When Pope Benedict XVI declared Oct. 11, 2012 the beginning of a Year of Faith for the worldwide community of Catholic faithful, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend took heed. Director of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Cindy Black, along with Associate Director of Youth Ministry Megan Swaim, formerly Megan Oberhausen, and Program Assistant Emily Barnes, formerly Emily Burman, put their heads together at the request of Mary Glowaski, division director and Secretariat for Evangelization and Special Ministries, and devised a way to not only celebrate the Year of Faith in the diocese, but use new media and technology as well.

The My Year of Faith app was created by Patrick Leinen and Little iApps, the group that created the Confession App, and went live on Oct. 11, offering a customizable faith formation resource for Catholics and others across the globe. It is available for iPhone and Android mobile device users and offers features that lead to a deeper understanding of the faith, an increased prayer life and reflections from nationally known bloggers and writers. Swaim calls it, “putting out into the digital deep.” Those without Smartphones can follow the blog at www.myyearoffaith.com.

Swaim reports that there are two major components to the app.

“The first is the blog reader, which allows users to access the posts right from their phone,” she says. “The second is a calendar, which provides challenges that correspond to the blog posts that helps users grow in their faith everyday through prayer, reading and action.”

In this era of the New Evangelization set forth by Blessed Pope John Paul II, Black
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February 3, 2013

LIFE, MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty

A

you may know, the Bishops of the United States have launched a Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty. We invite Catholics during this Year of Faith to pray for rebuilding a culture of life, the strengthening and defense of marriage, and the protection of our religious liberty.

We have issued this call since these three great goods are threatened in our day. For decades, we have seen the erosion of respect for human life. This past week, hundreds of people from our diocese joined me in Washington, D.C., for the March for Life. After 40 years of legalized abortion in our nation, we continue to stand up for the right to life of the unborn and for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death. In the Call to Prayer, we encourage prayer for this specific intention.

The Call to Prayer includes prayer for the protection of marriage. Current trends in both government and culture promote the redefinition of marriage as the union of any two persons. This ignores marriage’s fundamental meaning and purpose as the universal and natural institution that unites a man and a woman with each other and with the children born from their union. The Call to Prayer also includes prayer for religious liberty. Religious liberty is America’s first freedom. This freedom is threatened in various contexts today, most notably by the HHS Mandate that requires almost all employers to pay for employees’ contraceptives as well as abortifacient drugs, regardless of conscientious objections.

The Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty also includes a call to penance and sacrifice for these three goods. This act of penance for the intentions of life, marriage, and religious liberty, “is a privileged place” among the forms of penance. Abstinence from meat is obligatory on all the Fridays of Lent, yet I hope that we will voluntarily abstain from meat on all Fridays of the year for the intentions of life, marriage, and religious liberty.

The Call to Prayer specially recommends five practices:


I encourage the five components of this Call to Prayer in the parishes and other institutions of our diocese. Of course, individuals and families are also encouraged to participate in the practices recommended by the Bishops for these important intentions.

We would like to elaborate on the 4th recommendation: abstinence from meat and fasting on Fridays for the intentions of life, marriage, and religious liberty. Since the law dispensing from the canonical obligation of abstinence from meat on Friday back in 1966, it seems that we have lost the observance of Friday as a day of penance in memory of the passion and death of Our Lord. I encourage a renewal in our diocese of the observance of Friday as a day of Penance, not only during Lent, but throughout the year. One way to do so is to abstain from eating meat on every Friday of the year, unless it is a liturgical Solennity (a major feast of the Church). I encourage this act of penance for the intentions of life, marriage, and religious liberty.

Of course, people may choose other practices of self-denial and sacrifice as ways to observe Fridays as penitential days. Yet, I think it is especially appropriate to have a common act of penance, in this case, abstinence from meat. Also, as Pope Paul VI said back in 1966: “fasting and abstinence have a privileged place” among the forms of penance. Abstinence from meat is obligatory on all the Fridays of Lent, yet I hope that we will voluntarily abstain from meat on all Fridays of the year for the intentions of life, marriage, and religious liberty.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that “the seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church’s penitential practice” (#1438). Our penance during Lent and on Fridays throughout the year should be both internal and external, individual and social. Not excluding other means of penance, I am particularly recommending the practice of Friday abstinence from meat for the intentions of life, marriage, and religious liberty. The Lenten season will begin soon, on February 13th, Ash Wednesday. This penitential season is an opportunity every year to unite ourselves to the mystery of Jesus in the desert. This season prepares us for the celebration of Easter through more frequent prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. I hope that our observance of Lent during this Year of Faith will be especially fruitful.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has called the Year of Faith “a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Savior of the world.” In our journey of faith, we all need purification and continual conversion. The practice of penance reminds us of this need and helps to configure us to Christ whose death expiated our sins.

Let us approach the season of Lent with hope in God’s mercy and trust in the help of His grace. May the Holy Spirit give us the grace for repentance and conversion!

May the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty bear good fruit in our nation!
Pro-life pilgrims gather for diocesan Mass

BY TIM JOHNSON

ARLINGTON, Va. — While many Catholic National March for Life participants had ample opportunity to pray and celebrate the sacraments, diocesan pilgrims gathered Saturday morning with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades who celebrated Mass at St. Ann Church in Arlington, Va.

The memorial of the day was that of Sts. Timothy and Titus. Bishop Rhoades told the pilgrims he was grateful for all who came to Washington from the diocese “to bear witness to the Gospel of Life.”

“As believers in Christ, we must defend and promote the right to life as we recognize the incomparable value of every human life from its very beginning at conception until its natural end,” Bishop Rhoades emphasized as he began his homily.

“So many lives are destroyed by abortion and that is why we came to Washington to march. We cannot be passive or indifferent to this tragedy, to the culture of death. We must actively defend and promote the right to life of every human life from its very beginning at conception until in all we do, we must rely on the help of God, His grace, and His power, for nothing is impossible for God. It is He who sustains us in the great struggle between good and evil, between light and darkness, in our own individual lives and in our culture. He gives us the strength, as he gave strength to Saints Paul, Timothy and Titus, to bear our share of hardship for the Gospel of life.”

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the day’s Gospel where Jesus sent the 72 disciples that they would meet opposition as they carried out Jesus’ mission. Jesus also told them not to carry money or provisions.

“We may feel, at times, like lambs among wolves.”

“As Jesus sent the 72, He sends us to proclaim and to serve the Gospel of life,” Bishop Rhoades said. “In so doing, the Kingdom of God becomes a reality in their lives as they are overcome and respect for the dignity of the human person is promoted.”

Pope Benedict later invited the intercession of Sts. Damien de Veuster and Marianne Cope of Molokai, Hawaii, as he also marked World Leprosy Day.

In a statement released Jan. 25, Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, said the fact that some 220,000 men, women and children contracted Hansen’s disease in 2011 demonstrates that too many people do not have adequate access to health education and basic health care and that a strong stigma is still attached to the disease, which prevents people from seeking a diagnosis and treatment.

For the recitation of the Angelus, Pope Benedict was joined by a boy and a girl representing some 3,000 members of the children’s section of Catholic Action in Rome. An unusual meeting with the pope marks the end of the youngsters’ “Caravan of Peace,” a project that raises awareness and money to help other children living in situations of tension and conflict. In parishes throughout Rome, the children raised money this year for the Jesuit-run “Art and Life” project that benefits street children in Alexandria, Egypt.

Keeping an annual tradition, the pope told the children, “Now, let’s release the doves, symbols of the Spirit of God who gives peace to those who welcome His love.”

The pope and the kids released two doves from the window of his apartment overlooking St. Peter’s Square after praying the Angelus at the Vatican Jan. 27.

Pope Benedict released a dove from the window of his apartment overlooking St. Peter’s Square after praying the Angelus at the Vatican Jan. 27.
Christian cooperation key to proclaiming the Gospel, pope says

By Cindy Wooden

ROME (CNS) — Christians must work together to offer the faith they share to a world that seems to find it more and more difficult to believe, Pope Benedict XVI told Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant leaders.

“Unity is in itself a privileged means — almost a requirement — for proclaiming the faith in an increasingly credible way to those who do not yet know the Savior or who, having received the proclamation of the Gospel, have almost forgotten this precious gift,” Pope Benedict said Jan. 25.

Presiding over an evening prayer service at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope said that, even as divided Christians continue their theological dialogues in the search for full unity, “It is necessary to pursue concrete collaboration among the disciples of Christ on behalf of the cause of transmitting the faith to the modern world.

“In today’s society, it seems that the Christian message has a diminishing impact on personal and community life, and this represents a challenge for all churches and ecclesial communities,” Pope Benedict said in his homily at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

The key to meeting the challenge, the pope said, is for Christians to pray to God for the gift of unity and step up their efforts at “reconciliation, dialogue and mutual understanding.”

“Communion in the same faith is the basis for ecumenism,” he said.

During the Year of Faith, which the pope established to encourage Catholics to study the basic tenets of their faith and strengthen their religious practice and witness, he said Christians should recognize and give thanks for their shared faith in God, in Jesus as savior and in the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies and continues to give life to the Church.

“Without faith — which primarily is a gift of God, but is also a response of man — the whole ecumenical movement would be reduced to a form of ‘contract’ to which we adhere out of our common interests,” he said.

Instead, ecumenism itself is an expression of faith in Jesus, who prayed that His disciples would be one, the pope said.

The theme — “What does God require of us?” — and reflections for the 2013 week of prayer were developed by Christians in India, working with the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The material highlighted the believers’ biblical obligation “to do justice, love goodness and walk humbly with God.”

“True faith in God is inseparable from personal holiness, just as it is inseparable from the search for justice,” the pope said.

He prayed for Christians in India, “who sometimes are called to witness to their faith in difficult circumstances,” and he said that while walking humbly with God means trusting God completely, “it also means walking beyond the barriers, hatred, racism and social and religious discrimination that divide and damage the whole society.”

Pope Benedict offered special greetings during the prayer service to members of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches, which include the Armenian Apostolic, Coptic Orthodox, Ethiopian Orthodox, Syrian Orthodox, Malankara Orthodox Syrian and Eritrean Orthodox churches.

Meeting commission members earlier in the day, the pope said many of the Oriental Orthodox faithful live in areas “where Christians, as individuals and communities, face painful trials and difficulties which are a source of deep concern to us all.”

The pope asked the Catholic and Orthodox Syrian and Eritrean Orthodox leaders to convey his prayers that “this land, so important to our spiritual heritage, may be led, through constructive dialogue and cooperation, to a future of justice and lasting peace.”

Bishops offer resources for World Marriage Day, National Marriage Week

WASHINGTON (USCCB) — Marriage initiatives this February affirm the priority of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to support and strengthen marriage, said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who oversees the bishop’s efforts in this area.

World Marriage Day, which is promoted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, is being sponsored Sunday, Feb. 10, in U.S. dioceses and parishes.

Bishop Rhoades will celebrate Mass and World Marriage Day Saturday, Feb. 2, at 4:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Annunciation Church in Bristol.

“World Marriage Day received the Apostolic Blessing of John Paul II in 1993,” noted Bishop Rhoades. “It has continued to grow and spread among many countries and faith expressions ever since.”

Resources for celebrating World Marriage Day can be found at http://wmd.wmew.org.

Bishop Rhoades also highlighted National Marriage Week USA, which will be observed Feb. 7-14.

“This project is a collaborative effort to influence the culture by faith communities, business, media, education and nonprofit groups,” said Bishop Rhoades, one that is working to “focus national attention on the need to strengthen marriage,” launching “new efforts for marriage education and crisis intervention,” and promoting “a message about the benefits of marriage.”

Bishop Rhoades noted that National Marriage Week USA also recognizes that children are best served when raised in the context of a marriage with a father and a mother.

Bishop Rhoades also recommended numerous online resources of the USCCB, including www.foryourmarriage.org and its Spanish counterpart www. portumatrimonio.org; the pastoral letter on marriage, “Love and Life in the Divine Plan,” at www.usccb.org/loveandlife; advocacy resources on why marriage should be promoted as the union of a man and a woman, www.marriageuniquelforareason.org; a collection of briefing papers entitled “Making A Case for Marriage, a collection of essays, teaching materials and resources for prayer and celebration.
INDIANAPOLIS — State lawmakers aim to improve child care standards through a series of proposals this year. “The Church supports the effort as a prudent measure to ensure child safety and quality care,” said Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference executive director, who serves as the official representative for the Indiana bishops on matters of public policy.

Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, plans to tackle some of the changes. Holdman, who serves as chairman of the Interim Committee on Child Care, spent the past several months studying child care issues.

Members of the child care panel became aware of a variety of concerns with Hoosier child care laws. One problem is there are child care providers who are registered and operating under the church ministry designation, but are not churches or ministries. “Some groups are operating in less than wholesome and sometimes dangerous environments,” said Tebbe.

“When people or organizations that are not authentic churches or ministries operate under the guise of a ministry they do a disservice to not only those they claim to be serving, but are tarnishing the reputation of churches and authentic ministries that are providing quality care,” Holdman said. He added that his committee is working on a proposal to require child care businesses to comply with safety standards like adult-child ratios because they are operating under a church ministry exemption, but were doing so in name only.

Holdman explained that current law doesn’t define a church, but rather allows any nonprofit organization with the word ministry in its title to operate a child care facility as a registered exempt church or ministry. “Anyone could start a nonprofit organization with the word ministry in its name and get the church exemption,” said Holdman. “These are child care businesses that should not be getting the church exemption.”

Holdman said the religious exemption was put in place to allow churches to provide care without having to meet the same stringent requirements as other licensed centers because it could place a cost prohibitive burden on some churches that could not comply with certain building standards, yet he said many legitimate ministries are providing high quality care, and have their own safety standards in place. Sen. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, is authoring a bill to clarify the definition for a church or ministry for child care purposes, which allows legitimate churches or ministries to continue to operate as they are, yet would require child care businesses to comply with safety standards of legally licensed child care centers.

Holdman said, “It is not our intent to burden churches through this legislation, but to help provide safe, quality care for children.”

Holdman said he is optimistic that lawmakers can get something passed this year to improve child care safety, but encouraged Hoosiers to contact their lawmakers and urge their support for improved child care safety. “The sad thing is sometimes something bad has to happen before a law is passed,” said Holdman. “There are some problems in Indiana with child care safety, and we need to get this resolved before a child gets hurt. As Christians, I think Jesus calls us to protect and defend the least among us — and those are our children. We have an obligation, and it is our Christian duty to do so.”

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
BRIGID CURTIS AYER

is authoring a bill to assist early childhood development by offering a tax credit to families who choose to send their child to a high-quality child care provider that meets certain curriculum and safety standard.

Indiana law currently allows at least three types of child care providers: 1) a licensed child care center; 2) a licensed child care home; and 3) an unlicensed, registered child care ministry. Under current law, each type comes with certain requirements. Holdman said he is optimistic that lawmakers can get something passed this year to improve child care safety, but encouraged Hoosiers to contact their lawmakers and urge their support for improved child care safety.

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Web Resources

Indianapolis Catholic Conference
www.indianaccc.org

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States. www.faithfulcitizenship.org

To explore the ICC’s electronic public policy tool and join the ICC legislative network go to the ICC Web page at www.indianaccc.org and click “Legislative Action Center.”

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Judge says HHS suit filed by archdiocese, other plaintiffs 'premature'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Jan. 25 dismissed a lawsuit filed against the federal contraceptive mandate by the Archdiocese of Washington and its co-plaintiffs, saying the case is premature in light of the government’s “promises to amend the mandate. Importantly, this ruling was not based on the merits of our case,” said a statement issued by the archdiocese. “In fact, the court’s ruling today places the onus squarely on the government,” it said, “to fulfill its binding commitment to address the religious freedom concerns” of the archdiocese, The Catholic University of America, the Consortium of Catholic Academies, Archbishop Carroll High School and Catholic Charities of D.C. “This requires the government not to proceed with its HHS mandate in a way that truly respects our right to serve all those in need without violating our religious beliefs,” the archdiocese said. U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson issued the ruling, saying that “if after the new regulations are issued, plaintiffs still are not satisfied with the challenges that they choose to bring will be substantially different from the challenges in the current complaint.” Jackson was referring to the federal government stating that it will publish notice of proposed rulemaking in the first quarter of this year and issue a final rule on the mandate before August. In the meantime, the Obama administration has in place a “safe harbor” period that protects employers from immediate government action against them if they fail to comply with the mandate. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate requires employers, including religious employers, to include coverage for contraceptives, sterilization and some abortion-inducing drugs free of charge, even if some employers are morally opposed to such services.

Lack of faith can hurt marriage, may affect validity, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A lack of faith in God can damage marriage, even to the point of nullifying its validity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Faith in God, sustained by divine grace, is therefore a very important element for living in mutual dedication and conjugal fidelity,” he said.

The pope said he was not suggesting there was a simple, automatic link “between the lack of faith and the invalidity of marriage.” Rather, he hoped “to draw attention to how such a lack may, although not necessary also hurt the goods of marriage,” given that referring to God’s plan “is inherent in the covenant of Marriage.” The pope made his comments Jan. 26 during a meeting with members of the Roma Rota, a Vatican-based tribunal that deals mainly with marriage cases. The current crisis of faith has brought with it a state of crisis for the Christian vision of marriage as an indissoluble bond between a man and a woman, the pope said. “The indissoluble covenant between man and woman does not require, for the purpose of sacramentality, the personal faith of those to be married,” he said. “What is required, as the minimum condition, is the intention of doing what the Church does” when it declares a marriage is a sacrament. While the question of intent should not be confused with the question of the individuals’ personal faith, “it is not always possible to completely separate them,” he said.

Faithful urged to preach pro-life in and out of season like St. Paul

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As thousands of Catholics prepared to brave freezing temperatures to participate in the 40th annual March for Life, Bishop Kevin J. Farrell of Dallas asked them to imitate the example of St. Paul, who preached “in season and out of season.” St. Paul “was not afraid to stand in the center of Athens and preach the Word of God to politicians and intellectuals,” Bishop Farrell said in his homily at a Jan. 25 Mass that closed the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The apostle preached “whether it was convenient or it became uncomfort- able for others to listen to him,” he added. The Mass was celebrated on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, a rarity in that the date of the March for Life is typically Jan. 22 the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 decision that legalized abortion virtually on demand nation-wide — except when the anniversary falls on a weekend. But with the public ceremonies for the presiden- tial inaugural taking place Jan. 21, March for Life organizers chose Jan. 25 for the march to assure enough hotel rooms in the Washington area for those coming to the march and related events. Bishop Farrell’s diocese is where lawyers for Norma McCorvey, the “Jane Roe” of Roe v. Wade, originally brought the case to court. As a pregnant 22-year-old in 1969, McCorvey was referred by an adoption agency to lawyers seeking a plaintiff for an abortion suit against the state of Texas.

Archbishop says his college years awakened him to truth of abortion

DENVER (CNS) — Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila’s own awakening “to the truth of the dignity of human life” came while he was a college student considering a career as a doctor. After starting college in 1968, he also worked as a hospital orderly, and during a couple of work shifts, he “witnessed the results of two abortions and the memory haunted me,” he said. “I witnessed the death of two small people who never had the chance to take a breath. I can never forget that.” Archbishop Aquila wrote in a pastoral letter released Jan. 22, the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions legalizing abortion virtually on demand in the United States. “I have never been the same. My faith was weak at the time, he added. “But it started to grow.” Aquila said there was a “very strong reason” he wasn’t “even aware” some states “had approved abortion laws. But I knew by reason, and by what I saw, that a human life was destroyed,” he con- tinued. “My conscience awakened to the truth of the dignity of the human being from the moment of concep- tion and the truth of the pro-life movement returned to my faith.” Forty years of “sanctioned killing” because of Roe “has given the culture of death a firm footing and foundation in this country,” he said, and urged Catholics to com- mit anew to “a culture of life.” Special Masses, prayer vigils and other events around the country marked the Roe anniversary.

Responsibility for seminaries, religious instruction reassigned

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an administrative move, reaffirming his efforts to promote a Catholic revival in the West and greater adherence to traditional Catholic teaching, Pope Benedict XVI has reassigned responsibility among Vatican offices for the religious formation of laypeople and future priests. According to two papal decrees released by the Vatican Jan. 25, responsibility for seminaries has shifted from the Congregation for Catholic Education to the Congregation for Clergy, and responsibility for cathe- gesis has moved from the latter office to the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization. The pope announced the changes in October, during the world Synod of Bishops on New Evangelization, but did not sign the decrees putting them into effect until Jan. 16. Under the new regime, Pope Benedict wrote, the Congregation for Clergy is now in charge of the “promotion and govern- ment of all that pertains to the formation, life and ministry of priests and religious,” and the Congregation for Catholic Education is now to link the preparation of seminarian- ies with their lifelong education after ordination, the pope quoted a warn- ing from Blessed John Paul II that any “disconnection or even conflicts between these two formative phases would lead immediately to grave con- sequences for pastoral activity and the front of public Good, particularly those of different ages.”

Archbishop Aquila’s College Years Awakened Him to Truth of Abortion

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Church marks as World Day of the Sick a special Mass and services marking the Feb. 11 day of prayer for the sick will be celebrated at the shrine of Our Lady of Altotting in Germany. Catholic faithful can obtain one indulgence each day of Feb. 7-11 by joining observances at Altotting or at any church or shrine designated by their local bishop. According to the Vatican decree announcing the indulgence, Catholic health care professionals, volunteers and family members of the sick who cannot attend a special World Day of the Sick service “can obtain the same gift of a plenary indulgence if, during those days, they gener- ously offer at least a few hours of loving assistance (to the sick) as if they were offering it to Christ the Lord Himself,” and fulfill the prayer requirements in a timely manner. The sick and the aged who cannot attend special services can obtain the indulgence by “spiritually participat- ing” in them, particularly if the Mass in Altotting or a local World Day of the Sick Mass is being broadcast on a local television or radio station. The Vatican decree also said a par- tial indulgence is available in early February “to all the faithful every time they turn to the merciful God with a contrite heart" and pray for the sick.

A national Mass of thanksgiving for the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Marianne Cope is celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Jan. 26. The images of the two new U.S.-born saints that flanked the sanctuary were on loan from the Vatican. These banners hung from St. Peter’s Basilica during their Oct. 21 canonization ceremony.

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Women’s Health Link opens doors to help women

Women’s Health Link, the new women’s health resource, opened its doors recently as a free referral service that will assist women with physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health needs in the Fort Wayne area. Pictured from left are Dr. Geoffrey Cty, OB/GYN and Women’s Health Link Steering Committee member, Marianne Stroud, Women’s Health Link Board of Directors Chairwoman, Julie Perkins, executive director of Women’s Health Link, Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry and Senate President Pro Tempore David Long cutting the ribbon on opening day at the facility. To contact Women’s Health Link call (260) 203-2365 or visit 2126 Inwood Dr., Fort Wayne. More information is also available at www.womenshealthlink.org.

Making a stand for life

Abortion kills children

Remembering the abandoned: the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade was marked in South Bend by a march around the federal courthouse sponsored by St. Joseph County Right to Life. About 55 persons participated amid 6 degree temperatures on Jan. 22 and a punishing stiff wind.
Bremen parishioners mark the anniversary of Roe v. Wade

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

BREMEN — Wind, light snow and frigid temperatures could not keep St. Dominic Parish students, some teachers and adults from marching nearly a mile to and from the downtown intersection of Plymouth and Center Streets in Bremen to mark the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

“Nobody should want to kill babies. That is why I do this,” said young marcher Kiersten Meyers, 9, who carried a bilingual pro-life sign.

At least 70 children and adults participated in what has become an annual tradition in Bremen for at least 20 years.

This year’s guest speaker, Cindy Casper, of the Women’s Care Center of Plymouth-Bremen, spoke to a packed hall including those who couldn’t participate in the march due to the weather.

Hot chocolate and cookies helped to warm participants up after their chilly pilgrimage.

Many local drivers, who saw those marching, honked their car horns in support of the cause.

Casper first read the book “Angel in the Waters” with student Belinda Valerrama, 7, who held a microphone while Casper read slowly and purposely. The book, which is written from the perspective of an unborn child and then a new baby, has the baby listening to his or her guardian angel.

The book concludes on a happy note with a mom and dad holding the baby and the baby knowing the angel will always be there until he or she goes to heaven.

Hannah’s House celebrates 20 years of life

MISHAWAKA — Hannah’s House, the Maternity Home with a Heart, joyfully celebrates 20 years of life in 2013. Since opening its doors in 1993, Hannah’s House has provided residential care in Michiana for approximately 35 women and 35 babies annually.

In the past 20 years many areas of Hannah’s House have grown to support programming for residents, graduates and families, but the mission has stayed the same: care for women who have chosen life for their baby.

The Board of Directors at Hannah’s House has a major goal for the 20th anniversary year — to open a second home in Mishawaka. This home has already been donated and will house approximately 20 more women and 20 more babies each year.

Additional financial support of $200,000 will be needed on an annual basis to fund this endeavor.

We are at capacity in the original house. Over the past five years, we have seen the number of women we have had to turn away grow too much. We needed to act,” reports Linda Hammond, board president. “Our board is taking action because it’s not acceptable to us to tell a pregnant woman that ‘there’s no room at the inn.’ Each woman and each baby is important. The mission of supporting life in Michiana will be much stronger once we are able to open the second home.”

Hannah’s House provides not only guidance and care but at times “tough love” to assist residents in making positive changes in their lives, with the goal of helping her to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

The house is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week providing women not only a place to live, but a place to learn. They learn to prepare healthy meals, to care for a baby, to get a job, to earn a GED, and above all to be a good mom.

Women are supported and assisted in their decision to parent or place their baby for adoption.

For additional information or to find out how you can help, please visit www.maternityhomewithaheart.org or call (574) 254-5309.

Victory Noll Center to host ‘Couples’ Night’ Feb. 15

HUNTINGTON — Victory Noll Center will host “Couples’ Night” on Friday, Feb. 15, allowing couples to indulge in a Friday-night date. There will be delicious appetizers, energizing activities and conversations, and sessions designed to refresh relationships.

The night is perfect for newlyweds or those couples who have spent a lifetime together.

The program runs from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The cost is $40 per couple. Registration is required by Feb. 8.

Presenter for the night is Mary Glowaski, who has served the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in different capacities for more than 25 years including pastoral associate of St. John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne. Currently, Glowaski is the Division Director (Secretary) for the Secretariat of Evangelization and Special Ministries for the diocese. The focus of her ministry has been pastoral care and concern especially for those suffering loss and the challenges of life transitions.

For information or to register for the program, call (260) 356-0628, ext. 174.

Discover the spirituality of business leadership

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will explore the spiritual side of business leadership at the inaugural Servus Omnium Series lecture, “From Career to Calling: The Vocation of the Christian Business Leader,” on Feb. 12, from 7-8:45 a.m. at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center, 431 Berry St., downtown Fort Wayne.

Dr. Michael Naughton, the Moss Chair in Catholic Social Thought and director of the John A. Ryan Institute for Catholic Social Thought at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., will discuss the spirituality of business leaders and their pivotal position in what Pope John Paul II called the “New Evangelization of modern society.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will offer the blessing and opening prayer at 7 a.m. A Mardi Gras breakfast buffet and the speaker will follow.

Tickets are $10 in advance or $15 at the door or $80 per table.

Visit sf.edu/sarts-sciences for additional information or contact Dr. Lance Richey at (260) 399-8112 or lrichey@sf.edu.
Back2Africa:

Lutherans, Catholics join together on mission trip to Tanzania

BY VINCE LABARRERA

ARCOLA — St. John’s Lutheran Church in Lake Township Indiana helped raise $150,000 to fund a mission trip of 33 people on March 20 to Tanzania. The trip was sponsored by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The team traveled to Tanzania and spent three weeks in the city of Dodoma, which is 250 miles away from the capital city of Dodoma. The team consisted of 33 people, including 21 members of Belcan Corp., Cincinnati, who participated in the trip.

The team included six doctors, two nurses, a dietitian, and a cashier. They also brought medical supplies and medications.

The team worked in several clinics and set up a mobile medical team.

During a “thank you” dinner at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, the team received a grant from the Mission Foundation.

The foundation gave the team $5,000 to help fund their return trip to Tanzania.

The team will be able to join the next mission trip and associated fundraising project.

APP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sends this app encourages social media sharing by making it easy to like and share on Facebook and Twitter.

“ mediocre apps can be hard work and really, really worth it!” he added, indicating the high cost of developing an app. “It is hard work but really, really worth it!” he added, indicating the high cost of developing an app.

Mike O’Connell, the high school youth minister at Holy Spirit Parish at Geist in Indianapolis says he heard about the app through friends and Facebook, and has read it every day.

“I think it is a great idea and really enjoys the app and says it is a call to engage the world through social media,” reports O’Connell. “The writers are excellent and give great insight. Plus it is a quick and easy thing to do to increase your faith.”

O’Connell has shared the app with his youth group and says he finds the topics enjoyable.

Jessey Kirkwood, middle school religion teacher in Crescent Springs, Ky., and parishioner at St. Barbara Parish in the Diocese of Covington, learned about the app on Facebook and says, “I am a junior high religion teacher and am very in love with my Catholic faith. For me to have a consistent and solid go-to every day to help form and mold me into a better instrument of faith is incredibly awesome.”

Reading every day reminds Kirkwood that she is part of the apostolic Church.

She says of the app, “I could not be happier with how My Year of Faith applies both the liturgical calendar events and our worldly events to lead us and guide us on our faith journeys.”

Kirkwood finds the content so inspiring that she reads posts to her students and likes to share especially meaningful posts on her Facebook page.

She says, “I cannot thank the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend enough for this incredible opportunity to be a part of the Catholic Church in this way. They most certainly saw potential for this Year of Faith and have truly made it beautiful.”

Black says the app and blog use has exceeded her expectations “in reach and enthusiasm from others in blogosphere.”

She relates, “We cannot know the impact it may have in the hearts of people who read posts or watch video posts. Someone may read an excerpt from the catechism and be moved to deeper faith. Someone else may be open to the Catholic faith because a friend shares a post on the sacraments.”

Swaim reminds users, that “in the coming months, we will be featuring even more incredible authors, bloggers and speakers. It’s an all-star cast. We can’t wait to see what it continues to grow and bear fruit in the coming months.”

The “My Year of Faith” app is currently available on iOS and Android and includes tablets such as iPad and the Kindle Fire.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
US Franciscan province offers ‘text-a-prayer-intention’ service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Often, prayer intentions are offered with hands folded, but a new service allows hands and fingers to move freely — provided a cellphone is handy.

The New York-based Holy Name Province of the Franciscans has started a service it calls “Text a Prayer Intention to a Franciscan Friar.”

The service debuted in January. Here’s how it works: Text the prayer intention (it can be up to 500 characters) and add the keywords “send.” Senders will then receive a welcome message inviting them to then send in their prayer intentions. Senders will receive a text in reply stating that their prayer has been received and will be prayed for.

The intentions are received on a website and will be included collectively in the friars’ prayers twice a day and at Mass.

“With technology changing the way we communicate, we needed to offer people an updated way to ask for prayers for special intentions and needs either for themselves or others,” said a Jan. 8 statement by Franciscan Father David Convertino, executive director of development for the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province.

“We have been working on this for some time and it’s a great way to bring in the New Year,” Father Convertino added. “If the pope can tweet, friars can text!”

Pope Benedict XVI launched his very own Twitter account in mid-December.

The Holy Name Province is the largest U.S. province of the worldwide Order of Friars Minor, with 300 members serving throughout the Eastern Coast in college, parish, social service and urban ministry, with some on overseas assignments as well.

However, with cellphone technology and access virtually universal, the province’s range could be even larger.

“This is one more way of reaching people who ask us to pray for them,” Father Convertino said. “We hope it can reach people all around the globe.”

Social networks need more logic, love and less ranting, rage, pope says

By CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Social media need to promote more logic, kindness and Christian witness than bluster, status and division, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Given that the online world exposes people to a wider range of opinions and beliefs, people need to accept the existence of other cultures, “be enriched by it” and offer others what they possess that is good, true and beautiful, the pope said.

Christians are called to bring truth and values to the whole world — online and off — remembering that it’s ultimately the power of God’s word that touches hearts, not sheer human effort, he said in his message for World Communications Day.

The theme of the 2013 celebration — marked in most dioceses the Sunday before Pentecost, this year May 12 — is “Social Networks: Portals for Evangelization, New Spaces for Evangelization.”

The papal message was released on the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists, Jan. 24.

Social media “need the commitment of all who are conscious of the value of dialogue, reasoned debate and logical argumentation,” the pope said.

Social forums need to be used wisely and well, which means fostering balanced and respectful dialogue and debate, he said, and paying special attention to “privacy, responsibility and truthfulness.”

Too often, popularity — garnered with fame or strategic powers of persuasion — determines the “significance and effectiveness” of online communication, not “intrinsic importance or value,” he said.

Catholics can “show their authenticity” by sharing their hope and faith, and its source in Jesus Christ.

Catholics also should give witness by the way they live their lives and how their “choices, preferences and judgments” are “fully consistent with the Gospel, he added.

Msgr. Paul Tighe, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, told reporters during a briefing that the pope is asking everyone to take responsibility for creating a more humane culture online by being respectful, honest and contributing to the growth and wellbeing of individuals and society through social networks.

Very often in new media “the more provocative I am, the more strident, the more extreme I am in my views, the more attention I get,” he said. But, he said, the pope “is calling for the increase of the quiet voice of reason; we need moderation, reason and logic otherwise our debates are going nowhere.”

Archbishop Claudio Celli, the council’s president, said even Catholic sites and forums can be plagued by an aggressive and divisive atmosphere.

“The problem isn’t so much displaying straightforward fidelity to particular dogmatic statements of the faith,” he said; the problem is how to best show God’s mercy and love, which is often more credibly and effectively done with actions and not just words.

“I know my mother and father loved me not because they showered me with solemn declarations, but because they let me experience first-hand what it means to be loved,” the archbishop said.

The same needs to happen in the realm of faith, because what human beings need more than anything is to experience first-hand God’s love and mercy, he said.

In his message, the pope said, “Dialogue and debate can also flourish and grow when we converse with and take seriously people whose ideas are different from our own.”

Social networks are an important place for people of faith to reach out to others “by patiently and respectfully engaging their questions and their doubts as they advance in their search for the truth and the meaning of human existence,” the pope said.

If evangelizing is to bear fruit, he said, people need to remember that “it is always because of the power of the word of God itself to touch hearts, prior to any of our own efforts.”

The level of debate can be toned down and sensationalism avoided when people begin to put more trust in the power of God’s work “than any confidence we place in human means,” he said.

Archbishop Celli noted trust in the fact that the basic human desire to love and be loved, and to find meaning and truth — a desire which God Himself has placed in the heart of every man and woman — keeps our contemporary culture “ever open to ... the kindly light” of faith, Pope Benedict said.

He also reminded people to use social networks to invite others into a faith community, religious celebrations and pilgrimages: “elements which are always important in the journey of faith.”

Pope Benedict has new App titule, lets users follow live events

By CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican launched a new “Pope App” on the eve of the release of the pope’s World Communications Day message, which is dedicated to social networks as important spaces for evangelization.

The new app provides live streaming of papal events and video feeds from the Vatican’s six webcams. It sends out alerts and links to the services coming out of the Vatican’s many news outlets, and carries words and images of Pope Benedict XVI.

“The Pope App” went live Jan. 23 for iPhone and iPad, while an Android version is expected to be ready at the end of February. It’s currently available in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Italian.

The Vatican has been stepping up its digital presence in recent years — the latest example being the papal Twitter feed @Pontifex, which has attracted more than 2 million followers in nine languages since its debut Dec. 12.

The new app will also allow people to follow live broadcasts of papal events — such as the Sunday Angelus and Wednesday general audience — from any mobile device or smartphone.

Users will receive an alert when an event is about to begin.

The app also shows videos from any one of the Vatican’s six live webcams. Two webcams are located on the dome of St. Peter’s Basilica; one pointed at St. Peter’s Square and the other at the Vatican governor’s office.

Others are located high on the colonnade around St. Peter’s Square, taking in the basilica and papal apartments; directed at Blessed John Paul II’s tomb in St. Peter’s Basilica; high on the Vatican hill, pointing toward the dome of the basilica; and aimed at the gardens of the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo.

“The Pope App” was launched the day before the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists, when the Vatican traditionally releases the pope’s message for World Communications Day.

The theme of this year’s message, “Social Networks: Portals of Truth and Faith; New Spaces for Evangelization,” is linked to the Year of Faith and Pope Benedict’s latest calls for a New Evangelization.

The pope received the book at the Vatican in December as part of the Year of Faith observation and to mark the 70th anniversary of Family Rosary, founded by Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton, known as the “rosary priest.” He died in 1992 and the cause for his canonization was opened in 2001.

Father Peyton started the campaign to provide free rosaries and gather pledges in 1991. Back then, the plan was to send 1 million rosaries to Russia. It has since evolved into a worldwide effort to send the prayer beads to families, schools, parishes and individuals on every continent. To date, more than 20 million rosaries have been given away. About 5 million of those were provided by the country’s largest rosary-making groups in parishes.

Those promising to recite the rosary daily were asked to pray for peace and to post a pledge card in their homes as a reminder of their commitment, as Father Peyton used to ask people to do.

Franciscans Richard McFeely and Robert Frazzetta read prayer requests on their mobile phones Jan. 3 at St. Anthony Friary in Butler, N.J. The largest group of Franciscan friars in the United States is offering the faithful a new way to pray in the digital age by accepting prayer requests via text messages.

People around world pledge to say rosary daily during Year of Faith

EASTON, Mass. (CNS) — The Family Rosary division of Holy Cross Family Ministries in Easton has gathered more than 80,000 pledges from people around the globe who said they would pray the rosary daily during the 2012-13 Year of Faith.

The pledges, which came in response to a program offering free rosaries, were gathered in a book and presented recently to Pope Benedict XVI by Holy Cross Father John Phalen, president of Holy Cross Family Ministries.

“There are even pledges in languages we can’t understand, like some from those in India and Bangladesh,” Father Phalen said in a statement. “It was an honor to present His Holiness with the book and ask his apostolic blessing on our ministry.”

The pope convened the Friday meeting on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, the day after Easter, to discuss the Year of Faith and launch a new “Pope App.” It will feature video links to Masses celebrated in his name and other events in various parts of the world.
December floods

Typhoon Bopha ripped through the Philippines on Dec. 4, leaving nearly 1,500 dead. The storm pushed about 200,000 people into shelters, many without homes to return to. The death toll surpassed that of Tropical Storm Washi, which claimed 1,268 people in the Philippines just a year before.

Wind gusts of up to 138 mph and torrential rains set off flash floods and brought down homes where people sought shelter, even above where floods usually occurred. In one city alone, Cagayan de Oro, 891 lives were claimed by the storm. Entire families were washed away and killed. Perhaps more heart-rending, the stories about families where all but one person were washed away. One cameraman caught a mother looking through wreckage in tears simply repeating, “I have three children.” She was unable to find any of them. It’s unimaginable.

The flood seems a perfect image for what happened on the other side of the world just 10 days later in Newton, Conn., where 20 children were killed. Parents showed up at the fire station to retrieve their children. All hoped to see their faces jump out of the crowd. Some never did. One parent was seen walking away, without child, sobbing. “Why?! Why?!” Others stayed at the fire station for hours, unable to accept the fact that their children were going home empty-handed.

Matthew’s Gospel quotes a prophecy from Jeremiah to describe the pain of the parents of children (two and under) who were slaughtered by King Herod. These children are called the Holy Innocents. Coincidentally, some scholars think there were about 20 of them in the village of Bethlehem.

“Look!” is heard in Ramah,” Jeremiah wrote, “weeping and great mourning; Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” Mt 2:18. The gaping hole left by the death of a child can’t be filled by anything on this side of eternity. Within 10 days this December, we saw the height of God’s mercy.

No one is beyond God’s mercy

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lk 4:21-30

The Book of Jeremiah provides the first reading for this weekend. This book is regarded as one of the major Hebrew prophetic works because of its extent and the brilliance of its language. Jeremiah descended from priests. He was from a small village, Anathoth, only a few miles away from Jerusalem. As occurred with many, indeed even most, of the prophets, his prophecies drew sharp rebukes. He even was accused of blasphemy, a crime that had death as its punishment in the Hebrew code of law. (It was this statute that centuries later led to some of the demands for the crucifixion of Jesus.)

Despite the ordeals created by these rebukes and accusations, Jeremiah never relented in proclaiming fidelity to God as a personal, and national, imperative, and he never doubted that he was on a mission from God.

In this weekend’s reading, Jeremiah recounts the day when God called him to the mission of prophecy. He gives the date. It was during the reign of King Josiah, who ruled the last days of the kingdom of Judah from 640 to 609 B.C. God told Jeremiah to be bold. God predicted the controversial response to Jeremiah’s prophesying, urging the prophet not to be daunted by unfriendly or angry reactions.

As its second reading for this weekend, the Church offers a passage from the First Epistle to the Corinthians. It is one of the most compelling, and best known sections of the entire corpus of Pauline literature. Clear and straightforward, it is the beautiful explanation of love.

Few better definitions of love, this ability unique to humans in nature, exist.

Paul then reveals what happens when a person embraces the Gospel. Imperfections fade away. Knowledge increases. Maturity is reached. The insecurities, smallness and shortsightedness of youth are beyond. St. Luke’s Gospel is the source of the last reading. Jesus, as the story clearly states, appears in the synagogue in Nazareth. In earlier sections of the entire corpus of St. Luke’s Gospel, Jesus has already been teaching, preaching, and doing miracles. It is时间 easily said than done. Reactions to Jeremiah and to Jesus remind us that human insights are limited.

God supplies to us that which we cannot create on our own, eternal life but also genuine wisdom and courage. Thus God sent Jeremiah to prophesy. Thus God sent Jesus, the source of the strength to believe and to love.

Reflection

The Church remembers the great feasts of Christmas, the Epiphany and that of the Baptism of the Lord in early January. In these feasts, it celebrated the mercy of God that came to us through and in the Lord Jesus. Now, in February, building upon this idea of God’s gift of mercy and consequent eternal life, the Church this weekend presents these readings.

As the Gospel made clear, no one is beyond God’s mercy. But, we must do our part in receiving this mercy. We ourselves must love others, with love as pure and unselfish as that described by St. Paul.

It is more easily said than done. Reactions to Jeremiah and to Jesus remind us that human insights are limited.

God supplies to us that which we cannot create on our own, eternal life but also genuine wisdom and courage. Thus God sent Jeremiah to prophesy. Thus God sent Jesus, the source of the strength to believe and to love.

Donation supports evangelization mission

BY TIM JOHNSON

Whether it is reporting on the battle for conscience rights protections, abortion, the dignity of life, attacks on marriage between a man and woman, state school choice vouchers, or other issues of the day, Today’s Catholic is the newspaper to help Catholics understand the Church’s teaching and perspective.

The newspaper, now in its 83rd year, is the official publication of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is the publisher of Today’s Catholic and the newspaper serves as a means of communications between the bishop and the faithful 43 weeks out of the year.

Recent surveys showed that Catholics still get their Catholic news primarily from the printed version of the diocesan newspaper. Our own survey at several parishes across the diocese indicated that the majority of Catholic readers still rely on Today’s Catholic as the primary source of Catholic news in the diocese and the world.

The newspaper is delivered to nearly 50,000 households in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. If a household is registered at a parish in the diocese, the household receives the newspaper.

The newspaper is funded in part by the Annual Bishop’s Appeal, advertising, from subscriptions of readers outside the diocese, and by the generous donations of readers. Although Today’s Catholic is a good steward of its resources, there are still rising costs involved with printing, postage, salaries and news services providers.

This week, Today’s Catholic has a donation envelope inserted into the newspaper. We would appreciate any donation our readers can make to help us carry on our mission to evangelize.

Today’s Catholic, voice of the bishop and the diocese

违法犯罪行为。
The generational rosary

My father, now in his 70s, remembers coming downstairs in the morning as a child and seeing his mother in a chair, fingering her rosary beads and quietly praying. This example probably had a lot to do with dad’s own devotion to the rosary as an adult. Children emulate what they see, and when they see it, they do with dad’s own devotion to it. This example probably had a lot of effort for Mom and Dad to institute this family devotion. I grew up in a family of 13 children so everything was busy and making time to gather the children and pray. How to keep them together quickly. Mom would slow them down. Some would recite the words very quickly. Some would kneel. Some would complain about the house. Also—and this is very important—they had to first discipline themselves to want to gather the children and pray. How easy it would have been simply to skip the whole effort.

I share the little challenges of instituting the Lenten family rosary time because I want to paint a realistic picture of what this entails. Most Catholic families are not perfectly organized, with their members, old and young, happily pitching in to make a sparkling kitchen after the dinner meal. Most parents don’t have at least a little challenge in getting (even very good) children to pull out their rosary beads and pray. It’s worth the effort, of course, and it’s important to do it. God takes us where we are, and the act of trying...simply that when we want to pray, we have someone to pray it with. Where is God when we’re in pain? On the cross, next to us. A friend of mine recently got word of a miscarriage in the Philippines. He was amazed at the faith there. He saw a group of people building a structure from the rubble...Was it a shelter? A new house? A barn for animals? No. It was a chapel. In the midst of the wreckage they knew the only answer that would suffice. We see the same faith in the small community in Newtown, where churches were full, not pressed on.

How do we make sense of it all?

There are solid responses to the problem of pain that explain how a loving God would permit us to suffer, and hopefully only allow evil with a plan for a greater good—even some spiritual good that we might not grasp in this life. This plays out perfectly on the cross, the greatest evil (deicide) and the greatest blessing in human history. I’m not sure what much of these explanations help people in times of crushing sorrow though. Job had experienced crushing sorrow. Many scholars say Job is the oldest book in the Bible. Perhaps this is because the problem of pain has perplexed the world longer than any other question. Job loses everything and God’s response to his pain is stunning. After Job complains and questions his Maker about the “injustice” of life for most of 37 chapters, the answer he gets isn’t a theological lecture. Instead, God brings Job to his knees. He turns the tables, questioning Job: “Were you there when I laid the foundations of the earth? Did you set the boundaries of the sea? Can you bind chains of the Pleiades or loosen Orion’s belt?” (Cf. Job 38).

God gives no answer but the stark reminder that He is God and Job is not. That might seem harsh, but sometimes no other answer will do. And when we remember that, it doesn’t take the pain away, but it offers a consolation that nothing else can give. It comes from accepting the fact that someone else is in charge, and that no thread falls outside of God’s tapestry.

This is the final answer God gives on the Cross. By no means does He brush aside death or pain or deny their existence. The center of suspension of our faith, hanging prominently in most churches, is a man in agony. This is not a man who promises us freedom from pain, but His presence with us in our pain. Christ entered the darkness of our human condition so profoundly that in the depths of it He prayed, “My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?”

He doesn’t change the fact that we experience pain and death. He changed what thought and pain mean for us. He conquered them from within.

Thank you, Lord, for stepping forward that we may call upon You for mercy...and for guiding us to the Lord. We are not alone...and Your work continues to unfold in our lives in ways we cannot imagine. Love and blessings,

Christopher Stefanick
**St. Joseph, Holy Family flex muscles to stay at top of ICCL standings**

**BY JOE KOZINSKI**

SOUTH BEND — Just a week away from the season’s finale, teams flexed their muscles and tried to stay at the top of the Inter-City Catholic League standings.

The matchup of the day would have major playoff implications as the Eagles of St. Joseph matched their heralded twin towers of Trey Shabazz and Josh De St. Jean against the Holy Family front court of Will Jeffers and Mark Mayfield.

Right out of the gate, the St. Joseph duo controlled the action as the high-low combination netted seven points in the first stanza. The Eagles methodically posted a three-point lead.

The next quarter would be all Trojans as they clawed, ran and shot their way to a 12-0 run thanks to points by Stephen Farris, Mayfield and Jeffers.

The momentum and the game was firmly in the Trojons’ grasp until De St. Jean ended the dominance with a two footer and added a couple of free throws closing the gap to three. But just as the half was to end, Holy Family’s Lucas Kansczuzewski was fouled in the act of shooting a three. He made one as they left the court up, 17-13.

The third quarter would be more counter punches, as Shabazz and De St. Jean would strike. They were followed by a Jeffers-and-Mayfield attack settling in on a draw, 22-22, at the end of the round.

St. Joseph would score the first five in quarter four and hold that line until Trojan Courtney Rowell knocked down two free throws with 34 seconds left on the clock, making the margin a paper thin one point.

The Eagles’ De St. Jean followed with two charity shots of his own fouling Jeffers out of the contest, but a fast break layup by Mayfield, just five seconds later again, made the margin one with 7.3 seconds remaining.

A hurried fast break attempt by the Trojons would end up being stolen by the pesky Eagle defense ending the game and making the final, 29-28, for St. Joseph.

“I was really happy with the way Josh (De St. Jean, 13 points) got things going. And then Shabazz (9 points) really worked the block well. Our team is so diverse. Usually someone steps up and today it was those two,’’ commented Eagle Head Coach Brian Ratigan.

“We knew that Holy Family was a good team and able to score in numbers. The key was the way our defense really worked hard to limit their scoring opportunities.”

In other games played, the Bulldogs of Our Lady of Hungary bullied the Falcons of St. Jude, 31-13, behind Jordan Brown’s 14 points.

The Blazers of St. Matthew stayed one game out of the top spot as they knocked off the Pumas of Queen of Peace despite the 20-point effort of Luke Kaznia. Justin DeClark finished with 17 and his teammate Robbie Sink added 10 in the victorious effort.

In an old fashioned shoot-out, Christ the King toppled the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic, 55-40, behind Hunter West’s 15. Alexander Horvath paced the purple and gold clad Saints with 23 to be the leading scorer of the day.

St. Pius X controlled their own destiny by upending the Spartans of St. Thomas, 50-37, as their duo of Tony Carmola and Trent Stoner scored in double digits out dueling the 12 points netted by Gunner Sadaway.

The regular season will conclude Super Bowl weekend as the teams take to the hardwoods to include Super Bowl weekend as the teams take to the hardwoods of Marian and Saint Joseph high schools. A complete list of game times and locations can be found at www.icclsports.org.

**CYO Twins rally with victories this new year**

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — Long-time coach Paul Gerardot could not be more pleased. His St. Rose-St. Aloysius, 32-26. And last weekend, went on to win their last three in a row and have posted a 3-2 record from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, but right now,” Gerardot explained.

Although it has been tough to instill a passion for the game in each player and to teach the fun of basketball without them.”

Through the years, Gerardot has always taken his coaching role seriously, feeling it is his responsibility to instill a passion for the game in each player and to teach the fundamentals. “We work in week and week out on shooting, passing, dribbling,” he said.

During their most recent victory over Most Precious Blood, the Eagles’ De St. Jean followed with two charity shots of his own fouling Jeffers out of the contest, but a fast break layup by Mayfield, just five seconds later again, made the margin one with 7.3 seconds remaining.

A hurried fast break attempt by the Trojons would end up being stolen by the pesky Eagle defense ending the game and making the final, 29-28, for St. Joseph.

“I was really happy with the way Josh (De St. Jean, 13 points) got things going. And then Shabazz (9 points) really worked the block well. Our team is so diverse. Usually someone steps up and today it was those two,” commented Eagle Head Coach Brian Ratigan.

“We knew that Holy Family was a good team and able to score in numbers. The key was the way our defense really worked hard to limit their scoring opportunities.”

In other games played, the Bulldogs of Our Lady of Hungary bullied the Falcons of St. Jude, 31-13, behind Jordan Brown’s 14 points.

The Blazers of St. Matthew stayed one game out of the top spot as they knocked off the Pumas of Queen of Peace despite the 20-point effort of Luke Kaznia. Justin DeClark finished with 17 and his teammate Robbie Sink added 10 in the victorious effort.

In an old fashioned shoot-out, Christ the King toppled the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic, 55-40, behind Hunter West’s 15. Alexander Horvath paced the purple and gold clad Saints with 23 to be the leading scorer of the day.

St. Pius X controlled their own destiny by upending the Spartans of St. Thomas, 50-37, as their duo of Tony Carmola and Trent Stoner scored in double digits out dueling the 12 points netted by Gunner Sadaway.

The regular season will conclude Super Bowl weekend as the teams take to the hardwoods of Marian and Saint Joseph high schools. A complete list of game times and locations can be found at www.icclsports.org.

**HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING SECTION RECAP**

Saint Joseph wrestler Ryan Jankowski captured the school’s first individual wrestling sectional championship in four years Saturday, capturing the 182-pound weight class title at Mishawaka High School. The Indian junior won by pin in his first two rounds, before outdueling Mishawaka’s Wesley LaFleur, 6-3, in the championship round. Jankowski will be joined by teammates John Watkins (132), Norm Hezlep (160) and Jake Kazmierczak (195) at Saturday’s regional at Rochester. Marian qualified three wrestlers for the regional — William Felix (113), Derek Gion (145) and Joe Walter (182). — Chuck Freeby

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**Extending the knowledge of the Catholic Faith, promotes academic success, and nurtures lifelong learning and productive citizens.**
ST. LOUIS (CNS) — A funeral Mass was scheduled for Jan. 26 at St. Louis Cathedral Basilica for Stan Musial, the Hall of Fame outfielder-first baseman for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Musial, a Catholic who played all 22 of his major-league seasons with the Cardinals, died Jan. 19 at age 92 at his home in nearby Ladue, surrounded by family.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, a former auxiliary bishop in St. Louis, will celebrate the funeral Mass. Bishop Richard F. Stika of Knoxville, Tenn., who as a priest of the St. Louis Archdiocese was Musial’s pastor in Ladue, will preach the homily.

Musial, frequently called “Stan the Man” for his hitting prowess, won seven National League batting championships. At the time of his death — split evenly, with 1,815 home runs and 3,630 hits — the slugger stood second in virtually every other important category, including games played, at-bats, hits, doubles, triples, runs batted in, total bases, walks, intentional walks, batting average, on-base average and slugging percentage.

Originally a pitcher, Musial’s hopes for a career on the mound vanished when he injured his shoulder fielding a ground ball in the minor leagues, but his bat helped him make the jump from Class C ball to the majors in just one year. A statue of Musial stands outside Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

In 2011, during ceremonies at the White House, Musial was awarded the Medal of Freedom, considered the nation’s highest civilian honor. He was boyhood friends with the late Archbishop Nicholas Elko, once head of the Pittsburgh Byzantine Diocese and later appointed by Pope Paul VI as auxiliary archbishop of Cincinnati. He and Musial both had grown up in Donora, Pa.

Musial, who was of Polish descent, was long involved in growing the sport of baseball in Poland. He was involved with a Little League project in Poland, helping to build a training and conference center for coaches, trainers and players all over Eastern Europe.

He also helped out in the St. Louis area as well, including at the St. Vincent Home for Children, a residential treatment center for children with educational, emotional and behavioral difficulties. Giving back and helping others “gives you a great feeling,” he said.

Musial would remind youngsters that among his records was the most outs — more than 7,000 — yet he still was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first game with the Cardinals, he said, he faced a knuckleball pitcher and popped out. “I thought, ‘This is going to be tough,’ but the next time up I hit a double and it started me on my way,” he said.

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Musial was co-chair of Blessed John Paul II’s 1999 pastoral visit to St. Louis.

“Alleluia! A great man! A superb athlete!” Cardinal Dolan said in a blog posting within hours of Musial’s death. “Married seven decades to his beloved Lil; proud father of 25 and grandfather of 72; he readily admits one of the highpoints of his life was getting to know his fellow Pole, Blessed John Paul II, noting ‘I had the honor of meeting the Pope (a 10-foot tall)’.

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“Cardinal Dolan recalled when, at age 10, he and his brother met Musial at the St. Louis airport. “Hi Stan,” we blurted out. ‘The Man’ looked at us. ‘Whaddaya say, slugger?’ Never forgotten it. I was 10-foot tall.”

Bishop Sítka said in 2009 that, although he was moving to Tennessee for his Knoxville episcopal assignment, he would never be able to root for any baseball team other than the St. Louis Cardinals, especially because of former parishioner Musial, whom he called “a good friend and a true model of a baseball player.”

The slugger met Blessed John Paul II, including twice before Blessed John Paul ascended to the papacy. Musial said they first met when he was archbishop of Krakow, Poland. In 1971, he dropped in on then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, who received him even though he was ill with a bad cold.

“I tried to tell him that I was a baseball player, and that my father was born in Poland,” Musial recalled in 1988, after his first meet-
ging with Blessed John Paul at the Vatican. The two had some trouble communicating, but when Musial returned to Poland two years later, the Blessed John Paul was already speaking fluent English, he said.

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Knights plan fish fry

The Knights of Columbus 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 1, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $8 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Fish fry and salad bar

South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar on Friday, Feb. 15, from 3:30-7 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Tickets are $10 for adults and carry-out, $4 for children 5-12 and children under 5 free. Tickets will help fund a new washing machine for the athletic department.

Fish fry supports Bishop Luers Athletic Booster Club

Fort Wayne — A fish fry will be Friday, Feb. 15, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the Bishop Luers’ Cafe. Tickets are $8 for adults, $5 for children ages 6-11, $3 for children ages 6-11 and under are $1. Drive-through and carry-out available. Proceeds will help fund a new washing machine for the athletic department.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 1, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children 12 and under.

FISH FRIES ALREADY

Huntington — A fish fry will be in support of the athletic department. Funds will be used to help purchase a new washing machine.

Tickets for adults $8, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $8 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Fort Wayne — The School of Creative Arts (SOCA) at the University of Saint Francis is sponsoring a trip to the Indianapolis Museum of Art on Feb. 20. The group will depart from the Rolland Center for Art and Visual Communication on Leesburg Road at 8:30 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. The cost is $30 for students and $40 for the public. To reserve a spot, contact SOCA’s Molly McGowan at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001.

Trivia night planned

South Bend — Saint Joseph Grade School will have a Trivia Night Saturday, Feb. 9, at the new Saint Joseph High School gym. Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia begins at 7 p.m. Table of 10 is $100 and individual seats are $10; additional donations are accepted. European vacation theme, raffle prizes and more. Additional information at www.stjoeparish.com.

To register, please contact event chair Patty Karban at pkarban7@gmail.com. Proceeds benefit financial aid for Saint Joseph Grade School students.

Casino night

Monroeville — St. Rose Parish is hosting a Casino Night and Texas Hold’em Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Monroeville Park Pavilion, 421 Monroe St. Free admission. Must be 21. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for food and casino games. Texas Hold’em Tournament begins at 7 p.m. (registration at 6:15 p.m.) Pre-register by calling (260) 623-6236 or email asimshauser1@frontier.com. Indiana License No. 129706.

Little Flower men’s group to meet

South Bend — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at Little Flower Church, 54191 ironwood Rd. After Mass all men are invited to stay for Super Bowl festivities. Bishop Rhoades speak to the Little Flower Men’s Breakfast Group about the “New Evangelization.”

Super FAT Saturday Trivia Night

Huntington — Huntington Catholic School will have a Trivia Night Mardi Gras style Saturday, Feb. 2, at Little Flower Church, 54191 ironwood Rd. After Mass all men are invited to stay for Super Bowl festivities. Bishop Rhoades speak to the Little Flower Men’s Breakfast Group about the “New Evangelization.”

REST IN PEACE

Josephine K. Kuespert, 88, St. Pius X

Joseph G. Ganus, 95, St. Adalbert

John M. Kandzierski, 87, St. Adalbert

John P. Thrurin, 75, St. Matthew Cathedral

Dorlos Eileen Waite, 83, Christ the King

Jeffersonville's St. Joseph School will have a Trivia Night Mardi Gras style Saturday, Feb. 2, at the new Saint Joseph School auditorium, 820 Cherry St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Trivia begins at 7 p.m. (registration at 6:15 p.m.) Pre-register by calling (260) 623-6236 or email asimshauser1@frontier.com. Indiana License No. 129706.

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for life, because it is the most precious gift we have and it needs to be protected.”

The Marian student reported that 65 people from the school traveled by bus to Washington. Students from Bishop Luers in Fort Wayne and Saint Joseph in South Bend also had a strong contingency.

Saint Joseph High School Principal Susan Richter, who traveled to Washington with 157 students and 15 chaperones, said, “This gives me great hope — it will be their generation that will continue this fight for life.”

“I felt a tremendous sense of pride seeing our young people supporting the march by actively participating in the rally and both of the Masses,” Richter said. “Witnessing them living their faith by living the Gospel was awe-inspiring. This confirms that our mission is being fulfilled. Our students understand their role as disciples of Christ. The passion and commitment of our students, faculty, staff and parents was wonderful. Many of our chaperones willingly volunteer to go on the march year after year.”

Bishop Dwenger student Eddie Byrne, who was one of 100 participants from the school, said, “My favorite and most reaffirming part of the whole pilgrimage was probably the youth rally Mass for Life. The entire 17,000-person congregation was singing our common hymn. And for one arena where a hockey game was played the night before was so uncommon but so beautiful at the same time. The homilist, Father Carter Griffin, centered part of his homily around the fact that arenas were/are places of battle. He said we weren’t entering a physical battle, but a spiritual battle in the society we live in.”

Byrne added, “Another cool part from the Mass was Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano’s (apostolic nuncio to the U.S.) message from Pope Benedict XVI. Knowing that the pope was fighting for life with us from the Vatican made me realize how huge this fight is in our world’s history, even if the mainstream media does not recognize it. I have no doubt that the youth of our generation will end this atrocity in our country.”

“We witnessed the rally on the Mall and heard the speakers, including those who had accounts of abortion, disabled children who were given life and adopted children made presentations,” Byrne said. “I was walking during the march in D.C. and saw on a big screen how abortions look after they’re done. It was very sad,” noted Byrne.

“This made me know that every child is capable of being loved, even if society tells us that a child conceived from rape or incest or one with a disability is unable to be loved because they are not ‘perfect,’” Byrne said.

Bishop Dwenger student Morgan Kinniry was impacted by those who had abortions and offered testimonials. “I had never heard from a woman who had actually gotten an abortion and publicly regretted it because it is usually something people have shame about declaring,” Kinniry reported. “Her witness was very strong and offered an interesting perspective to her listeners because she knows first-hand how damaging and hurtful an abortion can be. Her message to us was that even though people can convince women that this is the only way out of an unwanted pregnancy, there is always the option for life.”

For Tania Wilson, the march has become a tradition. Wilson, a Marian High School freshman who attended the march with a youth group from St. Augustine Parish in South Bend, told Today’s Catholic, “While participating in the march, I came across women who once had abortions who held up signs that said ‘I regret my abortion.’ I think it’s amazing that those women went from pro-abortion to pro-life.”

“As I was walking, there were slide shows of aborted babies. I saw a reality that made me feel like I was there for all the right reasons,” said Annie Johnson, a Saint Joseph High School sophomore attending with the St. Augustine youths.

“One thing I noticed while I was walking during the march in D.C. was when they showed on the March for Life banner at the head of the march, which annually draws hundreds of thousands of participants to the nation’s capital.

James Taylor, Washington High School sophomore, who also attended with the St. Augustine youths. “The March for Life strongly fortified my pro-life beliefs,” Morgan Kinniry noted. “I was overwhelmed by the camaraderie between myself and the other marchers. We were all there for the same cause, so it was nice to see so many other groups of people, from all races and ages, there to stand up for the unborn.”

“During the march itself, I was astounded by how many people came out to support the cause,” Kinniry added. “I was one in about 500,000 pro-lifers. During the youth rally, I was in awe to see 17,000 pro-life teens along with many seminarians, priests and bishops. Seeing and meeting so many other young people during the rally and Mass made me feel that my generation is definitely a pro-life one.”

Bishop Dwenger student Karen Eckrich was struck with the 55 million figure — the number of children who were lost to abortion in the U.S. over the past 40 years. “During the march, I unintentionally became separated from our diocese group,” Eckrich said, “and it’s about as many as the populations of the 20 biggest cities in the U.S. plus the current teenage population.”

“The amount of teenagers I saw on the march was inspiring,” Eckrich said. “I have no doubt in my mind that we will win this battle. And it doesn’t hurt that we’ve got God on our side!”

“As I was walking during the march in D.C., I couldn’t help but be moved that so many people were fighting for the same cause,” said Tiana Wilson, a Marian sophomore. “It made me feel like I was doing something worthwhile. I couldn’t help but think that it’s what God wanted me to do.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is shown with Rev. Gregory T. Manning of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne as they participate in the National March for Life together marching on the national mall.

Pro-life Nellie Gray, who founded the March for Life in 1974 and died in 2012 at age 86, is pictured on a large screen during the annual March for Life rally in Washington Jan. 25.