BISHOP
John Michael D’Arcy
1932-2013
Bishop D’Arcy established significant diocesan initiatives in spirituality, catechesis, education, ecumenism and social services outreach.

Achievements

- Women’s Care Center, Fort Wayne, organized and operational in renovated facility
- Vincent House for homeless founded — has grown from single home to encompass homes in central city to foster independence of families served
- Annual Bishop’s Appeal organized — 21st appeal in 2007 was considered most successful of its kind in nation. Moneys support parish and diocesan projects
- A $3.6 million renovation/restoration of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, 1998
- Initiated Eucharistic Congress at University of Notre Dame, 2000
- Legacy of Faith capital campaign, 2004-2005 — creating endowments of more than $48.5 million for construction of new Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine, and related Hispanic ministries, Warsaw; Catholic Charities services to the poor; schools’ endowment fund; and improved retirement program for priests
- Initiated live Sunday television Masses in 1986
- Wrote major article on relationship between Catholic universities and bishops — especially relating to the requirements of the mandatum for ecumenism and social services outreach.

Established for diocese:
- Office of Spiritual Development
- Office for Hispanic Ministry
- Office of Catechesis
- Expanded campus ministry/young adult programming; initiated annual youth and young adult retreats; retreats for disabled
- Diocesan office buildings in both downtown South Bend and Fort Wayne
- Position of archivist to preserve diocesan/parish history/ documents
- Independent status for diocesan newspaper, Today’s Catholic
- Commissioned history of diocese with help of OSV Institute
- Benoît Academy, Fort Wayne — for elementary school-age children
- New church buildings for:
  - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne, 1989
  - St. Pius, Granger, 1989
  - Blessed Sacrament, Albion, 1990
  - St. Mary, Fort Wayne, following destruction of church by fire, 1996 (established St. Mary’s Heritage Fund to assist parishes/programs in need)
  - Holy Family, South Bend, 1997
  - St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne, 1998
  - St. Therese, Fort Wayne, 1999
  - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw, 1999
- New buildings erected:
  - St. Peter, Fort Wayne - parish hall, 2005
  - St. Pius X, Granger - parish center
  - St. Hedwig, South Bend - building addition, 1990
  - St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne - school addition, 1990
  - St. Hyacinth, Fort Wayne - community center
  - Immaculate Conception, Kendallville - building addition, improvements, 1992
  - St. John the Baptist, New Haven - parish hall
  - Queen of Peace, Mishawaka - 7,700 square-foot-addition to school (closed for over 30 years), restarted K-8

- Villa of the Woods, Fort Wayne - renovation to create new facilities for senior citizens, 2003
- St. Mary, Avilla - school expansion, new classrooms
- St. Dominic, Bremen - new parish hall
- St. Mary of the Annunciation, Bristol - new education/catechetical center, new rectory
- St. Joseph, Bluffton - new parish hall
- St. Thomas, Elkhart - new parish gym/activity center
- St. Mary, Geneva - new parish hall
- Holy Cross, South Bend - school addition
- St. Joseph, LaGrange - building addition, 1993
- St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne - school addition
- Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw, 1999
- Sacred Heart, Notre Dame - new parish center
- St. John the Baptist, New Haven - new parish hall
- Marian High School, Mishawaka - second gym
- Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne - second gym and new library
- Saint Joseph’s High School, South Bend - new athletic fields and purchase of new land
- Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne - infrastructure
- St. Patrick, Arcola - parish hall
- Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne - new activity center, 1997
- St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne - Father Hession Hall, rectory
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne - new school, rectory, religious education facility and church enlargement
- St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne - new activity building
- St. Joseph-Hessen Gassell - restored church, school addition, 1998
- St. Michael, Plymouth - school addition, 1998
- St. Mary, Fort Wayne - new rectory, 1998
- St. Martin de Porres, Syracuse - church renovation
- Christ the King, South Bend - expanded school
- Little Flower, South Bend - new parish hall
- St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart - community building, 1994
- Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne - day-care center, new rectory
- St. Aloysius, Yoder - new parish center and classrooms
- St. Anthony, Angola - new hall
- St. Casimir, South Bend - restoration, 2007
- Bishop Luers high school - renovation, 2007
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne - parish activities center, 2007
- Victory Noll - renovation, 2007
- Bishop Dwenger high school - addition, 2007
- St. Patrick, Arcola - catechetical center
- Holy Cross, South Bend - school addition, 2008
- St. Mother Theodore Guérin Latin Mass community formed, Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) brought to diocese for chaplaincy, 2008
- St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart - Eucharistic adoration chapel, 2008
- St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart - school addition
- St. Patrick, Arcola - parish hall
- St. Casimir, South Bend - restoration, 2007
- Bishop Luers high school - renovation, 2007
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne - parish activities center, 2007
- Victory Noll - renovation, 2007
- Bishop Dwenger high school - addition, 2007
- St. Patrick, Arcola - catechetical center
- Holy Cross, South Bend - school addition, 2008
- St. Mother Theodore Guérin Latin Mass community formed, Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) brought to diocese for chaplaincy, 2008
- St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart - Eucharistic adoration chapel, 2008
- St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart - school addition
- St. Pius X, Granger - parish education center
- St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne - school addition
- St. Jude, Fort Wayne - school addition
- St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne - school addition
- Sacred Heart, Warsaw - church renovation, 2009
- St. Anthony, Angola - groundbreaking for new church, May 2009
- St. Peter, Fort Wayne - 17-year renovation completed
- MacDougal Chapel, Fort Wayne - renovation and rededication to St. Mother Theodore Guérin
- Eucharistic Congress, Aug. 18, 2007
- Commissioned “Worthy of the Gospel of Christ,” compilation of diocesan history

Many additional projects have been approved for fundraising or construction too numerous to be listed here.
The special life of a parish priest

I thank God that the first nine years of my priesthood were spent in a large, sprawling parish on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. There were 3,500 families at that time. An elementary school and a small all-girls high school. Saint Mary of the Sea, Beverly, Mass. I can never forget it.

A Catholic parish is unique and filled with joy for a priest. In all my years as a bishop, nothing encouraged me more than being with a priest and his parishioners for Mass and Confessions, for the sacrament of Confirmation, or whatever the pastor organized. Even now in retirement, I have great joy in helping out some of our parish priests.

So, I was on my way south on a lovely late summer afternoon to offer a weekday 6 p.m. Mass for Father David Voors — as fine a parish priest as I have known. Father Dave was taking his mother on a drive through Michigan, and I was privileged to celebrate the 6 p.m. Mass so his people would have a Mass on that day. Drawing close to Decatur, the cell phone rang in my car. An anxious voice said, “Bishop D’Arcy is supposed to be at St. Mary’s for Mass and I am trying to reach him.”

“That’s me,” I said.

“Oh, Bishop, this is Deacon Jerry Kohrman and the people are waiting for you and some people want to go to Confession before Mass.”

“I am just passing Central Soya, Jerry, and I will be there in plenty of time.”

“Well, they want to go to Confession before Mass.”

“That’s not in the contract,” I mumbled to myself with a touch of mischievousness. “I will be glad to hear their Confessions after Mass.” So, I celebrated 6 p.m. Mass. As always in Decatur, there are more people at Mass than you expect. (Decatur is a place where people go to church, whether it be to one of the famous Penance Services in Advent or Lent when the church is full, or for Sunday or daily Mass.)

After Mass, and a short homily and Confessions, Bertie Shrader, a parishioner who initiated the emergency call, asked if I would go with her to visit a man who was dying. Of course, a priest must never hesitate after such an invitation. So Bertie rode with me.

“It is on your way home,” she said. “Don’t worry, I will get someone there to drive me back to the church. There will be plenty of people there.”

She was right. The home was just off Route 27, and there were cars everywhere. When I entered the home, there must have been 15 people there, Joseph Wilder was stretched out in the living room. Joseph and Ruth had nine children, and it seemed they were all there, along with their spouses and one grandchild.

“Bishop, it is incurable,” Joseph told me. I did what every priest would do — I prayed. I made Acts of Faith, Hope and Love with Joseph. We recited the Act of Contrition. The whole family said the prayers with me. I encouraged him, and he told me he was ready to go. Father David Voors had given him the Sacrament of the Sick, Holy Communion and the sacrament of Penance a few days earlier. A man dying with his wonderful wife, children and grandchildren all around him. A serious cancer that involves suffering. A retired bishop filling in as a parish priest.

As I returned alone to Fort Wayne, I gave thanks to God that I was a priest. I was reminded of a question that I posed once to Pope John Paul II at an “ad limina” visit. “Do you have a word for our priests when I return.”

He replied, “Tell your priests that the great day for the pope was not the day he was made a bishop and not the day he was made a pope, but the day he was ordained a priest and could say Mass for the people.”

So, for a few hours on a lovely summer evening, I was the parish priest at St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur.

While this was an unusual experience for me since I left St. Mary’s, Beverly, Mass., a half century ago, events like that happen for a parish priest almost every day. When you see a priest who is happy and joyful, that is the reason. He can never doubt that his life has meaning. He is with people in their most important moments. It also reminded me of the words of Walker Percy, a favorite author of mine, who I met once at Notre Dame when he received the Lactare Medal. He said in an interview and later in a book he wrote, “My hero is the parish priest.” Mine too.

The next morning Deacon Kohrman called my office with the news that later that night Joseph Wilder had died. What a privilege to have ministered to him in his final hours and to help him prepare to meet Christ our Savior.

This commentary was published in Today’s Catholic Nov. 4, 2012.

A love for the Priesthood
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Bishop D’Arcy, my dear friend and predecessor as Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was truly a “man of God” who offered to me and to all of us a model of holiness. His life of prayer and witness to the Gospel was an inspiration to us all. He always kept before his eyes the example of the Good Shepherd “who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life for the sheep.” Bishop D’Arcy shepherded the faithful of our wonderful diocese for nearly 25 years, and, in these past three years of his retirement, he continued to serve with generosity and zeal. Personally, I am so grateful for Bishop D’Arcy’s wisdom, counsel and example. He carried out with joy the mission the Lord entrusted to him. He was a faithful teacher who fed us with God’s word, a devoted priest who nourished us with the grace of the sacraments, and a good shepherd who led and built up our diocese in truth and holiness.

Maureen Schott, secretary to Bishop John M. D’Arcy

Bishop D’Arcy lived what he preached. His public persona was his personal persona. He was a friend to everyone. Bishop D’Arcy was like a beloved father to me, a mentor and a dear friend.

Bishop D’Arcy lived out of love for God, the Church, his family and his neighbor. His record will remain forever written in heaven. Bishop D’Arcy was so close to Christ, whom he loved with all his heart. A few days before he died, he quietly told me Christ would come for him on Sunday, Feb. 3 — the 56th anniversary of his first Mass. And He did.

Bishop said he would pray and intercede for this beloved diocese from heaven, and I know he will. Thank you, thank you, thank you Bishop D’Arcy!

Sister Anne D’Arcy, Sister of St. Joseph, sister to Bishop John M. D’Arcy

“I am grateful for the gift of his life and the time we had to spend with him. He was so happy when Joan and I came, so happy. He said to me, ‘Stay with me till Christ comes.’ And I was there. To be with him was a real gift.”

Sister Anne was delighted to have had the time to spend with him over the Christmas holiday this year as well as caring for him in Brighton in the D’Arcy family home following his diagnosis. “We were happy to be with him in Brighton,” she says, where they were able to offer him his favorite Irish food.

Of his life she says, “There was a holiness of life ... he lived very close to Christ. And that impacted all of his decisions. He died the way he lived — with love, joy and faith. He showed us how to live and how to die. He emulated love and joy. He was joyful till the end.”

Sister Anne says her brother loved life, his family and his Irish heritage. She recalls fondly the trip she and her brother took to Ireland a few years ago where they traced the footsteps of their ancestors. “It was so wonderful to travel with him!” she says.

She also holds dear childhood memories of Bishop D’Arcy playing ball in the park and having to run to his father’s store where he worked each day. “He worked with our father and had a close relationship with him, she says. As the third of the four D’Arcy siblings, and the younger sister by two years, Sister Anne looked up to her big brother. “As a kid in kindergarten, I looked up to my brother in second grade. He had a wonderful sense of humor.” That close relationship remained over the years and became much more than just their shared love of the Red Sox baseball team. “He was my brother and my friend,” she says.

Joan Sheridan, youngest sister of Bishop John M. D’Arcy

Joan Sheridan felt blessed to have her brother visit over the holidays during the year that all the children and grandchildren were visiting. “God arranged it beautifully,” she said. She recalls how much he loved his family and said, “He had a great love for them.” She added that her brother was always on the go, even at home, and would make time to visit his beloved nephews, including D’Arcy who lives with autism, or lunch with old friends while in Boston as well. Following his diagnosis several clergy friends, including bishops and Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Archbishop of Boston celebrated Mass for him, brought him Communion and heard his Confession. Sheridan reports that her brother wanted to face death as a Christian. And that he did.

Her memories of childhood with her brother are filled with joy. “He was always a great brother. We knew he was great. He would do anything you asked of him,” she said.

As for his life as priest and bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend she said, “He loved this diocese. As much as he loved Brighton, he would never move back. This was his diocese.” Not surprised at the outpouring of sympathy and love from the people of the diocese Sheridan said, “I knew they loved him here.”

Of his life his sister said, “He gave his life to God and was happy doing it.”

Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general

I was a young priest when Bishop D’Arcy came to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 1985 as our bishop. He brought a strong steady presence to the diocese and a sense of stability. He carefully and methodically handled problems as they came to him, not putting them off or ignoring them while consulting others. He was truly a Vatican II bishop in that he consulted others often and wanted to listen to other opinions before making his decision. When announcing important decisions he most often would explain why, and refer to the teachings of the Church and his own inclinations for how best this would be beneficial in the long run to the Church of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Often Bishop D’Arcy spoke of dedicating his life to Christ and the Church as a priest and how this was a fulfilling experience for himself, and how it could certainly be a fulfilling experience for others. His openness to speak about his own vocation and his commitment to the priesthood was encouraging and inspiring.

Bishop D’Arcy was a strong leader for the Church and for many social outreach causes in Fort Wayne, South Bend, and elsewhere throughout diocese. He loved both the Church and the poor.

His presence and warm personality will be missed.

Father Jason Freiburger, vice chancellor

Father Jason Freiburger, who was one of the last priests to visit Bishop D’Arcy before his death, is touched by the bishop’s inspiring hands-on service to his fellow man that was virtually hidden from public view. He reports as he walked in downtown Fort Wayne recently a man approached him and asked if he was Lutheran or Catholic. After Father Freiburger replied “Catholic,” the man asked for Bishop D’Arcy’s funeral information. He was forthcoming in explaining that though he is not Catholic he wanted to pay his respects to the man who, when he attended Bishop Luers High School and experienced some troubling times, helped him personally through it.

Deacon James Fitzpatrick, master of ceremonies, deacon

Before a priest is ordained a bishop he is questioned about his resolve to uphold the faith. One question I think sums up Bishop D’Arcy’s commitment to this office. He was asked: “Do you resolve to guide the Holy People of God in the way of salvation as a devoted father and sustainer with the help of you fellow ministers, the Priests and Deacons?” — “Roman Pontifical” page 27

For over 23 years I was privileged to serve Bishop D’Arcy as his master of ceremonies and I was able to observe firsthand his fulfillment of his “I do,” in answer to that question.

We saw in this holy man first and foremost a priest, a man who gave up spouse and children in order to serve the people of God entrusted to him. His priesthood ministry, i.e. celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, and anointing the sick and dying, was the bedrock of his ministry as a bishop.

He took great pleasure in ordaining young men as priests to be his coworkers in the vineyard of Christ, He
loved to administer the sacrament of Confirmation on the young. Most of all he wanted to exercise the teaching Office of the Bishop by bringing alive the Word of God in the hearts of his flock.

He often spoke that when his time came to meet the Lord that he knew he would be judged in part on how well he ministered and cared for the souls of the people in this diocese.

He knew that administrative duties were an integral part of his office and he carried them out with love and care. However he found true joy being with his priests and his people.

There were many good times, to be sure, blessing new church buildings and schools, and other projects done by the people. No less were the sad days, especially the funeral of a priest, but he was bolstered by the love and affection shown by the people for the deceased priest who served in their parish.

The life of bishop is not always his own. Many times after a full day of meetings and other duties he drove to a parish to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. He would stay after until the last photo was taken, even when someone would come up after those were done and say: “Bishop, one more please.” He would stop and smile and pose for the camera. Then late into the night he would drive himself home, get up the next morning and do it all over again.

In his last days he taught us again that our faith in God will sustain us. The last time I saw him, a few days before his death, as I left his home he did what any good priest would do. He gave me his blessing and asked that I pray for his soul that he might be found worthy to gain entrance into heaven.

Now the Lord has called him home and we pray that he will be found worthy of the heaven he taught all of us to strive for.

Enid Roman De Jesus, director of the Hispanic Ministry Office

I met Bishop D’Arcy, one on one, the summer of the year 2000, when he interviewed me for the position of diocesan coordinator for Hispanic Ministry. God knows I did not want the job, I was happy where I was and I was just “humering” a friend priest who suggested my name for the position.

I remember Bishop D’Arcy saying, “I’ve been looking for the right person for two years, I have seen people from all over, but, how would you like to come and work for the diocese?” I thought about it for a minute and said, “I don’t think so…” and he was surprised but persistent. He looked me in the eyes and said, “I think this is what God wants, besides, you cannot say no to the Bishop!” So I said “yes.”

Under his guidance we developed many opportunities in Spanish for formation and understanding of the Catholic faith. He knew they needed more than Mass in Spanish, that the ministry required cultural and social adaptations, and that they were here for the long haul and he wanted them to remain Catholic, and become better Catholics. He did not speak Spanish, and God knows he would have loved to be able to speak directly with the people, but the lack of Spanish did not diminish his commitment to make them feel at home in his diocese.

The first few years working for Bishop D’Arcy, I remember that during Hispanic gatherings he would tell the story of his mother when he was a boy, how she went looking for a job and how they rejected her or said unkind things to her because she was an Irish immigrant, or they would give her the worst jobs for the least pay.

This was his way to say to the Hispanics, I understand, I know what you all are going through.

Bishop D’Arcy was a caring man. His heart ached for the immigrants, and the injustices and hardships they suffered, and he also rejoiced with their festive spirit and their love for Our Lady. He made us feel part of the Church in the U.S., he made us feel welcomed and cared for, and we will miss him. Today, we mourn the passing of one of the “good ones” and I am truly grateful and honored to have known him.

Fred Everett, codirector of the Office of Family Life

“He was a great mentor and a great friend. I learned much from him in the more than 25 years we worked together.”

Mary Keefor, principal of Bishop Luers High School

The first week that I took this job, in the summer of 1996, Bishop D’Arcy came to Bishop Luers High School. He congratulated me and gave me a crucifix, which is hanging in my office still. He pledged his support for our school, and expressed his desire for me to keep Luers strong spiritually and academically. Little did I know that was the beginning of our precious friendship.

Bishop has been available and supportive ever since. Never would I hesitate to call him, to ask him for advice, to seek his knowledge and wisdom.

One of the things that I admire about Bishop D’Arcy is that he always tells me the truth. It is not what I always want to hear, but it is what I need to hear.

When he retired, he offered to be our chaplain. That position led to a love affair between him and our students and staff. He became visible and present to them, coming for Mass and the sacrament of Reconciliation. He would eat with the students in the cafeteria.

Bishop led a retreat for our staff this past August. He shared with us the gifts of teaching in a Catholic school and challenged us with the grave responsibility that came with the joy of working with teenagers.

He did not miss a state pep session or a congratulatory assembly on the Monday following a state win. He loved being in the classrooms and talking with our young people about the gift of our faith. Talk about gifts … what high school gets to have a bishop for its chaplain?

Linda Furge, former director of Campus/ Young Adult Ministry and diocesan coordinator for Special Events and Programs

On Aug. 18, 2007, our diocese celebrated its Sesquicentennial Jubilee, Bishop D’Arcy’s Golden Jubilee as a priest, and, on that day, his 75th birthday. The theme for the celebration was Bishop’s episcopal motto: “His Steadfast Love Endures Forever.”

In his love of and service to our diocese, Bishop steadfastly exemplified the faithful witness of God’s love for the Chosen People. From the very beginning, he worked tirelessly to implement the New Evangelization — deepening faith, reaching out to others, and transforming society to Gospel values.

He established new offices, one of which was Campus/ Young Adult Ministry because he recognized that God’s steadfast presence was crucial, especially in a time when young adults may not be present to God. World Youth Day 1993 in Denver, along with other World Youth Days, showed Bishop’s ongoing commitment to teens and young adults.

He actively supported Disciples in Mission and Wells of Hope, both multi-year diocesan-wide efforts to foster the New Evangelization.

The year-long Jubilee 2000 and 2007 celebrations encouraged each of us to deepen our faith in God and God’s Church through regional Confirmations, Mercy Days and Eucharistic Congresses. Finally, Bishop’s love for our Hispanic brothers and sisters manifested itself with the construction and dedication of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Church and Diocesan Shrine. Through each of these endeavors and in so many other ways, Bishop demonstrated his steadfast love for God, the Blessed Virgin Mary and “this beloved diocese.”

Personally, Bishop was my very good friend, a wonderful mentor and role model, and a steadfast support through good times and bad. I will always be grateful for the many years I was fortunate enough to have served with and for him. His steadfast faith and love, indeed, will endure forever in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend!


Sean McBride, director of the Office of Communications

I will be forever grateful to Bishop D’Arcy for bringing the television Mass to our diocese. My mother was handi-capped when I was eight, and was home-bound thereafter. So when this ministry came into being, she was absolutely thrilled, and so appreciative. It has brought so much comfort to so many people over the decades. It’s Bishop D’Arcy’s vision, fortitude and genuine holiness that I will miss and cherish.

Debbie Schmidt, executive director of Catholic Charities:

Bishop was a man who lived what he preached. He was a strong advocate for the poor, the disadvantaged and the vulnerable. We will miss his support and commitment to Catholic Charities. The staff will miss him.

Mary Ellen Dunne, director of Community Relations for Catholic Charities:

A friend of twenty years, the ultimate priest, he loved and lived his vocation. He was always teaching, he strengthened my Catholic faith.

Christine Nix, past director of communications for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Bishop D’Arcy hired me when I was 24 right out of college (as communications director). I looked at it as a job. But as I got into it I realized it was a vocation. My spiritual faith life would not be what it is today if he had not given me that job. Everyone respected him and that’s the mark of a good man.

Dee Dee Dahm, past business manager of Today's Catholic newspaper:

“When Bishop D’Arcy asked me several times to work for Today’s Catholic newspaper I didn’t think I was qualified. But he had beautiful talent and persuasion and...
told me it was a way of saving souls. He believed in the newspaper. How can you turn that down? ... It was a special time in my life. ... Bishop D’Arcy believed it was so essential, so important to him to have the diocesan paper to evangelize to so many people. The last time I saw him at his home we spoke of Today’s Catholic and he said it was so important to have a diocesan newspaper. That confirmed his commitment to evangelize through the media with Today’s Catholic and Redeemer Radio.” She added this personal note, “He did a lot for me spiritually and the gift of his friendship will be treasured all my life.”

Senator Donnelly offers statement about death of Bishop John D’Arcy

“It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Bishop John D’Arcy. As members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, my family and I have long looked to Bishop D’Arcy for spiritual guidance and leadership. Bishop D’Arcy was a strong voice for not only the Catholic faith, but a voice for the hungry, the poor and the disadvantaged. He made all of us better persons.”

U.S. Province extends condolences for Bishop Emeritus John M. D’Arcy

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross Father Thomas J. O’Hara, provincial superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers, extended his prayers and thanksgiving for the life and priestly ministry of the Most Rev. John M. D’Arcy.

“Bishop D’Arcy was a friend to Holy Cross and to Our Lady, whom he held dear,” Father O’Hara said. “While we mourn his death, we give thanks for the many ways he was a blessing of God to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.”

The U.S. Province, based in Notre Dame, has five parishes in the South Bend area under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend: Sacred Heart, Christ the King, Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert/ St. Casimir and St. Joseph. Holy Cross also founded the University of Notre Dame.

“For 25 years, Bishop D’Arcy shepherded the people of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese leading by example with steadfast faith. He was a great partner to Holy Cross, supporting vocations, our parishes and schools,” Father O’Hara said.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with Bishop D’Arcy’s family and with all members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. May he rest in the peace of Christ.”

Holy Cross Brother Chester Freel, Provincial Superior, Brothers of Holy Cross

Bishop D’Arcy can best be described as a holy, thoughtful and gracious servant of the Lord. In all of my interactions with him, Bishop D’Arcy was always respectful of the Brothers of Holy Cross and our positions on the subject under consideration. We did not necessarily agree on all matters, however, the bishop was always courteous and understanding of our positions, and in time we normally found a mutually acceptable solution to the issue.

Sister M. Angela Mellady, OSF, Provincial of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka

It was such an extraordinary grace and privilege for the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration to provide a place for Bishop D’Arcy to stay in Mishawaka while he ministered to his flock on this end of the diocese. What a blessing to witness the many hours he spent in prayer, and how he poured out his heart and energy serving the faithful of this diocese whom he dearly loved.

This past summer he directed a retreat for the sisters in initial formation. He told them that courage and humility are the two virtues of Christ that priests and each of us should imitate. And how he exemplified these virtues in his own life, especially in these last days. Even in the midst of suffering, he witnessed a deep faith, joy and profound inner peace.

We pray that all Bishop D’Arcy taught us through his example and selfless service will deepen our love for Christ and His Blessed Mother, and inspire us to serve the Church with a fraction of his great zeal, courage and humility.

Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame joins many others in mourning Bishop D’Arcy. His life was one of loving service to God’s people as a pastor and, since he became the bishop of this diocese in 1985, he has shown dedicated and affectionate care for the University of Notre Dame. We remember him with gratitude and, though saddened by his passing, we believe he will be an advocate for us in the heavenly Kingdom.

Carol Ann Mooney, president of Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame

Bishop D’Arcy was himself an academic, and as such really understood the complexities of Catholic higher education. His visits to our campus were marked by his great personal warmth and love for our students. His homilies at Commencement were legendary, and after Mass he would stand and take pictures with students and their families for as long as needed. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Holy Cross Brother John R. Paige, president of Holy Cross College, Notre Dame

Bishop D’Arcy provided great encouragement for our work here at Holy Cross. In addition to being a shepherd for the entire diocese, he was a true friend of the college. When it came time to implement the norms for “Ex Corde Ecclesiae,” he had already established himself as a friendly and familiar pastor with whom we naturally enjoyed positive and fruitful dialogue. He was a frequent visitor to our campus and his visits usually included Mass and lunch with our students. Both he and our students enjoyed this time together immensely.

His commencement speeches were always notable and he never failed to publically endorse our good work. Occasionally, he even came to campus to teach R.C.I.A. classes for our students preparing to become Catholic. Bishop D’Arcy’s warmth, kindness and constant affirmations will be greatly missed at Holy Cross College.

Ronald L. May, president Ancilla College, Donaldson

Bishop D’Arcy visited the Ancilla College campus a number of times during my tenure as president. What I think I noticed most about him was his ongoing concern for the students the college served. It was as if he was a priest looking after his parishioners. He enjoyed the interaction and dialogue he was able to have with the students during his campus visits. While he was the bishop, he never lost the concern he had for each member of his flock. That’s the memory of Bishop John D’Arcy that I carry with me.

Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, president of the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne

Bishop D’Arcy’s kind and paternal nature made him a welcome family member to so many, including the USF community. He was faithfully supportive of the mission and work of the University of Saint Francis, even in his retirement. He was also totally engaged with the implementation of “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” across the five colleges in his diocese. We will continue to honor him through our campus Masses, in our classrooms and daily lives and when we meet on our athletic field, which bears his name.
Sister Nora Hahn, PHJC, Provincial Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Bishop D’Arcy has truly been a friend to the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. We probably remember his counsel most in areas of Catholic Health Care. When it was time to sell St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne he assisted us in continuing the Catholic identity and the availability of daily Mass and the sacraments for the patients. Any number of times our sisters were invited to his home for our report on how the hospital lives out the mission of Catholic Health Care. He would serve us lunch and seemed to have all the time in the world for us. He also supported us in other health care issues we were dealing with as a congregation. When the best candidate for president of Ancilla College was not a Catholic, Bishop D’Arcy took the time to get to know him and to embrace him as a partner in Catholic higher education. On a more personal level Bishop D’Arcy knew many of our sisters, especially those who lived in Fort Wayne, and was truly a pastoral influence in their lives and in the lives of all of us who knew him.

So, I guess in summary, he listened carefully, he challenged us, he affirmed us, he shepherded us in so many ways and we are grateful that he touched the life of our congregation.

Sister Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, president of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross

Bishop D’Arcy had a deep appreciation for the charisms of the religious congregations in the Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend and knew well the history, circumstances and call that brought each congregation to Indiana. He engaged in lively conversations about our beginnings and showed interest in our unfolding in the current world reality.

At a celebration commemorating his jubilee of ordination, representatives of the Holy Cross congregations gave Bishop D’Arcy an icon of Mary, Mother of Sorrows. I will never forget how moved he was when he opened the gift and shared that his devotion to Mary gave him joy and comfort throughout his life.

I was touched when Bishop D’Arcy decided to remain in the diocese after he retired so he could continue in ministry to the people he had come to know and love. This place had become home to him and we had become at home with him. Direct and unassuming, compassionate and zealous, kind hearted and concerned about those who suffer from poverty and violence, Bishop D’Arcy graced our lives through his ministry and presence. We are grateful for the witness of his life, for his integrity and fidelity.

Sister Beatrice Haines, president of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters

Bishop D’Arcy was a true friend to Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. He visited us often at Victory Noll to celebrate the Eucharist with us, to join us for dinner and always took time to visit with our sisters on “third floor,” our skilled care area.

He was interested in each sister’s story and remembered names and where the sisters came from.

Bishop D’Arcy was truly a pastoral bishop, not only in his relationship with our congregation, but also with his concern for the priests in his diocese. He loved his own priestly vocation and had great respect and love for all priests.

As a congregation we are especially grateful to Bishop D’Arcy for the support he gave to our mission and charism. He knew and appreciated our missionary work even beyond this diocese. Our Ministry Center at Victory Noll was especially dear to his heart. At one point he called our center “a spiritual oasis in the diocese.”

Bishop D’Arcy will always have a special place in our history and in our prayer. We have been blessed to have had his friendship and love.

Our Sunday Visitor president reflects on Bishop D’Arcy’s legacy

Greg Erlandson, president and publisher of the Publishing Division of Our Sunday Visitor, worked directly with Bishop John M. D’Arcy in his role as chairman of the board of directors of Our Sunday Visitor until his retirement in 2010. Erlandson has this to say about Bishop D’Arcy’s legacy and his impact on Catholic publishing and the mission of the Church:

“Bishop John M. D’Arcy served for 24 years as the chairman of the board of directors of Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., until his retirement as bishop in 2010. He was a good friend and a strong supporter of Our Sunday Visitor and its mission of service to the Church.

Bishop D’Arcy appreciated the history of Our Sunday Visitor and its mission to form and inform Catholics for the Church. As successor of Archbishop John F. Noll, the founder of Our Sunday Visitor, Bishop D’Arcy appreciated the history of Our Sunday Visitor and its mission to form and inform Catholics as well as to defend the Church from unjust attack.

As chair of the Our Sunday Visitor board, and as the publisher of his own diocesan newspaper, Today’s Catholic, he was a strong supporter of the Catholic press and its role in the Church. He recognized that while formats and technologies may change, trustworthy Catholic publications play an essential role in Catholics’ knowledge of their faith and of their Church.

As bishop, his priorities included vocations, evangelization and catechesis, and these priorities were mirrored not only in the work of Our Sunday Visitor, but also in the priorities of the Our Sunday Visitor Institute, which funds Catholic programs throughout the diocese and around the country.

His impact on the formation of teachers and catechists in his diocese was extraordinary, and will remain a lasting legacy. With the help of the Our Sunday Visitor Institute, he developed programs for certification and master’s degrees for many of those who were charged with passing on the faith to the next generation.

Ultimately, we will remember him as a dedicated, generous priest and bishop who loved his people and who was wholly committed to their service. His sense of humor was matched by the strength of his vision and pastoral concern. I count it an honor to have worked with him for so many years.”

Mary Queen of Angels,

welcome into the loving arms of Jesus, your beloved Son,

John Michael D’Arcy,

Faithful and Devoted Servant

Queen of Angels Parish

Fort Wayne, Indiana

O heavenly Father,

Father of the great high priest, your son, Jesus Christ,

we pray for the happy repose of Bishop John Michael D’Arcy

Who gave his life to bring love for your Son to the world.

Look kindly on John Michael and give him a share of your glory in heaven.

St. Stanislaus Kostka parish

New Carlisle

Bishop D’Arcy will always have a special place in our history and in our prayer.

We have been blessed to have had his friendship and love.

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters

Huntington

Our Sunday Visitor will always have a special place in our history and in our prayer. We have been blessed to have had his friendship and love.
Thank You Bishop D’Arcy

You led us with gospel values
You fed us from the Holy Table
You spread the word of His love and mercy
You did not bury the master’s talents,
But enriched it to benefit His people.

Saint Joseph Parish - Roanoke
Saint Catherine of Alexandria Parish - Nix Settlement
In his life and work, all done under the sign of the cross, John Michael D’Arcy has had a lifetime of personal achievement, public acclaim . . . glory, and private sorrow; the sum of which cannot equal what he now experiences; touching the face of God.

Saint Joseph Parish
Mishawaka

I think the way out of the shortage is to ordain young men of quality — not supermen, which would eliminate all of us — but good men who would also make good husbands and fathers, and who can make a gift of themselves to others. These, in turn, will draw similar young men.

— Bishop John M. D’Arcy

The Members of the Permanent Diaconate of The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend recall with fondness and appreciation the acceptance, guidance and example of Bishop D’Arcy as they advanced in their ministry of the Diaconate

Deacon Robert Byrne
Deacon Paul B. Dits
Deacon David Elchert
Deacon James K Fitzpatrick
Deacon James Fuchs
Deacon William Gallagher
Deacon Emilio Gizzi
Deacon John Hilger
Deacon James Kitchens
Deacon Jerome Kohrman
Deacon John Tugman

Deacon Ervin Kuspa
Deacon Stanley LeMieux
Deacon Joseph Messina
Deacon Brian L. Miller
Deacon Kevin M. Ranaghan
Deacon Melvin Tardy, Jr.
Deacon James Tighe
Deacon James M Walsh
Deacon Gregory Gehred
Deacon Greg Poole

Eternal God and Father
We thank you now for Bishop D’Arcy.
For all that we saw of Your Goodness and love in his life, and for all that he means to each of us that he might share the life of eternity.
To him be glory with You and the Holy Spirit and Our Mother Mary and Saint Patrick, a model of courageous faith like his.
Give courage and strength to his family and friends in their loss and sorrow and reassure them of Your continuing love.

Rev. Alex Dodrai and the parishioners of Saint Patrick’s - Arcola

“We have learned that it is more important to have good priests then to have many priests.”

— Bishop John M. D’Arcy

Thank you for your dedication to and affection for our Diocese and Saint Pius X Catholic Church.
May God bring you to everlasting peace.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy
Remembering a man of faith who loved Our Lady

**BY LISA EVERETT**

My first glimpse of Bishop John M. D’Arcy’s great faith came in 1987 at a moment of great sorrow for me. I had been working for him for about six months, and Fred and I were expecting our first child. We were living in married student housing at Notre Dame and I was about to drive to Fort Wayne for a meeting when I began to miscarry. I called Bishop D’Arcy’s secretary to explain why I would not be able to make the meeting, and a little while later, the phone rang.

I can remember the tears welling up in my eyes when I heard bishop’s gentle voice telling me how sorry he was and encouraging me to turn to Our Lady, because she knew what it was like to lose a child. In that moment which was my first real experience of suffering, bishop gave Mary to me as a mother in a way I had never known. His counsel to me in that conversation was as natural as breathing, for it flowed from his own deep relationship with Our Lady. Over the years I witnessed how he prayed to her for light and strength and consolation in his own moments of great sorrow for me. I was sorry for his suffering and I assured him that Our Lady was there to comfort him. And since it was Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation, and the anniversary of his ordination to the holy Priesthood, I asked Our Lady to present Bishop D’Arcy to the Father as she had once presented her Son, Jesus, in the Temple in Jerusalem. As I mourn the loss of a beloved friend in this life, I am consoled by the sure hope that he will behold in the Father’s face for all eternity that same look of love and delight we glimpsed in his.

Lisa Everett is the codirector of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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**Thank you, Bishop D’Arcy**

For your encouragement, prayers, guidance, and most of all for setting the example of what a priest should be.

**SEMINARIANS OF THE DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND**

- Christopher Lapp
- Barry Zachary
- Royce Gregerson
- William Meininger
- Jonathan Norton
- Matthew Soberalski
- Craig Borchard
- Daniel Davis
- Robert Garrow
- Christopher Sindelar
- David Violi
- Eric Burgener
- David Huncek
- Patrick Hake
- Jay Horning
- Howard Jankowski
- Nathaniel Maskal
- Thomas Zehr
- Valentin Reyes
- J. D. Kimes
- Daniel Niezer
- Spencer St. Louis
- Thomas Saul
- Samuel Sliger
- Jesse Gettinger
- Justin Meechah
- Thomas Scheibelhut
We praise Bishop John M. D’Arcy for Twenty-Seven Years of Devoted Service to the People of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese.

We thank him for the countless lives he has influenced, the hearts he has touched, and his faithful wisdom and dedication to the Church.

We will miss his wise leadership and pray for his happy repose.

- The Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province
- Holy Cross College
- Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame

Forever an Inspiration.
The boy who would become bishop

John Michael D’Arcy was born the only son of Irish emigrants on Aug. 18, 1932 in Boston, Mass. His father, Michael John aspired to a new life when he stepped onto American soil in 1925 after emigrating from Ireland at age 26. Five years later, after establishing himself in construction, Michael met and married Margaret Moran and the D’Arcy family began in earnest.

John was born second of the four D’Arcy children, only 18 months after the first born, Mary. His younger sisters Anne and Joan followed soon after to make the family complete. Of the four close-knit siblings, two, Mary and Joan, would marry and raise children and two, John and Anne, would enter religious life to serve the God of their beloved Catholic Church.

John was known for his intelligence and wit as a boy. His sister Mary, who preceded Bishop D’Arcy in death in 2007, said in an interview with Today’s Catholic that year, “His Irish wit stands out, and his ready smile shows something of both parents.”

She recalled that her brother’s eager nature won him entrance into kindergarten at the local parochial school at the tender age of four, later finishing his elementary education in public schools. Throughout his youth he was close to his sisters. Middle sister, Anne, a Sister of St. Joseph, recalls her delight at walking to school with her big brother who was in second grade. She said he was known as an exemplary student throughout his academic career.

When John was nine, his father Michael opened a neighborhood grocery, D’Arcy’s Market, in 1941 from where he and sister Mary, could be seen delivering groceries in a wagon throughout the neighborhood.

But John’s passion for sports, particularly baseball, drew him away many times to play ball at the park with friends instead. His sister Joan said in an interview

“The Church is a place of truth, and you have the right to hear the truth.”

— Bishop John M. D’Arcy
Family photos of Bishop D’Arcy used for his 50th anniversary to the priesthood commemoration are shown above.

with Today's Catholic in 2007, "Dad told us to get John to help in the store. He was at the ball park, and when I called to him, he said to wait till after he had his turn at bat."

Joan recalled her brother’s easy-going manner and that he had many friends.

John attended Boston College High School staffed by Jesuit priests, where he excelled in his classes and did well on the debate team. Following graduation at 16 he entered the seminary.

Sister Anne wrote in an article for Today's Catholic in 2007 that the Jesuits at Boston College High School were an important factor in Bishop D’Arcy’s vocation. She wrote, “A few years ago, when he returned to receive the Ignatius Medal, he recalled those years with fondness. Growing up in the shadow of St. John’s Seminary, across from Boston College, we would often walk by those hallowed grounds.”

In addition to the Jesuit influence on John’s spiritual development, the three sisters agreed that their parents had much to do with it as well. The close-knit family prayed the rosary daily together as well as attended Mass each week. They attended Stations of the Cross during Lent together and participated in the Sacred Heart novena on Fridays.

Following his ordination to the priesthood in 1957 at age 24, Father John M. D’Arcy was commissioned to St. Mary Parish in Beverly, Mass., where, according to his sisters, he worked with great enthusiasm to serve his parishioners.

After nine years at St. Mary Parish, he traveled to Rome to earn a doctorate in spiritual theology.

In 1975, John was appointed auxiliary bishop for Boston at age 42. His family was proud to witness his appointment even as his dad fought lung cancer. Sadly, the disease claimed Michael’s life two years later.

Then in 1981, Bishop D’Arcy was appointed regional bishop for Lowell region. Four years later, in 1985, he would be installed as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, where for over 28 years he served the people he loved in the region he called home.

"Courage and humility are the two virtues of Christ that priests and each of us should imitate."

~Bishop John Michael D’Arcy

Even in the midst of suffering, our dear Bishop D’Arcy witnessed to these virtues with a deep faith, joy, and profound inner peace. May his example continue to deepen our relationship with Christ and His Blessed Mother.

Requiescat in pace.

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

WORSHIP + SERVICE + EDUCATION - IN THE HEART OF SOUTH BEND

The parishioners, clergy, and staff of Saint Joseph Parish, South Bend, give thanks to God for the life and ministry of the Most Reverend John Michael D’Arcy.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
“I find a great hunger in young people.”
— Bishop John M. D’Arcy

“May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

August 18, 1932 - February 3, 2013
May you Rest in God’s Peace

You are now numbered among the Saints!

You are now numbered among the Saints!

“May you Rest in God’s Peace
You are now numbered among the Saints!

You are now numbered among the Saints!

The Church always sees the bishop as married to the diocese
and staying with it and not leaving it. So you’re holding it in
your heart all the time and thinking about it all the time.”
— Bishop John M. D’Arcy

BISHOP D’ARCY
was a frequent celebrant
of the All Souls Day Mass in the
Resurrection Mausoleum of the Catholic Cemetery.
His presence and kind words brought comfort
to those attending. We are thankful for his
support and the time spent as our shepherd.

CATHOLIC CEMETERY
OF FORT WAYNE, INC.

Bishop William Patrick Callahan
and the faithful of
the Diocese of La Crosse
pray for the repose of the soul of
Bishop John M. D’Arcy.
Eternal rest grant unto him, O, Lord;
And let perpetual light
shine upon him.

Father Thomas A. Brandon
Council 451, Knights of Columbus
was proud to have
Bishop John M. D’Arcy
as a member of our council.

REQUIESCAT IN PACEM
VIVAT JESUS!

601 Reed Road - Fort Wayne
The pastor, people
students, and faculty at
St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder
are enriched for
having experienced
the warmth, the humor,
the friendship and the
spiritual example of
Bishop John M. D’Arcy.

May the angels
lead him into
paradise

Although he has passed
on to his eternal life,
the vision, guidance, and leadership of
Bishop John M. D’Arcy
continue as a profound spiritual legacy
for the priests and people
of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
and beyond.

ST. JUDE PARISH
FORT WAYNE

“The best thing a bishop does for a parish is send them a good priest. When you’ve
done that, you’ve helped hundreds or thousands of people” (2005).
— Bishop John M. D’Arcy

From a dream of 300 families and their bishop to a house for the Lord,
where more than two thousand families now gather in His glory.
The priests and people of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
continue to express their appreciation and respect for

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

for his vision, support and founding of our parish in 1988.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

Saint Mary Parish
extends sympathy and prayers
to the family and friends of
Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy
We are grateful for his leadership
over his years as our Diocesan Bishop,
and his continuing care and assistance
to our parish in his Emeritus years.
We will greatly miss him.
Saint Mary Parish
Huntington

As Chairman of the Board of
CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Bishop D’Arcy
helped us find Jesus in disguise
in the homeless, the helpless, the hungry
and all of those who have come to
depend on Providence alone.

Catholic Charities
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

The best thing a bishop does for a parish is send them a good priest. When you’ve
done that, you’ve helped hundreds or thousands of people” (2005).
— Bishop John M. D’Arcy

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BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

for his vision, support and founding of our parish in 1988.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE
You are
in our prayers
Bishop D’Arcy

The Parish Family
at St. Louis Besancon
deply love and honor you...
for we know Bishop D’Arcy,
you have fought the good fight
and have faithfully won the race.
Rejoice now with God and remember
your people you have shepherded.

John Michael D’Arcy
A Good Shepherd
who can now rest
from his labors.

St. Martin de Porres Parish
SYRACUSE

Bishop D’Arcy
He offered Mass
He offered friendship
He offered encouragement
He left us a legacy of love,
spiritual direction and the value
of what the pursuit of academic
excellence could provide.

I was reminded of a question that I posed once to Pope John Paul II at an “ad limina”
visit. “Do you have a word for our priests when I return?” He replied, “Tell your priests that
the great day for the pope was not the day he was made a bishop and not the day he was
made a pope, but the day he was ordained a priest and could say Mass for the people.”
— Bishop John M. D’Arcy

In Memory of
Bishop
John Michael D’Arcy
Faithful Friend and Servant

Eternal Rest Grant
Unto Him, O Lord

Although we grieve with
those who mourn the death of
BISHOP D’ARCY,
We share the joy he must experience
by being in the true presence of
The Holy Family.
Holy Family Parish
SOUTH BEND
Coat of Arms reflects the diocese and represents the ordinary

The Coat of Arms is divided vertically into two sections, the one to the viewer’s left represents the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and the right section representing the ordinary of the diocese, Bishop John M. D’Arcy.

Diocese

The crescent moon represents the Virgin Mary, mother of Christ. As the Immaculate Conception, she is patroness of the United States, patroness of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and its cathedral in Fort Wayne.

The three crosses represent the Blessed Trinity. The Blessed Trinity, working through missionaries, brought this diocese into being.

The crosses replace swords on the family crest of General Anthony Wayne, the founder of the fort that grew into the see city of Fort Wayne.

The fortified wall represents Fort Wayne.

The serpent symbolizes the inspired word of God. St. Matthew is one of the inspired evangelists who recorded this word. Thus the angel identifies the patron of the co-cathedral in South Bend.

The river bend is expressed in heraldry by a wavy line. This represents the see city of South Bend.

The fleur-de-lis is the lily, symbol of purity and of the chaste foster father of Christ, St. Joseph. It indicates the locale of the see city — the St. Joseph River and valley, and St. Joseph County.

Ordinary

The praying hands in the center of Bishop D’Arcy’s shield symbolizes a central part of the Church’s mission — the offering of praise to God the Father in, with and through Christ and the work of spiritual formation and spiritual direction in which the bishop has been privileged to be engaged.

It also refers to his work for 10 years as vicar for spiritual development in the Archdiocese of Boston. The eagle’s head with a halo denotes St. John the Evangelist, “the one Jesus loved” (Jn. 20:2) and the baptismal patron of the bishop.

It also recalls the years the bishop has spent at St. John’s Seminary as student, teacher and spiritual director. There are two crescents. One refers to Mary, the woman of faith in whom is found perfect openness to the word of God. It also betokens the eight years the bishop spent in St. Mary of the Sea Parish in Beverly, Mass. — the only parish to which he has been attached.

The other crescent symbolizes the Church — the sacrament of Christ.

The shield itself with its semes of crosses, crosslet argent (silver) is the shield of the D’Arcy family, a tribe of native Irish stock from the province of Connacht. The six-pointed rayed star, known both in Jewish and Christian art, is from the arms of the Moran family of the bishop’s mother — also from the province of Connacht.

The motto: “His steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 118 and 136) expresses briefly an ideal, a program of life, the spirit of the one who selects it. It is also a call to the Church and to every person to be reminded of God’s steadfast love even in the midst of pain and sorrow.

Bishop Emeritus John M. D’Arcy

Our Shepherd, Our Mentor, Our Friend
May perpetual light shine upon him
The Marian High School Family

Bishop D’Arcy offered hope, prayers during difficult illness

BY MATT MARSHALL

Bishop D’Arcy has been an important part of my life for many years. I first really got to know him in 1997 at one of his young adult retreats when I was 18. It was there where he and I first talked about me being open to God’s call in my life, whatever that calling may be.

Over the next 15 years, he and I would run into each other at diocesan functions, retreats, baseball games and even had lunch together several times.

I was always known to him as “Matt from the parish at Ege.” He prayed for me a lot when I was trying to decide what God wanted me to do in my life and continued to pray for me, even after I met my wife Jill.

When I was diagnosed with a very rare and potentially deadly form of leukemia in 2011, Bishop D’Arcy was a kind friend to me. He came to my hospital room at Parkview on a Friday evening and prayed the rosary with my family and me. He also met with me several times before my bone marrow transplant and had anointed me at Mass.

Three days before I went to Indianapolis for my transplant, I met with Bishop D’Arcy at his office. His advice was to put my sufferings into the hands of Our Lord and Our Lady and they will take care of me.

He also gave me a wooden statue of Our Lady and the Christ Child that was sitting behind his desk. He told me that he had received it a long time ago and wanted me to keep it in my room at the hospital as a reminder of his advice to me. He then hugged me and gave me a blessing for a safe and successful transplant.

He even came over to my house for dinner while I was successfully recovering. I will always treasure his friendship and kindness, especially during the darkest time of my life. He is a good priest and a faithful servant of Christ, His people, and the Holy Catholic Church.

May God Bless you always, Bishop D’Arcy, and thank you for the beautiful fruits of kindness and faith that you have given to my life.

Matt Marshall is a commercial loan officer at IAB Financial Bank and lives in Ege.
Going back, recalling joys, challenges of almost 25 years a bishop

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop John M. D’Arcy, the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was bishop for 24 years, seven months and 12 days before the installation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as bishop. Only Archbishop John F. Noll served longer, 31 years and one month from 1925-1956.

In an interview with Bishop D’Arcy that was published Jan. 3, 2006, he spoke of the “almost” 25 years of bishop. Here are some highlights from that article.

**Diocesan surprises and challenges**

Bishop D’Arcy said, “I was struck at the very beginning by the great pride that Catholic people had in the Church and the schools.”

He said, there was “a great love for the Catholic faith and a real desire to grow in it.”

Surveys of the different departments, schools and parishes indicated that the priests of the diocese were devoted to schools. “In the (Boston) archdiocese that I came from, many of the priests did not want to have a school,” he said.

“I found a strong Catholic identity here,” Bishop D’Arcy said, especially in the four diocesan high schools, the former Central Catholic High School alumni, and the other Catholic institutions such as the hospitals, Saint Anne Home and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

“I think it came from being a minority,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “I think Fort Wayne is about 22 percent Catholic. South Bend is higher.”

But he noted in some areas of the diocese, the Catholic percentage is as low as 5 or 6 percent.

“I always found the small parishes very fascinating, very interesting, but a great desire for the Church to do well, that the parishes be well-led,” he said.

One of his biggest challenges would be to stabilize the Catholic parishes and schools. When he arrived, teachers’ salaries were low, and there was a struggle with a teachers’ organization, a union, called CATCH.

“The Church respects the right of people to organize,” he said. “Yet this organization was always opposing the bishop in public, so it was necessary to address that.”

“We did that by organizing a Teachers’ Council, which was promised to meet with four times a year my first two years and at least twice a year after that,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

“That has brought me closer to the teachers,” he said. “I hear their problems. I sit in their presence and hear their problems. They hear my problems and the problems of the diocese. So it’s been a much better fit than with the organization that was adversarial.”

Bishop D’Arcy said, “The teachers were right. The salaries were very low. ... There was a challenge to face that, to form the Teachers’ Council and improve salaries.”

**Annual Bishop’s Appeal**

Bishop D’Arcy said, “I think one of the best things we ever did financially was the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. I came in May and the first meeting I had with priests was in September in Warsaw.”

He explained, “the way the diocese was financed — 13 percent on all income, not just your Sunday offertory. Your school tuition was taxed. If you had a fundraiser for $100,000, you had to send 13 percent to the diocese. The priests were very upset with this so we had a committee of 10 priests and six laity. ... And they recommended an Annual Bishop’s Appeal, and dropping the tax on everything except offertory and take it from 10 percent down to 6 percent. Canon law allows you to have such a tax for the ministries of the bishop.”

“It was a tremendous success,” he said. “The first year we raised $4.5 million. And it was done collaboratively.”

Bishop D’Arcy said the appeal draws the diocese together. The campaign works with a couple from Fort Wayne and a couple from South Bend in alternating years as diocesan leadership. He added that the video, too, draws the people together.

**Masters in theology program**

Our Sunday Visitor, established by Archbishop Noll, has played a significant role in preparing catechists to bring people closer to the sacraments and to Christ.

“I need to give an enormous amount of credit to Our Sunday Visitor board, because with the help of Sister Jane Carew early on, we applied for funds to prepare catechists — first with the University of Dayton, and the last 10 years with the University of Notre Dame — to get a master’s degree in catechetics or theology,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

“And then they can teach in our schools. We have about 65 who have completed the program, and it’s still ongoing.”

The masters’ students “don’t have to pay anything,” he noted. “They have to promise to teach for us at least four years. So we have this whole army of catechists in our schools and our parishes. To have all these lay people and priests teaching is a great blessing for us.”

**Diocesan progress**

Bishop D’Arcy said one of the things that has pleased him most in his years as bishop is the unity of his priests. “People who come to give Days of Recollection always talk about the unity among our priests,” he said.

He also appreciates the prayerful reverence in parishes across the diocese. “The Mass is a gift,” he said. “You can’t manipulate the Mass. You have to celebrate the Mass as the Church says you should celebrate it. And in most of our parishes that’s done right and well.”

WE FONDLY REMEMBER JUNE 9, 1985, WHEN WE CELEBRATED THE BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF OUR NEW CHURCH, THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING IN OUR DIOCESE TO BE DEDICATED BY BISHOP D’ARCY AFTER BEING INSTALLED AS THE EIGHTH BISHOP OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND ONLY FIVE WEEKS EARLIER.

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

John Michael D’Arcy
With gratitude to God for his faithful service to God’s people and our prayers for his eternal rest, we join the faithful everywhere who are touched by his death.

St. John Bosco Parish
Churubusco
Immaculate Conception Parish
Ege

St. Peter’s and St. Mary’s
Two venerable Fort Wayne parishes which have served the Catholic faithful for a total of more than 300 years, express our affection, admiration and respect for Bishop John M. D’Arcy and offer our heartfelt prayers for the repose of his immortal soul.

Your loving and sacrificial service as our shepherd was truly faith in action.
Rest in Peace dear Bishop.
Always loved...Never Forgotten
St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church
Columbia City, Indiana

The ministry, witness and service of Bishop John M. D’Arcy are now included with the 170 years of service of Saints Peter and Paul Parish to the Catholic Faithful
May be rest in peace...
SS. Peter & Paul Parish Huntington
He is also pleased with the evangelization efforts of the diocese. “The fact that we are able to have Mass on television in both cities. That is just amazing,” he said. “Our communications, and our newspaper now going to every home — that’s a great thing — and I’m proud of the newspaper.”

**Potential seminarians, priests**

In the early days, Bishop D’Arcy was often criticized for turning down too many potential priest-candidates.

“I interview every candidate myself,” he said. “And then we have a psychological screening — an excellent person. She is the head of a counseling service at Notre Dame. She gives me an excellent psychological report. This doesn’t mean that we have been perfect. We have made mistakes sometimes, but generally our screening has been good.”

He said, “And so (I look at) the quality of seminarians — men who would be good fathers and would be good husbands and would be successful in whatever they did. And I believe very much in the philosophy of Pope Benedict who said in his visit to this country, ‘We have learned that it is more important to have good priests than to have many priests.’”

Bishop D’Arcy added, “Now we need many too, but the way to many is through quality people who will trigger other quality people.”

**Colleges and religious orders**

“Even though this is a small diocese, it is a high profile diocese because there are five Catholic institutions of higher education,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “You also have several communities that have their motherhouses here.”

He noted, “It’s been a joy to have been affiliated with these Catholic universities and certainly with Notre Dame. I’ve enjoyed all aspects of it with the Holy Cross priests, with the young people and the administration and the many fine professors there.”

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**St. Patrick’s Parish, Fort Wayne, wishes to thank Bishop D’Arcy for his guidance and offers condolences to his family.**

Giáo Xứ Thánh Patrick tại Fort Wayne, xin cảm ơn Đức Cố Giám Mục John D’Arcy về sự hướng dẫn của Ngài và xin thành kính phần ưu tiên gia đình và toàn thể tang quyền. Nguyên xin Thiên Chúa dẫn dắt Ngài về hưng Nước Trời.

La Parroquia de San Patricio, Fort Wayne, desea agradecerle al Sr. Obispo D’Arcy por su guía y ofrecerle nuestras condolencias a su familia.
Que Dios lo guíe a su recompensa celestial.

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**Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary wishes to extend our sincerest condolences to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, family, friends and loved ones of Bishop John M. D’Arcy.**

700 Terrace Heights #43, Winona, MN 55987
507-457-7373   www.ihmseminary.org

**Shepherd...Father...Friend**

Although he no longer walks among us.
His presence continues as we recall
his solid faith, his zeal for souls,
his wisdom and his love for us.

Saint Monica Parish
MISHAWAKA

**Well done, well done**

**good and faithful servant!**

**Bishop John M. D’Arcy**

**You have served us**

**with much dedication and love**

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**St. Charles Borromeo**

**FORT WAYNE**

**St. Vincent de Paul**

**FORT WAYNE**
We mourn...
The angels rejoice!

St. John the Evangelist Parish - Goshen
Rev. Anthony Steinacker, Pastor

St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish - Bristol
Rev. Robert Van Kempen, Pastor

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkhart
Rev. William Sullivan, Pastor

St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Elkhart
Rev. Glenn Kohrman, Pastor
The Jewish communities of the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley join in sending their heartfelt condolences to the Roman Catholic communities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend upon the passing of our dear friend, Bishop John M. D’Arcy. May his memory be for a blessing.

Among the ideals closest to the heart of Bishop D’Arcy was the need for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In his desire to find more men and women to serve the Church, he gave strong and enthusiastic support to the efforts of the Serra Club of Fort Wayne. In life we enjoyed his company, his humor, his leadership. In death, we honor his example.

The Pontifical College Josephinum prayerfully remembers Bishop John Michael D’Arcy, a loving shepherd, a model pastor, a faithful friend.

The people of St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Bishop D’Arcy’s family. May he receive the reward promised for his great stewardship of our diocese. God’s steadfast love endured through Bishop D’Arcy!
We thank God for Bishop D’Arcy who was truly a shepherd after the mind and heart of Jesus.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish • Waterloo, Indiana

Every year, I ask the students to repeat a prayer that I have taught them. Many remember it year to year. “Lord, help me, teach me to find my vocation in life.” — Bishop John M. D’Arcy

Bishop D’Arcy, You confirmed us, you shepherded us, you loved us. We are blest to have benefited from your teaching and example. Thank you for your life of service to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Saint Joseph High School South Bend, Indiana

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, And the rains fall soft upon your fields, And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Bishop D’Arcy

In celebration of the life of Bishop D’Arcy and appreciation of his support for Ancilla and Catholic higher education the Ancilla College community continues to pray for the repose of his soul, his family, and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Ancilla College is a ministry sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Bishop D’Arcy

Thank you for teaching us how to pray.

Holy Cross School
A ministry of Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish

Bishop D’Arcy

Thank you for teaching us how to pray.
BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY WAS A GREAT PARTNER TO THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS, SUPPORTING OUR VOCATIONS, PARISHES, SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITY.

MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES PROVINCE OF PRIESTS AND BROTHERS EXTEND THEIR PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVING FOR HIS LIFE’S WORK AND PRIESTLY MINISTRY.

MAY HE REST IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST.

The Messenger

The man from Galilee preached from a boat, spoke in the temple, and wrote in the sand. Somehow his words and actions survived over centuries and inspired a boy in Boston to the point that he longed to be one of the messengers of the Good News from Galilee. By the grace of God, he got that chance 56 years ago and began to spread Christ’s word in the pulpit, in classrooms, in homes, and anyplace that presented the opportunity. Eventually, in addition to speaking in churches, and through the resources available to a bishop, he sent the lessons from Galilee by audio visual presentations, radio, television, the Internet, and on the pages of this newspaper.

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All of us at TODAY’S CATHOLIC
took pride in assisting in this effort of evangelization
and enjoyed the experience of personal contact with our publisher,
and with genuine affection, and now with sympathy, express our admiration for his achievements made over 56 years
in the priesthood of Jesus Christ.
In Memoriam

Bishop John M. D’Arcy
1932 – 2013

Our Sunday Visitor remembers the lasting legacy of Bishop John M. D’Arcy with respect and gratitude.

He served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Our Sunday Visitor for 24 years, and was a friend and supporter of the organization’s mission to form and inform Catholics and defend the Church.

Our Sunday Visitor will remember Bishop D’Arcy as a dedicated, generous priest and bishop who loved his people and was committed to their service.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

“His Mercy is Forever.”
— Episcopal motto of Bishop John D’Arcy