does not expressly state that rather the founders seemed to recognize that many human conflicts were fought under the pretense of religious grounds. They tried to establish a constitution that did not “establish” any one religion as supreme in government, nor should the government impede the free exercise of anyone’s religion.

The new HHS mandate is forcing Catholic institutions and Catholic businesses to provide insurance to formally cooperate with evil. This is something practicing Catholics cannot do in good conscience. It would recommend that you read the USCCB article that recognizes religious liberty as the first liberty in this country.

Religious liberty is recognized as a pillar in Catholic social teaching, second only to human dignity itself. It is considered fundamental in Catholic teaching because of the respect that is demanded of human life itself. One can hardly be free to worship if one is denied the right to life.

The current governmental administration of this country is trying to suggest that contraception, contraceptive services, sterilization and even the drugs that induce abortion must be covered by all insurers. Many in the Church have difficulties with the Church’s teaching, but the teaching is correct. If one looks at the potential negative side effects of contraception, they can be serious, from increasing one’s risk of breast cancer to permanent sterility.

Father Glenn Kohrman is the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart.
Philip II, China and the Great Catholic What-If

H
istory being linear, “What if…?” is an unanswerable question—but always a fascinating one. What if George Washington had failed in New York in the early days of the American revolution and the rebellion had been crushed? What if Lee had heeded Longstreet, won Gettysburg and then taken Washington, thus ending the Civil War and achieving Confederate independence? What if Charles Lindbergh had been the Republican candidate in 1940 and had defeated FDR? What if Bush vs. Gore had been decided differently in 2000?

“What if…?” questions involve more than politics, of course. What if the apostles had turned right rather than left on leaving the Holy Land, so that Christianity was first “inculturated” in South America and Africa? What if Christianity had first been planted in a culture where something could both “be” and “not be”?

Then there is the great “What if…” involving Christianity and China, of which I’ve only become aware, thanks to a November 2011 lecture by the distinguished historian, Hugh Thomas, published in the March 2012 issue of the British journal Standpoint.

According to Lord Thomas, a combination of Spanish conquistadors and missionaries, led by a remarkable character named Lopez de Legazpi, proposed to use the new Spanish colony of the Philippines as the launch-pad for a Spanish and Christian takeover of China—an ambition they styled “la empresa de China,” “the China Project.” The “project” fired the imaginations of Legazpi’s successors, who pressed the Spanish monarch, Philip II, for permission to bring China under Spanish control. Philip, who hailed from a family with a strong Catholic tradition, agreed.

In sum, the objective lines of the Catholic mission in the Far East had been drawn in the 16th century and had subsequently developed a vibrant form of Catholicism that blended the best of European and Chinese talents and personalities. Might the mission “ad gentes,” in the third millennium, be one in which this Euro-Asian Catholicism re-evangelized the religiously arid societies of Old Europe?

Might we be speculating about a Chinese pope, not as something fantastic, but as something obvious?

Hugh Thomas is old-fashioned in style, but thorough in the details of that situation.

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But what if Philip had forged ahead—and succeeded? In the 1990 encyclical, “Redemptoris Missio” (“The Mission of the Redeemer”), Pope John Paul II, noting that the great failure of Christian mission in the first two millennia had been in East Asia, urged that the mission “ad gentes” (“the mission to the nations”) be focused on Asia in the third millennium. But what if China had been evangelized in the 17th century and had subsequently turned right rather than left on the path of history?

For Sanchez and his supporters the mission “ad gentes” in New Spain had been evangelized in the 17th century and had subsequently developed a vibrant form of Catholicism that blended the best of European and Chinese talents and personalities. Might the mission “ad gentes,” in the third millennium, be one in which this Euro-Asian Catholicism re-evangelized the religiously arid societies of Old Europe?

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Good soccer season for CYO St. Jude Eagles

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — As the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) soccer season gets underway for 2012, the St. Jude Eagles are having a fine season and have shown a positive improvement in their team play and results, according to Coach Dan Motherwell.

The Eagles have a 1-2-1 record. They kicked off with two losses against tough teams from St. Charles 8 and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, but have had a good stretch tying St. Vincent 7 and beating St. Charles 7.

In his eighth season, Coach Dan Motherwell lists a combined seventh- and eighth-grade team of 16 young ladies.

Motherwell rotates his captains each game. He strongly believes soccer is a team sport and his players have been playing well as a team.

“...The girls have a good attitude and keep their spirits high,” Motherwell summarized.

The CYO single elimination tournament will start the week of April 30. At St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, the boys’ team has 14 seventh and eighth graders on its roster and is once again coached by Ken Huth.

With over two decades of soccer under his belt, Huth is pleased with the strong leadership and positive attitude of his players despite their 0-3 start.

“We are a very inexperienced group, but they come ready to play every day and are progressively getting better,” Huth explained.

The Panthers were downed by St. Vincent, 3-0, and St. Jude, 2-0, but were thrilled to score their first goal of the season in their 3-1 loss to St. Charles.

“We are having a lot of fun,” summarized Huth.

Ancilla baseball sponsors tornado relief trip

DONALDSON — Dylan Martin had just returned to his apartment from school when he and some of his fellow Ancilla College baseball teammates heard reports of bad storms heading for Indiana. Martin, who grew up in Borden, near Henryville in southern Indiana, called home to check on his family. No one answered, so he called his grandmother, who informed him that they were in the midst of the severe weather. As the reports of the devastation reached him, Dylan felt helpless when he learned that several of his friends and neighbors had lost their homes.

“I thought there was nothing I could do from four hours away, and it felt out of my hands,” he admits.

Ancilla College Head Baseball Coach Joe Yonto, who led a relief trip to Alabama after tornadoes struck there in 2011, approached Martin about helping out. Martin called his mother, and “we started to plan and call around town,” he explains. Their inquiries led them to a farmer who, at 63 years old, had recently undergone triple bypass surgery and was unable to rebuild after a tornado had ripped through the middle of his farm.

“He graduated with my grandma, so we knew him really well,” Martin recalls. “My mom knew he really needed the help.”

Martin was among the 12 baseball players who accompanied Coach Yonto during their mid-April trip. The team stayed at a local fire station and helped the farmer clean up the metal, fallen trees and rebuild the fence around his 133 acres.

Patrick Knight, who grew up in nearby New Albany, also went on the trip. Knight is grateful for the opportunity, saying, “I meant a lot being back near my hometown and getting to help out. We got a lot done.”

Coach Yonto describes the experience as “a great opportunity and a sincere effort from the young men. That’s what Ancilla is all about, helping others out and making a difference in their lives. (The farmer) and community were appreciative. It was positive for our young men, as well.”

Correction

In the All Diocese Team roster listed in the April 22, 2012 edition of Today’s Catholic, an incorrect photo of wrestler Jacob Kazmierczak of Saint Joseph’s High School was published. The following is the correction:

Wrestling

Jace Kazmierczak, junior, 182 weight class, Holy Family, South Bend

Correction

In the April 22, 2012 edition of Today’s Catholic, the wrong coach was credited to the Bishop Dwenger Lady Saints.

Don Halls

Takes the Cake

Cakes for All Occasions

Unique to traditional –
our artisans at
Takes the Cake will design a cake
for you that is a masterpiece.
"God’s icebreaker" is a 194-page biography that takes its title from the phrase Ted Hesburgh used when the University of Notre Dame was awarded the Pope’s indication of preference for the University prior to the establishment of Vatican City. The biography, written by Jill Boughton, is a comprehensive exploration of Father Ted’s life, from his early days as a student at Holy Cross College to his role as the President of the University of Notre Dame. Boughton, a children’s writer, collaborated with Julie Walters, a long-time friend and collaborator of Father Ted, to create a biography that is accessible to a younger audience. The book is beautifully illustrated with photos and provides insights into Father Ted’s work as a priest, his involvement in civil rights and world peace movements, and his role as a mentor to many leaders of his time. The biography is intended to inspire readers, young and old, to consider the significance of their own lives and the impact they can have on others. The book is available for $19.95, with ISBN 978-0-9833586-6-4, and it is a valuable addition to any collection of biographies and inspirational stories.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

Message from Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy, Bishop Emeritus

Concerning the death of Sister Helen Cornelia Lyons, SND

I wish to share with our diocesan family the painful news of the death of Sister Helen Cornelia Lyons, SND. Many in the diocese will remember Sister Helen, who came here at my request and served effectively and with great dedication for three years. In both the Archdiocese of Boston and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend she was involved in the founding of the Office of Spiritual Development. Sister Helen Cornelia served many years as provincial superior of the Province of the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame. She also taught in Catholic high schools and served in parish ministry at Immaculate Conception Parish, Nashua, N.H., and St. Agatha Parish, Milton, Mass.

for priests and vocations. Father Voors is pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur.

Daughters of Isabella to meet

South Bend — Daughters of Isabella Notre Dame Circle 572 will host a silent card party on Monday, April 27, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $4 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out, bake sale and 50-50 drawing available.

Holy Name Society fish fry

New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, April 27, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free.

Rummage and bake sale

Fort Wayne — A rummage and bake sale will be held at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel on Friday, April 27, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, April 28, from 8 a.m. to noon. Bag sale on Saturday. Located on U.S. 27 south of 469/U.S. 27 interchange.

Blood drive announced

Mishawaka — The Knights of Columbus Council 1878 will have a blood drive Saturday, May 5. The South Bend Medical Foundation will be taking blood donations at the Knight’s hall, 114 W. First St., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (appointments strongly suggested). Contact Adam Gerstbauer at (574) 229-3490 or email agerbauer@hotmail.com for information.

The Silence of Mary yard sale

Fort Wayne — The Silence of Mary will have a yard sale May 4-5 at 3024 Water Wheel Run in Seven Oaks subdivision from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and May 19-20 at White Swan Plaza on Lima Road, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.thesilenceofmary.org or call (260) 267-8371 for information.

‘Anything Goes’

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Performing Arts Department will perform “Anything Goes” April 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. in the school.
Ohio. It has grown steadily through its history, serving as one of the largest and most stable employers in Huntington. The organization has tripled in size within the last 10 years through new product development and acquisitions.

“We are about helping them to bring their Catholic faith to life. We are about helping them to see what is real and important in this life, and how it will connect them to the next.”

GREG ERLANDSON, PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

Sunday Visitor Newsweekly, Our Sunday Visitor’s founder, Father John Francis Noll, who eventually became archbishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, published the national newsweekly in Huntington on May 5, 1912. It was one of the most visible tools he used to express the mission of the company, which still drives the company today, “to serve the Church.”

Father Noll recognized a great need in the immigrant-based Catholic Church in the early 1900s to understand what the Church teaches and why, in order to defend themselves against the many anti-Catholic movements of the day,” said Kyle Hamilton, president of Our Sunday Visitor’s Offertory Solutions Division. “Father Noll was a charismatic entrepreneur who developed simple, effective resources that helped Catholics grow in faith and spirit.”

“What we are about these days is the same as what Archbishop Noll was about,” said Greg Erlandson, president and publisher of the Publishing Division of Our Sunday Visitor. “We are about responding to people’s needs. We are about helping them to bring their Catholic faith to life. We are about helping them to see what is real and important in this life, and how it will connect them to the next.”

Today, Our Sunday Visitor operates in two divisions: Publishing and Offertory Solutions. The company’s chairman of the board is always the standing bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, but the organization is independent from the diocese itself.

The divisions are housed in a 220,000-square-foot plant in northwestern Indiana, with more than 300 on staff in its Huntington facility and dozens more at their facilities in Orlando, Fla., and Boardman, Ohio. It has grown steadily through envelopes and increased offertory consulting and programs. Offertory Solutions converts and prints more than 600 million offering envelopes every year, as well as a variety of materials for stewardship, bishop’s appeals and seasonal communications.

“Archbishop Noll was a man of vision, ready to explore all possibilities,” said Msgr. Jacques Plante of the Providence, R.I. diocese. “I think the organization really embodies that. I see its commitment. I keep telling everyone they have to walk through the plant. …The organization has always been true to his commitment, his priestly zeal, priestly concern and his priestly vision.”

“The other reason people should visit Huntington is it is a cheerful and happy place. It’s one of those places you walk through and you go, this must be a pretty nice place to work,” he added.

About the open house

The May 5 open house at Our Sunday Visitor, 200 Noll Plaza in Huntington, will begin with a welcome by local civic and Church officials, including Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry. Our Sunday Visitor will open up its facility so guests can tour the publishing division, the chapel, the envelope production area, the warehouse and more. A light lunch will be served, and there will be activities for children. It is the first open house held by the company in more than 20 years.

Future plans for the celebration of Our Sunday Visitor’s 100th anniversary include a symposium on Sept. 28 at the Grand Wayne Center featuring Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, Dr. Scott Hahn and Dr. Helen Alvare. It will be followed by a Mass of Thanksgiving and Rededication celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and a reception and dinner that will feature keynote speaker Archbishop Claudio Celli, president of the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

“It is an honor to be in this business,” said Erlandson. “It is an honor to be able to do work that matters. It is an honor to be able to hold ourselves accountable so that we can work together to build up the kingdom. And it is an honor to work with all of the incredible, dedicated, brilliant servants of the Lord in parishes, diocese and other Catholic organizations around the country and the world.”

“Together, we do God’s work,” he said. “And at day’s end — when we turn out our lights at Our Sunday Visitor — we then remind ourselves that this is God’s business, not ours. That little insight is the ultimate source of our optimism, the ultimate source of our faith in the future. He has been with us all these years, and He will be using our talents tomorrow to shape the future.”

OSV CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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