A happy and blessed Thanksgiving
In Truth and Charity
Page 2

Confirmation schedule posted
Page 3

Catholic presence
New campus ministry coordinators take posts
Page 5

Mass for deceased bishops, priests, deacons
Remembering those who served in ordained ministry
Page 7

Veterans honored
Ceremonies across the diocese
Page 16

Conference explores martyrdom of today’s Christians
BY ANN CAREY

Pope establishes pontifical Latin Academy
BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has established the “Pontifical Academy of Latinity” to promote the study of the Latin language and culture, and not just within the Catholic Church.

For more than 1,000 years, the Catholic Church has been the custodian and promoter of Latin “both in the theological and liturgical spheres as well as in the area of the formation and transmission of knowledge,” the pope wrote Nov. 10 in the document establishing the Latin academy.

“From Pentecost, the Church has spoken and prayed in all the languages of humanity,” the pope wrote, but the early Christian communities relied heavily on Latin and Greek language and culture to proclaim and explain the newness of the Christian Gospel.

The new academy, he said, should promote the study of Latin, particularly in Catholic schools, universities and seminaries, helping young generations learn Latin, “including through the use of modern means of communications.”

Pope Benedict named as president of the new academy Ivano Dionigi, 64, a Latinist and rector of the Alma Mater Studiorum at the University of Bologna. The secretary of the academy is Salesian Father Roberto Spataro, secretary of the Pontifical Institute for Higher Latin Studies at the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome.

The pope placed the new academy under the Pontifical Council for Culture and said the academy would work with the Salesian institute to design and support Latin courses and seminars.

Mass starts bishops’ meeting in Baltimore
New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, celebrates Mass at the start of the bishops’ annual fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 12.
A happy and blessed Thanksgiving

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

I am writing this column as I prepare to leave for the fall Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. Please remember us in prayer as we gather to address many important areas of the life of the Church in our country, especially our continuing efforts to defend our religious liberty.

Next week, our nation celebrates Thanksgiving Day. Though a civil holiday, this feast has deep religious roots that are focused on thanksgiving to God for His manifold blessings in our lives and in the life of our nation. During this Year of Faith, we thank God especially for the gift of our faith. We thank Him for the gifts of creation and for the gift of redemption through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am reminded of the words of Psalm 116: 1-18:

1. I give thanks to God for you and for your good works in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5: 18).

In the Scriptures, it is interesting to note that when Jesus prays to the Father, He begins with thanksgiving. His prayer was characterized by thanksgiving. As members of Christ’s Body, the Church, we join with Him, our Head, in offering thanksgiving. Of course, the greatest prayer of thanksgiving to God is the Holy Eucharist. It is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father. The very word Eucharist means thanksgiving.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read the following: The Eucharist, the sacrament of our salvation accomplished by Christ on the cross, is also a sacrifice of praise in thanksgiving for the work of creation. In the Eucharistic sacrifice the whole of creation loved by God is presented to the Father through the death and the Resurrection of Christ. Through Christ the Church can offer the sacrifice of praise in thanksgiving for all that God has made good, beautiful, and just in creation and in humanity (CCC 1359).

If you are able, I highly recommend attendance at Holy Mass on Thanksgiving Day. What better way to observe the feast of Thanksgiving?

Besides prayers of thanksgiving, the feast of Thanksgiving also reminds us of another way to give thanks to God for His many blessings: charity towards the needy and the suffering. Pope Benedict XVI, in inaugurating this Year of Faith, reminded us that “the Year of Faith will also be a good opportunity to intensify the witness of charity.” Our faith requires charity. As we celebrate Thanksgiving and as we approach Christmas, it is important, through faith, that we recognize the face of Jesus in “the least of our brothers and sisters.” Our Holy Father has spoken of our Lord’s “perennial invitation to return the love by which He takes care of us. It is faith that enables us to recognize Christ and it is His love that impels us to assist Him whenever He becomes our neighbor along the journey of life.”

I am continually edified and inspired by the many works of charity that I see throughout our diocese and the wonderful generosity of the faithful of our diocese. This is apparent in the generous donations to the Annual Bishop’s Appeal, as well as in the many Catholic charitable organizations in our diocese. On this Thanksgiving, I give thanks to God for you and for your faith lived in charity.

In my regular spiritual reading, I recently was reflecting on a passage from Saint Bonaventure in which he wrote the following about the life of Saint Francis of Assisi: When Francis met the poor, he not only generously gave them even the necessities of life that had been given to him, but he believed that these should be given them as if theirs by right. It happened once that a poor man met him… when because of an illness Francis was wearing a short mantle over his habit. When his kind eye observed the man’s misery, he said to his companion: “We should return this mantle to this poor man because it is his. For we got it on loan until we should find someone poorer than ourselves.” But his companion, considering the need of his devoted father (Francis), obstinately refused, lest Francis provide for another by neglecting himself. But Francis said: “I believe that the great Almsgiver will charge me with theft if I do not give what I have to one who needs it more.” Therefore concerning all that was given him to relieve the needs of his body, he was accustomed to ask the permission of the donors to give it away if he should meet someone in greater need. He spared nothing at all, neither mantles, tunics nor books, not even decorations from the altar—all these he gave to the poor when he could.

Saint Francis of Assisi, the great saint of the poor, and indeed all the saints, teach us that love for God urges and enables us to love our neighbor. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy are concrete actions that express this love. Such love also has an evangelizing component since it attracts people to the source of all love, to God who is love.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and as we prepare for Christmas, let us be devoted to prayer and to works of charity. Charity is a love that comes from above. Saint Paul says: God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us (Romans 5:5). I pray that we may all be guided by the Holy Spirit during these days to be thankful and to express our thanksgiving to God through prayer and charity, for His gifts of love are limitless and his goodness infinite!
Confirmation Schedule announced for 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>PARISH</th>
<th>BISHOP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/12/12</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>St. Anthony de Padua</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus at Holy Cross</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>Saint Mary's College</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. Therese</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td>St. Michael</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Huntington</td>
<td>St. Mary and St. Peter and Paul at St. Mary</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Charles Borromeo</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Granger</td>
<td>St. Pius X</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
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<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College at Notre Dame</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. John the Evangelist</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>St. Mary of the Assumption</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Queen of Angels</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. Jude</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 21</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary, St. Peter, St. Henry at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>St. Anthony of Padua and St. Paul (Clear Lake) at St. Anthony</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Hessen Cassel</td>
<td>St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>New Carlisle</td>
<td>St. Stanislaus Kostka</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>Little Flower</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 27</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Culver</td>
<td>St. Mary of the Lake</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 27</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>Holy Family</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Bremen</td>
<td>St. Dominic</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Mishawaka</td>
<td>Queen of Peace</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Wabash</td>
<td>St. Bernard</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>New Haven</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist and St. Louis (Besancon) at St. John</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph (Garrett) at IC</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Mishawaka</td>
<td>St. Monica, St. Bavo and St. Joseph at St. Monica</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Kendallville</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception, St. Mary of the Assumption (Avila) and Blessed Sacrament (Albion) at Immaculate Conception</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>LaGrange</td>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Rome City</td>
<td>St. Gaspar del Bufalo</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Columbus City</td>
<td>St. Paul of the Cross, St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Joseph (Roanoke) at St. Paul of the Cross</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Elkhart</td>
<td>St. Thomas the Apostle</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Elkhart</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Patrick (Arcola)</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>St. Joseph and Sacred Heart (Notre Dame) at St. Joseph</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>Our Lady of Hungary</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Ligonier</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>Matthew Cathedral — Adult Confirmations</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>St. Adalbert and St. Casimir at St. Adalbert</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>St. Martin de Porres</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Our Lady of Good Hope</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus at Holy Cross</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier (Pierceton) and St. Robert Bellarmine (North Manchester) at Sacred Heart</td>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception — Adult Confirmations</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Bluffton</td>
<td>St. Joseph and St. Alexius (Yoder) at St. Joseph</td>
<td>Rhodes</td>
</tr>
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<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Walkerton</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Sacred Heart (Extraordinary Form)</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>St. Augustine, St. Redwig and St. Patrick</td>
<td>D'Arcy</td>
</tr>
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</table>
US bishops, Catholic bloggers discuss how tweets, blogs evangelize

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

BALTIMORE (CNS) — A group of U.S. bishops and Catholic bloggers discussed — and tweeted about — how to use social media to spread the Gospel message during a Nov. 11 session prior to the start of the U.S. bishops’ annual general assembly in Baltimore.

In the nearly three-hour session, the group of two dozen bishops and even more bloggers talked about the challenges in keeping up with all the all-pervasive social media but also acknowledged the absolute necessity of doing so in order to reach people and connect them more deeply with their faith — or put simply, to evangelize.

In question-and-answer sessions, a panel discussion and in small groups, the bloggers repeatedly urged the bishops to use social media tools at their disposal such as blogs and Twitter or Facebook accounts as a means to communicate a living faith in the modern world.

“(Archbishop) Fulton Sheen would give his right arm to have the tools we have today,” said Brandon Vogt, a 26-year-old Catholic blogger and author of the 2011 book “The Church and New Media: Blogging Converts, Online Activists and Bishops Who Tweet.” Archbishop Sheen, who was declared venerable this year, was known for his preaching on television and radio in the 1950s.

Rocco Palmo, author of the popular Catholic blog “Whispers in the Loggia,” urged bishops to recognize that they have something unique to bring to the broad social media table.

He gave the example of Bishop Alexander K. Sample of Marquette, Mich., who kicked off the Year of Faith app and blog to celebrate the Year of Faith. The app has received international acclaim. Visit www.myearoffaith.com for information.

If the bishops had any doubt about the number of people, Catholics in particular, who use social media, a new study by Georgetown University’s Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, confirmed that there is indeed a big audience out there, and that audience wants material that is relevant and also entertaining.

Mark Gray, director of Catholic polls and a research associate at CARA, gave the bishops and bloggers highlights of the study, “Catholic New Media Use in the United States, 2012” commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Department of Communications.

The survey, of 1,047 Catholics from Sept. 10-18, showed that 62 percent of adult U.S. Catholics, representing an estimated 36.2 million people, have a profile on Facebook; 58 percent of Catholics age 30 and under share content such as pictures, articles and comments at least once a week on social media; and nearly a third of all surveyed said they would like their pastors and bishops to blog.

An immediate takeaway from the survey was that the sheer number of Catholics online cannot be ignored. Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Communications, said the CARA report “suggests many opportunities for the Church to engage with those who live on the ‘digital continent,’” described by Pope Benedict XVI and urged bishops and Catholic laity to approach this online world as missionaries.

The bishop read a letter to the session’s participants from Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, which similarly described the online mission field.

“In this context, the role of the laity becomes ever more central,” he said, noting that the “voices of the many Catholics who are present in blogs, social networks and other digital forums are reaching people who might not otherwise encounter the message of Jesus.”

Some of the bishops at the meeting expressed a hesitancy to jump into the online world, suggesting that they call their pastor or bishop and offer to help.

Bishops in turn advised bloggers to talk about the faith — in quick and entertaining ways — by linking faith to current events or even discussing movies in blogs or video reflections.

The bloggers, many of whom live tweeted the session, not only showed how it can be done, but highlighted its urgency.

Mary DeTurris Poust, former contributor to Our Sunday Visitor’s “Daily Take” blog and the author of her own blog, “Not Strictly Spiritual,” put it this way: “Facebook is the new parish hall” where people meet and look for spiritual guidance and connections.

“If they don’t find it in our virtual walls, they will find it elsewhere,” she said.

LATIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pope Benedict said that as studies in the general field of humanities expand, it is surprising how superficial Latin studies have become, even for seminarians and priests. But serious studies of theology, liturgy, the Church Fathers and canon law require knowledge of Latin because most of the basic sources in all those fields were written in Latin.

“There is an urgent need to support a commitment to a greater knowledge and more competent use of the Latin language, both in the Church and in the wider world of culture,” the pope said.

The new academy replaces the Latinitas Foundation, which Pope Paul VI established in 1976 and placed under the authority of the Vatican Secretariat of State. The seven members of the secretariat’s Office of Latin Letters — mainly responsible for translating papal documents and correspondence into Latin — carried out the bulk of the foundation’s activities, including overseeing its journal, Latinitas. The magazine now passes to the Latin academy.
Catholic presence on campuses

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Having a Catholic presence on non-Catholic college campuses across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is making an impact these days as Rosie Lahrman and Angela Traub are becoming two familiar Catholic faces at these colleges.

Traub is the new Catholic campus ministry coordinator for Bethel College, Indiana University-South Bend and Goshen College. Lahrman is the new Catholic campus ministry coordinator at Indiana-Purdue University’s Newman Catholic Fellowship, Indiana Tech’s Indiana Tech Catholics, Manchester University’s Manchester Catholics, and Trine University’s Newman Catholic Fellowship.

“A chaplain is assigned to each of the campus groups and works closely with the students in organizing sacramental and other spiritual opportunities for them as well as activities, both social and charitable,” Lahrman said today’s Catholic. “Listening and participating in these campus events I am hopefully able to assist both students and the priests.”

The chaplains include Father Daniel Whelan for IPFW, Father David Mary Engo for Indiana Tech, Father Drew Curry for Manchester University, Father David Ruppert for IUSB, Father Tony Steinacker for Goshen College and Conventual Franciscan Father Fred Pasche assists at Trine University.

Lahrman added, “It has been wonderful to witness how the students are ready and able to deepen their spiritual life while increasing their knowledge in their particular area of study.”

Some of the IPFW students desire to better grasp the teachings of the Church as they find it sometimes being challenged on campus. The Year of Faith gave Father Whelan, the IPFW Newman Catholic Fellowship chaplain, an opportunity to offer a bi-weekly Bible study using Jesuit Father Mitch Pacwa’s “The Year of Faith: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics,” published by Our Sunday Visitor.

Lahrman said, “A nice sized group with regular attendance has developed.”

Father Whelan also recently began hearing Confessions prior to Mass. A joint-student-group retreat organized by Trine and IPFW’s Newman groups was held recently at St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington. Father Whelan celebrated Mass, heard Confessions and spoke to the group of about 30 college students.

Father Curry is working with Manchester Catholics officers to plan a retreat during the spring semester of 2013.

Traub, referring to goals she has set, said, “This year I am hoping to establish a greater Catholic community and identity on these non-Catholic campuses. There are a significant amount of students who have a desire to live out their Catholic faith but do not have the support to do so.”

“This year, I am hoping to establish faith-sharing groups throughout the campuses in order for the students to have a greater community,” Traub said.

“At IUSB, we have recently begun the ARISE program, which has been very beneficial for the students,” Traub said. “They have been able to come together as Catholics and share with each other where they have been in their walk with the Lord and ways they are striving for a greater holiness.”

Traub said that celebrating Mass on campuses or giving students rides to attend Sunday Mass “is also something that I am trying to get started on each of the campuses.”

“Allowing the students to have access to the sacraments, even if it is at the nearby parishes, is one thing that I would like to see on each campus,” Traub said. “So far this semester, we have had weekly liturgies at IUSB as well as a monthly Sunday liturgy at Goshen College.”

Another important aspect of campus ministry Traub would like to see grow is hosting speakers on different topics of faith for the students.

“I would like these talks to be inspiring for their spiritual lives as well as encouraging in living out their faith actively in their community on the campuses,” Traub said. A recent speaker at IUSB spoke about Catholic teaching of public life regarding voting.

Building relationships with the students is important to Traub as well.

“In my three months of working in campus ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, I already see the necessity of establishing a relationship with each of the students,” Traub said.

“Modeling our Catholic faith is the most important thing we can do as ministers.”

“College students want to know ‘it works’ — meaning striving for holiness in our world is possible and is actually a very joyful life-style,” Traub added. “As a campus minister, I am only an instrument of what God is doing in their lives, but I know that I must stay ‘in tune’ with the Lord myself.”

“I am grateful to God for these past couple of months and I am looking forward to what he continues to have in store for all of these campuses this year,” Traub said.

Lahrman said she wants to offer flash drives with Catholic campus group information, diocesan information and Sunday Mass information from nearby parishes.

“While enjoying the growth of faith in Catholic students’ lives on state campuses, it is my hope to find ways to ‘go out into the deep’ proclaimed by Blessed Pope John Paul II,” Lahrman said. “It is my hope to find students who have not sought out their campus Catholic group, but would enjoy and benefit greatly from them. The active students already have excellent outreach programs and are diligent and open to more participation, but I try to think of unique ways of introducing Catholic students to the group.”

IPFW student Patience John said of the campus ministry program, “While we have continued with the Tuesday Masses on campus followed by pizza and fellowship, we have also begun a Bible Study and First Friday prayer on campus. It is so exciting to see other young people, both Catholic and some non-Catholic, making the effort to incorporate prayer and Scripture into their busy lives.

In addition, it is awesome to see members willing to be seen practicing their faith — for example praying the Angelus and Divine Mercy Chaplet in the middle of campus on first Fridays.”

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Pope sends Obama prayers that freedom, justice flourish

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI congratulated U.S. President Barack Obama on his re-election, saying that he prayed the ideals of freedom and justice that guided America’s founders might continue to flourish. The Vatican did not make public the full text of the pope’s telegram to Obama, which was sent via Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Nov. 7. “In the message, the Holy Father sent his best wishes to the president for his new term and assured him of his prayers that God might assist him in his very great responsibility before the country and the international community,” the Vatican said in a statement. The pope also told Obama he was praying that “the ideals of liberty and justice that guided the founders of the United States of America might continue to shine” as the nation goes forward, the statement said. In remarks to reporters, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, voiced hopes that Obama would also promote “a culture of life and religious freedom.” It is the hope of everyone that President Obama “respond to the expectations” of the American people and “serve law and justice for the well-being and growth of every person, by respecting essential human and spiritual values and by promoting the culture of life and religious freedom, which have always been so precious in the tradition of the American people and their culture,” the priest said.

Cardinal congratulates Obama, urges priority to most vulnerable

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, congratulated President Barack Obama on his re-election in a Nov. 7 letter. “The people of our country have again entrusted you with a great responsibility,” Cardinal Dolan said. “The Catholic bishops of the United States offer our prayers that God will give you strength and wisdom to meet the difficult challenges that face America.” Cardinal Dolan added the bishops pray that Obama will “help restore a sense of civility to the public order, so our public conversations may be imbued with respect and charity toward everyone.” He said, “In particular, we pray that you will exercise your office to pursue the common good, especially in care of the most vulnerable among us, including the unborn, the poor and the immigrant. We will continue to stand in defense of life, marriage and our first, most cherished liberty, religious freedom.” In the press release containing the text of the letter, the words “our first, most cherished liberty” were in italics.

The bishops and Obama administration have clashed for the past year on a federal Department of Health and Human Services mandate that would require most religious employers to provide contraceptive access to their employees, allowing for few exceptions. With 270 electoral votes needed to secure a presidential win, Obama, a Democrat, had 332 to 206 for his Republican challenger, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

Massachusetts defeats assisted suicide; California keeps death penalty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Massachusetts voters narrowly defeated a “death with dignity” measure, rejecting attempts to legalize assisted suicide. In California, an initiative to end the use of the death penalty was defeated as well in another close vote. The Massachusetts initiative, known as Question 2, was defeated by fewer than 39,000 votes — 1,295,257 to 1,356,899 — with the largest opposition rising in counties in the center of the state and those north and south of Boston. Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston was pleased with the outcome, saying the common good was served in the measure’s defeat. “The campaign against physician assisted suicide brought together a diverse coalition from medical, disability rights and interfaith communities, all dedicated to ensuring that our residents were well informed on the issue,” he said in an emailed statement. The cardinal called upon wider society to work with hospice organizations and palliative care providers “to improve the care provided to the terminally ill. It is my hope and prayer that the defeat of Question 2 will help all people to understand that for our brothers and sisters confronted with terminal illness we can do better than offering them the means to end their lives.” The measure may have generated the widest debate of any statewide ballot issue in the country. The initiative would have allowed terminally ill adults to commit physician-assisted suicide under certain conditions. The Massachusetts Catholic Conference, Massachusetts Medical Society and disability rights groups opposed it.

Voters in three states approve laws permitting same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Voters in Maine, Washington state and Maryland approved ballot measures legalizing same-sex marriage. Nov. 6. In Minnesota, voters rejected a state constitutional amendment to define marriage as only a union between a man and woman. The Catholic bishops in each state had urged voters to uphold the traditional definition of marriage between one man and one woman and warned that religious liberties could be threatened by legalizing same-sex marriage. Maryland and Washington voters upheld laws permitting same-sex marriage that were passed earlier in the year by their legislatures and signed by their governors, but challenged in the referendum process. Minnesota’s action does not make same-sex marriage legal. There is still a state law banning it, but by rejecting the constitutional amendment, voters cleared the way for the Legislature or courts to move to permit same-sex marriages.

Three other states have passed laws prohibiting same-sex marriages. Previously six states and the District of Columbia had allowed same-sex marriages through legislative action and court rulings.

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Holy Cross College students to provide Thanksgiving baskets for 65 families

NOTRE DAME — Students at Holy Cross College, along with the help of the Notre Dame Paul Society of South Bend, will be selecting 65 families in the Michiana area to receive Thanksgiving dinner baskets that will include everything to feed a family of four in a traditional holiday feast.

“At $50 per basket, our fund-raising goal is to exceed $4,000 in donations from faculty and staff, parents, alumni, neighbors, students and friends of the college,” said Claire Doriot, president of the Social Concerns Committee.

Students will be filling dozens of shopping carts with turkey, stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, dinner rolls, pumpkin pie and other goodies at Martin’s Supermarket on State Road 23 on Nov. 18.

Doriot stated, “We are extremely grateful for the help Martin’s is providing for this project. They are giving us their lowest prices on products, as well as donating a significant amount of their time and energy.

Assembly of the baskets will take place in Holy Cross College’s Peil Center from 1-3 p.m. on Nov. 18 and the delivery will follow low from 3-5 p.m.

This is the 11th year the Social Concerns Committee at Holy Cross has raised money for this special project. The committee is accepting donations through Nov. 16. The public is invited to contribute to this project with checks made payable to Holy Cross College with Social Concerns noted on the memo line. For more information contact Social Concerns President Claire Doriot at orcid@hcc-nd.edu. Donations may be mailed to the Social Concerns Committee, Holy Cross College, PO Box 308, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0308.

McManus advances to rank of Eagle Scout

FORT WAYNE — Boy Scout Troop 19 has announced that Sean Michael. McManus has advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout. McManus is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Michael McManus of Fort Wayne. He is a senior at Bishop Luers High School and a graduate of St. John the Baptist School.

McManus’ Eagle service project entailed refurbishing the servers’ room at St. John the Baptist Church. McManus has an older brother, Billy, also an Eagle Scout, who is a sophomore at Wabash College, and a younger sister Emily, who is in the seventh grade at St. John the Baptist School.

Troop 19 has been sponsored for over 75 years by St. John the Baptist Church of Fort Wayne.

AROUND THE Diocese

PRAYERS FOR DECEASED BISHOPS, PRIESTS, DEACONS

Priests and deacons from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend joined Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in the crypt of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Nov. 7 for special prayers at the end of the Mass for deceased bishops, priests and deacons of the diocese. Father Daniel Leeuw, Mr. James Rose, Msgr. Raymond Bulzer and Deacon Paul Baumgartner, who died within the year, were remembered at the Mass. “It is good that we remember those who served among us in the ordained ministry,” Bishop Rhoades said in the homily. “We pray that all these men who committed themselves zealously to the service of the Lord and His Church, may rejoice forever in the company of saints.”

The chalice used in this Mass was that of Msgr. Julian Benoit, founding pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. He is buried in the cathedral.

Redeemer Radio’s ‘Family of Faith’ Sharathon a success

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio, AM 1450 and 89.9 FM raised $205,144 during its semi-annual Sharathon event on Oct. 24-26. During the three-day, 36-hour event, the station received 1,382 pledges from individuals and businesses via phone, mail, email and walk-ins to the station.

Sharathon raises money for operating expenses of the listener-supported station that serves the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Diocese of Toledo.

The event was anchored by Steve Usher, founder of “Catholic Answers Live,” from the Fort Wayne studios. St. Vincent de Paul Parish’s Cooman Family acted as the first ever Sharathon “chair family.”

Executive Director Dave Stevens stated, “Sharathon is a wonderful celebration of our great er Catholic community. Listeners, priests, deacons and donors come from all over northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio helping to bring this wonderful event to air. We are truly humbled and blessed by our community’s response to Sharathon and Redeemer Radio.”

The Redeemer Radio 2012 Fall Sharathon experienced a record number of volunteers and visitors with close to 400 who assisted the station in the three-day period with prayers, on-air guests, food preparation, phone bank and much more. On-air guests included Bishops Kevin C. Rhoades and John M. D’Arcy from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and Bishop Leonard P. Blair from the Toledo diocese.

Thirty-six hours of live coverage featured various parishes and apostolates located in the Redeemer Radio listening area.

The next Sharathon for Redeemer Radio is set for May 1-3, 2013.

HCC students are Santa’s helpers

NOTRE DAME — Each year Holy Cross College students play Santa’s helpers by raising money to buy toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. The fund-raising activities culminate with a shopping spree at a local retailer, followed by a “toy parade” from Holy Cross College to the toy collection point across the street from the college at the WNDU-TV studios.

To raise money for toys, the Student Government Association of Holy Cross annually hosts a “Toys for Tots Auction.” The auction is a fun evening during which the college community, along with guests from the public, fill the auditorium to outbid one another on valuable merchandise, such as gift baskets and certificates, college spirit-appar el, special-event tickets, athletic gear and signed by the Notre Dame football and rugby teams, and a home-cooked dinner with the college’s president.

Items are donated by area businesses and individuals, and are sold to the highest bidder.

This year’s Toys for Tots Auction will be held Thursday, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Driscoll Hall. Holy Cross students, under the direction of event organizer Corinne Middleton, hope to raise $1,000 for the purchase of toys and Christmas gifts, for donation to Toys for Tots. All toys and gifts donated by Holy Cross College will be provided to children in the Michiana community.

Area businesses wishing to donate auction items may contact the director of Student Activities at cgonzalez@hcc-nd.edu. New, unopened toys may be dropped off at various Toys for Tots bins located in Driscoll and Vincent Hall at Holy Cross College no later than Nov. 29.

First American Freedom information available

WASHINGTON — First American Freedom, an initiative of the U.S. Conference of Bishops, provides information and threats to religious freedom at all levels of government, federal, state, local and abroad.

The site includes a prayer initiative, an action link and sign up for alerts and social media. The site is located at http://www.firstamericanfreedom.com.

Religious freedom is the first American freedom. It is a founding principle protected by the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights. It’s a fundamental human right, rooted in the dignity of every human person — people of any faith or no faith at all. It’s not a Catholic, Jewish, Orthodox, Mormon or Muslim issue, it’s an American issue, a civil rights issue.

Lampen Lecture covers Blessed Catherine Kasper

DONALDSON — The second presentation of the Lampen Lecture series this fall given by Sister Linda Volk, PHJC, was entitled “Meeting Catherine Again.” Catherine, also known as Blessed Catherine Kasper, is the foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ of Donaldson.

Through the medium of a religious icon by Episcopal priest Peter Pearson, paralleled with examples drawn from her everyday life, Catherine Kasper was brought to life in a fresh and inviting way. The rich symbols of the icon highlighting Catherine’s holiness coupled with passages from her vulnerable human life allow Catherine to relate to everyday life. Her strength reminds all that inner peace is not dependent on circumstance and that all have the capacity to access and trust our own inner wisdom.

Linda Volk’s presentation drew a capacity crowd of students, Ancilla’s faculty and staff, coworkers of the PHJC Ministry Centers, sisters and PHJC Associates. “Blessed Catherine Kasper’s spirit guides all the ministries of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. Meeting Catherine again and again keeps her spirit alive among us,” says Sister Carleen Wrasman, Mission Integration at Ancilla College.
The new harvest: School reaps yields in nature through aquaponics and outdoor education center

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

MISHAWAKA — During the past year, Queen of Peace School has found ways to combine elements in nature, science and technology in an effort to expand students’ understanding of agriculture. In the process, the school’s new Outdoor Education Center and Aquaponics lab have harvested new methods of teaching and organic farming, which incorporate God’s desire for stewardship of earth’s natural resources.

According to Tina Dover, principal of Queen of Peace School, the concept of an Outdoor Education Center (OEC) originated last year from the family of Thomas Hums. Dover notes that Hums, a recently deceased member of Queen of Peace Parish, was always interested in education and the outdoors. In addition, Rosemary Barnett, a Hums family member and science teacher at Klondike Middle School in West Lafayette, helped create an outdoor classroom at Klondike and was instrumental in the OEC concept at Queen of Peace.

Father Daniel Scheidt, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish, explained that the purpose of the OEC is “to offer to students of Queen of Peace a wonderful place to study the native flora and fauna as well as learn outside the walls of the classroom.”

Mike Nate, facilities manager at Queen of Peace, described that the one and half acres of the OEC give students a place to learn about the diversity of soil, native plants and herbs. “All trees and plants have signage indicating their botanical and common names. The students will also learn the importance of recycling as a compost bin is situated in the OEC,” said Nate.

The first phase included stone- work and seating as the walls encompassed the area outside the commons area of the school. The OEC also has many trees, a fern garden, herb garden and floral areas. Second-grade student Abigail Sanders is excited about using the concrete seating and observing nature in the outdoor classroom. “It’s fun to read with reading buddies in the OEC and explore new bugs!” exclaimed Sanders.

Gina Hite’s fifth-grade class is heading up the composting station in the OEC. “The students started the compost by raking leaves and pine needles and putting them in the bin. Currently they are collecting food scraps such as banana peels, apple cores, vegetable and fruit scraps, bread crusts and orange peels to add to the compost,” said Hite. The class will use a pitchfork to turn the compost over in the bin with the resulting organic matter used for fertilizing the parish’s community garden.

For fifth-grade student Lake Prisciacci, the station’s objective is twofold, “The compost is a great way to learn about the environment and help it at the same time,” he said.

The idea for an Aquaponics lab was conceived from an article that Father Scheidt read about using fish to fertilize strawberry plants. “The concept of Aquaponics is explained through the courtesy of Nelson and Pade Inc., at www.aquaponics.com, which provides technology, systems and supplies of the Aquaponics Industry.”

Aquaponics is the combination of aquaculture (fish farming) recirculation and hydroponics (growing plants without soil). With Aquaponics, you grow fish and plants together in one integrated, soilless system. The fish waste provides a food source for the plants and the plants provide a natural filter for the water that the fish live in. Aquaponics produces safe, fresh organic fish and vegetables.

When Aquaponics is combined with a controlled environment greenhouse, premium quality crops can be grown on a year-round basis, anywhere in the world. Aquaponics could be used to sustainably raise fresh fish and vegetables for a family, to feed a village or generate profit in a commercial farming venture.

There are several environment friendly benefits from the system. The daily water use is minimal. Aquaponics uses six to 10 times less water than the amount of water required in field agriculture to grow the same number of plants. It can be used to produce large quantities of food in very small spaces, compared to growing crops in a field, in an environmentally friendly way. Since soil isn’t required, Aquaponics can be set up in urban areas, in arid regions with poor soil or anywhere that fresh food is needed.

Aquaponics is an ideal means of educating students on plant science, nutrition, physiology and care, nutrient and pH testing, pH relationships, nitrification, biology, fish anatomy and high-tech agriculture. A unit in Aquaponics reinforces practical uses of chemistry, mathematics, physics, economics and engineering. Queen of Peace middle school science teacher Jill Lindley emphasized the lab will create observation, experimenting, recording data and problem solving for her students.

“The Aquaponics system will extend our understanding of how things use each other to survive,” added eight-grade student Allie Hite.

Planning is currently underway for a system to develop the OEC, which includes multiple outdoor stations for the students to continue studying earth science. Principal Dover hopes the OEC and Aquaponics lab will also harvest greater faith among the Queen of Peace students. “They give our students the opportunity to become one with all that God has created and learn at the same time. What a beautiful plan,” concluded Dover.

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Drought of 2012 affects farmers and consumers

BY MICHELINE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — During his 73 years on the farm, Mick Lomont, of rural New Haven, has seen dreadful crop conditions, but never quite like 2012. “It was the poorest corn crop I ever remember,” confirmed the life-long, full-time farmer.

What made for such an difficult growing season was the severe lack of rain coupled with extreme heat during the crucial window for flowering and corn pollination. According to the National Weather Service observations at Fort Wayne International Airport, the month of July touted 17 days of consecutive temperatures reaching 90 degrees or higher — five of those days topping 100 degrees, setting all-time records. Just as damaging, there was not more than a trace of precipitation logged for those same 17 days in a row.

Gonzalez Martin, agriculture and natural resources educator with Purdue University’s Allen County extension office, added, “Many parts of Allen County went 60 days with no rain.” The extensive heat, along with the lack of rain proved to be back-breakers for the corn crop when harvest time came.

Martin reports that just a year ago, the average corn yield was 132 bushels per acre with some fields as high as 225 in 2011. This season, some corn produced no ears at all. Allen County averaged a miserable 40-100 bushels per acre severely slashing the profit for the farmer.

“The combine monitor actually registered zero (when measuring the yield) in some parts of certain fields,” explained Lomont.

Even with the low yield this year, for many farmers crop insurance policies will kick in to provide some cushion. Most lending institutions require a producer who carries an operating loan to have some level of coverage against loss.

Lomont, for instance, carried coverage referred to as G.I.R.P. (guaranteed income revenue protection). When input costs, along with cash rent, can run as high as $500/acre, a failed crop can be financially devastating. As he watched the conditions worsen during the summer months, Lomont explained, “It was a huge relief to know that at least we would be getting a portion of our expenses back.” Also, qualified farmers may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans as announced by Indiana’s Lt. Governor, Sherry Bronson, and Indiana State Representative of the Farm Service Agency, Julia Wickard. As of Sept. 5, 2012, all 92 Indiana counties were designated primary natural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) due to the impact of excessive heat and drought. The USDA reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined sufficient production losses to warrant such a declaration.

“It’s been one challenge after another this year for our farmers, who provide so much for all of our families,” said Skillman. “This is another great step in the recovery process, and we remain committed to helping members of our agricultural community get through these difficult times and move forward with renewed optimism.”

Remaining optimistic in difficult times is a challenge for people in any profession, but especially farmers when much of what impacts their livelihood is out of their control. Lomont’s father worried constantly, “The sky was always falling down,” Lomont recalls affectionately.

Over the years, the younger grain operator realized the worrying changed nothing. When other family members and neighbors start to panic and ask, “Aren’t you worried?” the faith-filled member of St. Louis Besancon Parish typically remains calm and relaxed. “Although it can be human nature, I try hard to keep in mind that the Bible calls us ‘not be worry or be anxious’ (Phil 4:6-9). I get concerned, but trust that God will always provide,” he said. Although he admitted this year, “It got almost depressing,” when referring to his practice of weekly crop tours to check on his fields during the growing season. Experiencing the drought has Lomont more appreciative of the rains and the rich soils. “You take for granted the rains will come when you need them. When they don’t, it makes you all the more grateful for the years they do. All you have to do is look around the world and see how blessed we are to have such fertile ground here in the United States.”

Lomont grew under guidelines not to work on Sundays and has strived to remain faithful to his upbringing regardless of unfavorable forecasts and crucial times. He said, “It was always a day of worship, rest and family time.”

Lomont’s father also instilled in his three sons the importance of being good keepers of the land, “Dad always told us to ‘leave the soil in better condition than you found it.’ We are just stewards passing through.”

There was a positive for grain operators in 2012: soybean fields produced a bumper crop. Lomont detailed, “Unlike corn, beans are forced to root deeper when there is not enough surface moisture. This provided excellent results when the late rains finally did come.” Martin’s data for Allen County showed that 2011 bean yields yielded 43 bushels to the acre on average. This year, it was not uncommon for a plot to top 70. “Another ‘first in my lifetime’ came when bean fields yielded more than the corn fields,” added Lomont.

However, the widespread drought took a heavy toll on grazing land. When pastures in rolling areas of the country dried up, livestock producers were forced to sell off herds of their breeding stock or pay sky-rocketing hay prices. This will significantly impact the cost of meat at the grocery store. Although they may remain normal for the short-term, Martin predicts corn related products, along with beef and pork prices will reach record levels in 2013 for the consumer. The poor corn yields will create a short supply, but consumer demands will drive prices higher and higher.
MISHAWAKA — The Saint Joseph FertilityCare® Center here has been open only nine months, but already it is assisting clients in five foreign countries and 10 states in addition to clients in the Michiana area. The center attracts such a wide clientele because it can help women of all ages monitor and maintain their own reproductive and gynecologic health, according to Suzy Younger, manager of the center.

“Really, what is amazing is that this can benefit every single woman from the beginning of her reproductive life all the way through the end, whether she is breastfeeding and wants to know about the return of her fertility, whether it’s miscarriage or infertility or PMX or post-partum depression or ovarian cysts, there is always some aspect in which we can help her with her medical care, or just knowledge of her body and how it works,” Younger said.

The Saint Joseph FertilityCare® Center does not treat clients, but rather does education and outreach, teaching women to chart their fertility cycles by observing cervical mucus. This charting not only identifies fertile and infertile days, but also can show patterns that may indicate abnormalities.

The center then can refer women to doctors who are associated with the center to do the medical diagnosis and appropriate and morally acceptable treatment, if needed.

The Mishawaka center is affiliated with the FertilityCare® Centers of America and functions under Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center. It is located on the medical center’s campus in Mishawaka in Suite 408 of the Medical Office Building that adjoins the hospital.

Younger is a certified FertilityCare™ practitioner who has been trained in the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System at the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction in Omaha. Her colleague, Sarah Pellegrini, is working toward her certification. The two women provide one-on-one training in person, or long-distance training via online video conferencing for people who do not have a local FertilityCare™ Center.

The charting method they teach is highly reliable and precise, Younger said, and is easy to learn, inexpensive, versatile and morally acceptable to all faiths. She said that not only do Catholics show interest, but she also has found high interest among the Amish, as well as people of various religions who appreciate natural and safe methods of family planning or fertility control.

“Word of mouth is huge,” Younger said, and as people find out more about the benefits of the center’s education, clients come through a variety of referrals, including priests, doctors, friends, relatives and neighbors. Engaged couples also come to the center through diocesan marriage preparation programs, where the center’s materials are available.

Bishop Rhoades has been incredibly supportive,” she noted, explaining that last year the bishop gathered all the priests in the diocese for a three-day event to educate them on the topic and the services of the center. “A lot of the priests in the diocese have become more aware, so we’re seeing more referrals from them.”

Area doctors also have been very receptive of the program. Younger said, because the center is seen as a resource that is not available elsewhere in the community.

“We’re also seeing referrals from area physicians that aren’t quite sure what to do with a couple who doesn’t want to be on the pill, doesn’t want a sterilization or a tubal ligation, doesn’t want to do in vitro fertilization,” she continued. “So as we have more of a presence in the community, we’re seeing referrals from physicians even outside the St. Joe network who are learning more about what we do.”

The center does an introductory group session on the Creighton Model every two weeks. Then, if a woman or a couple want to pursue the method, one-on-one follow-up sessions that would include instructions for charting and chart review that would span a period of 12 months, though Younger said, often patterns of abnormalities are obvious sooner than that. Additional sessions may be scheduled if needed, and private introductory sessions may be arranged.

“We’re seeing a huge demand,” Younger said. “Once women get an idea of how powerful this is, and how much of an active role they can play in monitoring and maintaining their own health, they’re hooked.”

Additionally, she continued, this knowledge helps women learn to cherish that gift of their fertility and understand it more and not see it as something to be feared.

The next introductory sessions are Nov. 19 and Dec. 6 or 17, and the fee is $20. Registration may be made by calling the center at (574) 335-6472 or e-mailing Younger at youngersu@sjrmc.com.

Fertility center offers education, outreach to clients

Sister Nkechi Iwuoha makes final vows

DONALDS — Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, family and friends celebrated the profession of final vows of Sister Nkechi Iwuoha, on Nov. 3 in the Ancilla Domini Chapel.

Sister Nkechi, a member of the Poor Handmaid American Province was born in Lagos, Nigeria. She obtained her master’s degree in social education at Manchester University in England. She was introduced to the Poor Handmaid community while in Nigeria and was impressed with the spirituality and charism of their foundress Blessed Catherine Kasper.

Sister Nkechi entered the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Congregation in Tiefenthal, Germany in 2003 and professed her first vows on Dec. 8, 2006. She was a pioneer member in establishing a PHC mission in Nigeria where she worked with street children and established a home for them. She also worked with children in juvenile detention centers.

Sister Nkechi came to the United States in April of 2010 to work at Sojourner Truth House in Gary as a case manager for homeless women. Sojourner Truth House, a ministry of the Poor Handmaids is a day center

for homeless and at risk women and their children.

On Saturday, Nov. 3, Sister Nora Hahn, provincial of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ American Province received Sister Nkechi’s vows of celibacy, obedience and poverty. Father John Zemelko celebrated Mass along with concelebrants Mgr. Thadeus Balinda, and Spiritan Fathers Chike Anyigbo and Peter Osuji.

A festive dinner was held immediately after Mass. In gratitude, Sister Nkechi said, “Words cannot begin to capture my heartfelt joy and gratitude for this day. I am thankful to all those who have supported me and continue to journey with me.”

Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ Sister Nkechi Iwuoha makes final vows

ST. ADALBERT SCHOOL CELEBRATES EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

St. Adalbert School students celebrated All Saints Day, Nov. 1, with a special Mass celebrated by Holy Cross Father Tom Lemos. After Mass students and friends celebrated with hot chocolate and “pan de muerto,” or sweet bread, and viewed a video on the origins and customs of the Day of the Dead. Pictures are fourth-grade students, depicting favorite saints, surrounding an “ofrenda” or altar created by school parents, which featured candles, flowers, photos of beloved family members along with favorite foods that represented the time of harvest.
‘He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.’

A good question to ask is — why did Jesus ascend to heaven? Wouldn’t it have been great if He would have just stayed here with us physically? Would we have packed big versus Jesus? Why did Jesus ascend? Why did He leave us?

The answer lies in the fact that if Jesus had stayed here physically, He would only be in one place at one time. Yes, it would be great to have Him pack big stadiums, but what if you were in Indiana and Jesus was in Indiana? You could not be with Him. In fact, the times that you might be able to be with Him would be rare.

Jesus wants all people, everywhere, at all times to be able to have access to Him. Jesus Himself tells us this in the Gospel of John. Speaking to the Apostles in John 20:17, Jesus says, “But I tell you, the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.”

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus becomes present in every time and in every place to everyone. When we pray, Jesus becomes present to us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Especially when the sacraments are celebrated, the Holy Spirit brings forth the presence of Jesus. Think of the Eucharist. During the Eucharistic Prayer at Holy Mass, the priest puts his hands over gifts of bread and wine and calls down the Holy Spirit that they might become the body and blood of Christ, the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. During the giving of absolution in the sacrament of Penance, the priest says, “God CREED, PAGE 12

FEAR NOT: JESUS IS OUR PROTECTOR

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mk 13:24-32

The Book of Daniel provides the first reading this weekend. Michael, the “great prince” of the angels, is the center of attention. He is one of the few angels who is mentioned by name in the Scriptures. Michael’s role in Daniel was to defend God’s people. In this role, he of course was God’s servant and instrument. Michael, along with the other angels, appear as opposites of the devils, the fallen angels.

In this reading, Michael possesses God’s people. The fundamental point is that God protects the good from everlasting death and defeat before evil.

The setting is very trying, a scene of great distress. Persecution, hardship and terror are everywhere. Some will die. However, the names of all will be recorded. The dead will awake. Some will live forever. Others will be cast into eternal doom. Living forever will be the wise.

The wise, in the Scriptures’ judgment, are not necessarily persons of high intelligence, but rather those able to perceive the great-ness of God in all things.

For the second reading, the Church offers us a selection from the Epistle to the Hebrews. This book of the New Testament, majestic in its eloquence and deep in its message, exhorts Jesus. Drawing upon symbols in ancient Judaism, it describes Jesus as the one and eternal high priest. Jesus offers the ultimate and profound sacrifice.

One with God, Jesus sits at the right hand of God’s throne, judging the good and the bad. He has vanquished all enemies of God and of the right and just.

He sanctifies, or makes holy, all who have been perfected by their turning to God and by having had their sins forgiven.

St. Mark’s Gospel supplies this weekend’s third reading. Scholars assume that this Gospel was the first of the four to be written. Many believe that it was composed in Rome. Some think that the author had connections with Peter. They wonder if the author of this Gospel might not have been a scribe, writing at the behest of the illustrious Peter.

In any case, the Gospel apparently was written in a time of anxiety. Outright persecution lay menace on the horizon. Christians knew what it meant to be on the wrong side of power in the Roman Empire. The empire played for keeps.

Maybe this experience led the Evangelist to include in the Gospel text the Lord’s words about “treading of every sort.” Difficult times might come, but no power on earth, not even that of the mighty Roman emperor, would be able to thwart God’s plan of salvation. Even if evil seemed to prevail, the heavenly forces of God would descend from the clouds in glory and transport the faithful to everlasting joy and reward.

REFLECTION

The readings this weekend set the stage for next weekend, the great feast of Christ the King. They also address a situation as ancient in Christianity as the days of the Apostle Peter in Rome. They speak of the devout living among the enemies of God, amid harsh times.

In frankness, the readings put reality before us. Life on earth is no paradise. It has never been paradise for anyone loyal to God. A month ago, millions in this country coped with Hurricane Sandy. Actual events remind us everyday that the world is not safe. Evil is mighty. Enemies of God are real and active. Leading us astray in our own hearts are temptations from “the world, the flesh and the devil.”

Just as real is the fact that nothing is strong enough to stand against God. He gives life — everlasting life. Jesus is God. Christians have nothing to fear for Jesus is their guide and protector.

Next weekend, in this spirit then, the Church will joyfully celebrate Christ the King.

National Black and Indian Mission Collection

Once again I am grateful for your missionary spirit in promoting the National Black and Indian Mission Collection. Thank you for check in the amount of $41,726.16 that arrived as your part in promoting missionary animation in the Native American and Black Catholic communities.

The collection was established by the bishops to assist their brother bishops who need financial assistance with evangelization programs. It was the reason for mandating the National Black and Indian Collection during the Third Plenary Council in Baltimore and has proven itself over and over again through the years, ever since 1884.

The National Office is pleased to cooperate and support diocesan evangelization by disbursing the collection returns in the form of grants to the needy archdioceses and dioceses around the United States. With assurance of my prayers for you and your diocesan family, Sincerely Yours in Christ, Reverend W. Carroll Paysse Executive Director Washington, D.C.

The men had just left morn- ing Mass when they spot- ted the flames. It was the second Monday of November and they’d been without electricity since Saturday. Torrential winds had toppled trees and power lines, so they’d been keeping warm with a big fire in their lounge. St. Malo Retreat Center was a three-story lodge owned by the Franciscan Order and rented out by a variety of religious and non-religious organizations. It was the basis of a retreat center beloved by many. The retreat center was tucked behind the storybook Chapel on the Rock blessed by Pope John Paul II during his 1993 World Youth Day trip. It sat at the base of Mount Meeker, the second highest peak in Rocky Mountain National Park.

St. Malo had served as a secular conference center up until 2003, when Sodalitium members moved in and responded to a charge by Archbishop Chaput to restore its Catholic identity. Among them was José Ambrozic, 56, a Lima, Peru, native with brown eyes, a warm smile and a white beard who became director of the retreat center.

Living at an elevation of 8,500 feet was a high point for his soul. José’s room was small, with basic furniture and a twin bed, but his view was expansive. The Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharistic Adoration anchored his days.

He lived among Rocky Mountain wildlife: elk and black bears, hawks and hummingbirds. He rarely had time to drive the community’s green Nissan Pathfinder just four or five years old and which José had named Meek.

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Christina Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.
Not the whole story

D uring a recent conversation about discovering the gifts that grief work can sometimes offer, I was inspired by something a widowed friend said. “Some people say ‘oh, you’ve lost your husband.’ And of course they’re right. But that’s not the whole story.”

She went on to say that acknowledging only the death of her husband neglected the very essence of the life she shared with him. “It doesn’t take into account his life, his gifts and talents, his faith, his likes and dislikes, or the love he loved his family,” she lamented.

After contemplating this wondrous bit of wisdom — from a newly bereaved and deeply wounded widow — I found that she was right on target. Those of us who have lost a loved one know that their death is not the beginning — or the end — of our story.

There is no doubt that our loved one’s death changes us forever — we must begin to write a new and different type of chapter for our ongoing story. But as we grieve our loss we discover that facing our future requires affirming the foundation of past memories that we built over time with our loved one. We grieve in hopes of discovering healthy and appropriate ways to create a “new normal,” where the memory of our loved one finds it’s rightful place.

My friend’s lament was founded on her belief that others do not know the story of her life with her husband prior to his death. Their life story, like many, was a record of eloquent accounts of love and laughter, pain and sorrow, challenges and triumphs. Earlier chapters included meaningful dialogue between the couple as well as parenthetical quips on the joy of parenting and face-challenging health issues.

Each story of loss begins with the richness of life. That which gives body to our characters and creates our plot is the stuff of memories that sustains us in our loss.

As I review my own grief “story” that continues to evolve from that fateful day in fall of 1990 when my own husband Trent was killed in an accident, I find that my life story is now written in chapters that I categorize as “before Trent’s death” and “after Trent’s death.”

Many times we don’t even think to perform even simple acts of courtesy. We fail to express our appreciation of gifts we receive. Many times we don’t even think about it.

Even worse, some of us may consider some good deeds done as things others are supposed to do. I have heard people say they don’t feel obliged to thank people in the service industries because “that is what they get paid for.”

Some children have a similar attitude about their parents. They don’t think about thanking them for what they do because they feel that is their duty. That is what parents are supposed to do. Often, when they become adults and parents, they realize all their parents did for them. Then there are those people who, as my father used to say, think the world owes them a living! We can take a lot of things for granted, including God.

As in all relationships, gratitude is also important in our relationship with God. When it comes right down to it, all we are and have comes from our gracious God. A good habit to develop in our evening prayer or some other time of the day is to reflect on the past 24 hours and give God thanks for the many blessings, great or small, we have received.

I have written many times about my admiration of the people of Uganda, East Africa, before, but it is worth doing it again. The people in that country have beautiful custom of giving thanks for everything in their lives. Their word they use is “webali.”

Any time a person goes to someone’s home, the host thanks that person for visiting. Or if someone has a conversation with another, that person would thank him or her for speaking. They express gratitude for every human action no matter how big or small. It is an important part of their culture. I am currently experiencing this since I am living with our Ugandan novices. They appreciate everything they have and receive.

The Ugandans have a lesson to teach us. There is no doubt that our world would be a better place if we regularly expressed our genuine appreciation for life and for all that we receive from God and one another.

St. Paul says it simply, “…Always be thankful” (Col. 3:15). And I would add, and don’t forget to express it.

Being grateful

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

T here are special times during the year when most of us at least make an effort to express our gratitude and appreciation for the people in our lives and the gifts we have been given. For the most part these days are marketing tools to get us to spend our money. On the other hand, they do serve as reminders to us of how important it is to thank others and show our appreciation for them.

As Christians we know that everything we are and have been given to us by God, including our relationships. One way we express our love is through our gestures of gratitude, not just with cards or gifts on special days, but always.

Gratitude is something we learn. Many parents try to teach their children to be thankful. One often hears a mother or father say to a small child at the dinner table or some other time “What do you say?” I was also taught to write thank-you notes when I received a gift or was invited to a dinner, etc. Now people send e-mails or virtual cards. Many don’t even bother. If you have gone to a wedding lately you might know what I mean.

In our world it is so easy to get wrapped up in our much too busy lives that we often forget or neglect to perform even simple acts of courtesy. We fail to express our appreciation for the many blessings, great or small, we have received. We have written many times about my admiration of the people of Uganda, East Africa, before, but it is worth doing it again. The people in that country have beautiful custom of giving thanks for everything in their lives. Their word they use is “webali.”

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SCROLL TO PAGE 11

Father Mark Gurtner is the judicial vicar of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne.
TWO DIOCESAN TEAMS RALLY IN REGIONALS


ICCL soccer champions crowned

BY CHUCK FREEBY

MISHAWAKA — Defense wins championships, and the two best defensive teams in their respective soccer divisions proved that at Abro Field.

The girls from St. Pius X and the boys from St. Joseph, South Bend, claimed the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) titles Oct. 28, thanks to terrific defensive performances. St. Pius defeated Corpus Christi, 2-0, in the championship game, while St. Joseph defeated the St. Pius boys by the same 2-0 count.

Girls’ championship

A cool breeze and cloudy conditions seemed to chill the competitors in the girls’ championship, as St. Pius and Corpus Christi spent most of the first half battling at midfield. Corpus Christi’s top scorer Sydney Vasile had the best scoring opportunity of the half just before halftime, but her shot was stopped on a diving save by Lions’ goalkeeper Madeline McTigue.

The scoreless duel continued into the second half. Just over seven minutes into the stanza, a St. Pius corner kick came to Maddie Eckrich in the top left corner of the box. She popped a shot over the head of Corpus Christi’s keeper Grace Beehler to give the Lions a 1-0 lead.

“That’s something we’ve tried to work on, taking those opportunities, because they’re few and far between in the playoffs,” lauded St. Pius Coach Tim Killilea. “When you have a chance to shoot, you better shoot it.”

Eight minutes later, the coach’s daughter, Mia Killilea, brought the ball down to the top right corner of the box, and launched a shot that she tucked just inside the far post to put St. Pius up, 2-0.

Boys’ championship

A pair of undefeated teams met under the lights for the boys’ championship, and played a game worthy of prime time.

St. Joseph, which also had players from Corpus Christi Parish, came in the contest averaging seven goals a game this season, and the Eagles cashed in on the game’s first scoring opportunity midway through the first half. Conor Smith raced a St. Pius defender down the left side of the field and chipped a shot over the head of the keeper and just underneath the cross bar for the goal.

“We knew he was their mainstay, and we did some things to defend him, but you saw what happened when he got away one time,” lamented St. Pius Coach Dave Wuergler. “Smith is a really good player.”

Five minutes later, St. Pius’ forward Grant Gillis tried to answer with a header shot off a corner kick, but St. Joseph’s keeper Michael Wright made the stop.

Eight-and-a-half minutes before halftime, Keyvan Jalinous took the ball at midfield, shook off two defenders and booted a shot into the right back corner of the net to expand the Eagles lead to 2-0.

St. Pius was relentless in its comeback effort in the second half. The Lions launched plenty of salvos at Eagles’ keeper Michael Wright, but each time he showed his athleticism. Wright slid to thwart Andrew Fulmer early in the half. He leaped to stop a Gillis shot midway through the second. With nine minutes remaining, Wright dove to his left, repelling an Alex Parial shot.

“Michael has been tremendous all year,” praised St. Joseph Coach Eric Horvath. “He was outstanding tonight, keeping us in the game.”

In all, St. Pius fired 13 shots at Wright, who made nine saves to give St. Joseph the title.

“St. Pius was a tough team, very solid,” said Horvath. “We played our game in the first half, caught a couple breaks and that was the difference.”

“St. Joseph only gave up two goals all season … they’re a tough bunch,” commented St. Pius Coach Wuergler afterwards. “The effort was clean by both sides. They both represented their schools and parishes to the very best.”

St. Joseph also won the junior varsity championship, downsing St. Adalbert, 5-1, in the title tilt.

Division winners correct

The Nov. 11 issue of Today’s Catholic should have named the St. Charles Cardinals as the Division 1 winners, and St. Matthew Blazer as the Division 2 winners of the diocesan playoff games held at Father Bly Field in South Bend on Nov. 4.

ICCL softball titles decided

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Softball is a sport where on any given day a pitcher can get hot and dominate an opponent. Brooke Stoltz picked the right day to get hot for Mishawaka Catholic.

The right-hander fanned 14 Holy Family batters in the championship game to lead Mishawaka Catholic to a 10-1 victory and the Inter-City Catholic League championship in October.

The team playing under the banner of Mishawaka Catholic was actually a combination of that school, Queen of Peace, St. Anthony and St. Jude, and led by Head Coach Sarah Demeter. Holy Family’s team also combined that school with St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph (South Bend).

“We really became a team and that was huge for us,” emphasized Demeter. “We really stressed warming up with a different girl every day and you really wound up forgetting who went to what school. The girls became very good friends.”

Holy Family had beaten the Saints, 10-0, back on Oct. 2 handing Mishawaka Catholic its only loss of the year and forging a tie for the league’s regular-season crown. The Trojans had relied on solid pitching from Sydney Swartz throughout the season, and she was strong again in the title tilt, striking out 11.

However, Mishawaka Catholic has one of the stronger top-to-bottom lineups around and the Saints flexed that muscle at the plate. Kayla Schmitt continued tormenting Trojan pitching with a 3-for-4 day at the plate, the second time she had done that to Holy Family during the season. Schmitt also pounded out a double as did Malloy Piekowski, Lilly Ledbetter and JoAnna Keilman.

“Our hitting was phenomenal,” exclaimed Demeter. “Everyone contributed. This was a total team effort, and it was needed against a very good Holy Family team.”

In the junior varsity championship, St. Anthony defeated Mishawaka Catholic, 6-3. The St. Anthony squad was actually a combination of that school, St. Matthew and St. Adalbert. Mishawaka Catholic combined with Queen of Peace and St. Jude schools.

Elise Huts swung the big bat for the Panthers in the championship contest, stroking a two-out, two-run double in the first to get things rolling. Maggie Pfafker added a two-run single in the third and scored on another Huts’ double to make it 5-0. Huts would finish the day 3-for-3 at the plate with three doubles and four RBIs.

Mishawaka Catholic used a two-run double from pitcher Mackenzie Grieman in the bottom of the third to close the gap, but Panthers hurler Tori Budzinski slammed the door after that. The hard-throwing rightly retired 11 of the next 13 batters, whiffing 11 for the game.

“Defense was really the key for us,” said St. Anthony Coach J.J. Scherrins. “We played great defense the whole tournament, and we had to, because we don’t always score a lot of runs. We held four teams in the tournament to a total of eight runs and that was really the difference.”

One of those wins was a 4-0 shutout of St. Pius, which won the regular-season junior varsity championship.
2012 Cardegle Cross Country award winners

- Top 7 girls — Abby Brelage, Hannah Ewing, Korinne Ellert, Julia Eckrich, Maggie Schroeder, Anna Getty, Luaryn Federspiel
- Top 7 Boys — Nick Kacprowicz, Tom Lonsway, Isaiah Wiseman, Matt Kochanski, Collin Cahill, Sam Striker, Emmett Delaney
- Most Valuable Runner Award — Nick Kacprowicz and Abby Brelage
- Most Improved Runner Award — Sam Lonsway and Lanie Pocock
- Mental Attitude Award — Collin Cahill and Maggie Schroeder
- Cardegle Award — Kevin LaMaster

The CYO Cardegles of St. Charles and St. Jude’s cross-country team are shown in the photo.

The girls finished second at the New Haven Classic, with just one runner who talked about overcoming a serious hip condition and major reconstructive surgery and his battle back to running again. Brett also spoke with his son. He is a runner and writer of a weekly running column in the Fort Wayne News Sentinel.
MISSOURI HOSPITALS

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

MISSOURI HOSPITALS

What’s Happening?

What’s Happening carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46865; or email: hogan@dioscesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Teen retreat planned for First Saturday Fort Wayne — The Franciscan Brothers Minor and the World Apostolate of Fatima will have a teen retreat on Saturday, Dec. 1. “Fatima’s Call to Youth: A Marian Retreat for Teens” will begin with 7:30 a.m. Mass and First Saturday devotions and ends at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of the Angels Oratory, St. Andrew’s Church, 2610 New Haven Ave. The day will include food, activities and talks by Father David Mary Eng. There is no cost to attend, and no RSVP is necessary.

Women’s fertility workshops offered Fort Wayne — The next introductory sessions for the Creighton Model System will be Saturday, Dec. 1, from 11 a.m. to noon at St. Jude Parish Center, room C, or Monday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center. Contact Theresa at (260) 494-6444 or chartdaily365@frontier.com to reserve your seat.

Christmas party planned South Bend — Daughters of Isabella Notre Dame Circle 572 will have a Christmas party on Monday, Dec. 3, at noon at Waterford Estates Lodge, 5280 State Road 933. For reservations call (574) 232-1779 by Nov. 26. Cost is $15. Members are asked to bring nonperishable food items to be distributed to the needy.

Mission planned before Advent Bristol — St. Mary of the Annunciation, 411 W. Vistula, will have a mission week of Nov. 25-28 at 7 p.m. The theme “Open the Door to Christ,” will include talks by Bishop John M. D’Arcy, bishop emeritus. The themes are Sunday — “Faith,” Monday — “Prayer,” Tuesday — “Reconciliation,” Wednesday — “Eucharist.” Refreshments will be served every night except Tuesday.

Prison ministry needs support Yoder — The St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus to sponsor prison ministry/angel tree Christmas program is once again asking for volunteers and sponsors. Call Mark at (260) 622-4042 for information.

Day of Reflection Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “I Will Make Me a World.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $20 and includes lunch. Register by Nov. 23 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

St. Vincent de Paul Society needs help South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store on Ardmore Trail needs volunteers at least 18 years old beginning Sunday, Nov. 25, for a minimum of two hours to a maximum of five hours from 12:30-5 p.m. Contact Mary Eme at (574) 234-6000 ext. 1212 or email her at mary.eme@svdpbs.org. The society also registers almost 1,000 families in the Adopting Families at Christmas program to adopt a family. Contact Christy Rowling at (574) 234-6000 ext. 1211 or email her at christy.rowing@svdpbs.org.

Thanksgiving dinner offered Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451 will have a Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner dinnertime Thursday, Nov. 22, from 11 to 1 p.m. in the hall. Free will offering accepted. Reservations to (260) 493-1914.

Little Flower Holy Hour Fort Wayne — Deacon James Fitzpatrick will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations.

Introduction to Vincentian spirituality South Bend — A mini-retreat for current and prospective members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be Saturday morning, Nov. 17, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at Holy Family School cafeteria, 56405 Mayflower Rd. Contact Peter Boyle at (574) 234-6000, ext. 12108 or Peter. Boyle@svdpbs.org. Advance registration helpful, but walk-ins welcome.

St. Michael Women’s Retreat Plymouth — The second annual St. Michael Women’s Retreat will be Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Mary Glowaski with Evangelization and Special Ministries for the diocese will speak on the topic “Forgiving and Loving.” Registration is $15, which includes lunch, and is needed by Nov. 18. Forms are available at St. Michael Church or rectory or by calling (574) 936-6065 or (574) 936-9791.

FUNDRAISERS

Knights plan Sunday breakfast at Most Precious Blood Church Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will be hosting a breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the gymnasium at Most Precious Blood, 1515 Barthold St. Adults $10, children 6-12 $3, family $20.

Cookie walk and bake sale planned South Bend — St. Patrick Parish will have a cookie walk and bake sale Saturday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the parish center, 308 S. Scott St. A variety of cookies for sale by the pound and homemade baked goods. A hot lunch will be available.

St. Jude Christmas Boutique Fort Wayne — St. Jude Parish, 2130 Pemberton Dr., will have a Christmas boutique Saturday, Nov. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church hall and school audito-

Card party and eucharie tournament Yoder — St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus will have a card party and eucharie tournament Saturday, Nov. 17, in the school basement. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tournament fee is $5. Food and beverages for free-will offering.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will have a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 5-7 p.m. in the activities center at Queen of Angels, 1500 W. State Blvd. Adults $5, children 6-12 $3, family $20. Carry-out available.

St. Monica plans Cookie Walk Mishawaka — St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie walk Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church lower level, 222 West Mishawaka Ave.

Not Your Grandma’s Christmas Bazaar Churubasco — St. John Bosco Parish, 216 N. Main St., will have a bazaar Friday, Nov. 16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Homemade pastries, hand rolled noodles, handcrafted items, gently-used shop and a raffle with a chance to win a quilt, jewelry or other prizes. Cinnamon rolls, coffee, homemade soup and sandwiches served all day.

Considering your burial needs will save your loved ones from making those difficult decisions.

At the Catholic Cemetery, we understand that death is often more difficult for the living than for the faithfully departed. We invite you to consider your burial needs thoughtfully and without pressure now, before the need arises, relieving others of those difficult decisions.

Not only will pre-arranging your burial ensure that your final departure. We invite you to consider your burial needs now, making those difficult decisions.

15% off in-ground grave spaces, 10% off above ground entombment, 5% off vaults or $250 off single crypt.

Cemetery is offering 10% off in-ground grave spaces, 10% off above ground entombment, 5% off vaults or $250 off single crypt.

www.catholic-cemetery.org

To reserve your seat, call Larry Fisher at 260.426.2044 for an appointment or visit the Cemetery Office at 3500 Lake Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Your Faith & Girl Scouts

The new Girl Scouts My Promise, My Faith pin invites girls in grades K-12 to experience a faith journey through exploration of the Girl Scout Law and teachings from their faith. Adult volunteers partner with Catholic girls by guiding them through a personal faith journey and linking the national pin with the Catholic religious recognitions.

For more information, please contact:
Teena Weathersby-Hampton
Director of Mission Delivery
800.283.4812 ext. 132

girl scouts of northern indiana michiana

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

November 18, 2012

FLAG DEDICATION HELD AT ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA

Judge Robert L. Miller and Miller’s Vets presided over flag dedication and installation ceremony at St. Anthony de Padua School on Nov. 9. The ceremony honored the service of veterans and celebrated the values of liberty and justice for which the flag stands. Miller’s Vets is a drill team of selected homeless Veterans in South Bend formed in January 2009 by Robert L. Miller, Sr., a former St. Joseph Superior Court Judge and retired lieutenant commander of the U.S. Naval Reserve who served in World War II aboard the USS Essex CV 9. St. Anthony faculty, staff and students joined in this ceremony and an all-school Mass preceding the flag dedication. Several local veterans were also present.

GOSHEN STUDENTS HONOR VETERANS

Students at St. John the Evangelist School in Goshen honored veterans recently with a special Mass and program, with the assistance of the Goshen Veterans Honor Guard. During the program first graders recited a poem about veterans, third graders read a special prayer and fifth graders wrote essays and stayed to serve refreshments. Pictured is Eduardo Rodriguez, who is serving cookies to veterans of the United States Army, from left, Gary Huber and Dan Post.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD PRESENTS FLAGS

Before a Mass honoring veterans at St. Aloysius Church, Yoder, on Nov. 9, the 122nd Fighter Wing of the Indiana Air National Guard in Fort Wayne, presented flags.