Bishop Rhoades to ordain Lapp to diaconate on May 12

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will ordain Christopher Lapp to the diaconate on Saturday, May 12, at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

The ordination to the diaconate is the final step before ordination to the priesthood next year.

A Fort Wayne native, Lapp is the son of Greg and Juli Lapp. He is a 2004 Bishop Dwenger graduate and parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Part of his seminary formation has included a recent pilgrimage to Rome where Lapp served at a papal Mass on Jan. 1 at St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City. Lapp is currently studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.
May, Mother’s Day, and Mary

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

May is a month traditionally dedicated to honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary. In our churches and homes, we celebrate May as a “Marian month,” with May processions, May crowning, and other popular devotions in honor of the Mother of God. This Marian month falls during the liturgical season of Easter. We thus particularly emphasize Our Blessed Mother’s participation in the Paschal Mystery and her presence with the Church in preparation for Pentecost, as she prayed with the disciples in the upper room while they awaited the descent of the Holy Spirit. There are many devotions that the Church recommends for honoring Our Lady during her month. During the Easter season, we address the Regina Coeli antiphon to her as we celebrate the Resurrection of her Son. Of course, the rosary is one of the most excellent Marian prayers and especially recommended in the month of May. Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary (e.g., the Litany of Loreto) are also special invocations for Our Lady’s intercession under her various beautiful titles.

In the month of May, the Church calls us to open our hearts in a special way to Mary. Her presence in our lives is a motherly presence. We call her Our Blessed Mother. Indeed, from the Cross, Jesus gave her to us as our Mother and entrusted us to her as her children. Jesus’ words to John, the beloved disciple, were also addressed to all of us: Behold your mother! From the cross, Jesus gave us the beautiful gift of his mother to be our mother too. He made his mother the mother of all in his Mystical Body, the Church. Jesus invites us to accept Mary as our mother and to respond to her motherly love as true children.

Catholic devotion to Mary is, therefore, based on the will of Christ. Blessed John Paul II explained that “the words, Behold your mother!, express Jesus’ intention to inspire in his disciples an attitude of love for and trust in Mary, leading them to recognize her as their mother, the mother of every believer. At the school of the Virgin, the disciples learn to know the Lord deeply, as John did, and to have an intimate and lasting relationship of love with him. They also discover the joy of entrusting themselves to the Mother’s maternal love, living like affectionate and docile children.”

Mary always leads us to Jesus, our Son. When we go to her, we always meet Jesus, our Savior. She helps us follow her Son more faithfully. May we all, like Saint John, take Mary into our home and make room for her in our daily lives. God has entrusted her to the role of maternal intercession for us. She is Our Mother of Perpetual Help: she sees our needs and is ready to come to our aid. She is especially close to those who are suffering. The most ancient Marian prayer expresses Mary’s role as our advocate: We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. “Mary presents our needs to her Son and intercedes continually on our behalf. It is very fitting that we celebrate Mother’s Day during the Marian month. As we honor the Mother of God, our spiritual mother, we also honor our earthly mothers. On Mother’s Day, we remember with gratitude and affection our mothers, not only through material gifts, flowers, or cards, but also, and more importantly, by our prayers for them. We thank God for the gift of our mothers who conceived and gave birth to us, who cared for us, protected us, taught us, and loved us. Many passed on the precious gift of faith to us. We remember all our mothers, living and deceased. We thank them for their generosity and self-giving love.

Mary is a model for all mothers. Pope Benedict XVI said that “Mary is the image and model of all mothers, of their great mission to be guardians of life, of their mission to be teachers of the art of living and of the art of loving.”

Mary is a model for all of us on our earthly pilgrimage. She who was “full of grace” was “all holy.” She represents the paradigm of the authentic holiness that is achieved through union with Christ. She is our model of faith who adhered to God’s word throughout her life. She is our model of hope who stood firm at the foot of the cross. She is our model of charity who went in haste to visit and help her cousin Elizabeth. Her maternal love for her Son extends to us, her spiritual children. She is our sure guide to Gospel perfection.

On Mother’s Day, let us pray for all our mothers. And let us remember that we have a Mother in heaven, the Blessed Virgin Mary. We continue to rejoice with her during this Easter season. May the Mother given to us by Christ on the cross be ever at our side!
Priest assignments announced

The Most Reverend Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has announced the following priest assignments:

- Reverend James Bromwich to residence, St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, effective May 16, 2012.
- Reverend Daniel Whelan to residence, St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, effective May 16, 2012.

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ten years after a historic papal response to clerical sex abuse, the Vatican urged priests to strive for greater holiness in their own lives so that they might effectively minister to others and reverse the tide of atheism.

In its annual letter to priests for 2012, the Vatican’s Congregation for Clergy focused on Blessed John Paul II’s 2002 Holy Thursday letter to clergy, in which the late pope responded to the growing revelations and scandal of sexual abuse of minors by priests.

The congregation’s letter also gave priests a guideline for examining their consciences concerning everything from how they celebrate Mass to how well they are living a pure, humble and generous life detached from carnalism.

Signed by the congregation’s prefect, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, and secretary, Archbishop Celso Morga Iruzubieta, the letter was dated March 26 and recently published on the congregation’s website.

The letter marks the annual World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, celebrated in many dioceses June 15 — the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Priests are entrusted with the task of challenging and helping people become more holy and obey God’s will more fully, it said.

“We cannot be sanctified without working on the holiness of our brothers, and we cannot work on the holiness of our brothers unless we have first worked on and continue to work on our own holiness,” it said.

Urging others to strive for the “ideal of perfection,” it said, “it does not mean that we are not aware of our personal shortcomings, or of the faults committed by some who have brought shame upon the priesthood before the world.”

While not specifically mentioning clerical sex abuse, the letter said that given the worsening situation reported in the news, priests must take to heart “with greater strength and urgency” Blessed John Paul’s Holy Thursday letter from a decade ago.

It said the letter condemned the perpetrators of such scandals as betraying the priesthood and casting a “shadow of suspicion” over the many good priests in the world.

Blessed John Paul called on priests “to commit ourselves more fully to the search for holiness,” it said.

The letter from the Congregation for Clergy said one of the most serious problems unfolding today is people losing all sense of God’s love and hope.

Traditionally, Christian nations “are no longer tempted to surrender to a general sort of atheism as they were in the past,” but they risk falling victim to that brand of atheism that has “forgotten the beauty and warmth” of the Trinity of God, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

By fully embracing, adoring and living in communion with God, priests can point the way to the true face of Christ and why he is important for men and women today, it said.

“No new evangelization will really be possible unless we Christians are able to surprise and move the world again by proclaiming the nature of our God, who is love,” and living as closely as possible to Christ.

In addition to the letter, the Congregation for Clergy also published Scripture passages and reflections from popes, saints and theologians, and St. Faustina Kowalska’s “Prayer for the Holy Church and for Priests,” which asks God to protect clergy “from the devil’s traps and snares.”

There was also a 20-part “Examination of Conscience for Priests” that asked priests to reflect on: how well they prepare for and lead Mass in a dignified manner; how free their lives are from vain and superficial pursuits; how central their love for Christ is in guiding them away from unchaste thoughts and acts; how charitable they are in dealing with others, especially those who sin; and how faithful their lives and teaching are to the Church’s Magisterium.

Monroeville Elementary School purchase by diocese hits hurdle

MONROEVILLE — The purchase of Monroeville Elementary School by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend from East Allen County Schools is facing a hurdle.

That hurdle is House Bill 1002, a bill that was passed in the 2011 Indiana General Assembly. The state law says that if a school district closes down a school building, then the unused building should remain on a list maintained by the Indiana Department of Education. The building is to be available to charter schools for up to 48 months.

The law says the charter school could then purchase the building for $1 or lease the building for $1 per year. After the 48-month waiting period, if no charter school is interested, then the building can be sold or disposed in any manner the governing body considers appropriate.

Monroeville Elementary School closed last year as part of the East Allen County Schools redesign plan and the building sat vacant this school year. The school was added to the Indiana Department of Education’s list at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend offered to purchase the 63,000-square-foot school building for $189,000 with the intention of relocating St. Joseph School, operated by St. Rose of Lima Parish in Monroeville, to the Monroeville Elementary School building. St. Joseph School is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The school was added to the Indiana Department of Education’s list at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has not been on the unused school building list for the required 48 months.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has not yet closed the deal on the purchase and was using the 90-day due diligence window to investigate the property.

Father Jim Wood bows his head in prayer during the chrism Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, N.Y., April 5. Ten years after a historic papal response to clerical sex abuse, the Vatican urged priests to strive for greater holiness in their own lives so that they might effectively minister to others and reverse the tide of atheism.

—Tim Johnson
Pope tells American colleges to strengthen Catholic identity

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called on America’s Catholic colleges and universities to reaffirm their Catholic identity by ensuring orthodoxy in theological studies and accepting the oversight of bishops.

The pope made his remarks May 4 to U.S. bishops from Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Wyoming, who were making their periodic “ad limina” visits to the Vatican.

While he acknowledged recent efforts by America’s Catholic institutions of higher education to “reaffirm their distinctive identity in fidelity to their founding ideals and the Church’s mission,” Pope Benedict said that “much remains to be done.”

The pope emphasized the need for compliance with canon law in the appointment of theology instructors, who are required to possess a “mandate” from the “competent ecclesiastical authority,” ordinarily the local bishop.

The requirement for a mandate was underscored in 1990 by Blessed John Paul II in his apostolic constitution “Ex Corde Ecclesiae,” but many Catholic theology departments in the U.S. have yet to comply.

Pope Benedict said that the need for a mandate was especially clear in light of the “confusion created by instances of apparent dissidence in light of the ‘harmony of faith and reason capable of guiding a life-long pursuit of knowledge and virtue,’” the pope said.

The pope contrasted the Catholic ideal of education with a current trend toward academic overspecialization.

“Faith’s recognition of the essential unity of all knowledge provides a bulwark against the alienation and fragmentation which occurs when the use of reason is detached from the pursuit of truth and virtue,” he said. “In this sense, Catholic institutions have a specific role to play in helping to overcome the crisis of universities today.”

Pope Benedict said that reaffirming Catholic identity in education is part of a broader effort to build a distinctively Catholic “intellectual culture” in the U.S., and a “society ever more solidly grounded in an authentic humanism inspired by the gospel.”

Although his remarks principally concerned higher education, the pope also praised the “generous commitment, often accompanied by personal sacrifice” of teachers and administrators in America’s Catholic elementary and high schools.

Pope Benedict acknowledged the schools’ efforts to ensure that Catholic education “remains within the reach of all families, whatever their financial status.”

In a possible reference to proposals for greater public funding of religious education, the pope said that Catholic schools’ “significant contribution ... to American society as a whole ought to be better appreciated and more generously supported.”

Pope Benedict XVI meets May 4 with bishops from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming during their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican. Seated at left are Bishop Michael J. Sheridan of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Auxiliary Bishop James D. Conley, apostolic administrator of Denver; Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz.; Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M.; and Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M. Seated on the right side, partially obscured are Bishop Fernando Irex de Pueblo, Colo.; Bishop Paul D. Etienne of Cheyenne, Wyo.; Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares of Phoenix; Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix; and Bishop James S. Wall of Gallup, N.M. The bishops were making their “ad limina” visits to report on the status of their dioceses.

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Excluding truth and the transcendent from scientific debate and research has impoverished modern thought and weakened the intellect’s ability to understand reality, Pope Benedict XVI said.

True intellectual and scientific progress requires an openness to dialogue with opposing views, rather than settling with the “mere repetition” of what one already knows, he added.

The pope made his remarks May 3 in an address to faculty, doctors and students at Rome’s Sacred Heart University, one of the biggest Catholic universities in the world.

The pope spoke to hundreds of people, including Italian government officials, gathered in the square outside the auditorium of the university’s Agostino Gemelli Department of Medicine and Surgery. His visit marked the 50th anniversary of the faculty’s founding.

The pope praised the scientific and technological discoveries that have been made in modern times, saying they rightly are a source of pride. However, the “breakneck” speed of innovation sometimes has brought with it “disturbing consequences.”

Lurking behind the optimism about all the new possibilities now open to humanity is “the shadow of a crisis of thought,” he said.

Mankind has a plethora of new tools and means but stands at the noblest ends because the prevailing culture of “reductionism and relativism” has led to the disappearance of the true meaning of things, he said.

“Almost blinded by technical potency, (humanity) forgets the fundamental question of meaning, thereby banishing the transcendent dimension to irrelevance,” he said.

In this kind of environment, the pope said, intellectual thought “becomes weak” and is based on impoverished ethical foundations, which “clouds valuable normative points of reference.”

“A mentality that is basically techno-practical creates a risky imbalance between what is technically possible and what is morally good, with unforeseeable consequences,” he said.

Therefore, it is critical that modern culture discover the meaning and role of the transcendent, he said.

Scientific inquiry and the search for meaning both share the same source — the “logos” or creative rationality of God himself, Pope Benedict said.

In fact, the search for truth and for the absolute has been part of what fuels the desire to deepen scientific enquiry and all areas of human knowledge.

The very same motivation behind scientific discovery “originates in the longing for God that dwells in the human heart: essentially scientists aim — often unconsciously — to obtain that truth that can give meaning to life.”

Science and faith have a mutually enriching relationship, the pope said, and reflect an “almost complementary requirement” for discerning reality.

“Yet paradoxically, a positivistic culture, which excludes the question of God from scientific debate, leads to the decline of thought and the weakening of the intellect’s ability” to understand reality, he said.

Christianity doesn’t drive faith into the realm of the irrational, rather it shines light on the dizzying maze of options and alternatives in the world, and guides people toward the “way, the truth and the light” in Jesus Christ.

When it is carried out correctly, “research is illuminated by science and faith and draws its impetus and enthusiasm from these two wings without ever losing the accordant humility and sense of limits,” he said.

Thus, “the search for God becomes fruitful for the intellect, a deen of culture, a promoter of true humanism and a quest that doesn’t stop at the surface,” he said.

Sacred Heart’s teaching hospital — usually referred to as the Gemelli Hospital and known for treating popes — has always known that healing isn’t a job, but a mission, the pope said. Research, teaching and study come together so that the institution reaches its full innovative potential, he said.

“No progress, let alone in the cultural sphere, feeds on mere repetition, but requires an ever-new beginning” that demands an “openness to comparison and dialogue, which broadens the intellect and gives witness to the rich, prolific nature of the heritage of the faith.”

A strong, well-formed Christian identity will influence everything one does and can be expressed by top-notch professionalism, he said.

Catholic universities have a particular tie to the church and are called to be “exemplary institutions” that don’t reduce their vision to what is the most pragmatic, productive or economically advantageous or necessary. Rather, they enlarge their horizons to use human wisdom to explore and develop the gifts of creation, he added.

Merging scientific research with unconditional service to life is what defines the university’s department of medicine because faith is being used as an inner resource and guide that does not overpower or oppose professional research and avoid learning, he said.

The pope encouraged the university to continue its work protecting human dignity and protecting life at all its stages.

Love for the human person, especially the weak, helpless and suffering must be at the core of medicine and research because “without love, science, too, loses its nobility. Only love guarantees the humanity of research,” he said.

Venerable Solanus Casey, OFM, Cap.

Venerable Solanus Casey, OFM, Cap.

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WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Obama administration has issued guidelines for how federally funded faith-based programs could be administered, ranging from explanations of what is considered “explicitly religious” activity to how organizations can preserve their religious identities while using federal funds to provide services. Among the guidelines are that faith organizations are not required to remove crucifixes, icons and other religious material from rooms where federally funded services are provided; and that any client who receives services should, on request, be referred to a non-faith-based organization if one is available. The guidelines also spell out, for instance, that Alcoholics Anonymous programs are considered “explicitly religious” and therefore ineligible to participate. And, with federal employees of only faith-based funded programs must remain neutral when it comes to religion, participants are free to express their faith, including by prayer. Among possible exceptions to that policy are programs that fund some work of prison chaplains, it said. The document also says the religious character of an organization may neither favor or count against applicants for funding.

While the guidelines addressed many of the major areas of concern raised by the presidential Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, there are topics they don’t cover, said Melissa Rogers, a First Amendment attorney who chaired the council and participated in a task force that crafted recommendations for the guidelines.

Cardinal beatifies French priest beheaded during revolution

COUTANCES, France (CNS) — A Catholic priest has been beatified as a martyr more than two centuries after he was guillotined during the French Revolution. This act of intercession invites us to live our communion with Jesus coherently and faithfully, despite wounds and sufferings of all sorts which modern society inflicts on the Gospel through its erroneous ideologies,” said Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for Saints’ Causes. “May his intercession help us be good Christians as well, strong and victorious in defense of our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,” he said during the ceremony at the April 29 beheading of Norbertine Father Pierre-Achard Toulouse, 1757-1793, in the cathedral in Coutances. Father Toulouse was guillotined on the northern town for secretly ministering after the French government suppressed religious orders. Cardinal Amato said the priest was one of many clergy “persecuted, incarcerated, subjected to summary trials and executed” during the revolution, “a reign of terror,” and welcomed his death as a chance to be “crowned as a martyr. The testimony of blood is a contribution of great value for Church and society, which helps us avoid confusing good with evil,” Cardinal Amato said. “We learn from the blessed martyr Toulorge how to resist the culture of death with grace and prayer, facing with force and perseverance the sacrifices necessary for remaining faithful to Christ.”

US bishops discuss LCWR reform, visitation with Vatican officials

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recent Vatican investigations of religious women have created opportunities for growth through reflection and for dialogue with their bishops, two U.S. bishops said after discussing the matter with Vatican officials. Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M., and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., told Catholic News Service May 2 that they had discussed the Vatican visitation of U.S. communities of religious women and the more recent order to reform the Leadership Conference of Women Religious earlier the same day with officials from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Archbishop Sheehan said that during the meeting, attended by bishops from Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Wyoming, who were making their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican, “the point that was made was that although some people were unhappy with the decision to make corrections” in the LCWR, it would be “an opportunity for dialogue” between the religious and the bishops. The archbishop said he told Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, congregation prefect, “that if this would have happened some years earlier, it might have been better. But, anyway, it’s going on now and I think it will be the occasion for some dialogue.” It also should help “some of the orders to pull back a little bit from some areas they have gone that maybe they shouldn’t have,” he said. Citing “serious doctrinal problems” revealed in an assessment originally ordered in April 2008, the Vatican announced April 18 a major reform of the LCWR, a group which includes about 1,500 leaders of U.S. women’s communities, representing about 80 percent of the country’s 57,000 religious women.

Methodists vote against changing church stance on homosexuality

TAMPA, Fla. (CNS) — Delegates attending the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in Tampa voted May 3 against changing the wording in the church’s Book of Discipline as a way to clarify that church members disagree about whether homosexual activity is consistent with the will of God. Discussion about the proposals stirred strong reactions on both sides of the issue and caused a protest after the votes were tallied. Some delegates expressed concern that this was a time to really speak out on the issue and make a change since the church body only meets every four years. Homosexual church members pleaded to be recognized for their “sacred worth” while those who disagreed said changing the church’s stance would cause confusion and a departure from traditional doctrine. The United Methodist Church has about 12 million members worldwide and 8 million members in the United States. About 1,000 delegates and 2,500 visitors attended the April 24-May 4 gathering at the Tampa Convention Center. According to its website, the General Conference is the top policymaking body of the United Methodist Church. It meets every four years to determine the denomination’s future direction.

 Sisters of Loretto honor founders, plan future to celebrate 200 years

NERINX, Ky. (CNS) — The Sisters of Loretto honored their founders, planned for the future, renewed their vows and took action to aidunami grants during a five-day bicentennial celebration in the Archdiocese of Louisville. Among the jubilee highlights was a special liturgy and group photo on the community’s Foundation Day, April 25, at the motherhouse in Nerinx. About 300 sisters and lay associates, known as co-members, gathered at the motherhouse — from their homes and ministries around the United States and abroad — to honor those who laid the foundation of their ministry in 1812. “Here we are ready to begin another century,” said Sister Cathy Mueller during the celebration that took to the last 200 years and we are grateful for those who have gone before us. We stand on the shoulders of great faithful women and men, and see a need and we responded.”

Mary Rhodes, Christina Stuart and Ann Havern — members of Catholic pioneer families that migrated from Maryland to Kentucky started the community by teaching children who weren’t being educated on the Kentucky frontier, including the children of Mary Rhodes’ brother, Sister Mueller, president of the Sisters of Loretto, said the founding members saw an opportunity to “do something different in their lives. And here we are today,” she told the sisters and co-members gathered for the liturgy. “They moved together into a small cabin for support, friendship and mission. Then, they worked with Father (Charles) Nerinx to become a religious congregation. They began with three. Two months later we were six.”

Church should not accept members who deny Vatican II, official says

ROME (CNS) — The Second Vatican Council’s teaching, particularly on Judaism and other religions, is rooted in traditional Christian theology and the Bible, and the Catholic Church should not offer concessions to those who do not accept its teaching, said an Israeli-born Franciscan who serves as a judge on a top Vatican court. Msgr. David Jaeger, a judge at the Roman Rota, defined as worrying a tendency, “here and there in Catholicism, to look at the interdenominational, interreligious dialogue as something which are marginal but well-publicized who denounced the doctrine of the council, including the declaration ‘Nostra Aetate’ on the relationship of the Church to non-Christian religions,” said Msgr. Jaeger, who grew up in a Jewish family, spoke about “Nostra Aetate” during a conference on the Second Vatican Council at Rome’s Opus Dei-run Holy Cross University May 3-4. “While often presented as if it were absolutely new,” he said, the teaching of “Nostra Aetate” “perfectly corresponds to the most ancient intuitions of Christian theology” when it affirms “that the calling of the nations, are elements of truth and holiness” in other religions, he said. In addition, the document emphasized that Judaism is a “special situation which ‘already was extensively explained by St. Paul, particularly in the Epistle to the Romans.’ The council’s document explained the Church’s ‘doctrine on Judaism, the only religion which, while knowing Christ, has lost its origins in biblical revelation, which is why the Church does not regard it simply as a non-Christian religion’ but ascribes to it a unique status,” Msgr. Jaeger said.
Stand up for Religious Freedom Rally in June

SOUTH BEND — The Stand up for Religious Freedom Rally is slated for Friday, June 8, from 12-1 p.m. The rally will take place at John R. Hunt Plaza, 211 N. Michigan, between Calhoun and LaSalle streets in South Bend. Limited parking is available on adjacent streets in addition to nearby parking garage.


St. Jude students earn slot at Destination Imagination Global Finals

FORT WAYNE — After winning honors for creativity and problem solving in local, state and regional tournaments, St. Jude’s Popping Pandas have earned a spot at the Destination Imagination Global Finals, the largest creative thinking and problem solving competition in the world, to be held May 23-26 in Knoxville, Tenn.

Team members include fifth graders Ana Pjanic, AJ Brandell, Abbie Gilling, Alyssa Ankenbruck, fourth-grader Tucker Ankenbruck, third-grader Nick Tillol Anglin and first-grader Mia Soleil Ankenbruck.

The Popping Pandas are among the more than 8,000 students representing 1,200 teams that will advance to the Global Finals.

To cover the cost of the team’s travel St. Jude School will host the following fundraisers: Ice Cream Tuesday, May 1, 8, 15 and 22, with ice cream for 50 cents during lunch; May 7 is Dress Down Jeans Day for $1; May 14 a bake sale begins in the school cafeteria at 9 a.m. All items will be sold and donations can be sent to St. Jude School, 2110 Pemberton Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46805. Attn: Sister Kathleen Kneuven. For more information call (260) 484-4611.

South Bend Chamber Singers share “Music for a Sacred Space”

NOTRE DAME — The South Bend Chamber Singers (SBCS) will close out the ensemble’s 23rd concert season with “Music for a Sacred Space” on Sunday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto on the Saint Mary’s campus. The evening will feature guest organist David Eicher, who was the accompanist for the SBCS for 17 years. The concert will include George Frideric Handel’s Dixit Dominus, Joseph Martin’s Magnificat, and Petr Eben’s “Prague Te Deum.”

“We don’t often do early music,” said David Eicher, who was the accompanist for the South Bend Chamber Singers. “It’s a change for us. It’s a good challenge,” said Nancy Menk, conductor of the South Bend Chamber Singers. She points out that the rest of the program is contemporary.

Menk is professor of music and director of choral activities at Saint Mary’s College. She conducts the Women’s Choir and teaches graduate conducting at the University of Notre Dame.

Ticket prices are $16 for adults, $13 for senior citizens, $11 for SMC/ND/HCC faculty and staff and $6 for students, and may be purchased online at www.moreraucenter.com, by visiting the Moreau Center box office or by calling (574) 284-4620.

Retreat offered at St. Felix June 22-24

HUNTINGTON — The Franciscan Family and Friends Reunion 2012 retreat will be held at St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington from June 22-24. The focus of the retreat will be the heart of Jesus and St. Felix, as well as the legacy of Father Solanus Casey and the Franciscan Capuchins.

Activities begin at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 22, and continue through Sunday, June 24. The Franciscan priests, brothers and retreat participants will tour Archbishop John F. Noll’s grave, Our Sunday Visitor, which is celebrating its centennial this year, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Our Lady of Victory Cemetery and grounds and the Historic Forks of the Wabash Museum and Cultural Center. The official welcome is at 6 p.m. with a dinner buffet at St. Felix Catholic Center. The retreat coincides with Huntington Heritage Days.

Retreat participants may choose to stay at St. Felix or commute to the oratory for daily activities.

The topic for the retreat is “Love, Console and Share the Burden of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.” The retreat is based on the book “Consoling the Heart of Jesus,” by Marianist Father Michael E. Gaitley. The retreat will also offer an opportunity to share miracles, memories and stories of Venerable Capuchin Father Solanus Casey, who once resided at St. Felix Monastery.

For a registration and retreat form, contact Jan Scher at (260) 356-1917 or write to 450 Himes Lane, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. Attn: Sister Kathleen Kneuven. For more information call (260) 484-4611.

Angels in the Wilderness' Reformation Symposium

MISHAWAKA — The Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) hosted its annual Reformation Symposium at Saint Francis University of Fort Wayne on April 27-28. The CCM aims to present thought-provoking speakers on issues related to the Catholic faith.

This year’s speakers included a Benedictine Monk, a Catholic feminist writer, a United Church of Christ pastor and a speaker about Catholic creativity and contemporary art.

The symposium was open to all individuals interested in issues related to faith and societal justice.

The symposium continued with the CCM’s annual “Stars & Stripes” event on April 29. The event featured a performance by the University of Saint Francis choirs and a talk by a noted historian on the importance of the Reformation Symposium in modern society.

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Fall 2012 Sharathon

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio, AM 1450 WLYV raised $190,101 during its semi-annual Spring Sharathon event in April. This was the station’s largest fundraiser yet in both dollars and pledges. During the three-day, 36-hour event, the station received more than 2,300 pledges from individuals and businesses via phone, mail, email, text and even walk-ins to the station lobby.

The funds will assist with operating expenses for the listener-supported station that serves the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Tom and Phyllis Blythe, chair couple for the event, commented: “What a wonderful experience this Spring Sharathon has been for us. Our thanks to all the Redeemer Radio volunteers — the friendliest, most cheerful and certainly the most dedicated folks we’ve ever met!”

The Fall 2012 Sharathon is set for Oct. 24-26.

ST. JOSEPH’S HIGH SCHOOL FED CHALLENGE TEAM WINS STATE AND MIDWEST REGION COMPETITION

“Music for a Sacred Space”

Saint Joseph’s High School, South Bend, Fed Challenge Team recently brought home the Midwest Regional title. They continue to hold the national championship title from 2010 due to no further national competition. Fed Challenge Team members Tim Bradley, Gracie Gallagher, Conor Levey, Graham Murphy, Austin O’Brien, Joe Watkins and Nick Wawrykow were coached by Julie Chismar and Phil DePauw.

in the area. Christ Child Society also provides layettes to newborns of low-income families. All projects are supported through donations and fundraising events.

Everett to lead area CCHD

MISHAWAKA — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development has been actively making changes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend by empowering those in poverty to break out of the cycle through the directorship of Ann Helmke from 2005-2012.

Helmke has worked to direct the campaigns, which funds grants to local organizations in the community, and has devoted her time to help organize leadership training for the residents of Vincent Village. After seven years of service to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Helmke will be stepping down from the role of diocesan director. She will still remain active in the CCHD as a member of the advisory committee.

Fred Everett will be taking Helmke’s role in the campaign. Everett also works as co-director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Everett looks forward most to working closely with the two interns and collaborating with them.

Everett says, “Seriously, that is what I am looking forward to the most — collaborating further with the fed CCHD and to deepen the understanding of Catholic social teaching.” Everett will be working with first-year intern Matthew Flynn, University of Notre Dame master of divinity student, at the Blessed John Paul II Center in Mishawaka.

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Redeemer Radio breaks fundraising record

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HONORARY GIRL SCOUT OF THE YEAR NAMED AT BANQUET

The St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School Girl Scouts named first-grade teacher Katie Gallaway as Honorary Girl Scout of the Year at their annual banquet on April 22. Pictured from left in front are Abby Spoltman, Grace O’Connor, Macy Moser, Caroline Close, Beatrice Burton, and, in back, Riley Boxberger and Katie Gallaway.

Maria Center residents host JESSE students

DONALDSON — Maria Center Independent Senior Apartment residents hosted an Appreciation Party for the students of the Joint Educational Services (J.E.S.S.E) Volunteer Program on Tuesday, April 24, at the PHJC Ministry Center. The Maria Center residents baked cupcakes for the students and enjoyed games together. Students from Ancilla College donated prizes for the game and assisted throughout the event.

The students participating in the J.E.S.S.E. Program are from Argos, Plymouth and Culver High Schools and help in the dietary department and make greeting cards for distribution to the coworkers, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Sisters and Catherine Kasper Life Center residents.

The PHJC Ministry Center, as an intergenerational living and learning center, is a community of ministries and individuals who create an environment of mutual interchange across generational lines, intentionally and mutually inviting and encouraging one another to live community in a sustainable, creative and spiritual way.

Maria Center and Ancilla College are ministries sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Maria Center residents enjoy time with the J.E.S.S.E. students at the Appreciation Party held at the PHJC Ministry Center.

St. Charles Girls Scouts receive medals

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles Borromeo Girl Scout troop members were presented with medals in a special ceremony prior to Mass, with Father Tony Steinacker, parochial vicar, on Sunday, April 22. The medals were blessed and presented to each girl in the presence of family members and troop leaders. The girls then assisted at Mass as greeters, readers, offertory bearers and usher assistants. A reception followed at the school cafeteria.

These Scouting programs are made available through the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and books are provided free through fundraisers held at the school each year. The medals are provided through donations from the St. Charles Borromeo Rosary Sodality.

The 10 third-grade Brownies, Troop 20614, led by Mary Huhn, who earned the Family of God religious medal are Brittany Ford, Madeline Freiburger, Elise Huhn, Anabella Klepper, Adrianna Kochler, Molly Lothamer and Kiera Meyer.

The six fifth-grade Juniors, Troop 205/4, led by Roberta Buckley, who earned the I Live My Faith religious medal are Madison Buckley, Krysta Bugajski, Adrienne Ceruti, Alli Perdue, Sarah Malone and Sydney Schneider.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE ANNOUNCES WINNERS

Winners of the Right to Life Teen Essay Contest were, from left, Aeryk Brant, seventh grade, Corpus Christi School; Madeline Garcia, eighth grade, home schooled; and Madeline Pingel, senior, Marian High School. The contest was sponsored by St. Joseph County Right to Life. The awards were presented at the Respect Life Prayer Dinner, April 17, at the new Kroc Corps Community Center in South Bend.

U-cycle: USF joins area colleges and universities to host recycling event

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne campuses of University of Saint Francis (USF), Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana University-Purdue University (IPFW) and Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) are sponsoring a recycling day for the community on Saturday, May 19, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Collection locations will be the front drive of USF’s North Campus at 2702 Spring St. and the west parking area of Ivy Tech.

The schools will partner with Disposal Alternatives Organization (DAO) LLC, a comprehensive environmental organization focusing on recycling, career training and employment opportunities. Sponsors said recycling materials protects the environment while meeting the needs of others.

For a fee of $5 per item, mattresses, televisions and computer monitors will be accepted. At no cost, electronics, small and large appliances, bicycles, household goods, books, tools, musical instruments, clothing, paper, plastic, metal and food-grade glass will be accepted. These items will not be accepted: chemicals, tires, windows, mirrors, plate glass or wood items (i.e. furniture). Those wishing to recycle items need not reside in Allen County.

Cash donations will be accepted to fund environmental initiatives on the campuses.

For more information, contact Trina Herber (USF) at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8134, Anne Kay Michel (Ivy Tech) at (260) 480-2018, Stephanie Flinn (IPFW) at (260) 481-4193 or Tina Croft (IWU) at (260) 918-1208.
Seminarian Christopher Lapp to be ordained as deacon

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Seminarian Christopher Lapp will be ordained into the diaconate by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on May 12 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Lapp has been preparing for that day, and ultimately ordination into the priesthood, since before high school. Heartwarming joy is evident as he expresses his insight about “reaching the moment of giving Jesus a definitive ‘yes’ with the whole of my life.”

A Fort Wayne native, Lapp, born the oldest of four to Greg and Juli Lapp, recalls that the Catholic faith was reverently practiced by his family with prayer and regular attendance at Mass. He says of his youth, “I knew the faith was important. I knew that God loved me as a son.”

Lapp’s Catholic education began at St. Vincent de Paul School after which he attended Bishop Dwenger High School. Following his studies in 2004, Lapp’s studies took him to the University of Dayton, where he felt privileged to serve at a papal Mass on Jan. 1, at St. Peter’s Basilica, Vatican City. His experience there further deepened his desire to serve the Church.

Of his vocation, Lapp recalls hearing God’s call to the priesthood clearly in high school and says, “In high school ... I was starting to internalize and consciously choose to practice my faith. I started to pray more on my own and took an interest in learning as much about the Church as I could.”

As he came to know the faith more fully, his discernment led him to understand his desire to serve. He says, “When push comes to shove, I know that I am called to radical holiness in imitation of Christ and the saints. This needs to color everything about who I am and what I do.”

During those formative years Lapp received generous encouragement to consider a vocation to the priesthood from loved ones and several priests, both during his years at Bishop Dwenger and the University of Dayton. “I took all of this to prayer and then back to them. Ultimately God gave me the courage to apply to seminary and entrust myself to the Church,” he says.

His seminary experience has brought him a long way toward his goal of Holy Orders and he recently returned from a pilgrimage to Rome where he felt privileged to serve at a papal Mass on Jan. 1, at St. Peter’s Basilica, Vatican City. His experience there further deepened his desire to serve the Church.

“At the Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio and hopes to be ordained into the priesthood next year.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CELEBRATED

Christians from many different faith traditions joined together for the 61st observance of the National Day of Prayer. The service held in Mishawaka featured prayer for churches, businesses, education, media, government, police, fire and military personnel. Catholics participating were Mishawaka Mayor David Wood, Mishawaka firefighter Lt. Derron Hess and Franciscan Father Giles Zakowicz, shown above. Father Giles’ prayer was “Prayer for Christian Liberty and the Unborn.” The congregation sang “America the Beautiful and “Onward Christian Soldiers.” The event concluded with a video by Carman, “We Need God in America Again.”

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne
shares the joy of our parish son
Rev. Mr. Chris Lapp
as he is ordained in the diaconate of Jesus Christ!
Medical Center ties past with future

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

MISHAWAKA — A formal blessing ceremony, patterned after the original on April 26, 1903, took place at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, April 26, to celebrate its ongoing mission of healthcare started by the Sisters of the Holy Cross more than 125 years ago. Board members, sisters, associates and others from the local community gathered under a tent on a cold, sunny day to witness the blessing and re-installation of the 30-foot stainless steel cross that sat on top of the main hospital of the downtown campus for over a half century. Also blessed were the cornerstones from the former hospital at a dedication on April 26.

“We are building our future on the strong foundation of the past,” said Al Gutierrez, president and chief executive officer. “The cross and cornerstone dedication pays tribute to the original founders — the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, as well as the entire Michiana community — including all past and present patients, patient families, physicians, nursing staff, leadership teams and associates.”

In her comments, Sister Joan Marie Steadman, president of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, reminded those present that “there is something more important than any artifact and it cannot be enclosed in a copper time capsule; rather it is felt and experienced, and it changes lives. And that is the living heritage of this healing ministry, a heritage that lives in the heart. It’s a heritage built on core values of respect, social justice, compassion, care for the poor and underserved and excellence. It’s a living and animated heritage.”

Gutierrez stressed that Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center intends to carry on the legacy of the sisters.

Cheryl Mowan, president of the Fort Wayne District Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, left, presented an appreciation award to long-time Vincentian Dick Miller on April 27. For the past 25 years, following his retirement at age 65, Miller has been volunteering at Fort Wayne’s thrift store nearly every day. He spends a few hours working on appliances and small electronics in his extensive workshop. He received the society’s Top Hat Award many years ago, so a special award was created in his honor and presented to him recently over coffee and doughnuts at his SVDP workshop. Miller is 90 years young.
A dear friend whose young adult son, Mike, committed suicide over two and a half years ago recently confided that as the third anniversary of his death approaches she feels more bereft now than she remembers being in the early months following his tragic death.

“I know we talked about how the second year is harder than the first because the numbness has worn off and you’re fully aware of the death, but I’ve got to say that the third year has been worse for me,” Sandy said, adding, “When will life happen again?”

For those of us who are dealing with the loss of someone dear that is the million-dollar question. Losing a loved one changes us and our lives forever in ways we can only discover as we do the hard work of mourning.

As the months and subsequent years unfold after the death of the loved one, life seems fragile and even our very existence means so much to us before the death loss hold little interest for us now.

For Sandy and her family, whose grief is complicated by the unfortunate circumstances surrounding their son’s death, life continues fragrant and unrecognizable without their son in it. Routine activities such as household chores, grocery shopping and social outings seem overwhelming or uncomfortable to those whose energy is depleted by the exertion of grief.

Life is not the same after a loss. It simply can’t be. But it does go on. As our grief carries us through its peaks and valleys, roller coaster-style, we find ourselves in the wilderness trying to find our way back. The catch is we can’t go forward. The unfortunate reality of

Christ comes through the Church

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

6th Sunday of Easter
Jn 15:9-17

The Acts of the Apostles once more provides an Easter season liturgy with its first reading. In this reading, Peter goes to the house of Cornelius who attempts to pay homage to Peter. Peter stops him, protesting that he is only human. Peter is not God. He obviously represented Christ, however. The Lord had commissioned him. The Holy Spirit empowered him.

Cornelius is a Gentile. His name suggests that he may have been a Roman. In all likelihood, the relatives and guests of Cornelius present in the house were Gentiles. Probably some or many were Romans.

For devout, loyal Jews, if anything was worse than being a Gentile, and of pagan stock, it was being a Roman. After all, Jews at the time were living under the crushing heel of Rome. Representatives of the Roman occupation were despised. Yet, Peter went into the home of Cornelius, and these Gentiles understood what he was saying. They became part of the Christian community, or the Church. They became brothers and sisters of Christ, heirs to eternal life.

Through Peter, God reached out to Gentiles. Through Peter, the Lord encountered them.

The First Epistle of John is the source of the second reading. This epistle has given Christians several of the best-known passages of the New Testament. It is called the Flowers of Jesus that love each other. It states that God is love. God’s love for humanity revealed itself in the gift of Jesus, and in this gift that Jesus achieved by Jesus for all who turn to God.

St. John’s majestic, compelling Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a reservoir of theology, presented in the most eloquent language.

The reading’s message is frank and direct. If anyone truly loves God, then this person will keep the commandments. By observing the commandments, people live in God’s love. Living in God’s love produces joy. It imitates Christ. It creates union with God in Christ.

As the reading concludes, Jesus says, “He who loves God, then this person will keep the commandments.” In the sequence of John’s Gospel, this passage is not post-Resurrection. Its reference to the crucifixion is clear. For us, Jesus willingly submitted to death on the cross. Through Jesus, God chose to die for us, that we might live and be eternal. Because the Lord has made us the friends of God.

Then, as the reading’s last verse, we are told to “love one another.”

Reflection

The second reading makes quite clear the theological fact that loving is not simply an activity of God, rather God is love. What does this mean? It means that selfishness is absent, and everything focuses on God, the beloved. Everything resembles God, the fountain of love.

When Christians are called to love each other, they are asked to be what they should be were not circumstances upset by sin. Created by God, redeemed by God, they properly should mirror God. God is our Father, and therefore humans should resemble God, just as children bear the genetic imprint of natural parents.

We are humans, because our parents were humans. This is our species. We are God’s children, and the species of God’s children, to press the comparison, is to be like God. God is love. Love is much more than warm-heartedness or kind gestures. The Lord is direct in the Gospel reading. It is keeping the Commandments.

How can we approach Jesus? How can we earn the Commandments, since we are all limited? Where can we find the strength to keep the Commandments?

Christ is come to us through and in the Church. It offers us the sacraments and God’s Word. Peter still lives. Jesus still lives.

READINGS


Monday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Ps 113:8 Jn 15:19-17


Thursday: Acts 18:1-18 Ps 47:2 Jn 16:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18 Ps 47:2-3 Jn 16:20-23


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HOPE IN THE MOURNING

KAY COZAD

as household chores, grocery shopping and social outings seem overwhelming or uncomfortable to those whose energy is depleted by the exertion of grief.

Life is not the same after a loss. It simply can’t be. But it does go on. As our grief carries us through its peaks and valleys, roller coaster-style, we find ourselves in the wilderness trying to find our way back. The catch is we can’t go forward. The unfortunate reality of

A Catholic education helps to think about God’s constant presence

CARDINAL TARCECIO BERTONE, the Vatican’s secretary of state, recently wrote to mark our 125th anniversary at The Catholic University of America. His letter conveyed Pope Benedict XVI’s best wishes. Pope Benedict also offered a reminder of our obligations as a Catholic university, which the pope spelled out four years ago this month when he visited our campus.

“The Holy Father,” Cardinal Bertone wrote, “wished to reaffirm the unique role played by Catholic educational institutions in that ‘diaconia of truth’ which the Church exercises in her proclamation of God’s revealed word.”

It is (Pope Benedict’s) hope that, in fidelity to its founding vision, (your) university will continue to bring the Church’s rich intellectual and spiritual patrimony to bear upon the critical issues of our time and thus contribute to the authentic renewal of the social fabric in accordance with the truth of the Gospel.”

The writings and sermons of Pope Benedict’s predecessor Pope John Paul II offer a robust conception of just what Catholic education is and what it makes us unique. At its center, as is the center of Catholicism, is a friendship between God and man, mediated through the tradition of the Church.

Only in this friendship,” Pope Benedict said in the inaugural homily of his papacy, “are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed.”

This friendship begins with the idea that nothing we do, no matter how intelligent or scientific, happens outside of our relationship with God. From there, it forms everything about us.

Through the study of theology and Church history, Catholic education instills this basic habit of thought in its recipients. It plays the same role as the old canon of the liberal arts education, which once forced every university student to ask again and again the age-old questions that shaped Western thought.

This Catholic habit of thought about God’s constant presence pops up in every discipline. It colors our understanding of literature and art. It helps learners resist the disturbing contemporary trend of some sciences trespassing on questions outside their area of competence, attempting, in Pope Benedict’s words, “to drive the question concerning God into the subjective realm, as being unscientific.”

In a 2008 conference on the changing identity of the person, Pope Benedict cautioned wisely that “no science can say who man is, reducing him to the particular with the power he is going.”

By the same principle of divine friendship, Catholic education must also cultivate personal virtue, holiness and love of neighbor, lest it forget who we are and for whom we are made.

The sacraments cannot be compulsory — God “did not will to save us without us,” as St. Augustine put it — but Catholic universities should keep them visible and encourage students to frequent them.

Pope John Paul II issued the apostolic constitution “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” in 1990, as a response to the ongoing problem of waning Catholic identity in higher education and the increasing lack of interest in the contributions of faith to intellectual life. The late pope reminded Catholic schools that “it is in the context of the impartial search for truth that the relationship between faith and reason is brought to light and meaning.”

He would later offer the more famous phrase: “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of the highest truths.”

If we are doing what we should, faith likewise transforms education, enriching both the intellectual and moral pursuits of the university.

JOHN GARY

John Gary is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington and an expert on constitutional law, religious liberty and the First Amendment.
Biblical illiteracy and Bible Babel

One of the disappointments of the post-Vatican II period has been the glacial pace of change in Catholic biblical literacy. The Council hoped to inspire. Why the slowdown? Several reasons suggest themselves.

The hegemony of the historical-critical method of biblical study has taught two generations of Catholics that the Bible is too complicated for ordinary people to understand: so why read what only savants can grasp? In short preaching, dissecting the biblical text with historical-critical scalps or reducing Scripture to a psychology manual, has also been a turnoff to Bible-study. Then there is the clunkiness of the New American Bible, the pedestrian translation to which U.S. Catholics are subjected in the liturgy: there is little beauty here, and the beauty of God’s Word ought to be one of its most attractive attributes.

But it was not until I read “Our Babel of Bibles” by Baylor University’s David Lyle Jeffrey, published in the March/April 2012 issue of Touchstone, that I began to understand that the proliferation of modern biblical translations and editions is also part of the problem. Not only are there a plethora of different translations from which to choose; as Dr. Jeffrey points out, there are now “niche” Bibles.

“If you are tired of your mother’s Old Bible, which printed the words of Jesus in red, you can choose a more trendy Green Bible, with all the eco-sensitive passages printed in green ink. If you are a feisty woman unafraid by possibly misdirected allusions, then maybe you would like the Woman Thou Art Loosed edition of the NKJB (New King James Bible). If you should be a high-end of the TV-channel, charismatic, there are ‘prophecy Bibles’ coded in several colors to justify your eschatology of choice.”

And that’s before we get to the super-trendy editions like the Common English Bible, which renders Psalm 122.1 (“I was glad when they said unto me/Let us go to the Lord’s house”) as “Let’s go to the Lord’s house.” This is not just dumb; as Dr. Jeffrey points out, is also “verges on a grotesque secularism at the level of Let’s go to Joe’s place — he has the biggest TV.” And lest you think Jeffrey exaggerates, please note that the CEB renders “Son of Man” as “the Human One.”

Dr. Jeffrey’s dissection of our Bible Babel also makes an important point about the use of sacral vocabulary, noting that Venerable Bede and the other first translators of the Bible into Anglo-Saxon understood the limits of their own vernacular and borrowed words from Latin to express what the biblical text meant. A minor point? Not really, because these words came into English that way: alms, altar, angel, anthem, apostle, ark, canticle, chalice, creed, demon, disciple, epistle, hymn, manna, martyr, priest, prophet, psalm, psalter, rule, Sabbath, scripture, temple. And later in the process of making English, more words entered our language via the Vulgate: abstraction, baptism, beatitude, charity, communion, confession, contrition, creator, crucifixion, devotions, faith, homily, mercy, miracle, obedience, passion, pastoral, penance, religion, sacrament, saint, sanctity, savior, temptation, theology, trinity, virgin and virtue.

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HOPE

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Living in this era when life expectancy is much longer than in previous generations is that many of us don’t experience a death loss until much later in life. And with the traditional funeral ceremony that supports public mourning going swiftly and surely out of style many of us don’t fully embrace the notion that grief and loss are part of life until we are thrust into it kicking and screaming only to discover what our ancestors knew well — that grief is part of our human experience and that new life can grow out of it.

My response to my friend Sandy’s question, “When will life happen again?” is to remind her that as grief continues to work through her grief, her task is to remember that life is happening all right — in the midst of her grief.

It may take time to engage fully in new life after loss, especially after a tragic death, when grief takes up such a large space in it. But there is no time frame for any one of us. We simply follow our hearts.

The hope for all of us is that as we take time to discover how the death has changed us, with its ebbs and tides of emotion, we also discover that life holds great promise for those who grieve. Out of the pain and struggle is born a new life where we can not only recognize the deeper meaning and new joy in life, but also find that the grief of our loss of our loved one, along with their sweet memory, has found its rightful place. And that truly is life.

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

Gratitude expressed for Collection for the Church in Central, Eastern Europe

On behalf of the Subcommittee for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, I wish to express my gratitude to you and your faithfulness for your contribution of $41,912.94 to the 2011 Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

As a result of your efforts, the Subcommittee was able to award $6.1 million dollars to 327 different projects in 2011. Our funding has shifted from support for building projects in countries like Poland that are now better able to finance their own construction works to providing scholarship support for graduate studies in leading universities in Rome to build the next generation of leaders for the Church. This has allowed us to provide more resources to places like Ukraine, where there is a major boom in priestly vocations, and to some of the poorest countries in the region like Albania and Moldova. Your generosity will continue to help rebuild churches, support vocations and strengthen pastoral and charitable outreach especially in areas formerly under communist control.

Your leadership is invaluable to our efforts. On behalf of the subcommittee and those who benefit from the collection, once again, thank you.

Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Appreciation for World Mission Sunday Collection

As the former National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, I fully appreciate all the labor and dedication that accompanies the celebration of World Mission Sunday in your diocese. All of the beneficaries in the CNEWA family thank you for this generosity.

We are in receipt of the gift of $6,089.20 from the wonderful faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, which represents CNEWA’s share of the 2011 World Mission Sunday Collection.

I request a letter of thanks from the diocesan newspaper to convey to you and our beneficaries the gratitude and appreciation of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the congregation, and Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chair of CNEWA.

May God continue to bless you, your collaborators and all the faithful whom you serve for your goodness and generosity.

Msgr. John E. Kozar
President
**Sports**

New Haven wellness walk/run offers benefits

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

NEW HAVEN — When riding home from school one day with his grandmother, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, seventh-grader Tyler Roth passed by a young boy in a wheelchair. He commented that he felt everyone should have to experience what it was like to be in a wheelchair.

Roth’s grandmother detailed that the youngster has always had a tender heart and soft spot for those with special needs, “Tyler has been a very empathetic, caring person since he was a little boy.”

She retold the story to her exercise class, and a mother — Julie Lebamoff, with a special needs son — suggested Kerri Zurubch become involved.

The rest is history and during the first week of June at New Haven Canal Days the first annual Wellness 4 Everyone (W4E) Walk/Run will take place.

Zurbuch has spearheaded the event and is expecting well over 300 participants. The mother of three boys is a member at St. John, New Haven, and the Raider Wellness Team Leader. She is the founder and president of Well Strategies, Inc. Zurubch holds a masters degree in wellness management and has been a health and fitness expert for nearly 20 years.

According to Zurubch, several things converged leading up to the birth of this event including: Roth’s passion for the disabled, the community interest at large, the declining health of our nation, the Women, Infant, Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004, and the strong potential for a decreased life expectancy in our younger generations.

Zurbuch explained, “First, our community has been looking for something positive that is social, beneficial, personal, yet not threatening — but occurring annually. So Well Strategies collaborated with New Haven Parks and Recreation, New Haven High School track and field, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, Catholic School and New Haven Canal Days Festival Committee to bring this event to benefit the community at large.

Secondly, the Federal WIC reauthorization of 2004 required all the U.S. to have a wellness policy in place by July of 2007. Schools who receive subsidy for lunches are required to hold this policy. The kicker is, it is a non-funded federal mandate.”

In order to implement some parts of the WIC, Zurubch has designed a means for the schools so that this event will help fund those parts, by profiting from the pledges, meal fees and T-shirt sales.

Five schools are on board to participate including St. John, New Haven and St. Louis Academy-Besancon, New Haven, with several other schools a possibility. Each school can be assured of earning at least $1,000.

This event will have three races and will be unique in nature, unlike any other event of its kind, because it is both for the able and disabled.

Combining the two allows everyone to share in the thrill and experience of being a participant.

Accommodating those with wheelchairs, there will be support buddies to assist with pushing, walking beside, running with or just an extra set of eyes. “Everyone is a winner in the one-mile walk and the 5K 4 Wellness,” Zurubch stressed. “The 5K competitive race will be run for those die hard able or disabled that need a challenge, but do not need assistance,” she added.

Zurbuch’s final message to all is “Do your best, do it 4 Wellness!”

To secure a partner for the disabled in wheelchairs, call Julie at (260) 437-2670. To sign yourself or your school up for the event or for any further questions, Zurubch can be reached at Kerri@wellstrategiesinc.org.

**CYO track in full stride**

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — In the second week of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) track and field action, St. John, New Haven, won the boys’ meet scoring 67 points over St. Charles’ 57 points. For the girls, St. Charles edged out St. John, New Haven, 53.16–51.33 at Bishop Luers on Wednesday night, May 2. St. John, Fort Wayne, placed third in both meets.

For the Raiders, eighth-grader Chet Vogelweide was a double winner in the distance events, Harry Smith won the 200-meter dash and was part of the winning short relay along with Billy Alec and Fabian Myles.

Myles also won the shot put and discus events. David Tippmann took top honors in three individual events for St. Charles and anchored the 4x200 winning relay along with Vinny Cavacini, Alex Current and Jeremiah Jauch. Current was also the winner in the high jump and hurdles.

The Lady Cardinals won both relay events thanks to the efforts of Kathleen Robertson, Rachel Scott, Rose Tippmann, Hannah Vanek, Harper DeMay, Rachel Gibson, Dylle Jauh and Alice Talarico. Scott also won the hurdles, Gibson the 100-meter dash, Talarico the 200-meter dash and Vanek both throws. Eli Kayser won the mile and 400-meter dash, while Elizabeth Lawrence earned a blue ribbon in the long jump and Norah Painter the high jump for St. John, New Haven. Finally, Cece Baldus from St. John, Fort Wayne, clocked a 5:53.10 to win the 800-meter run.

Brady, Christopher Dewald, Jared Roy and Jacob Tomlinson combined to win the short relay for St. Vincent. Tomlinson also won the 100-meter dash and Roy the discus.

Alex Barton ran away with the mile clocking a 5:53.9, while Frankie Yanko beat the field in the high jump. SJSE’s 4x200 victorious relay partners were Noah Johnson, Nick Galezki, Justin Dippold and Tyler Gosche. Johnson was a triple winner also taking the shot put and 800-meter run events.

Blue ribbon winners for the girls from SJSE were Josie Barron, 1,600, long jump and Olivia Loran, high jump. Natalie Watercutter paced St. Vincent with her outstanding performance in the 200-meter dash and hurdles, while Claire Manning won the 400-meter lap.
The Drama Club at Christ the King School in South Bend presented two performances of “Willy Wonka, Jr.” to capacity crowds at the new Ray and Joan Kroc Center in South Bend. Drama Club members participated in all aspects of the production: acting, singing, set design and stage crew. The April 27-28 performances were the culmination of over 60 students. The Drama Club is facilitated by Christ the King third-grade teacher Christine Nemeth. Jenny Kupfer, art teacher, led a team of students in production of all sets and props.

Marian prayer book offers centuries of tradition

BY KAY COZAD


Compiled, edited and translated by professor emeritus of liturgy at the University of Notre Dame Bill Storey, this little Marian prayer book holds centuries of exquisite prayers that would meet the needs of any Marian enthusiast as well as introduce a new world of devotion to those unfamiliar with the genre. With 360 pages of prayers ranging from seasonal and feast day prayers to the mysteries of the rosary, novenas and devotions, Storey has truly gathered the rich history of Marian prayer for the public at an affordable cost. Each group of devotions begins with a short history of the prayer as well as an introduction on how to use it in daily prayer life.

A prolific author, Storey, began his writing career in 1958. He currently has 18 prayer books to his credit, including “Notre Dame Prayer Book,” which has sold over half a million copies, and several others in the works.

Early inspiration for his prayer books came, he says, from his students. As a teacher of liturgy he began to see that the “kids didn’t know prayer.” He reports, “Most people don’t have schooling in prayer. Different people have different needs.”

After taking a hiatus from writing for many years as he concentrated on being administrator, teacher, husband and father of seven children, Storey was re-inspired in his recent retirement to begin writing prayer books in earnest once again. And as Marian theology has been a long-time interest of his, Storey “decided to put it in a book.”

Surprisingly, Marian prayer, says Storey, has been around for 2,000 years and meant to be practiced. “Most people think Marian prayer was made up recently. But there are writings from the 2nd century,” says Storey, adding, “There are multidimensional writings on Mary. You can find millions of pages on her.”

For the past three years Storey has compiled prayers from a variety of sources on Mary, prayed them himself and improved on them. The novenas included in “A Book of Marian Prayers,” for example, have a biblical cast to them along with the “Magnificat,” a rich and significant Marian prayer.

Storey’s Mysteries of the Rosary include an informative history of the practice along with the reasoning for the prayer. He has enriched the traditional rosary with Scriptural clauses for each bead leading the prayer sequence to a deeper meditation of the New Testament scenes. “It’s a rich book, for such a small book,” notes Storey, adding that he hopes readers will “page through a book like this and find a prayer that attracts them.”

“A Book of Marian Prayers” is packed with ancient but time-tested and enriched prayers from every century that are informative as well as prayerful. And as the Immaculate Conception of Mary is the patroness of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, these traditional forms of prayer are destined to enrich the prayer life of individuals, families and groups of all ages.
WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the dioce.
other pressures against the truth — against religious freedom,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “We have to respond to them with clarity and with the truth.”

Bishop D’Arcy noted that Our Sunday Visitor has been a good employer for Huntington and Fort Wayne. During the recession, the company actually grew and hired additional employees.

Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, one of the dignitaries, echoed the bishop’s words saying, “Your employment keeps growing,” and bringing economic development to Huntington and Fort Wayne.

The mayor pointed out that the newspaper has 50,000 to 60,000 subscribers, but the facility also sends out 500 million offering envelopes from the Huntington operation.

Kyle Hamilton, president of the Offertory Solutions Division of Our Sunday Visitor, noted in his talk that the products of Our Sunday Visitor have changed dramatically over 100 years, “but the mission remains the same,” he said. “Our service to the Church takes many forms,” Hamilton said, “among them offering envelopes and stewardship solutions, periodicals, books and curriculum, and the Our Sunday Visitor Institute. The institute gives back millions of dollars each year to Catholic projects and ministries throughout the country.”

Bishop D’Arcy shared how Our Sunday Visitor created a $1 million endowment for scholarships at each of the four Catholic high schools in the diocese and other endowments. Our Sunday Visitor also gave a large grant to the diocese to purchase the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, the diocesan office building in Fort Wayne. Many spiritual events, including the diocesan jubilee year in 2007, were made possible with the financial aid of Our Sunday Visitor.

Hamilton thanked the employees, past and present, who contributed so much to the success of the company. Many joined the celebration with their families. Greg Erlandson, president of the Publishing Division of Our Sunday Visitor, related the three goals of Archbishop Noll: “One was to inform Catholics about what was happening in the world, letting them see the events of the world through the eyes of faith.”

“The second,” he said, “was to help form Catholics. Many Catholics in those days were immigrants coming to this country and they needed education in the faith. So he wanted to inform, he wanted to form and he wanted to defend the Church. And the Church was under attack from many corners and he wanted to be forthright in defending the Church against those accusations. And that is what launched Our Sunday Visitor.”

Archbishop Noll “was also an extraordinary entrepreneur,” Erlandson added. The offering envelopes, Erlandson noted, was an idea Archbishop Noll borrowed from “our Protestant brothers and sisters and brought that into the Catholic Church. And today, we have the largest church envelope operation in the world manufactured here in this building.”

Archbishop Noll had a local, national and international presence. “He helped sustain many missionary efforts,” Erlandson said. “He helped build churches. He helped launch national organizations.”

Archbishop Noll died in 1956. The current facility was dedicated in 1961.

“The goals he set and how he worked to achieve these goals keeping in mind whether it is from those who misunderstand or those who misrepresent our teachings or those who do not want the Church’s voice to be heard on the major issues of our time,” Erlandson said.

“In the spirit of Archbishop Noll, we use all the technology at our disposal,” Erlandson said. “Not just print, we use video and audio, the web and social media, e-books and apps to accomplish these goals keeping in mind (Archbishop Noll’s) entrepreneurial vision and courage.”

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