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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

On Ash Wednesday, pope preaches on humility, Christian unity

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI receives ashes from Cardinal Angelo Comastri, archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, during Ash Wednesday Mass at the Vatican Feb. 13. The service was expected to be the last large liturgical event of Pope Benedict's papacy. The pope announced Feb. 11 that he will resign at the end of the month.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating what was expected to be the last public liturgy of his pontificate two weeks before his resignation, Pope Benedict XVI preached on the virtues of humility and Christian unity and heard his highest-ranking aide pay tribute to his service to the Church.

Jesus "denounces religious hypocrisy, behavior that wants to show off, attitudes that seek applause and approval," the pope said in his homily during Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Feb. 13. "The true disciple does not serve himself or the 'public,' but his Lord, in simplicity and generosity."

Coming two days after Pope Benedict announced that he would be the first pope in 600 years to resign, the Mass inevitably took on a valedictory tone.

"For me it is also a good opportunity to thank everyone, especially the faithful of the diocese of Rome, as I prepare to conclude the Petrine ministry, and I ask you for a special remembrance in your prayer," the pope told the congregation, including dozens of cardinals and bishops, fill-

ing the vast basilica.

The Ash Wednesday liturgy, traditionally held in two churches on Rome's Aventine Hill, was moved to St. Peter's to accommodate the greatest possible number of faithful.

At the end of the Mass, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who as secretary of state is the Vatican's highest official, voiced gratitude for Pope Benedict's pontificate of nearly eight years.

"Thank you for giving us the luminous example of a simple and humble laborer in the vineyard of the Lord," Cardinal Bertone said, invoking the same metaphor Pope Benedict had used in his first public statement following his election in 2005.

His voice cracking slightly with emotion, Cardinal Bertone described Benedict as a "laborer who knew at every moment to do what is most important, bring God to men and bring men to God."

Following the cardinal's remarks, the congregation broke into a standing ovation that lasted well over a minute, ceasing only after the pope, looking

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Bishop Rhoades celebrates Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at cathedrals

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — The first weekend of Lent marks a pivotal moment for those seeking to fully enter the Roman Catholic Church at Easter. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presided over the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in Fort Wayne on Saturday at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and South Bend on Sunday at St. Matthew Cathedral.

The Rite of Election includes the enrollment of names of all those seeking Baptism at the coming Easter Vigil. Typically, on the first Sunday of Lent, the catechumens, their sponsors and families gather at the cathedral church. The catechumens publicly express their desire for Baptism to the diocesan bishop. Their names are recorded in a book and they are called "the elect."

Next, those baptized Christians seeking full communion with the Catholic Church are also enrolled.

Sunday at St. Matthew Cathedral, Bishop Rhoades welcomed 106 catechumens and 112 candidates, representing 22 parishes from South Bend to Walkerton and including students from the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross College.

In Fort Wayne, Bishop Rhoades welcomed 88 catechumens and 145 candidates.

During his homily, Bishop Rhoades talked about the journey of faith and how it lasts a lifetime.

"Our catechumens will be born anew by Baptism," said Bishop Rhoades. "They and our candidates will be strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation. All will receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. The

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KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades signs the Books of the Elect as Deacon Jim Tighe assists at the Rite of Election and Call of Candidates to Continuing Conversion on Feb. 17 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

NEWS EDITOR and STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Michelle Castleman,
Karen Clifford, Bonnie Elbersen, Denise
Fedorow, Diane Freeby, Sister Margie
Lavonis, CSC, Jodi Magallanes, Joe
Kozinski, Vince LaBarbera and Deb
Wagner

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Sean McBride

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol
kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen (Fort Wayne area)

(260) 456-2824

Jeanette Simon (South Bend area)

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456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

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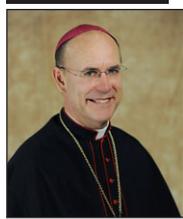
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The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

February 22nd is the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle. This year, we celebrate this feast just six days before that Chair becomes vacant. With gratitude and love, we pray for our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, as he ends his Petrine ministry on February 28th.

The Chair of Saint Peter symbolizes the special mission of Saint Peter and his successors, the popes, to shepherd Christ's flock, keeping the Church united in faith and charity. It signifies also the teaching authority of the Pope. Already in the first decade of the second century, Saint Ignatius of Antioch attributed a special primacy to the Church in Rome which he called the Church which "presides in charity." The Pope is the Bishop of Rome and, as such, the Pastor of the universal Church.

In the apse of Saint Peter's Basilica, there is a great bronze throne sculpted by Bernini. It encloses a wooden chair from the ninth century, long thought to be Peter's own chair. This "chair of Peter" is supported by four statues of great Fathers of the Church (Saints John Chrysostom, Athanasius, Ambrose and Augustine). Above the throne is an oval window, surrounded by angels, with the image of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. The symbolism of this great work of art is clear: the Holy Spirit guides the Church through Saint Peter and his successors, who authoritatively teach the Word of God transmitted in Sacred Scripture and Tradition.

We have been truly blessed these past eight years by the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI. He has led the Church in faith and charity. He was 78 years old when he was elected Pope on April 19, 2005, but his age did not prevent him from exercising his Petrine ministry with great zeal. Just months after his election, he went to World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany. His presence and his words inspired the hundreds of thousands of young people on that occasion and also later, at the World Youth Days in Sydney, Australia, and Madrid, Spain. I will always remember the latter two World Youth Days which I was blessed to attend.

I met Pope Benedict in Rome during my first year as a bishop in 2005, on two occasions in 2007, during the canonization of Saint Andre Bessette in 2010, and finally one year ago, during my ad limina visit to Rome in 2012. I also concelebrated three Masses with the Holy Father and my brother bishops during his 2008 visit to Washington, D.C. and New York City. These are all great memories that I will keep in my heart. Pope Benedict's warmth, gentleness, and Christ-like spirit touched me on each occasion.

Asked often in recent days about the legacy that Pope Benedict leaves the Church, I answer immediately "his teaching." A brilliant theologian since the days of the Second Vatican Council, Pope



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Gian Lorenzo Bernini's sculpture, "The Throne of St. Peter," is adorned with candles for the celebration of the feast of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 19, 2012. The candles and special liturgical vestments decorating the statue of St. Peter added to the celebration as Pope Benedict XVI concelebrated Mass with 22 new cardinals in the basilica.

Benedict's teaching as Pope reveals a lifetime of prayerful study of the Word of God and remarkable theological scholarship. So many of us have been enriched by the Holy Father's hundreds of beautiful homilies, audience talks, and speeches these past eight years. His three encyclicals offer profound reflections on Christian love, Christian hope, and on charity and truth as the heart of the Church's social doctrine. His apostolic exhortations on the Eucharist (*Sacramentum caritatis*) and on Scripture (*Verbum Domini*) are also great documents for prayerful reflection. Pope Benedict's teaching ministry, I believe, will long be remembered and will continue to help many to grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, we remember the words of Jesus to Simon at Caesarea Philippi: *You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven.* Simon became Peter, the rock that prevails against the destructive forces of evil. Jesus gave him a unique mission as the leader of the Twelve, a mission passed on to the Pope who heads the College of Bishops, the successors of the apostles. He gave Peter and his successors "the power of the keys", that is, "the authority to govern the house of God, which is the Church" (CCC 553).

At Mass on the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, we pray in the Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that no tempests may disturb us, for you have set

us fast on the rock of the Apostle Peter's confession of faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

For a few weeks, the Chair of Peter will be vacant. This will be an important time for all of us to pray for another holy successor of Saint Peter. The Roman Missal contains a special Mass for the Election of a Pope that contains the following Collect:

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Let us continue to remember Pope Benedict in our prayers and also pray for the Cardinals who will gather in conclave to elect a new Pope. We do so with confidence that the Lord has built His Church on the rock of Peter's confession of faith and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. We know that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, never leaves his flock untended. He continues to govern His Church through Peter and the other apostles, who are present in their successors, the Pope and the College of Bishops. Christ continues to pour out the Spirit to build, animate, and sanctify His Body, the Church.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Church, watch over Pope Benedict and intercede for the Cardinal electors!



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A sign in Italian saying "Thanks Holiness" is seen as Pope Benedict XVI begins his general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican Feb. 13. The pope surprised the world Feb. 11 by announcing that he no longer has strength to exercise his ministry and will retire at the end of the month.

Pope Benedict thanks faithful, asks them to pray for next pope

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At his first public appearance since he announced that he would resign at the end of February, Pope Benedict XVI thanked the faithful for their love and prayers and asked them to pray for his successor.

"I have felt, almost physically in these days — which haven't been easy for me — the strength that prayers, love for the Church and prayers for me bring me," the pope told some 7,000 people at his weekly public audience Feb. 13.

Coming two days after he made the announcement in Latin to a room full of cardinals, the pope's Ash Wednesday audience gave him the chance to explain his historic decision to his global flock, and to get taste of their reactions.

"As you know, I have decided ..." he said, before the capacity crowd in the Vatican audience hall broke out in prolonged applause, bringing a smile to the 85-year-old pope's face.

Pope Benedict explained that he had made his decision "in full freedom, for the good of the Church, after having prayed for

a long time and having examined my conscience before God, well aware of the seriousness of that act, but also aware of no longer being capable of fulfilling the Petrine ministry with the strength that it requires."

The pope appeared tired but smiled frequently and at times broadly during the hourlong audience.

"The certainty that the Church is Christ's and He will never cease guiding it and caring for it sustains me and enlightens me," the pope said. "I thank all of you for the love and prayers with which you have accompanied me."

"Continue to pray for me, for the Church, for the future pope," he said in conclusion, drawing an ovation a full minute long.

The rest of the audience proceeded more normally, with Pope Benedict devoting his catechetical talk for Ash Wednesday to the subject of Lent. Sounding one of the major themes of his pontificate, he called on the faithful to make a deeper personal conversion to Christ, in spite of the temptations and hostility of secular society.

Modern societies and cultures truly test Christians today, he said. For instance, "it is not easy to be faithful to Christian mat-

rimony, practice mercy in daily life, leave room for prayer and interior silence; it is not easy to publicly oppose choices that many people consider obvious, like abortion in the case of an unwanted pregnancy, euthanasia in the case of serious illness or the selection of embryos to avoid hereditary diseases."

However, he said, even in the modern age there have been shining examples of people who have converted or returned to their faith, radically changing their lives.

The pope specifically mentioned Pavel Florensky, a Russian mathematician and physicist who converted to the Orthodox Church and eventually became a monk; Etty Hillesum, a young Dutch woman from a Jewish family who discovered Christianity during World War II and died at Auschwitz; and Dorothy Day, the U.S. founder of the Catholic Worker movement.

Day made her "journey toward faith in an environment that was so secularized and very difficult, but grace was still at work, as she herself underlined, the pope said. "God led her to a deep attachment to the Church, to a life dedicated to the marginalized."

walked from his sacristy near the chapel that contains Michelangelo's statue of the Pieta to the atrium of the basilica, but then rode his mobile platform to the main altar.

During the Mass, Cardinal Angelo Comastri, archpriest of St. Peter's, placed the Lenten ashes on the pope's head. The pope himself placed ashes on the heads of several cardinals and a group of Dominican and Benedictine priests.

The pope's last homily included a plea for harmony among his flock,

as he lamented "blows against the unity of the Church, divisions in the ecclesial body" and called for a "more intense and evident ecclesial communion, overcoming individualisms and rivalries." Such communion favors evangelization, the pope said, by serving as a "humble and precious sign for those who are distant or indifferent to the faith."

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Feb. 24, 1 p.m. — Mass at Motherhouse Chapel of Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka
- Monday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Feb. 26, 10:30 a.m. 3 p.m. — Lenten Day of Recollection for Priests, Saint Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse
- Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m. — Closing Mass of Parish Mission, Saint John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne
- Friday, March 1, 12 noon — Luncheon Meeting of Annual Bishop's Appeal Committee, Wyndham Hotel, Warsaw
- Saturday, March 2, 6 p.m. — Saints Alive Gala Auction

Papal secretary moving with pope, other announcements

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The current staff of the papal apartments, including Archbishop Georg Ganswein, will accompany Pope Benedict XVI to Castel Gandolfo when he leaves office Feb. 28, the Vatican spokesman said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, also repeated his assertion that the conclave to elect a new pope would begin sometime between March 15 and March 20.

Correcting information he had given reporters earlier, Father Lombardi said Archbishop Ganswein told him Feb. 14 that he would be living with the pope and with the consecrated laywomen who belong to the Memores Domini Association of the Communion and Liberation movement and serve as the pope's domestic staff.

Archbishop Ganswein and the women will go to Castel Gandolfo with Pope Benedict and also will move with the pope to the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, a building in the Vatican Gardens being remodeled for their use, Father Lombardi said.

The Vatican spokesman said Archbishop Ganswein will live with Benedict XVI but also serve the new pope as prefect of the papal household.

Asked how such a dual role could work when Father Lombardi previously had said Pope Benedict would not interfere in the papacy of his successor, the Jesuit said Archbishop Ganswein's job is primarily one of logistics — organizing the pope's daily schedule of meetings and audiences — and not a job that brings him into contact with other papal decisions.

By being the first pope to resign in almost 600 years, Pope Benedict opened a whole box of questions that could not be answered immediately and kept Father Lombardi busy responding to media inquiries and making his own.

As the leaders of the College of Cardinals, canon law experts and other Vatican officials worked to gain clarity or come up with practical solutions to problems never

raised before, the Vatican spokesman's daily briefings Feb. 11-14 reflected a work in progress.

The recurring question at the daily briefings has been "When will the conclave start?" Each day, Father Lombardi tells reporters that is up to the leadership of the College of Cardinals, but rules governing the election of a pope say it must begin no fewer than 15 days and no more than 20 days after the papacy is vacant. That would mean a conclave could begin between March 15 and March 20.

Some newspapers have reported individual cardinals suggesting an earlier start, he said, and some have pointed out the 15 days usually include a papal funeral and a mandatory nine days of memorial Masses.

However, the rules for the conclave are issued by a pope, only a pope can change them, "and that is unlikely," Father Lombardi said Feb. 14. In fact, he said he asked in the Secretariat of State that morning and was told there was no commission working to draft potential changes for Pope Benedict to consider before leaving.

Asked what title Pope Benedict would use after Feb. 28, Father Lombardi had said that was a question still being studied, but it seemed to him that the most accurate title would be "bishop emeritus of Rome."

When questioned again Feb. 14, he said it still was not clear, though many experts had been voicing their opinions in the media. One thing is certain, he said, "being a bishop is a result of a sacrament," and that cannot be taken from the pope.

"Being a cardinal, on the other hand, is a title, not the effect of a sacrament, and so it has a different kind of value or importance," he said.

In addition, he said, Benedict XVI "is his name ... and that won't change."

Asked if there would be a public ceremony for the breaking of Pope Benedict's fisherman's ring, Father Lombardi said he believed the act — the responsibility of Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone as chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church — would take place in private, as it does after a pope dies.

ASHES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

surprised but not displeased, said: "Thank you, let's return to prayer."

The pope showed signs of the fatigue and frailty that have become increasingly evident over the last year and a half and which he had cited in announcing his resignation. At the beginning of the liturgy, he

RCIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sacraments of initiation, as the catechism teaches, 'lay the foundations of every Christian life.'"

Echoing the words of Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Rhoades called faith both an act of God's grace and a human response of the mind and the heart.

"My brothers and sisters, I encourage you today to persevere in faith throughout your lives," Bishop Rhoades said. "Never let go of this priceless gift! In order to persevere in faith, especially in times of trial, we must nourish it with the Word of God and with the sacraments. Without this nourishment, our faith will not live and grow. When we falter, as we all do, we can get up again with the grace of Confession, the grace of the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation."

Bishop Rhoades also encouraged everyone to be faithful to

Holy Mass every Sunday and holy days of obligation.

"You can be tempted to forsake the Sunday obligation," he acknowledged. "See this for what it is: a temptation to drift away from the Lord. Every one of us needs to be nourished with the Word of God and with the grace of the Holy Eucharist, our food on the journey to heaven."

Bishop Rhoades said to persevere in faith, it is necessary to ask the Lord to increase our faith.

"To persevere in faith means we persevere in prayer," said Bishop Rhoades. "Prayer is what makes our faith real and concrete. Faith is not merely an acceptance of truths that can appear abstract. It involves a living relationship as children of God with our Father, with His Son Jesus, and with the Holy Spirit. It is a relationship based on love of the One who loved us first. It involves not only learning from Jesus as our Teacher, but knowing Him as our Friend and Brother. Ultimately our happiness and peace, in this life and the next, depends on this encounter with Jesus and on friendship with Him."



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greets catechumens and their godparents at the Rite of Election at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Feb. 17. The Rite of Election and Call of Candidates to Continuing Conversion was held Feb. 16 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

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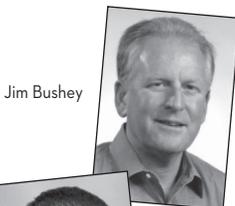
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Low income, state economy to benefit from health coverage expansion, Church supports

INDIANAPOLIS — Improved access to healthcare coverage for low income Hoosiers is not only the right thing to do morally, but a new study shows could likely be very good for Hoosier economic development.

Two Hoosier legislative panels approved legislation to expand healthcare coverage for low income Hoosiers in the House and Senate Feb. 13. The proposed legislation closes a gap between Obamacare coverage and Medicaid eligibility provided by Indiana. The Church supports the expansion.

Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe, who serves as the official spokesman and public policy watchdog on state and federal issues for the Catholic Church in Indiana, testified Feb. 13 in support of healthcare expansion before both the House and Senate panels.

“The Church’s approach to healthcare is shaped by a fundamental principle that every person has a right to adequate healthcare. This right comes from the fact that every human being has dignity because human life is created in the image of God,” said Tebbe. “Since 1917, the Catholic bishops in the United States have consistently called for access to quality and affordable life-giving healthcare for all in a manner that respects life and religious free-

dom. As universal as our Church is Pope Benedict even talked about the importance of healthcare at a meeting with healthcare workers and indicated that good healthcare needs to be defended and achieved for all people not just for those who can afford it.

“The Indiana Catholic Conference supports making healthcare more readily available and affordable to all Hoosiers,” said Tebbe. “At its core, healthcare choices are not just political, or economic, or technical, they are really a moral choice. They are about life and death. Because of the moral imperative, we support the author and others who are seeking to provide for these families and individuals. We ask all legislators to work together for a solution.”

Rep. Ed Clere, R-New Albany, author of the HB 1591 to expand healthcare coverage said, “House Bill 1591 is an attempt to cover hundreds of thousands of more Hoosiers in a responsible fashion. It is a proposal that raises expectations for accountability across the entire Indiana Medicaid program and requires a cost-sharing for all folks who would be eligible under the expansion.

“Indiana has been at the forefront of innovation in Medicaid by seeking high-quality care paired with an ongoing focus on cost-savings while seeking to

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

ensure program members understand the cost of the care they receive. Personal responsibility is the cornerstone of Hoosier values and that we should all have skin in the game when it comes to healthcare,” said Clere.

“This proposal takes the best ideas from programs we have created so far and applies them to Medicaid members with the greatest need and also the highest costs,” said Clere.

A similar proposal, SB 551, authored by Sen. Patricia L. Miller, R-Indianapolis, passed the Senate Health and Provider Services Committee, which Miller chairs, and was recommended to Senate Appropriations. Both the House and Senate healthcare expansion measures received hours of testimony.

The Medicaid expansion proposals aim to cover low income Hoosiers who have an estimated annual income between \$5,000 and \$35,000. Clere said the state has estimated there are 300,000 to 500,000 uninsured Hoosiers in this income category who would be helped by the healthcare coverage expansion proposal.

Tim Kennedy, representing the Indiana Hospital Association (IHA), testified in support of the expansion calling the plan an “opportunity to bring taxes we are already paying to the federal government, back to Indiana.”

A 2013 study conducted by the University of Nebraska’s Medical Center for Health Policy, commissioned by IHA, indicated a Medicaid expansion in Indiana could generate \$3.4 billion in economic activity and finance 30,000 jobs for Indiana through the year 2020. These funds could result in at least \$108 million in additional local and state tax revenue.

In addition to the ICC, David Sklar of the Jewish Community Relations Council, and Mike Oles III, representing the United Methodist Church of Indiana Conference supported the measure on moral grounds. Representatives from the medical community support the expansion. Dr. Aaron Carroll, associate professor of pediatrics and director of the Center for Health Policy and Professionalism Research of I.U. School of Medicine, said he supports the expansion because research shows that Medicaid improves the health of uninsured Hoosiers, and expansion allows medical providers to recoup some of their loss for unreimbursed medical care they provide. Leaders from the business sector testified in support of the expansion including Mike Ripley, representing the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

Gov. Pence and Republican lawmakers have indicated they do not want to expand Medicaid under the federal Affordable Care Act unless they can do so with their current homespun Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), and Hoosier Healthwise (HHW) Programs which provide member accountability and co-pays. To do so, Indiana must get federal approval from the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration (HHS.) Indiana awaits federal approval.

Web Resources

Indiana Catholic Conference www.indianacc.org

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

About the ICC

Since 1967, the ICC has worked to bring a consistent life ethic to Hoosier public policy making.

Visitors to the ICC Web page www.indianacc.org can join the Indiana Catholic Action Network and through an electronic Legislative Action Center can engage in a variety of grassroots political activities by a few simple keystrokes. One of the key features of the software allows visitors to quickly identify and contact their elected officials.



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Archbishop asks House to extend conscience provision to HHS mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty has urged the House of Representatives to extend long-standing federal conscience protections to the Affordable Care Act's new coverage mandates for private health plans. Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore made the request in a Feb. 15 letter to members of the House. Saying the tradition of conscience rights in health care "has long enjoyed bipartisan consensus, but is now under greatly increased pressure," Archbishop Lori asked in his letter to attach the conscience provision to upcoming appropriation bills for the departments of Labor and Health and Human Services. "I urge Congress to address this problem when it considers proposals for continued funding of the federal government in the weeks to come," he said. "While the mandate for coverage of abortion-causing drugs, contraceptives and sterilization is hailed by some as a victory for women's freedom, it permits no free choice by a female employee to decline such coverage for herself or her minor children, even if it violates her moral and religious convictions," Archbishop Lori added.

Biographer: In past six months, pope was 'exhausted and disheartened'

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI was "exhausted and disheartened" well before his Feb. 11 resignation announcement, according to his German biographer, Peter Seewald. In an article, "Farewell to my pope," in the Feb. 18 issue of Germany's *Focus* weekly, Seewald said he had held several Vatican meetings with the 85-year-old pontiff over the six months while preparing a new biography. He added that he had "never seen Benedict XVI so drained of energy" and "deeply disheartened" as when he met him last summer. Asked what could still be expected of his pontificate, according to Seewald, the pope answered: "From me — not much now. I'm an old man and I've lost my strength. I think I've done enough." The 58-year-old Seewald, a fellow-Bavarian and former editor of Germany's *Der Spiegel* weekly, has published several interview-based books on Pope Benedict, including a biography in 2006 and 2010 best-seller, "Light of the World." He said the pope told him the third volume of his "Jesus of Nazareth," published in November, would be his last book.

Church in Illinois decries state Senate vote on same-sex marriage

CHICAGO (CNS) — The head of the Catholic Conference of Illinois decried a Feb. 14 Illinois Senate vote to permit same-sex marriage in the state, calling it "redefinition of

NEWS BRIEFS

PILGRIMS IN ST. PETER'S SQUARE HOLD UP MESSAGES



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A sign in Latin and Italian read, "You are Peter. Stay," as Pope Benedict XVI leads the Angelus from the window of his apartment overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Feb. 17. Calling this an unusual time for him and for the Church — but not specifically mentioning his resignation — Pope Benedict XVI thanked people for their affection and asked them to continue their prayers.

marriage legislation. Marriage joins a man and a woman in love to meet one another's needs, to procreate and to raise children. This is the lifeblood of any human society," said a Feb. 14 statement from Robert Gilligan, executive director of the state Catholic conference. "This legislation tears at that definition with unknown consequences." The Senate's vote was 34-21 on the bill, which changes the definition of marriage in state law from "between a man and a woman" to "between two persons. This legislation callously redefines a bedrock institution of our society and deteriorates the free exercise of religion in our state," Gilligan said. The bill has yet to be considered by the state House. If it passes, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, a Catholic, has said he will sign it. If the bill becomes law, Illinois would become the 10th state, plus the District of Columbia, to permit same-sex marriage, joining Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and Washington state.

Migration center study shows 11.7 million undocumented immigrants in US

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new study concludes that there are about 11.7 million of what it calls unau-

thorized immigrants in the U.S., 4 million more than in 2000. In a report released Feb. 15, the Center for Migration Studies, a New York-based educational institution also quantified why residents of some states, particularly in the Southeast, have perceived a significant growth in the number of immigrants around them. Seven Southern states with the fastest growing population of undocumented immigrants each saw the number of such immigrants increase by more than 11 times between 1990 and 2010. The study explained that nationwide, about 18 percent of the foreign-born population was undocumented. The percentage in those seven states was about that as well in 1990. But in 2009, in those states about 47 percent of their foreign-born residents were unauthorized to be here, the study found. They got more immigrants overall, and a higher percentage of them were undocumented. "In 1990, the foreign-born population in the seven states was small, about 500,000, and fewer than one in five were unauthorized residents," the study published in the *International Migration Review* said. "But by 2010, the foreign-born population had quadrupled to 2.6 million and nearly half of them were unauthorized." The study was co-written by Robert Warren, former demographer for the Immigration and Naturalization Service and John Robert Warren, sociology professor at the University of Minnesota.

Judge dismisses HHS lawsuit brought by dioceses, charities

CHICAGO (CNS) — A U.S. District Court judge Feb. 8 dismissed a lawsuit filed against the federal contraceptive mandate by the Springfield and Joliet dioceses, their respective Catholic Charities agencies and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Judge John W. Darrah of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago said in his ruling the claims of the plaintiffs "are unripe for adjudication." Named in the suit are the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius; the U.S. Department of Labor and Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, who has since resigned; and the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who also has since resigned. The dioceses and Catholic Charities agencies argued that the federal regulations requiring all employers, including most religious employers, to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs in their employee health plans violate their religious freedom as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Until the final rules on the mandate are implemented, 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. But the dioceses and agencies said in the lawsuit they would need time to "begin taking compliance measures now" to prepare for when the safe harbor period ends. Darrah ruled that "the necessity to postpone judicial review of plaintiffs' claims until the departments have finalized the amended regulations outweighs the purported hardship to plaintiffs in their ability to plan for contingencies."

Conclave to silence at least nine tweeting cardinals

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Parrots may squawk in the Vatican Gardens during a conclave, but the cardinals are not allowed to tweet. For most of the 117 red-vested princes of the Church who are eligible to vote for a new pope, Twitter isn't an issue at all. But the College of Cardinals does include at least nine active tweeters. From the moment they enter the Sistine Chapel to cast their ballots, they will be forbidden access to their accounts along with all other forms of communication with the outside world. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York (@CardinalDolan) informed his almost 80,000 Twitter followers when Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation Feb. 11. As of Feb. 15, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston (@CardinalSean) had not mentioned the pope's resignation on his Twitter feed. In fact, the last tweet to his more than 9,200 followers was posted two days before the pope's announcement. After the pope's announcement, Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, (@CardRavasi) president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, almost immediately tweeted a traditional prayer in Latin: "Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, sancta Dei Genetrix" ("Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God.") The Italian cardinal, often mentioned on pundits' lists of possible popes, has more than 35,400 followers and tweets frequently. Brazilian Cardinal Odilo Scherer of Sao Paulo (@DomOdiloScherer) is not a daily tweeter. But on Feb. 14 he used Twitter, with its 140-character maximum for messages, to comment, "I am impressed with the interpretations I have read of the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI."

Minnesota Catholic honored at White House with highest civilian honor

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — Mary Jo Copeland founded Sharing and Caring Hands in 1985 as a safety net for those who couldn't get help from the government — those who fell through the cracks. Today, the organization helps thousands of individuals and families with emergency needs for rent, utilities, health expenses, food, clothing, shoes, travel expenses, job costs and more. On Feb. 15, Copeland was honored by President Barack Obama with the Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second-highest civilian honor, for her years of service to the community. She was among 13 recipients chosen from more than 6,000 nominations.

Cardinal Angelo Scola lecture cancelled

NOTRE DAME — The Institute for Church Life (ICL) at the University of Notre Dame has announced that the lecture with Cardinal Angelo Scola, Archbishop of Milan, scheduled Saturday, Feb. 23, at 3 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium on the University of Notre Dame campus has been cancelled.

USF Jesters presents spring performance

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis (USF) Jesters will present their annual spring performance on March 9 at 6 p.m. and March 10 at 3 p.m. in the North Campus auditorium at 2702 Spring St. The Jesters program and this year's performance are supported by a grant from the AWS Foundation.

The show, "And Then," uses original poetry, instrumental and voice music, puppets, the stories of ancient Chinese philosopher Zhuangzi, tangrams, dance/movement and the art of Claude Monet to explore stories of change and transformation. The Jesters' personal stories will be integrated into the show through the use of playback theatre. Tickets are \$10. Call the School of Creative Arts (SOCA) at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001 for information.

Jesters is a performing arts group comprised of 50 teens and adults with special needs. The Jesters program was founded at USF in 1978 with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities by engaging them in recreational opportunities to promote creative expression and positive social interaction.

St. Gianna Beretta Molla events include relic enshrined

SOUTH BEND — The diocesan Office of Family Life will be sponsoring a series of events Feb. 22-24 focused on the life of St. Gianna Beretta Molla, the Italian wife, mother and physician who died heroically in 1962 and was canonized in 2004 by Blessed John Paul II. Thomas McKenna, the founder and president of the St. Gianna Physicians' Guild, who is also a personal friend of St. Gianna's family, will be flying in from California to speak on her life. In addition to a lunch presentation for college students on Feb. 22 at the University of Notre Dame, the following events are scheduled:

- Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will enshrine a framed photograph and relic of St. Gianna in the lobby of St. Joseph Regional Medical Center on Feb. 22, at 6 p.m., along with CEO Al Gutierrez and physicians and staff of SJRMC. Tom McKenna will speak briefly on the life of St. Gianna as part of the enshrinement ceremony, and a light reception will follow.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS SPONSORS CHRISTIAN BUSINESS LEADERS LECTURE



TESS STEFFEN

Dr. Lance Richey, right, professor of theology at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne interacts with students and Dr. Michael Naughton, center, at the USF Performing Arts Center Feb. 12. Naughton, from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., presented the topic "From Career to Calling: The Vocation of the Christian Business Leader" to over 100 local business people. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offered the opening prayer. This lecture was the first in a series sponsored by the University of Saint Francis School of Arts and Sciences and Keith Busse School of Business and

This event is open to the public, although health care professionals are especially encouraged to attend.

- Tom McKenna's signature presentation, "St. Gianna Beretta Molla: A Modern Day Heroine of Divine Love" will take place on Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the parish center auditorium of St. Therese, Little Flower Church in South Bend. This Powerpoint-assisted presentation is family-friendly and will feature photographs and stories about St. Gianna as well as personal items such as her stethoscope.

- A special Mass for couples struggling with infertility will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Feb. 24, at 1 p.m. in the chapel of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis, which is located on Dragon Trail across from Marian High School in Mishawaka. Following Mass a presentation on the life of St. Gianna, who has become a powerful intercessor for those struggling with infertility will be given by Tom McKenna. An opportunity for silent prayer and veneration of St. Gianna's relics will also be provided, and the event will include a light reception.

Workshop offers training to care providers of veterans

HUNTINGTON — Victory Noll Center is presenting the program "Care Providers for Veterans and Families Training" on Friday, March 15, offering skills training to those who interact with veterans and their unique needs.

The program is for social service providers, pastors, spouses, parents, family members or any care provider. Facilitator Paula J. Caplan, a clinical and research psychologist, says, "The mere act of listening is often deeply healing."

Caplan will lead the workshop to provide a better understanding of the emotional, mental and physical needs of veterans.

"We are a war-illiterate nation," she says. "And our ignorance can be obvious when civilians say to veterans: 'Thank you for your service.' That simple phrase might seem like the best thing to say — it strikes us as easy, respectful and appreciative — but some veterans find the 'thank you' disturbing, even if they realize that the speaker has good intentions."

The program runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 15. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. at Victory Noll Center, located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington. The cost is \$50, and includes lunch. Registration deadline is March 8.

Bishop Luers principal Mary Keefe appointed USF director

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne Bishop Luers High School Principal Mary Keefe has been appointed a director for the University of Saint Francis.

She will serve on the Academic Affairs Committee.

A graduate of Fort Wayne Central Catholic High School, she earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in administration from Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne.

She is secretary for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Executive Principals' Council and a member of the National Association of High School Principals, the Allen County Non-public Schools Association and the Association for School and Curriculum Development.

She and her husband, Steven, have two children, Jennifer Neale and Nicholas Keefe, and are members of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.



MARY KEEFER

LUMEN DEI — LIGHT OF GOD AWARD



TOM UEBBING

Grand Knight Gary Hacker of the Father Stephen Badin Council, St. Pius X, Granger, presented the council's Lumen Dei — Light of Christ award to seven high school seniors Feb. 12. Award recipients from left are Audrey Oppman, Lauren Grocock, Denise Duggan and Mary Beth Duggan. In back are James Pratt, Christopher Brach and Michael Tripepi.

Quilt covers eight generations of family history

BY MARK WEBER

HOAGLAND — It's not Tweet, Facebook, blog or any other nanosecond image transmission. It's "Q-U-I-L-T" ... a soft, fluffy medium, loaded with color, done one stitch at a time, thoughtfully, lovingly, with the feeling of satisfaction found only when hand and mind produce art.

The artist in this case is Carole Sorg, a great-grandmother who began quilting when in grade school at St. Aloysius, Yoder, who, last year stitched up her ultimate masterpiece, a quilting contest blue ribbon winner, a "memories of the past" themed quilt depicting eight generations on the Sorg family farm, beginning on

July 4, 1837 when the first ancestor purchased the land from the government.

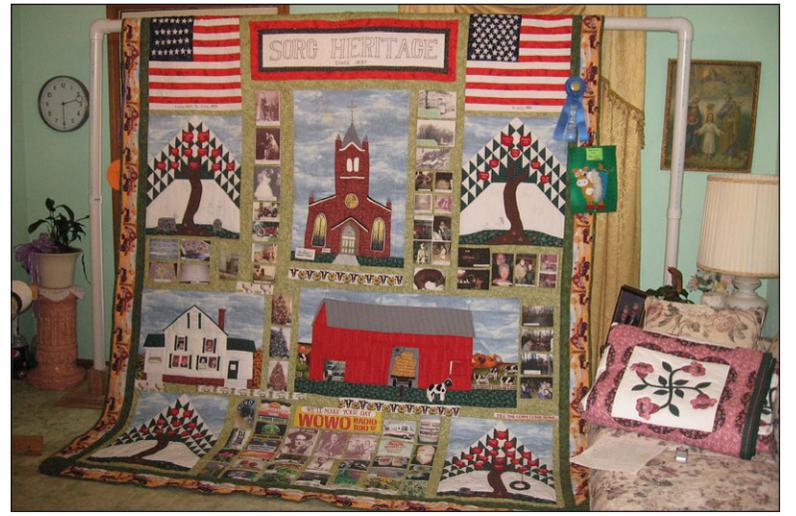
The center of the quilt shows, appropriately, St. Joseph Church, Hessen Cassel, since the church has been the center of the Sorg family life going back to 1851 when Sorgs were charter members.

Branching out from the church are family trees, U.S. flags, the family homestead, which has survived two fires, weddings, Christmas scenes, tractors, wagons, livestock, pets and a special section devoted to a Fort Wayne radio station, WOWO, which had an early morning farm program called The Little Red Barn and heard by the family each morning for years.

The tale of this tapestry includes the fine spun figure of a girl reading a book, spider webs, a squirrel hole and subtle signs such as the change of colors in falling leaves to represent the change of life to death in a cemetery scene.

Spiritual symbols prevail, as do the hearty good times such as a hay wagon ride in the woods of the family farm. There is a mama cow searching for her calf, and a nearby tire swing and another swing on the front porch.

Carole Sorg is a full-time quilter. In the Sorg picturesque farm home are two large quilting frames. These are about eight feet wide, 30-inch-high double roller devices, a take-up roller in the back holds completed



MARK WEBER

Carole Sorg's blue ribbon winning quilt captures 176 years of Sorg family history living in one location on the family farm, and as parishioners of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish, Fort Wayne.

work, with the front roller holding unworked fabric, and the area in between showing the work in progress for the seated quilter.

These frames hold quilts Carole is sewing at home. On Mondays and Tuesdays, she works with three other ladies — Monica Johnson, Jeanette Klingenberger and Irene Shelburn. These four quilters are called the St. Joseph Quilters, H.C. (Hessen Cassel), and their work includes quilts made and donated as fundraisers for charitable groups. On Thursdays, Carole works at St. Peter Lutheran Church as a quilting advisor.

If quilts could talk, Carole's fabrics would tell quite a story — dots and diamond shapes of cloth represent a spread of years — in one 18-inch quilt block can be found fabric from a feed sack dress she wore as a child, next to fabric from a frock worn on her third date with the young man who became her husband. Scraps from her daughters' dresses and cloth from other sources make up the warp and woof of family history ... threads and fibers neither forsaken nor forgotten, but quietly quilted in a colorful garden of memories that continues to grow.

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PHOTOS BY KAREN CLIFFORD

St. Pius X parishioner Jon Housand delivers casseroles from the parish to a South Bend Center for the Homeless employee.



Jon Housand prepares to deliver a casserole.

St. Pius X group brings meals and spiritual nourishment to the homeless

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — For the past 15 years, St. Pius X parishioner Jon Housand has led a volunteer group that prepares and delivers casserole dishes to the South Bend Center for the Homeless. Begun at St. Pius in 1998 with 30 volunteers, the program has grown to approximately 180 to 190 individuals who share their time, talent and treasure with those less fortunate.

With co-leader Kelley Shrock, Housand went to then pastor Holy Cross Father Peter Jarret, with the idea of delivering casseroles to the Center for the Homeless. After the program was given the green light by Father Jarrett, the co-leaders put an announcement in the church bulletin and with a positive parishioner response, the program was established.

Other organizations around the South Bend area were delivering meals to the center and St. Pius was given a cookbook from a similar casserole program that was started in St. Louis, Mo. The recipes stated that they were to serve 30 people, but Housand found the recipes lacking in flavor and substance.

"There was a Chili Mac recipe and it had two pounds of ground beef to serve 30 people. I decided we wanted to do something more substantial," said Housand. "If you are homeless and you are hungry you want something that is going to stick to your ribs so that you are not hungry in another two hours," he noted.

Starting with a Mostaccioli and meat sauce recipe handed down by his mother, Housand,

an avid cook, modified the recipe to include five to six pounds of ground beef, tomatoes, tomato paste, pasta, onions and garlic, that Housand emphasized, "tasted good."

The cost of the ingredients for the large casseroles varies from \$25 to \$40. Volunteers prepare a casserole about every four months. Shopping for ingredients and preparation of the casserole takes between two and three hours. Although the casseroles are delivered to St. Pius cold, ingredients such as chopped cooked poultry and chopped vegetables are a part of the time preparation.

At the beginning of the program, Housand cooked the casseroles in the parish kitchen and delivered the dishes warm. After delivering the casseroles during one visit to the center he found the casseroles were not used the day of their arrival, but usually a day or two later, so afterward the food was delivered cold.

The casserole program, in addition to the volunteers who prepare the meals, also has callers that remind volunteers of their scheduled drop-off day of prepared food, and six drivers who deliver the casseroles to the center and pick up empty pans to return to the parish.

As of Dec. 31, 2012, Housand stepped down from his leadership position in the casserole program, but still prepares casseroles and delivers them to the center. Shrock has taken over as the coordinator for the program and is appreciative of all of Housand's effort.

"I have had several major life

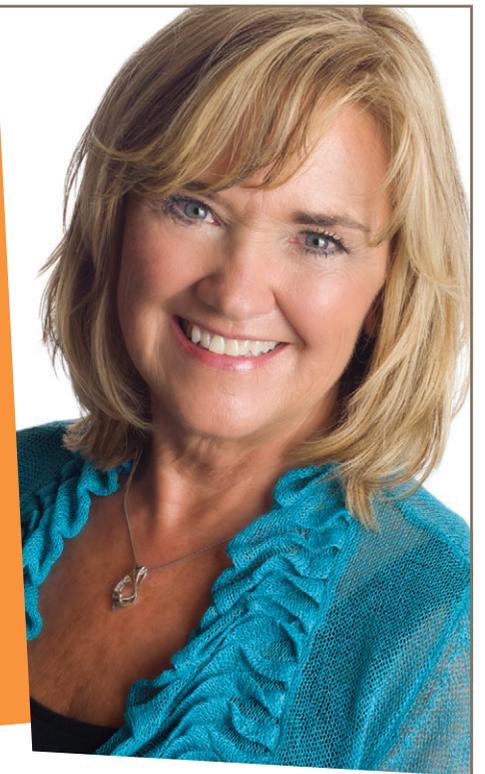
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MEALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

transitions that have occurred at the same time that he transitioned the program over to me," said Shrock. "One of the things I had to deal with was the loss of a volunteer driver to take the cas-

seroles to the center. Jon eagerly stepped up to take over the driving for that person and indicated he would be willing to do it for as long as it took for me to find a backup," she said.

She added, "I can't tell you how much that meant to me since I had to juggle so many things at once. That is the type of person he is — a real team player. He is very giving and exemplifies what it means to be a Catholic foot sol-

dier for Christ."

Peter Lombardo, director of community involvement at the Center for the Homeless, noted the impact of the St. Pius casserole program on those that come to the center.

"Our guests — 200 men, women and children plus (during the months of November through March) 30 additional men and women on weather amnesty — have been able to count on St.

Pius X members several times a month for six casseroles each time," Lombardo remarked. "This is a great benefit for us. Obviously, we're a private non-profit social justice/service agency, and knowing we can count on church members for those casseroles helps us to control expenses," said Lombardo. "These days, that's a true blessing. But there is so much more, and we hear it here as our guests go through the line to get their dinner."

Lombardo credits Housand for his leadership, the St. Pius volunteers for their time, and the spiritual quality of sharing meals

that the program gives guests at the center.

"Jon has coordinated this program for the parish for many years — he's lined up volunteers to make the casseroles, he's delivered them to us and he's contributed greatly to the mission of the Center for the Homeless — to help our guests break the cycle of homelessness in which they find themselves," said Lombardo. "And he's been one of the disparate groups who come together (staff, guests, volunteers, donors, and so on) to discover the worth, dignity and God-given potential of each other," he concluded.

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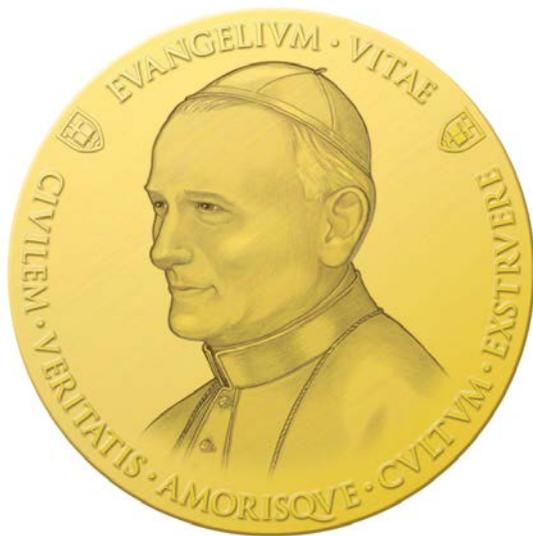
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USF hosting traveling exhibit, 'Memoria: Assisi and the Jews'

FORT WAYNE — The photo exhibit, "Memoria: Assisi and the Jews, 1943-1944," will be open for public viewing in the North Campus foyer at the University of Saint Francis (USF) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 17-22.

"Memoria" will transport the viewer to Italy in 1943 during Germany's wartime occupation of the central and northern parts of the country. Through the words, images and perspective of Don Aldo Brunacci, the exhibit recounts the dramatic rescue of several hundred Jewish refugees in Assisi.

Brunacci, a diocesan priest and later canon of the Cathedral of San Rufino in Assisi, was part of a network of Catholic clergy, private citizens and the commander of the German occupation forces, Colonel Valentin Müller, who orchestrated

the rescue plan. As secretary to Assisi's Bishop Giuseppe Placido M. Nicolini, who directed the clergy to assist Jewish refugees, Brunacci helped oversee the hiding of Jews in the convents, monasteries and friaries of Assisi.

He entrusted documents and rare objects from his personal collection to the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University in New York for the "Memoria" exhibit, passing away two days after the opening in 2007.

The exhibit will occur in tandem with a lecture and book signing by Franciscan Father Andre Cirino, co-author of "Three Heroes of Assisi in World War II: Bishop Guisepppe Nicolini, Colonel Valentin Muller and Don Aldo Brunacci," on Tuesday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Campus auditorium. Segments of a documentary featuring interviews with Brunacci and footage of wartime Assisi during the occupation can also be viewed at the exhibit site.

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The art of grieving

As I entered the cavernous gymnasium where I was to speak to a group of men and women, all of whom had lost a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death, I saw the small group gathered together in the corner around a horseshoe-shaped table arrangement. Each of the participants of this daylong workshop for bereaved parents was bent over their workspace intently working on a project.

When I spoke with the coordinator of the workshop that was designed to provide hope for grieving parents, she explained that the group was engaged in creating an ornament to honor their baby and that the process of creating these memorials was a meaningful analogy to grief itself.

I watched each participant work with glue, torn bits of paper, photos and glitter, with the realization that the coordinator was absolutely right. What was visibly apparent during this activity was the chaos of the process of creation.

Each bereaved parent had to make some individual choices —

choices that might represent the decisions with which they are faced, sometimes daily, on how to design and shape their own grief journey.

What shape Styrofoam ball would form their idea of memory for the ornament might parallel the ability to identify their own personal style of mourning — the basis for healing of hearts. Choosing the color of torn paper they would use and how would they apply it to the ball might reflect the need to discover healthy ways to express their grief. And how they would fashion the photos and glitter to create just the right look for their memorial ornament speaks to the simple acts that allow them, and hopefully gives permission to others, to mourn individually and collectively for that which they have lost.

Following each of these artful choices the participants made the decision to act in an effort to move the activity forward. The tabletops were messy and littered, the hands of those grieving parents were sticky with glue, looking much



KAY COZAD

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

like that of the disheveled spiritual landscape of any grief journey.

But in the end, after all the decisions had been made and the messy work accomplished, beautiful individually designed ornaments emerged. The fortitude it took to keep each bereaved parent on task brought him or her to a meaningful conclusion, much like the work of grief brings the bereaved in due time into a “new reality” where the memory of their lost loved one finds it’s rightful place.

My own experience with art in grief began years ago following the sudden death of my husband,

HOPE, PAGE 12

Lent — a time to respond to divine love



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday in Lent Lk 9:28b-36

The Book of Genesis is the source of the first reading. It is a story about Abraham, whom the Jews regard as the father of their race. In addition, Abraham is seen as the spiritual father of all who know and honor the one God, hence he is a special figure in the religious traditions of Christians and Muslims.

Scholars believe that Abraham was an actual person. He is not the figment of imagination, nor a figure constructed in some literary effort. He actually lived.

Several points are important in hearing, or reading, this passage. The first is that God communicates with Abraham, so God is in Abraham’s world. God, however, is above and beyond Abraham’s world. So, Abraham does not relate to God as if God were an equal.

Requiring Abraham to sacrifice an offering, God establishes both the divine distance from humans, and the divine intimacy with humans. Humans must acknowledge God’s supremacy, and so they offer sacrifice. Yet, God is with them.

Abraham himself is human. He is vulnerable. The sun sets. He is terrified. Without God, he is at risk, powerless before the elements, helpless before whatever might come. Not only does God protect

Abraham but gives Abraham, and Abraham’s descendants, the security of a land of their own when possession of land was the only genuine safeguard.

The second reading is from the Epistle to the Philippians. Philippi was one of those cities, Greek by background, its name honoring the father of Alexander the Great, in which a Christian community had formed. Paul wrote to these early Christians to give them direction and encouragement. His encouragement and guidance rested solely in Jesus, so he expanded the Philippians’ knowledge of Jesus. He challenged them to be more loyal and fervent disciples.

St. Paul says in this reading that human beings are imperfect, even without their willful sinning. Human bodies are “lowly,” the epistle declares. Christ elevates and restores humans. In Jesus, by the grace of God, human beings never die if they earnestly follow the Lord.

St. Luke’s Gospel provides the last reading, Luke’s brilliant and powerful story of the Transfiguration, a story found also in Mark and Matthew. Certain terms were highly meaningful to the Jews who first heard this story. Brightness was a symbol of divinity. So was the cloud. Standing between the great prophets, Jesus appears thoroughly rooted in the long tradition of God’s care, direction and protection in relationship with the chosen people. It all signals the eternity and sublimity of God — now reposing in the Lord.

Peter, James and John were with Jesus. They knew Jesus. They interacted with Jesus. They certainly saw the human characteristics of Jesus. Yet in this situation, they saw the divinity of Jesus because the Lord showed them this divinity. On their own, they were unable to see it.

Reflection

We progress in Lent. The Church offers us several important lessons to strengthen us in our Lenten resolve, and ultimately in our Christian commitment.

Before truly learning anything about Jesus, before fully absorbing the meaning of the Transfiguration, we must come to the basic, though difficultly accepted, conclusion that we humans are limited. It is a flaw that settled upon human nature with Original Sin. In our human limitation we are shortsighted, even blind very often. Ultimately, no human escapes the final limitation. We all shall die.

God does not leave us, as God never left Abraham. God is neither distant nor impersonal. He comes to us in Jesus. He loves us in Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus is our only hope, our only access to true and eternal life. God reveals the wonder of divine love in Jesus. Do we respond? Lent is the opportunity to ponder and to respond.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14 Phil 3:17-4:1 Lk 9:28b-36

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28 Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

‘This is My chosen Son; listen to Him’

Timor-Leste (East Timor), an island nation northwest of Australia, is one of the world’s newest countries. Unfortunately, its struggle for independence caused violence that left many in the country poor, homeless or sick.

Catholic Relief Services works with impoverished Timorese people to improve their lives, by providing care for people with HIV and tuberculosis, training and resources for farmers, and peace-building programs that help foster reconciliation and cooperation among opposing groups.

Pray

In your prayer this week, reflect on a time when your vision was clear and you had a good idea of what God was calling you to do or to be. Is that vision still in place? Does it impact your daily life? Consider how, this Lent, you can make this vision even stronger.

Fast

Prayer, fasting and visions — they often go together for God’s prophets. As a Lenten act, fasting can liberate us — we have extra time that we might have spent at a meal or doing a favorite activity. And it keeps us hungry — a nagging stomach can be a great reminder of the work of Lent and

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

MELISSA WHEELER

the greater hunger of a world that longs for justice and beauty and God’s healing presence in our lives. There are many types of fasts — fasts from bad habits, favorite activities and special treats. This week, eat one of the CRS Rice Bowl simple meals. Spend some time after the meal in prayer. Let your grumbling stomach be a reminder of your deeper, more essential aspirations.

Give

In the United States, instances of tuberculosis are at an all time low, thanks to readily available testing and treatment. But that’s not the case in countries that cannot afford to invest in detection and treatment. Make a donation to your Rice Bowl for every person in your family who has access to immunizations, screenings and medical care.

For CRS Rice Bowl simple meals visit www.crsricebowl.org.

Prayer need not be hard

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

There are literally hundreds of books written on prayer and how to pray. Lots of people spend more time reading and buying the latest books about prayer than actually praying. Why do you suppose that is? The people buying these books obviously see prayer as a value but apparently find it difficult.

Recently, I received an insight on this matter of prayer and why we value it, while at same time we seem to avoid it. A reason could be that many of us still operate out of the Greek understanding that the human person is made up of a body and a soul. We tend to divide our lives into two categories, spiritual life and our normal life. We tend to see our spiritual life as separate from our everyday life and fail to integrate them. We “work on” our prayer life as if it were divorced from the rest of our lives.

For too many people prayer is often seen as an obligation or “putting in our time” with God? Imagine a woman who gives her husband 15 minutes a day of her time and spends a lot of it complaining or thinking of all she has to do. If this is the only time they give each other, their relationship would be pretty shallow and unfulfilled.

I think this often happens in our

relationship with God. We try to carve out some time for Him, successfully or unsuccessfully, during our day and then often do not think about God again until we are in church or at our next prayer period.

Prayer is meant to nourish our relationship with God and not be limited to a time or place. Think of how you nurture your other significant relationships. One thing you probably don’t do is read to them words already prepared.

To develop a good relationship with someone we must spend time with that person and share about our lives, our joy and pain, our hopes and dreams. We talk about what is happening in each one’s life and our thoughts of that other person are not limited to our physical presence.

Why should our relationship with God be that much different? Why do we try all kinds of prayer methods? Somehow we often look at the saints and measure our prayer by theirs. We fail to recognize that much of their prayer was conversation with God. They made God the center of their lives. Many times our prayer becomes monotonous or boring so we give up. It doesn’t have to be that way. Set a realistic amount of time for prayer each day and use it to share with God the ordinariness of our lives, including our thoughts and feelings. It is our time to be honest with God. God is always with us.

Birth control debate in the public square

Governor Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, in his Dec. 13, 2012 op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal*, argues that the cost of birth control could be reduced by eliminating the required doctor's visit to get a prescription — making contraception available “over the counter.” If it were made available this way, it would no longer be reimbursable by health insurance, and people could simply purchase it on their own. Jindal posits that this approach would result in “the end of birth control politics.” He relies on several simplistic assumptions and inadequate moral judgments, however, as he tries to advance this argument.

First, he misconstrues the objective. The goal should not be to remove birth control from political debate, but rather to arrive at reasonable medical, ethical and constitutional judgments about birth control and public policy. Contraception is an important topic for public discussion because it touches on basic human and social goods, such as children, family and sexual fidelity.

Indeed, laws about contraception have always been based upon concerns for the public good and public order, as in the case of the State of Connecticut, which in 1879 enacted strong legislation outlawing contraception, specified as the use of “any drug, medicinal article or instrument for the purpose of preventing conception.” This law, similar to the anti-contraception laws of many other states, was in effect for nearly 90 years before it was reversed in 1965.

These laws codified the longstanding public judgment that contraception was harmful to society because it promoted promiscuity, adultery and other evils. It relied on the nearly universal conviction that children should be seen as a gift and a blessing to society, and that, in the words of one social commentator, “a healthy society, however tolerant at the margins, must be based on the perception that sex is essentially procreative, with its proper locus in a loving family.”

Yet Gov. Jindal fails to engage these core concerns, and instead retreats behind a common cultural cliché when he goes on to say: “Contraception is a personal matter — the government shouldn't be in the business of banning it or requiring a woman's employer to keep tabs on her use of it.”

If it is true that contraception is often harmful to individuals and families, to marriage and to women's health, then it clearly has broader public policy implications, and is, objectively speaking, not merely a “personal matter.”

Consider just a few of the health issues: contracepting women have increased rates of cardiovascular and thromboembolic events, including increased deep vein thrombosis, strokes, pulmonary emboli (blood clots in the lungs), and heart attacks. Newer third and fourth generation combination birth control pills, which were supposed to lower cardiovascular risks, may actually increase those risks, and recently there have been class action lawsuits brought against the manufacturers of Yaz, Yasmin and Ocella, because women have died from such events.

In seeking to serve the public interest, the government may determine to become involved in such matters, as it did back in 1879, through specific legislative initiatives or through other forms of regulatory oversight. Indeed, the recent deployment of the HHS contraceptive mandate, as a component of ObamaCare, reflects an awareness of the public ramifications of this issue, even though the mandate itself is profoundly flawed and ultimately subverts the public interest. It compels Americans, unbelievably, to pay for the sexual proclivities of their neighbors, not only by requiring employers to cover costs for the Pill in their health plans, but also to pay for other morally objectionable procedures, including direct surgical sterilizations and potential abortion-causing drugs like the “morning-after” pill.

Gov. Jindal goes on to argue, “As an apologetic pro-life Republican, I also believe that every adult (18



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

years old and over) who wants contraception should be able to purchase it.” Yet Gov. Jindal is really quite apologetic (and inconsistent) in his pro-life stance by arguing in this fashion.

Contraception can never be pro-life. It regularly serves as a gateway to abortion, with abortion functioning as the “backup” to failed contraception for countless women and their partners. Abortion and contraception are two fruits of the same tree, being anti-child and therefore anti-life at the root. Certain “emergency” contraceptives (like Plan B and the new morning-after pill known as *EllaOne*) also appear able to function directly as abortifacients. IUD's can function similarly, making the uterine lining hostile for an arriving human embryo, and forcing a loss of life to occur through a failure to implant.

Gov. Jindal, a committed Catholic, should not be minimizing the medical and moral risks associated with promoting contraceptive use, nor lessening social vigilance by promoting “over the counter” availability. Committed Catholics and politicians of conscience can better advance the public discourse surrounding contraception by avoiding such forms of circumlocution, and instead, directly addressing the medical and ethical evils of contraception and the unacceptability of the coercive HHS mandate itself.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the Director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

have given over the years for those who have lost a spouse includes a quiet time to reflect on where the participant is in the present moment on his/her grief journey and then time to draw that feeling. I have been continually edified by the responses that emerge.

Even with protests of “I can't draw” or “I'm not an artist,” this activity moves us to the creative right brain domain where logic takes a back seat. When we draw, paint or create we reach deep into a place where we can let go of our logic and simply feel, even play a bit with our grief.

Many seminar participants have drawn boxes in which a small stick figure sits. Others design a path leading to heaven. One gentleman, when asked to share his drawing, showed a blank page, offering profoundly, “I don't know where I am.”

I have learned that these artful

activities heighten our awareness of how we're feeling at any given point in our grief. And they can provide a healthy outlet for the expression of that grief.

So just as the activity I witnessed with such awe at the parent loss workshop that day mirrored the messiness of the grief journey, artwork can also offer one way to find the hope of healing in the chaos of grief. And what a meaningful way to mark our journeys!

So I'd like to propose this proverbial question: does art imitate life or the other way around? A little of both I hope.

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and news editor of *Today's Catholic* newspaper. She is the author of “Prayer Book for Widows,” Our Sunday Visitor, 2004, and can be reached at kcozad@todayscatholicnews.org.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 24, 2013

Luke 9:28b-36

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: the glorious vision on Mount Tabor. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

EIGHT DAYS	MOUNTAIN	PRAYING
BEHOLD	TWO MEN	MOSES
ELIJAH	APPEARED	IN GLORY
ACCOMPLISH	PETER	SLEEP
MASTER	LET US MAKE	A CLOUD
ENTERED	A VOICE	LISTEN
SPOKEN	ALONE	HAD SEEN

MOUNTAIN VOICES

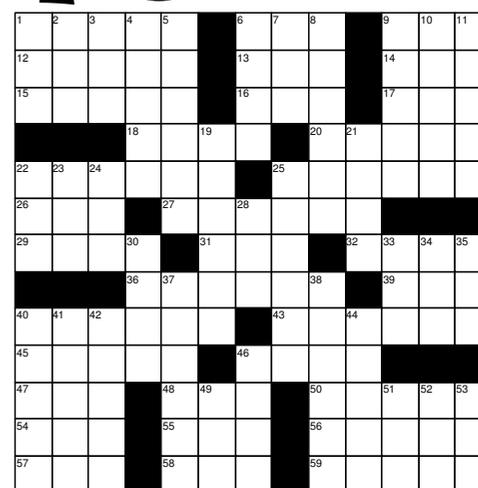
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N A N B V N E E S D A H
A P E E I G H T D A Y S
K P M H L A L O N E G I
S E S O M S P O K E N L
L A E L U L K A R Y I P
E R T D E N M E L R Y M
E E W L I S T E N O A O
P D O J U S P A E L R C
E M M T A C H O I G P C
T G E M D E R E T N E A
E L N A N A H A J I L E
R D U O L C A V O I C E
    
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The CrossWord

February 17 and 24, 2013



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13 and Gen 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

ACROSS

- 1 African American' group
- 6 Physician
- 9 Resort hotel
- 12 Bye
- 13 Night bird, unclean to Jews
- 14 God is “__-Seeing”
- 15 Ice cap
- 16 Bitty
- 17 Wine barrel
- 18 Gyrate
- 20 Martyrs died here
- 22 “They will raise you on their hands”
- 25 Dodger

- 26 Compass point
- 27 Eats away
- 29 Quaker state (abbr.)
- 31 Assumption month
- 32 Jesus went up Mt. to do
- 36 Vinegar acid
- 39 Manipulate
- 40 Milk-giving animal
- 43 Zero
- 45 Burial salve contained
- 46 Id's counterparts
- 47 Also
- 48 Sorbet
- 50 Rulers of Israel
- 54 “Their __ is destruction”

- 55 Nada
- 56 Silly
- 57 Aye
- 58 Radon
- 59 Aramean went down to

DOWN

- 1 Doze
- 2 Hubbub
- 3 Cause of sickness
- 4 Halt
- 5 Lent color
- 6 “Throw yourself __” from Temple
- 7 To be in debt
- 8 Adhere
- 9 One who confesses with mouth
- 10 Flying machine
- 11 Gifts set in front of this
- 19 Jacob's other name
- 21 File
- 22 Poisonous snake
- 23 Compass point
- 24 Genesis (abbr.)
- 25 Inching forward
- 28 Jesus' arms were — stretched
- 30 “The __ of the Lord”
- 33 Carpet
- 34 Lent Wed. start
- 35 Still
- 37 Case
- 38 Wafer
- 40 Nautical “friend”
- 41 “Him __ shall you serve”
- 42 Emotional states
- 44 Mistreating
- 46 Snaky fish
- 49 Intelligence Agency
- 51 Negative
- 52 Gross National Product
- 53 Primed

Answer Key can be found on page 13

HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Trent. Many of my young nieces and nephews found meaning and solace in their grief by drawing picture stories showcasing amazing landscapes dotted with angels and swing sets. Some were placed in the casket for my dear husband to take with him on his heavenward journey and others were gifted to me in a show of sympathy and solidarity. Twenty-three years later, I still cherish the crayon stick figures that spoke of the shared sadness of that time. In the simple art of those precious children we all found life.

I have since come to appreciate the use of art in so many grief support situations. A significant part of a grief education presentation I

Sports

KNIGHTS ANNOUNCE FREE THROW WINNERS The Knights of Columbus held their North East Indiana Regional free throw competition at St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne on Sunday, Feb. 17. Participants advancing from this level earned the opportunity to shoot at the state competition slated for Saturday, March 2. Winners in each of the five age groups for both boys and girls include the following: Boys — 10, Liam Franz; 11, Ben Reidy; 12, Bryce Cooper; 13, Bobby Lomow; and 14, Brandon Nichols; Girls — 10, Faith Ehmke; 11, Gabriela McHugh; 12, Caitlyn Ryan; 13, Lexi Sweeney; and 14, Hannah Haines. — *Michelle Castleman*

CYO girls' teams crown league champions

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) League added a girls' tournament for the first time in 1968.

Since then, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, has had some good teams, but claimed just one title, and that was back in 1998 — two years before Coach Steve Pepe's players were even born. But Pepe's team added one to the record books for the Raiders as his seventh graders captured the 2013 White League title making school history.

The No. 1 seed, his girls went undefeated in league play and had an outstanding year overall.

"We had a very special season, dedicated to a very special person with a very special group of players that ended in a very special way," Pepe explained.

The Raiders went up against a tough team from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth for the championship — a team they had beaten twice before during the season, but not easily. "We knew it would be a good matchup and we would have to come ready to play," Pepe added.

St. John's followed their game plan, jumping out to a 10-3 lead in the first quarter and never looked back, until the final buzzer rang when the scoreboard read, 32-26. In the victory, Grace Renbarger led the Raiders with 13 points and Grace Castleman added 10. The Panthers' Ellie Goeglein had an outstanding effort at both ends of the court leading all scorers with 20 points which included five treys.

In the Gold League matchup, St. Charles downed St. Vincent, 33-13, to take the 2013 title. The two had met during the regular season just a week ago when St. Charles won, 29-25.

The Cardinals had a phenomenal tournament as the No. 1 seed and league champs. Coach Kurt Patterson felt the key to his team's success came from full court pressure defense, aggressive rebounding, court vision and passing.

On the road to the championship, the Cardinals got by St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth after receiving a bye. They finished 5-0 in the CYO and 23-6 overall.

A pleased Patterson remarked, "The girls really played well this

weekend and peaked at the right time."

St. Charles listed 14 on their roster, but did not have enough eighth-graders to make a team this season forcing them to bring up seventh-graders.

"The girls bonded extremely well. We went from introductions at the beginning of the year to best friends by the end," explained Patterson, who has been coaching girls' hoops since 1990.

He continued, "Laura (Eckrich) and Heather (Nellum) provided outstanding leadership. It's not easy for seventh-graders to compete against eighth graders all season and they accepted the challenge. They did everything we asked them to do and made the leap straight from sixth-grade ball to eighth-grade ball. The group was athletic, caught on fast and we had a lot of fun."

Claudia Ream led all with 9 points for St. Charles while Morgan Raines was the top scorer for the Panthers.

In the Blue League contest, top seed, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel beat a strong team from St. Therese, 43-23. The Squires were led by Kathryn Knapke who scored 15 points. Gabi North had 10 for the Crusaders. Hessen Cassel had a stellar season, which started off with a runner-up finish at the eight-team Queen of Angels preseason tournament back in November when they beat both the White and Gold League champs.

Photos of the champion teams will appear in an upcoming issue.



ICCL Lions, Blazers battle for crown

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The king would be crowned at Marian High School as the Inter-City Catholic League regular season champs, the mighty Lions of St. Pius X, matched up against the only team in the league that could boast a victory against the gold-and-green clad juggernauts though a distant memory in week two.

The Blazers of St. Matthew had their own story to tell. They had stumbled a couple of times throughout the year and needed a come from behind win against Christ the King to reach the pinnacle of ICCL tournament contests.

From the opening tip, the Lions aggressively hit the glass and had four shots on their first possession. Unfortunately the attempts never found their mark as they rattled around the rim like a pinball machine.

The black-and-orange-draped conquistadors had better luck as they made trips down the floor and added points to their totals

pushing an eight-point lead at the end of one, the sole Lion bucket was a put-back by Brian Gursky at the 1:24 mark of the quarter.

The dynamic duo from St. Matthew — Nathan Marino and Justin DeClark — pushed the tempo and matched the scoring of the Lions in the second stanza by adding to the lead and going into halftime with a substantial but not insurmountable lead, 23-13.

The St. Pius faithful knew that the game was far from over. The Lions had won the Holiday Tournament, won the regular season championship, and, in doing so, averaged more than 54 points a contest. The mark of 50 was only attained four other times during the entire year.

St. Matthew had other plans

as they put the pedal down and attacked a defense that had held opponents to 27 per game and sprinted out of the gate knocking down shots and handling the Pius pressure and expanding their lead to 14 after the third horn.

The Blazers looked as though the game was at hand, and then it happened — the patented St. Pius press expounded by the dominate inside play of Trent Stoner and Gursky and the occasional three pointer by Reece Jackowiak.

It happened that quickly, the Lions had stalked their prey and were down just four with 3:24 left and all the momentum on their side, a blow out became a nail biter just that fast.



ICCL, PAGE 14

The CrossWord

February 17 and 24, 2013

N	A	A	C	P	DOC	S	P	A			
A	D	I	E	U	OWL	A	L	L			
P	O	L	A	R	WEE	V	A	T			
		S	P	I	N	A	R	E	N	A	
A	N	G	E	L	S	E	V	A	D	E	R
S	B	E		E	R	O	D	E	S		
P	E	N	N	A	U	G	P	R	A	Y	
			A	C	E	T	I	C	U	S	E
M	A	M	M	A	L	N	O	U	G	H	T
A	L	O	E	S	E	G	O	S			
T	O	O	I	C	E	K	I	N	G	S	
E	N	D	N	I	L	I	N	A	N	E	
Y	E	S	G	A	S	E	G	Y	P	T	

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www.catholic-cemetery.org

CATHOLIC CEMETERY ASSOCIATION INC., FORT WAYNE

Promotion ends June 1, 2013.

ICCL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

The Blazers looked ruffled in front of the full house and then their coach, Rob Sink, called a well-placed timeout to settle their nerves and the kids responded by

holding on to their composure and matching the Lions' swagger until the final ticks of the clock.

The Lions' last opportunity came when Walter Ellis intentionally missed the second free throw with six seconds left down by two, as the ball ricocheted hard off the rim but into an awaiting Blazer grasp, final score 46-42.

"St. Pius has a tremendous

team and we knew we would have to handle their uptempo game and most importantly play defense," explained Sink. "I'm so proud of how our kids worked in practice everyday just for this moment."

"Coach Sink does such a good job with his kids, St. Matt's really played a good solid game today," said St. Pius X Coach, Brian Stawski. "They came out ready to

play early and it took us a while to match their intensity, I'm so very proud of the way our players responded and how they battled back."

The Colors Championship game between St. Joseph and Christ the King had the Eagles close out the Kings, 35-22, behind the double digit scoring of Michael Anthony. Michael Dunkelburger netted 11 in the loss.

The fifth-and-sixth grade leagues also crowned champions over the weekend; St. Thomas A squeaked past Christ the King A Blue, 36-33. Queen of Peace B upended Corpus Christi B, 32-29, in another close match.

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

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Qualified applicants will be practicing Catholics with strong leadership skills and experience as an early childhood teacher or early childhood center director. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree and have direct experience with or a strong understanding of early childhood programs and curricula. The successful candidate will also possess strong organizational skills, communicate clearly with internal and external stakeholders, work well independently in order to meet important deadlines, have high attention to detail, and will be able to lead and supervise others. Salary is commensurate with education and experience.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or email: fhogan@diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Lenten lecture series offered

Notre Dame — Holy Cross Village, 54515 State Road 933, hosts a Lenten lecture series on Wednesdays during Lent in Geenen Hall at 7 p.m. Feb. 22 — Holy Cross Brother John Paige: How Do We Do the "One Thing Necessary" to Be Near Him?; Feb. 27 — Dominican Sister Jamie Phelps: Stepping Out in Faith — A Matter of Faith Development; March 6 — Dominic Vachon, Ph.D.: The Way of the Cross: the Giving and Receiving of Compassion; March 13 — Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca: Lent — What's Old and What's New; March 20 — Holy Cross Father Nicholas Ayo: Untold Mystery in the Garden of Gethsemani. Contact Sister Marilyn Zugish at (574) 251-3287 for information.

DCCW hear about teen mission trip

Fort Wayne — The teens from the "Catholics on a Mission" trip to Costa Rica will speak Tuesday, Feb. 26, at St. Joseph Hospital in the Assembly Room during the 10 a.m. DCCW meeting. Contact Marie at (260) 622-4211 for information. Free valet parking available at the hospital entrance.

Healing Mass offered

Fort Wayne — St. Peter Parish, 518 DeWald St., will have Conventual Franciscan Father John Raphael Hadnagy lead a healing service on Tuesday, March 5. Mass will begin at 6:30 p.m., the healing service will follow. Call (260) 744-2765 for information.

NICHE curriculum share planned

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Homeschool Support Group, NICHE, is having a Curriculum Share on Saturday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Hession Center.

FISH FRIES

Fish Fry

Arcola — St. Patrick Church, 12305 Arcola Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 8, from 4-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches available. Adults \$9, children 6-10 \$4, children under 6 free and senior's 60 plus \$8. Drive-thru carryouts available.

Fish fry helps athletics

Fort Wayne — St. Therese

School, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., will have a fish fry Friday, March 8, from 4:30-7 p.m. Adults - \$8.50, Children (6-12) \$4.50, Five and under FREE Proceeds will go to St. Therese Athletics.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 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

Bremen — St. Dominic Church will host a fish fry on Friday, March 8, from 4-7 p.m. Dinners are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12, children under 5 are free. Fish prepared by Tyner IOOF.

Knights offer fish

Mishawaka — Knights of Columbus Council 1878, 114 W. First St., will host a Lenten fish fry every Friday from 5-7 p.m. during Lent. Tickets are \$8 for adults, children 5 to 12 \$5 and under 5 are free. Carryouts available.

REST IN PEACE

Arcola

Debbie Freiburger, 56, St. Patrick

Decatur

Timothy A. Gase, 50, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

Luella R. Offerle, 95, St. Jude

Sharon Corson

Fenker, 76, St. Charles Borromeo

Lynn E. Hartman, 69, Our Lady of Good Hope

Billy D. Carrico, 86, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

James G. Klug, 95, St. Jude

Garrett

Lawrence R. Sheehan, 83, St. Joseph

Granger

Joseph A. Ruthrauff, 61, St. Pius X

Patrick Simeri, 87, St. Pius X

Ligonier

Virginia M. Creps, 90, St. Patrick

Mishawaka

Dominico Schimizzi, 88, Queen of Peace

Shirley Ann Yates, 74, St. Joseph

New Carlisle

Irene F. Ross, 92, St. Stanislaus

South Bend

Martha I. Dobosiewicz, 95, St. Casimir

Theresa Pat Dame, 84, Holy Family

Virginia Collner, 90, Little Flower

Raul Rodriguez, 59, St. Casimir

Mildred M. Borowski, 95, St. Adalbert

Muriel Lee Nixa, 84, Little Flower

Wabash

Richard J. Alexander, 82, St. Bernard

PRESIDENT Catholic High School

Boylan Catholic High School, in Rockford, IL, seeks a dynamic leader to serve as the school's first President. Boylan, founded in 1960, is a co-educational institution serving the greater Rockford area for grades 9-12.

The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the school and functions as a leader within the school community with a special commitment to the Catholic spiritual and pastoral identity of Boylan. The President is responsible for the creation and execution of long and short-range goals and objectives that further the mission of Boylan Catholic High School and ensure that the school's operation is consonant with its approved mission. The President is hired by and serves at the discretion of the Bishop. The President is directly responsible to the Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Rockford and the Boylan Board of Directors.

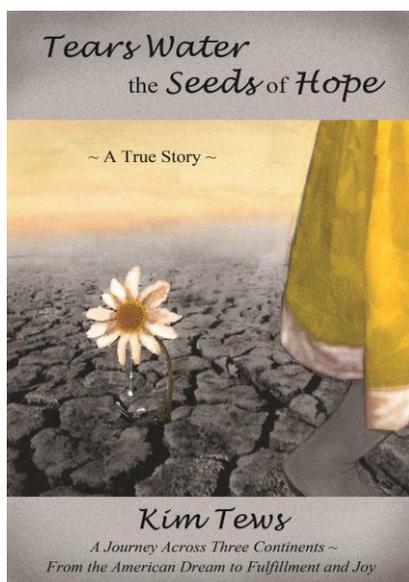
The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic who displays a record of leadership and accomplishment in the education or non-profit sector. He or she must have a proven record as a successful individual with strong organizational, supervisory, and leadership capabilities. Exemplary interpersonal skills are essential, as is the ability to develop relationships with the school's constituents. The candidate must also demonstrate fundraising success, especially with major gift solicitations. He or she must have significant experience with complex operating budgets.

A master's degree is required and a doctorate is preferred. A minimum of ten years of progressively responsible experience in a leadership position is required with a preference for school administration.

The successful candidate will display a personal commitment to Catholic education and the mission of Boylan Catholic High School. The ability to work effectively with many constituencies is valued highly. These constituencies include the Board of Directors, school personnel, parents, pastors, alumni, students and other school groups. Other important characteristics include a strong work ethic, personal integrity, excellent communication skills, strategic thinking, enrollment management, and finance and planning skills. Evidence of a commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth is required. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience - negotiable. Submit cover letter, resume, and references to:

Diocese of Rockford • Superintendent of Catholic Schools
555 Colman Center Drive • PO Box 7044 • Rockford, IL 61125

For more information about Boylan Catholic High School, please visit our website at www.boyolan.org



Tears Water the Seeds of Hope is the inspiring true story of a Wisconsin husband and wife that become disenchanted with the relentless pursuit of the "American Dream" and embark on a journey that spans six countries and redefines their hearts and lives. The story begins in a small town in America's heartland and weaves its way through South and Central America as the couple gathers an army of supporters, and eventually establishes a non-profit organization to save the lives of children in the end stages of starvation in eastern Guatemala. The narrative is filled with action-packed adventure and heart-warming victories as the characters face incredible odds and seemingly hopeless situations, while hundreds of volunteers join mission teams to offer help and hope through the programs of the ministry. Readers of all ages will enjoy the roller coaster ride of emotions—from laughter, to tears, to sheer joy—as they realize that it is possible for ordinary people to make a difference.

This engaging page-turner explores themes such as:

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- ~ The challenges of international adoption
- ~ Our power, even as individuals, to change the world
- ~ The joy of serving Christ
- ~ Reconciling a good and loving God with the suffering in the world
- ~ The positive role of short term mission teams
- ~ The comedy and drama of raising teenagers in an international ministry family

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Pilar Arsenec- National Book Critics Circle

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Precedent and sacrifice: Papal decision offers options for future

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For a Catholic so aware of the importance of tradition, even traditions with a small “t,” Pope Benedict XVI had to know he was setting a precedent by resigning.

“This development will offer options that maybe were not too obvious before this courageous decision of Pope Benedict,” said U.S. Cardinal Edwin F. O’Brien, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Meeting the press in Boston, the city’s Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley agreed, saying the pope’s decision “will obviously have an effect going forward.”

Pope Benedict described his decision to be the first pope to resign in almost 600 years as the result of intense prayer and an examination of his conscience before God. Once in six centuries does not set a rule, but the understanding reception that the pope’s decision has received within the Church suggests that it will not be another 600 years before it happens again.

As head of a spiritual community that now numbers about 1.2 billion members all over the world, the pope did not approach the decision as a secular leader would. While he obviously talked to a few people about it, the 85-year-old pope described it as a matter of personal conscience, which implies he may have discussed it with a trusted spiritual guide, but did not seek broad consultation or a consensus.

Even though Pope Benedict and his older brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, are very close, the elder Ratzinger told reporters at a news conference Feb. 11 he was “very surprised” by his brother’s decision, but understood why he did it.

Confirming what the Vatican press spokesman had said, Msgr. Ratzinger told the British Broadcasting Corp. that his brother had been considering stepping down for months; he also told the BBC that the pope’s doctor had advised him not to take any more trans-Atlantic trips.

“When he got to the second half of his 80s, he felt that his age was showing and that he was gradually losing the abilities he may have had and that it takes to fulfill this office properly,” Msgr. Ratzinger told the BBC.

In prayer before God, Pope Benedict had to face important conflicting values: the tradition of a pope serving until death; the faith statement — often repeated by Blessed John Paul II — that God would relieve a pope from office when it was time, meaning the pope would die; and the practical energy needed to minister to a far-flung flock in an age of instant communication where events hit the Internet

before any considered, prudent response can be formulated.

An ecumenical partner and esteemed theological colleague of Pope Benedict’s said he was not totally surprised by the pope’s decision. Anglican Bishop Rowan Williams, who stepped down in late December as the archbishop of Canterbury and head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, told Vatican Radio he and Pope Benedict spoke last March about the possibility of being able to retire and devote one’s life completely to prayer and study.

“In our last conversation, I was very conscious that he was recognizing his own frailty, and it did cross my mind to wonder whether this was a step he might think about,” Bishop Williams told Vatican Radio.

While the bishop would not release details of his private conversation with the pope, he said, “It was a sense I had that he was beginning to ask the question, ‘Is it possible to carry on with a good conscience,’ and I’m sure it must be in his mind that for all the previous pope’s immense courage and the example he set in soldiering on to the end, it might not be — now — for the best interests of the whole Church.”

Loosening the tradition of leadership until death is a matter the Eastern Catholic churches and even the worldwide Jesuit order have been coming to accept, especially since the Second Vatican Council and particularly given the fact that people live longer today, even in increasing physical and mental frailty.

Jesuit Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, the former Jesuit superior, was required to obtain Pope Benedict’s permission to announce his intention to step down in 2008, the year Father Kolvenbach turned 80. A few days after Jesuit Father Adolfo Nicolas was elected to succeed Father Kolvenbach, the new superior told reporters it was unlikely any Jesuit leader again would feel an absolute obligation to serve until death.

In a speech to seminarians of the Diocese of Rome Feb. 8, three days before he announced his resignation, Pope Benedict made a remark that, in hindsight, could help people recognize both the sacrifice Blessed John Paul made by staying in office as Parkinson’s disease ravaged his body and the sacrifice of Pope Benedict stepping down.

Like St. Peter, he said, “we, too, are called to accept the martyrological aspect of Christianity, which can take very different forms.”

“The cross can have very different forms,” Pope Benedict told the seminarians, “but no one can be a Christian without following the Crucified One, without also accepting the moment of martyrdom.”



Pope Benedict XVI timeline

2005	April 19	German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, 78, elected pope, takes the name Benedict XVI
	Dec. 22	Meeting with top aides, insists the teaching of the Second Vatican Council must be read in continuity with the church’s tradition
2006	Sept. 12	In a speech at University of Regensburg, Germany, cites a historical criticism of violence in Islam, setting off consternation and protests
	Nov. 30	Stands with Muslim leader in Turkey’s Blue Mosque; says he prayed God would help all believers see each other as brothers and sisters
2007	April 16	First of what would be his three-volume work, “Jesus of Nazareth,” goes on sale and is an immediate commercial success
	May 27	In letter to Catholics in China, criticizes government restrictions on religion and urges reconciliation among the country’s Catholic communities
	July 7	Issues apostolic letter permitting wider use of pre-Vatican II Mass
2008	April 15-20	Journeys to Washington, New York and the United Nations, meets victims of clerical sex abuse for first time
	July 12-21	Travels to Sydney for World Youth Day
	Jan. 21	With his approval, Vatican lifts the excommunication of four traditionalist bishops from the Society of St. Pius X to clear the way for reconciliation talks with the group
2009	May 8-15	Travels to Holy Land, stopping in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories
	Nov. 4	With “Anglicanorum coetibus,” establishes personal ordinariates for Anglicans entering into full communion with Catholic Church
2010	July 15	With his approval, Vatican releases streamlined procedures for handling accusations of clerical sexual abuse and removing those found guilty from priesthood
2011	May 1	Beatifies his predecessor, Pope John Paul II
2012	March 23-28	Visits Mexico and Cuba
	Dec. 22	After nearly a year of Vatican scandal over leaked documents and the papal butler being convicted of theft, the pope visits the butler in jail and pardons him
	Feb. 11	Announces his resignation, becoming the first pope to do so in nearly 600 years



CNS photos/Alessia Giuliani and Paul Haring

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Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

This Lent, every Catholic parish in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will have confessions available on **Wednesday, March 6, from 6-8 p.m.**
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