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‘The Light Is On For You’
Confessions in all parishes of the diocese on March 6, 6-8 p.m.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has designated Wednesday, March 6, from 6-8 p.m., “as the date and time for all the churches of our diocese to be open for prayer and am asking all our priests to hear individual confessions during that two-hour time period,” he wrote in a letter to priests.

The initiative is called “The Light Is On For You” and will offer Catholics of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend the availability of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Confession provides an opportunity to set aside sinful ways and to draw closer to the Lord.

“The Light Is On For You” is endorsed by the U.S. bishops and is an invitation to all Catholics of the diocese to stop in church for prayer and provides the opportunity for Confession. The program began in the Archdiocese of Washington and has been adopted by other dioceses with much success. With this program, all parishes in a diocese open their churches on a particular evening for Confessions.

The U.S. bishops released an exhortation encouraging the faithful to avail themselves to the sacrament of Penance during Lent of 2013. “The Light Is On For You” is for Catholics who frequent Confession, but is also an opportunity for Catholics who may be reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time, or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon Confession time. It is an opportunity for Catholics to reconnect with Christ and His Church.

For those who have been away from the sacrament for some time, churches will have Reconciliation brochures available for

TODAY’S CATHOLIC LIFE
SPRING ISSUE AVAILABLE

The “Spring” issue of Today’s Catholic Life is available at parishes across the diocese. Pick up your copy and see what springtime has to offer — rebirth and renewal with gardening and home improvement, Easter traditions and spiritual spring break adventures.
The Light Is On For You

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

On Wednesday, March 6th, the churches of our diocese will all be open from 6:00 to 8:00 PM with priests available for the Sacrament of Penance. The light of the confessional will be on for all who seek to receive the Lord’s forgiveness in this great sacrament. THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!

This initiative throughout our diocese and also in many dioceses throughout the United States is one that seeks to help people to rediscover the importance, beauty, and value of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: “We know that the faithful are surrounded by a culture that tends to eliminate the sense of sin and to promote a superficial approach that overlooks the need to be in a state of grace in order to approach sacramental communion worthily. The loss of a consciousness of sin always entails a certain superficiality in the understanding of God’s love.”

We must overcome this superficiality by a renewed commitment to confession, so necessary in our journey of faith. The Year of Faith is “a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Savior of the world.” If we are to grow in our life in Christ, we all need to recognize our need for continual conversion. We need to continually turn away from sin and be renewed in our fidelity to the Gospel.

The Lord offers us His forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance, a source of great peace for our souls. We will never find this interior peace unless we first are aware of our need for forgiveness. To receive forgiveness, we must be sorry for our sins and reject them. This is repentance, the very heart of conversion. We must return to the Father, like the prodigal son, with sorrow for our sins, with confidence in the Father’s mercy, and with the intention to amend our lives.

To confess our sins to another, in this case the ordained priest, requires humility. The priest confessor acts in the person of Christ, the divine physician. With an honest and integral confession of our sins, we entrust ourselves to the Lord’s mercy. The priest, with the power received in his ordination, imparts absolution. At that beautiful moment, we are in contact with the power and mercy of God. Our sins are forgiven; we are restored to God’s grace.

The Second Vatican Council taught: “Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from the mercy of God for the offense committed against him and are at the same time reconciled with the Church, which they have wounded by their sins, and which by charity, example and prayer seeks their conversion” (Lumen gentium 11).

When we read the parable of the prodigal son, we learn that sin is fundamentally an offense against the love of the Father. We also see how sin harms the son — he loses his dignity. He is reduced to very tragic conditions. However, the good news is that the Father waits for him to return. His arms are open wide to receive his son home. In fact, when his son repents and starts home, the father hurries to embrace him and pardon him. This is what happens in the Sacrament of Penance. Our merciful Father receives us in His loving arms. He forgives us and restores our dignity as His sons and daughters. We are restored to His friendship and regain the joy of being saved.

As Catholics, we are blessed to have received from the Lord the gift of the Sacrament of Penance. Jesus gave to the Church the mission and power of forgiving sins. The power to forgive sins belongs to the Church. The Ten Commandments are not to love your neighbor as yourself.”

God’s desire is always to forgive, to save, to give life, and to transform evil into good. That is why Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Penance. He gives us this possibility to continually convert. He wants us to place our sins before Him through His Church for remission. He wants us to bring our wounds to the doctor so that we can receive the medicine that heals. He wants to restore our dignity as His children by restoring us to His grace.

In this holy season of Lent, may we all, with humble and contrite hearts, turn to the Father who is rich in mercy through Jesus our Redeemer. May the Holy Spirit help us to hate sin and be converted! In God, we find the love that is stronger than sin and death. In the Sacrament of Penance, we encounter that love in a most profound way, the divine love that is revealed as mercy. My brothers and sisters, THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!
As pope, Benedict worked to promote understanding of Vatican II

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On Feb. 14, in one of the last public appearances of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI spoke to the clergy of Rome about his experiences at the Second Vatican Council, which he had attended as an expert consultant half a century before.

The pope praised some of the council’s achievements, including its teachings on the interpretation of Scripture, religious freedom and relations with non-Christian religions. But he also lamented what he described as widespread distortions of the council’s teachings. The news media, he said, had presented the council to most of the world as a political struggle for “popular sovereignty” in the Church.

“This council of the media” was responsible for “many calamities, so many problems, so much misery,” the pope said. “Seminaries closed, convents closed, liturgy trivialized.”

With that speech, Pope Benedict returned to one of the major themes of his pontificate. During his first year as pope, he had explained in a landmark speech that Vatican II could be properly understood only in continuity with the Church’s millennial traditions, not as a radical break with the past. He went on to devote much of his papacy to promoting this understanding of the council’s teachings.

Under Pope Benedict, the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, which as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger he had helped found 24 years ago, continued to censure or criticize theologians whose writings, often invoking the spirit if not the letter of Vatican II documents, deviated from orthodoxy in areas that included sexual morality, the mystery of the incarnation and the possibility of salvation for non-Christians.

The congregation also issued documents asserting that the Catholic Church is the one true “Church of Christ” and that missionary work must be “well understood as service to the Gospel as well as provide charitable assistance to the needy.”

Both documents, the Vatican said, were necessary to correct misunderstandings of the teachings of Vatican II.

Pope Benedict presided over two major Vatican investigations of women religious in the United States, responding to diminishing numbers and reported deviations from doctrine and discipline in the decades since the council. One of the investigations led to an order of referral for a recurrent theme of the apostolic constitution of Women Religious, intended to ensure the group’s commitment to Catholic teaching in areas including abortion, euthanasia, women’s ordination and homosexuality.

The pope also tried to correct what he considered overly expansive notions of interreligious dialogue that had blossomed after Vatican II, which he feared could lead to relativism or syncretism. In October 2011, at the 25th-anniversary commemoration of the World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi, Italy, there was no public multireligious prayer of the kind that had distinguished the original event, which at the time Cardinal Ratzinger had criticized at the time.

Pope Benedict also added agg nostic “seekers of the truth” to the guest list, further diluting the interreligious character of the event.

A lifelong teacher, Pope Benedict naturally made Vatican II’s continuity with tradition a recurrent theme in his homilies, catechetical talks, papal documents and even in his personal writings, addressing the topic in the first of his best-selling “Jesus of Nazareth” books.

This pedagogical project culminated in the current Year of Faith, which opened Oct. 11, the 50th anniversary of the council.

“The council did not formulate anything new in matters of faith, nor did it wish to replace what was ancient,” the pope told the congregation at Mass that day in St. Peter’s Square. “Rather, it reinterpreted and confirmed the mind and heart of the Church, so that human reason may continue to do its job in the light of faith.”

As pope, Benedict worked to promote understanding of Vatican II

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his last week as pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI issued new rules for conclaves, including a clause that allows the College of Cardinals to move up the date for the beginning of the conclave to elect his successor.

However, the cardinals cannot see this date until after the pope leaves office Feb. 28.

Pope Benedict also defined the exact penalty — automatic excommunication — that could be incurred by any cardinal assistanting the College of Cardinals who failed to maintain absolute secrecy about the conclave proceedings.

The pope laid out the new rules in an apostolic letter issued “motu proprio” (on his own initiative) Feb. 22, the feast of the Chair of St. Peter. The Vatican released the document online.

The changes affect the rules established in Blessed John Paul II’s apostolic constitution governing the election of popes, “Universi Dominici Gregis.”

Under the current rules, which remain in effect, upon the vacancy of the papacy, cardinals in Rome “must wait 15 full days for the who are absent” before they can enter into a conclave and begin the process of electing a new pope. However, Pope Benedict inserted an additional provision that grants the College of Cardinals “the faculty to move up the start of the conclave if all the cardinal-electors are present,” as well as giving them the ability “to delay, if there are serious reasons, the beginning of

Changing rules, pope allows cardinals to move up conclave date

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changing the election of a few more days.”

However, the conclave still must begin no more than 20 days after the start of the “sede vacante.”

The date of the start of the conclave is to be decided by all the cardinals, including those over the age of 80, who participate in the daily general congregations or discussions that precede a conclave, said Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata, the Vatican spokesman. He will assist Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone in the administration of the Church during the “sede vacante.”

The cardinals must wait for every cardinal-elector to arrive or to have sent a legitimate excuse for their absence, such as for reasons of infirmity or serious illness, he told journalists.

The date of the start of the conclave will then be determined by

a majority vote, that is 50 percent plus one of the cardinals present, said Archbishop Celata.

The other major change to the rules is that the pope defined the exact penalty incurred by support for assisting the cardinal-electors during a conclave if they break the oath of secrecy about the proceedings.

The aids must swear to never lend support to or favor any outside interference in the election process. Under the old rules, the penalty for breaking the vow was to be determined by the Pope and the College of Cardinals.

Instead, Pope Benedict has rewritten the oath that staff will take, stating that they are “aware that an infraction will incur the penalty of automatic excommunication.”

“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, for ever and ever. Amen.”

Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI

O God, true shepherd of all the faithful, look with kindness on Your servant Pope Benedict XVI, whom You set as head and shepherd of Your Church.

We give You thanks for Your grace at work in him as he had led us by word and example: In his teaching, in his prayer and in his great love.

Grant Him your strength in frailty, comfort in sorrow, and serenity amid the trials of this world; and guide Your Church, built on the rock of Peter, with the power of Your Spirit as we continue on the path that leads to You. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Election of a New Pope

O God, true Shepherd of the whole human family, look with kindness on Your servant Pope Benedict XVI, whom You set as head and shepherd of Your Church.

We give You thanks for Your grace at work in him as he had led us by word and example: In his teaching, in his prayer and in his great love.

Grant Him your strength in frailty, comfort in sorrow, and serenity amid the trials of this world; and guide Your Church, built on the rock of Peter, with the power of Your Spirit as we continue on the path that leads to You. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

— provided by the USCCB
could not hope to engage in real dialogue with Islamic and other religious cultures. In his encyclicals and in his books on “Jesús of Nazareth,” the pope honed that message, asking readers to discover the essential connections between sacrificial love, works of charity, a dedication to the truth and the Gospel of Christ.

The German-born pontiff did not try to match the popularity of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, but the millions of people who came to see him in Rome and abroad came to appreciate his smile, his frequent ad libs and his ability to speak from the heart.

Although he did not expect to travel much, he ended up making 24 trips to six continents and three times presided over World Youth Day mega-gatherings, in Germany in 2005, in Australia in 2008, and in Spain in 2011.

Talking about aging last March when he met the 85-year-old Cuban leader Fidel Castro in Havana, Pope Benedict told him, “Yes, I’m old, but I still carry out my duties.”

On a historic visit to the United States in 2008, the pope brought his own identity into clearer focus for Americans. He said for a moral question on issues ranging from economic justice to abortion. He also took Church recognition of the priestly sex abuse scandal to a new level, expressing his personal shame at what happened and praying with the victims.

The pope met three times with former U.S. President George W. Bush, including a formal visit to the White House, and the two leaders found wide areas of agreement on pro-life and family issues. When former President Barack Obama was elected, the pontiff sent him a warmly worded telegram and a promise of his prayers, but when President Obama was sworn in the Vatican the next year, the pope spoke clearly about the Church’s objections to the administration’s policies on several life issues, including abortion and embryonic stem cell research.

Pope Benedict was 78 in apparent good health when elected April 19, 2005, but was said to have told his fellow cardinals that his would not be a long, popacy like that of his predecessor. In an interview with the German author Peter Seewald in 2010, Pope Benedict said, “If a pope clearly realizes that he is no longer physically, psychologically and spiritually capable of handling the duties of his office, then he has a right and, under some circumstances, an obligation to resign.”

Joseph Ratzinger was born April 16, 1927, in the Bavarian town of Marktl am Inn, the third and youngest child of a police officer, Joseph Sr., and his wife, Maria. Young Joseph joined his brother, Georg, at a minor seminary in 1939.

Like other young students, he was automatically enrolled in the Hitler Youth program, but soon stopped going to meetings. During World War II, he was conscripted into the army and spent four years as a prisoner of war. He returned to the seminary late in 1945 and was ordained six years later, along with his brother.

In a meeting with young people in 2006, the pope said witnessing the brutality and vulnerability of the Nazi helped convince him to become a priest. But he also had to overcome some doubts, he said. For one thing, he asked himself whether he “could faithfully live celibacy” his entire life. He also recognized that his real leanings were toward theology and wondered whether he had the qualities of a good pastor and the ability “to be simple with the simple people.”

After a short stint as a parish priest, the future pope began a teaching career and built a reputation as one of the Church’s foremost theologians. At Vatican II, he made important contributions during the ecumenical and diplomatic thinking and, up the 19th-century French St. John Vianney as a model of clerical holiness who struggled against the indifference and secularization of a militantly anticlerical society.

He convened a Synod of Bishops on Scripture in 2008, in an effort to move the Church beyond the self-centeredness of individual spirituality and pastoral planning. He opened a Year of Faith in October presided over a synod focusing on the New Evangelization and a renewal of Christian faith in the secular West, one of the priorities of his pontificate.

Benedict himself had offended Muslims and distanced the faith he preached.” Following protests in the Islamic world, which included the burning of churches and mosques in Palestine and territories in the murder of a nun in Somalia, the pope said he was sorry his words had offended Muslims and distanced himself from the text he had quoted.

Later that year, visiting a mosque in Turkey, he turned toward Mecca and prayed silently alongside his host, President Abdullah Gul, a moderate and energetically considerable good will, and over the succeeding years, Pope Benedict continued to meet with Muslim leaders and to use his speeches to the press, allegedly by the pope’s brother. The Vatican did not comment. The pope’s resignation was announced in February, and he explained that he took the name Benedict XVI, a “courteous prophet of peace” during World War I, and said he wanted to place his ministry at the service of reconciliation and harmony among peoples.

The new pope spent most of his energy trying to think up an innovative bequest in his passion for debate with thinkers inside and outside the Church.

As the newly elected pope in 2005, he explained that he took the name Benedict to evoke the memory of Pope Benedict XV, a “courageous prophet of peace” during World War I, and said he wanted to place his ministry at the service of reconciliation and harmony among peoples.

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On March 2, 2013, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation 8 years into his papacy, citing his advanced age and declining health. The announcement came weeks after he publicly admitted to feeling wearied and that his mind was not as sharp as it used to be. It was a surprise to many, who had expected the 85-year-old pope to continue leading the world’s 1.1 billion Catholics.

In his encyclicals and in his books on “Jesús of Nazareth,” the pope honed that message, asking readers to discover the essential connections between sacrificial love, works of charity, a dedication to the truth and the Gospel of Christ.

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March 3, 2013

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

The pope spent much of his time meeting with bishops from around the world when they made “ad limina” visits to the Vatican to report on their dioceses.

Some of Pope Benedict’s longest and most-revealing encounters were with priests, in Rome and elsewhere. He frequently spoke of the importance of the quality formation of priestly candidates, and in 2005 he approved the release of a long-awaited document baring those with deep-seated homosexual tendencies from the priesthood.

In a few areas, Pope Benedict asked Church experts to engage in careful study and reflection:

- He asked Vatican agencies to consider the moral and scientific aspects of condom use in AIDS prevention, after some theologians argued that condoms were acceptable for married couples in which one spouse is infected with HIV. At the same time, his own statement in 2009 that condom-distribution campaigns aggravate the problem of AIDS prompted widespread criticism.

In his 2010 interview for the book “Light of the World,” Seewald asked Pope Benedict about the use of condoms in AIDS prevention and the pope’s answer made headlines around the world. While continuing to insist that condoms were not the answer to the AIDS pandemic, he allowed that in particular circumstances — for example, a prostitute seeking to reduce the risk of infection — using a condom might represent a step toward moral awareness.

- He convened scientific and theological scholars for private discussions about the theory of evolution. In his own remarks on the subject, he emphasized that the acceptance of evolutionary theory should not mean the exclusion of a fundamental divine purpose in creation.

One of the pope’s most notable actions came in May 2006, when he approved a decision saying that Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, the founder of the Legionaries of Christ, should not exercise his priestly ministry publicly. Father Maciel, who enjoyed favor for many years at the Vatican, had been accused of sexually abusing minors. In 2009 the pope approved an apostolic visitation of the late priest’s order.

Although he was expected to reverse a trend set by Pope John Paul, Pope Benedict did not slow the Vatican’s saint-making machinery, but he did immediately announce he would not preside over beatifications. The pope’s decision was meant to highlight the difference between a beatification and a canonization, but, in effect, the pope’s decision lowered the profile of beatification liturgies. Pope Benedict did make two exceptions to his new rule: the first to beatify Cardinal John Henry Newman during a September 2010 visit to England, and the second to beatify Pope John Paul in May 2011.

While Pope Benedict asked Vatican experts to be more selective in picking candidates for sainthood, he ended up canonizing 44 new saints, including the Native American Kateri Tekakwitha and Mother Marianne Cope of Molokai.

Pope Benedict named 90 new cardinals: 67 of those he named are still under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in the conclave to elect his successor. As of Feb. 28, the day his papacy ends, Pope Benedict’s appointments will represent just over 57 percent of the 117 cardinals under that age.

In mid-2007, the pope made an important change in the conclave procedure, restoring the traditional rule that requires a two-thirds-majority for papal election. In doing so, he reversed a modification made by Pope John Paul, who had allowed the possibility of moving to a simple majority vote in the case of a deadlocked conclave.

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden at the Vatican.

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Pope Benedict: I am not abandoning the Church

**BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In one of his last public appearances, Pope Benedict XVI told an overflow crowd in St. Peter's Square Feb. 24 that his upcoming retirement does not mean he is abandoning the Church, but that he will be serving it in a new way, through prayer and meditation.

At noon, the pope appeared at his window in the Apostolic Palace to pray the Angelus, a papal Sunday ritual that will not be repeated until after the election of a new pope.

Despite the blustery weather, turnout was several times the usual for such occasions — easily more than 150,000, with some estimates as high as a quarter of a million. The crowd filled the square, except where prevented by barricades, and spilled out into the Via della Conciliazione.

Many groups held signs expressing gratitude and affection — “You are not alone,” one read — and national flags from countries as far away as Brazil.

Pope Benedict was the “she rock: solid, strong and unwavering and yet kind and compassionate and loving at the same time,” said Balthazar Aguirre of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Daly City, Calif. He and his two sisters took time off from work to come to Rome for the pope’s last week as the head of the universal Church.

“Prayer doesn’t mean isolating one’s self from the world and its contradictions,” the pope said, in his commentary on the day’s Gospel reading (Lk 9:28-36). “Prayer leads one back to the path, to action.”

“Christian existence,” he said, “consists in a continuous climbing of the mountain for an encounter with God, in order to descend again bearing the love and strength derived from it, so as to serve our brothers and sisters with the same love of God.”

If the relevance to his Feb. 28 resignation was not already clear, the pope made the connection explicit:

“I feel that this word of God is directed in particular to me, in this moment of my life. The Lord calls me to ‘climb the mountain,’ to dedicate myself even more to prayer and meditation. But this does not mean abandoning the Church; on the contrary, if God asks this of me it is precisely so that I may continue to serve (the Church) with the same dedication and the same love with which I have done so till now, but in a way more suited to my age and strength.”

Speaking these words, Pope Benedict was interrupted twice by applause, and afterward received an ovation 30 seconds long.

He smiled broadly, thanked the crowd, and added, “Let us thank God for the bit of sun he has granted us.”

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**A bill to regulate chemical abortion, improve informed consent advances**

**INDIANAPOLIS** — A bill to regulate chemical abortion in Indiana and another to improve informed consent law for abortion cleared its first hurdle Feb. 20, when the Senate Health panel passed the proposals. The Church supports both measures.

Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Indianapolis, author of SB 371 said his bill is intended to ensure women’s safety. The bill requires facilities that dispense abortion-inducing drugs to meet the same medical standards as those that provide surgical abortions. The proposal requires a doctor who prescribes the abortion-inducing drugs to examine the woman in person, and schedule follow-up care.

“We’re just trying to control and regulate abortion-inducing drugs, which are not regulated in the state of Indiana,” said Holdman.

“We’re talking about the life of the mother and of the child. I don’t believe what we are asking for is an unreasonable request,” said Holdman. “We are not prohibiting physicians or abortion clinics from continuing the practice they are engaged in.”

Senate Bill 489, authored by Sen. Mike Young, R-Indianapolis, changes Indiana’s informed consent law for abortion requiring a woman seeking abortion to see an ultrasound and hear fetal heart tones unless she certifies in writing that she declines. It requires the Indiana Department of Health to provide guidelines and standards rather than black and white, showing fetal development stages for abortion centers to provide to abortion patients.

Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director, who serves as the official spokesman and public policy watchdog on state and federal issues for the Catholic Church in Indiana, testified Feb. 20.

Tebbe said, “We rise in support of both bills under consideration because human life has dignity and value. We believe it is important that women be fully-informed before making an important life-changing decision. We believe it is in the best interest of the state to protect the health of the mother as well as the life of the unborn child.”

Dr. Hans Geisler, retired OB/GYN of Indianapolis, told the Senate panel, “I believe it is important to protect human life, not kill human abortions the same way we treat surgical abortions. An examination should be required by a physician, and an ultrasound given before any chemicals are given to rule out an ectopic pregnancy; that a person administering the chemical

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**INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**

**BRIGID CURTIS AYER**

abortion has hospital admitting privileges and surgical privileges, in case they are needed; and that the clinic where this is being carried out should be a licensed medical facility, the same as other licensed surgical abortion facilities in Indiana.”

Geisler provided a litany of data demonstrating that chemical abortion when compared to surgical abortion is riskier. Geisler noted a chemical abortion has a 15.6 percent risk of hemorrhage compared to a 2.1 percent risk from a surgical abortion.

“This is statically significant,” said Geisler. “I am not advocating surgical abortions, I’m merely pointing out chemical abortions are somewhat riskier.”

Sue Swayze, legislative director for Indiana Right to Life told lawmakers, “Due to the rapid use of RU 486 in Indiana, we believe Indiana law must begin to recognize, define and regulate its use. The reason we want to regulate chemical abortion is because we can statistically predict the probability of failure rates, which are much higher for chemical abortions than with surgical abortion.

“A woman who encounters complications a few days after the takes the abortion-inducing drugs, will likely return to the place where she got the pills for treatment,” said Swayze. “That center needs to be equipped to do so, with medical facility equipment, wider doorways for use of a gurney in case the woman needs to be transported to another medical facility.”

Mark Tuttle, president, Right to Life of Indianapolis said, “It makes sense that given the higher complication rates of chemical abortion that the state should require the same licensure and oversight that surgical abortions have.”

Ryan McCann, of Indiana Family Institute, said, “We rise in support of these bills to help women get the information they need and protect them through the law.

Abortion advocates who testified in opposition of the proposals cited concerns regarding limiting access to abortion would harm Hoosier women who would go to the Internet to find cheaper, more dangerous abortion inducing pills. Some who testified in opposition to the bills include: Dr. John Stoteman, an Indiana University School of Medicine professor and OB/GYN who serves as the medical director for Planned Parenthood in Indiana; and Rev. Linda Dolby, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Lafayette, and board member for Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Sen. Jean Breaux, D-Indianapolis, who serves on the Senate Health panel and voted against both abortion proposals, said, “We are narrowing the circumstances and locations available to women who seek reproductive services and in particular abortions … and I strongly vote no.”

Swayze sums-up the problem this way:

“Today, chemical abortion is flying under the radar in our state, and the abortion industry is not held to standard medical marketplace expectations for patient care and safety,” said Swayze. “Let’s face it. Women who get abortions aren’t going to file complaints or seek justice when their care is subpar. They assume that the clinic they go to is safe.”
Free USF lecture explores subject of stigmata of St. Francis

September 2, according to a communique from the Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries, is sponsoring a Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Augustine Parish, 1501 W. Washington St. “Be Not Discouraged: We’ve Come This Far by Faith” will feature special guests, Ansel J. Augustine, Black Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, L.A., Father Christopher Rhodes, St. Augustine and Holy Name of Mary Parishes in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky., and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who will celebrate 4 p.m. Mass. SANKOFA — Celebrating Black Catholic faith and culture will close the mission with a Mass at 7 p.m. at St. Catherine of Alexandria Churches, St. Joseph and St. Catherine parishes join for mission.

Saint Mary’s College honors two faculty with newly established awards

March 2, 2013

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Mary’s College announced the inaugu-ral honors of two new faculty awards for excellence at a luncheon hosted by President Carol Ann Mooney ’72 and the board of trustees. These awards, made possible by the generosity of two alumnae and their spouses, rec-ognize faculty members who are deeply dedicated to their students, their scholarship and their com-munities. “An exceptional education begins with exceptional faculty, and Saint Mary’s is proud of its many talented, passionate faculty members who engage students, enliven the campus, and advance their fields,” said Saint Mary’s College President Carol Ann Mooney.

Mary Ann Merryman, profes-sor of business and accounting, was presented The Donald R. (ND ’73) and Nora Barry Fischer ’73 Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. This award recognizes excellence in discipline-specific teaching by a faculty member in upper-division courses in a major. At the presentation of the award, Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Fleming noted Merryman’s ability to “teach techn-ically challenging subjects in a way that makes her students want to learn.” Her content expertise has enabled Saint Mary’s students to consistently score above the national average on the Uniform CPA examination. Many of Merryman’s students have gone on to become partners at “Big Four” international accounting firms. She has had a clear hand in shaping the expertise of these young professionals.

Jayne Kendle, associate pro-fessor of nursing, was present-ed The Kevin J. (ND ’77) and Marijo Rogers Kelly ’77 Service Award. This award recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates exceptional commitment to local, regional, national or international service to his or her academic field. Fleming cited Kendle’s work on the health and well-being of medically fragile children and their families. Kendle created the Time Out Pediatric Respite Care program that provides palliative care for children where she, along with her students, dedicate time in service to these special families.

Catholics On A Mission present Costa Rica experience

St. Joseph and St. Catherine of Alexandria Churches will join for Mission 2013 — Year of Faith.

On Sunday, March 3, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will open the mission at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph. At 6 p.m. a soup dinner will be served in the hall at St. Catherine, followed by Msgr. Bernard Galic who will speak on faith at 7 p.m.

On Monday, March 4, at 6 p.m. a soup dinner will be served in the hall at St. Catherine. At 7 p.m. Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick will speak on prayer.

On March 5, at 6 p.m. at St. Joseph a soup dinner will be served. Afterwards, St. Joseph will follow the lead of Father Drew Curry who will speak on Penance at 7 p.m.

Opportunity for Reconciliation will follow.

On Wednesday, March 6, at 6 p.m. Pastor Father Dale Bauman will close the mission with a Mass at St. Joseph. A reception will immediately follow Mass in the St. Joseph Parish hall.

Day of reflection celebrating Black Catholic faith and culture

SOUTH BEND — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries is sponsoring a Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Augustine Parish, 1501 W. Washington St. “Be Not Discouraged: We’ve Come This Far by Faith” will feature special guests, Ansel J. Augustine, Black Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, L.A., Father Christopher Rhodes, St. Augustine and Holy Name of Mary Parishes in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky., and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who will celebrate 4 p.m. Mass. SANKOFA — Celebrating Black Catholic faith and culture will close the mission with a Mass at 7 p.m. at St. Catherine of Alexandria Churches, St. Joseph and St. Catherine parishes join for mission.

Visit www.ignitedretreat.com for information and regis-teration. Teens won’t want to miss this epic weekend!

Prayer support is very impor-tant for the success of this retreat. Please pray for the teens who will be attending and all those who are involved in preparing for Ignited.

Please RSVP with the number of people who will be praying to Kathleen Fogarty, fogartykd@frontier.com.

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Series of talks, Mass, enshrinement honors St. Gianna Beretta Molla

BY ANN CAREY

MISHAWAKA — Most Catholics can relate to St. Gianna Beretta Molla, for she lived the ordinary kind of life many Catholics live: She had a spouse and children and also held down a job. St. Gianna opted to continue a high-risk pregnancy rather than undergo treatment that would harm her unborn child and died in 1962, one week after giving birth to a healthy daughter. She was survived by her husband and three other children.

Canonized in 2004, the International Year of the Family, St. Gianna was the last saint to be canonized by Pope John Paul II.

During the weekend of Feb. 22-24, St. Gianna also became a special saint for the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Her picture and relic were enshrined in a Feb. 22 ceremony at the diocese’s only Catholic hospital, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka.

Introducing the enshrinement was Tom McKenna, founder and president of the St. Gianna Physicians’ Guild. The guild was started in 2006 to uphold and promote Catholic values in the lives and practices of medical personnel and help them defend their values in the public square. St. Gianna, a pediatrician, is the guild’s patroness.

At the enshrinement ceremony in the hospital’s lobby outside the entrance to Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades noted that the St. Gianna shrine was appropriate for the hospital, for her work as a doctor exemplified what Catholic healthcare is about.

“She is a beautiful model — especially in our culture today — of witness to the Gospel of Life,” Bishop Rhoades said, adding that St. Gianna saw her profession to treat sick children not just as work, but as a vocation, just like her vocation to marriage and motherhood.

He also praised St. Joseph Regional Medical Center as “an institution and family that stands for life as part of the core of its truly Catholic mission.” That mission provides care of the whole person, he said, which includes spiritual and pastoral care for the patient and the families.

“People who come here experience the compassion of Christ,” he said, “and that is what distinguishes a place like St. Joseph Regional Medical Center from other places where much, much good takes place as well. But what is the inspiration here is Jesus Himself and His self-giving love for us. So, St. Gianna reflected that like a mirror.”

Albert Gutierrez, president and CEO of the hospital, told Today’s Catholic that the hospital was “proud” to host the saint’s relic.

“Her legacy has united, inspired and encouraged countless mothers, physicians and other healthcare providers,” he said. “We invite our community to learn her amazing story and to visit our hospital to see this beautiful display in her honor.”

Indeed, the St. Gianna enshrinement came to the diocese because a member of St. Matthew Parish had developed a devotion to the saint after learning more about her. Barb Fralish, a wife, mother and nurse, told Today’s Catholic that Gianna’s

A photo of St. Gianna Beretta Molla was enshrined with relics at the Our Lady of Fatima Chapel.

Thomas McKenna, the founder and president of the St. Gianna Physicians’ Guild, who is also a personal friend of St. Gianna’s family, speaks on the life of St. Gianna as part of the enshrinement ceremony. McKenna also made presentations on Feb. 23 at St. Therese, Little Flower Church in South Bend and after Mass on Feb. 24 in the chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis in Mishawaka.

Gianna, who herself had suffered two miscarriages as well as other difficult pregnancies, in both her personal life and in her medical practice caring for children and their mothers, gave strong pro-life witness, he said.

“She is a beautiful example of great faith and courage in the face of adversity and suffering,” he continued. “She refused to turn away from her faith in God and would not participate in any medical procedures that were immoral, that did not respect the dignity and sacredness of human life.”

This pro-life witness, he said, helps couples struggling with infertility realize that any infertility treatment must respect the right to life of the human embryo and aid the conjugal act, not substitute for it.

“Today we ask for St. Gianna’s intercession for couples struggling with infertility, that the Lord may bless them with children,” Bishop Rhoades said. “And, we also pray for those who will not be blessed with the gift of children, that they may remain firm in faith and their married lives may be blessed with much spiritual fruitfulness. Their embrace of the cross is a means to great growth in holiness.”

Bishop Rhoades also asked the many Sisters of St. Francis who were at the Mass to hold the couples struggling with infertility in their prayers and to ask the other sisters at their motherhouse to do the same. Noting that the Sisters of St. Francis maintain perpetual adoration, he called them a “powerhouse of prayer.”

RECOMMENDED READING

“The Story of St. Gianna Beretta Molla” by Marie Fralish and “St. Gianna’s Story: Tall Tales of an Ordinary Person” by Patricia Stryker among other resources available from https://www.stgiannanews.org
MISAWAKA — Six days before the top leadership position in the Catholic Church becomes vacant, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke about the unusual situation with students at Marian High School, Mishawaka, during his annual pastoral visit Friday, Feb. 22.

The visit got underway with a Mass in the Bishop Crowley Activity Center, where Bishop Rhoades expressed contentment at being back at school and at being able to celebrate Mass with the young people.

Lent’s traditional vestment color, purple, gave way to white for the all-school liturgy; the reason being, the bishop explained, that Friday was the feast of the Chair of St. Peter.

“On this feast day we are reminded that the pope is the prince of the Church, the visible heart of our faith, and that his ministry continues now in the 21st century,” he said.

As Pope Benedict’s impending resignation draws near, Bishop Rhoades encouraged worshipers to remember how he served the Church with zeal and bore “a beautiful witness to Christ. On the Mass of the Chair of St. Peter, we pray for his successor.”

Friday’s Gospel reading, Matthew 16:13-19, clearly establishes the Church’s leadership and would have had also had a great impact on the residents of Caesarea Philippi, where the disciples and Jesus found themselves at that time. Worship of the pagan god Pan was pervasive in that region, and Pan’s temple was even thought to house the gate to the netherworld.

“So when Jesus said that not even the gates of the netherworld would prevail against His Church, that’s a reference that they would have taken very, very seriously,” Bishop Rhoades said during the homily.

By confessing that Jesus was the Son of God and not just a prophet, as some thought, Peter proclaimed something that gets to the very heart of the Catholic faith.

“Remember, people were waiting for a Messiah ... they still remembered that promise. When he said ‘You are the Christ’ and then, ‘You are the Son of the Living God,’” he really was inspired to say that. And then Jesus said something just as incredible: You are Peter, and on this rock I will build My Church.”

With the changing of Peter’s name, Bishop Rhoades continued, Jesus made Peter the foundation of a new building. That building is the Church, and that Church is the body of Christ.

By establishing Peter as his successor here on earth, Jesus also established the Church’s Tradition of apostolic succession. The throne of St. Peter represents the pope’s and, in local dioceses, the bishops’ ecclesial authority.

“There are 1.2 billion Catholics in the world. How do we stay united? It’s because Jesus set up this succession. Jesus gave us the means to preserve that unity in our faith.

“In six days that chair will be vacant. That’s a tough time. We’re used to having a pope,” he admitted.

In detail, Bishop Rhoades laid out for students the nuances of the process of choosing the person who will take Pope Benedict’s place as the keeper of the keys to the kingdom; pausing after the homily to take questions from the student body about resignation and the upcoming election.

Afterwards, he continued the celebration of the Holy Mass with concelebrants Father Barry England of St. Bavo Parish and Mishawaka Catholic Schools, Father Bill Sullivan of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and school in Elkhart, and with Father Jacob Runyon, Marian High School chaplain and parochial vicar of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

Prior to the final blessing, Bishop Rhoades took additional questions of both a spiritual and entertaining nature from the students. One young man took the opportunity to ask if he intended to maintain a tradition established by former Bishop Emeritus John M. D’Arcy of allowing all the students of a school whose team won a state championship to have a day off in celebration. The request met with rosius applause because Marian’s girls soccer team recently dominated the HHSAA state soccer championship. He received the bishop’s promise that the request would be considered.

Several other Marian students were recognized Friday morning as well, including National Merit Scholarship finalists Andrew Guinan, Rachael Hoffman, Stephen Rice and Stacie Skwarcan; and National Merit Scholarship commendation scholars Eddie Hunckler and Matt King. Principal Carl Loesch used the opportunity of the special occasion to announce that the school’s 2013 valedictorian will be Stacie Skwarcan, with Rachael Hoffman serving as salutatorian. Among additional recognitions Loesch noted that student Stephen Rice would compete in state diving competition finals that same day.

As a token of respect and appreciation for his visit, Brendan Short presented the bishop with a spiritual bouquet, Marian spirit wear and a photo of him with students who participated in a recent March for Life. Representatives of First Source Bank were in attendance as well and gave the school a check for $25,000 to support its mission.

Before concluding his pastoral visit, Bishop Rhoades met with Marian High School theology classes and with students who are considering religious vocations.
Stewardship — Connection of spiritual and material

BY HARRY VERHNLEY

A Christian steward recognizes that the material world can never be separate from the spiritual world. God’s creation communicates something to us. All that we see and experience (excluding sin) is an expression of His love for us.

As a proper response to our Creator and Redeemer, we must express our thanksgiving to God. Our expression should be one of gratitude and praise, affirmed with our words at Mass, “It is right and just.” This thanksgiving expressed back to God is a natural response. God gives us and we say thank you. God gives us something awesome, like life and all it contains, and we say, “Thank you Lord, this is awesome! You are awesome! I thank You and praise You!” This is the natural order — the rhythm of creation, a flow from God returning to God in thanksgiving.

To thank God for all that He has provided is to remember God. It is important for us to remember God because God is our life source.

The early Church understood this through the Greek word “amnesia” — to remember. Many of the Church Fathers taught that to remember God is to live, to forget God is to die. This seems like an obvious teaching, so why would we have to be taught this? Because of the fall of man, humanity is inclined to forget; we are inclined to take without remembering the source, inclined to receive without saying thank you. And for us to take and not remember to express our gratitude to God is to break the natural order of creation. This is what happened when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. Our gaze is taken from God and directed on the self.

Through the Paschal mysteries Jesus expresses the most perfect expression of praise and thanksgiving by living a sacramental life. A sacramental life is one that requires us to be good Christian stewards — to remember that all that we have comes from God. Notice that the sacraments themselves require elements of the material world (water, oil, bread, wine).

The Christian steward recognizes that the material world and the spiritual world are connected. There is a right response for receiving; thus, participating in the rhythm of creation. The material world must be used to express something to God, that is, how grateful we are for our material gifts.

Remember your Church in your will

BY HARRY VERHNLEY

The Christian steward knows that it is important to share what we have with those who do not have what they need, as well as share a portion of what we have by investing it in our Lord’s Church.

All throughout Scriptures sharing is taught. In the parable of the good steward, Jesus reminds us that to be a good steward of God’s gifts we must give freely to our neighbor in need. A bequest to your parish is one way of giving an eternal gift to our neighbors in need.

A bequest is a designation in our will — a gift left to a person or charitable organization, like your parish. The Church should be thought of as our spiritual family, a family that has been there for us at significant events (Baptisms, Confirmations, weddings and funerals) and most notably, weekly and daily Mass — giving us food for our life’s journey.

There are many reasons to leave a bequest to the Church. Here are just a few:

We make a spiritual impact on others: The Church’s central mission is to evangelize. Evangelization is telling people the Good News of Jesus Christ and invites others to participate in that Good News. When the Word is spread, lives change, neighborhoods change and society changes. Your bequest becomes an influence of good in the world and will help people grow spiritually.

Bequests clarify our priorities: A drafting of a will and the identification of bequests forces us to clarify what is important in our lives. Bequests allow us to express our gratitude to those organizations, and/or people, that have contributed meaning to our lives.

We can direct how our gift will be used: Many people like to have a say about how their donations will be spent. The technical term for this is a “restricted gift.”

A restricted bequest is a direct response to the question — What does my parish need? You can decide how your parish will use your bequest by restricting it to a specific need such as tuition assistance, or a youth minister or new boiler.

We can continue to give when we have left this temporal world: The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana receives planned gifts to support more than 120 endowments. These are investment funds supporting various needs of our parishes, schools and charities, as well as specific diocesan efforts. The principal of each endowment is never spent; only the earnings generated each year support the identified cause. In a way, a bequest to your parish endowment in support of your parish is like continuing your Sunday offering long after your death.

We fulfill our need to give: That’s right, we have a “need” to give, because we find fulfillment in sharing, and our need to share far outweighs the Church’s need to receive our gifts. Sharing demonstrates our willingness to look beyond our own needs and to travel lightly through the journey of life. By sharing we also act God-like, since God is the ultimate giver.

Bequests are an act of love: Our Lord expressed that we should love God with our whole heart, soul and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. There are infinite ways of expressing love for God and fellow humans. A bequest in our will is one way of expressing love.

We embrace the teachings of our Lord: Matthew 25 describes the last judgment according to how each one of us responded to those who were unable to care for their own needs. A bequest actually continues our efforts to care for the least of our brothers and sisters long after our death.

Talk to your Estate Attorney about leaving a bequest to your parish. If you would like further information about the Catholic Community Foundation, or leaving a bequest to your parish, send an email to stewardship@diocese-sfwib.org or call (260) 309-1405 in Fort Wayne or (574) 258-6571 in South Bend.
Quenching a thirst - God’s surprising gifts even in Lent

Our oldest son lives in southern California. A detour to this is that he is so far away. A benefit of this (particularly in February) is that from time to time they get to visit him ... and enjoy warm weather in the winter. Last week, my husband David had a business conference in Palm Desert, Calif., just two hours from our son in Los Angeles. Had it been in Oklahoma or Seattle, I’m sure I wouldn’t have jumped so readily. But with David's trip, one can always want to come too!” I nearly bowed him over with a hug and enthusiastic “Yes!” What’s better than to see your child and missed son and enjoy sunny weather in February? I’ll tell you — not much! It just so happened we could bring the five girls of the family to meet with us. Perfect! And I found it providential that when I checked online, airline tickets were cheaper than normal. Next, my husband reminded me that I had an American Airlines credit that would cover the cost of my flight. Bingo! I immediately wound down to the basement to dig out bathing suits, humming happily.

We flew four hours to summer, in February, landing at 8:30 p.m. at the Sonny Bono Palm Springs Airport. It was a chilly 48 degrees, as it tends to be in the desert, but that was nothing compared to the 20 degrees we had left behind. The next four days were a blessed blur of relaxation and rest, sitting on a sunny patio under God's gorgeous mountains, watching the girls enjoy some miniature golf splashing in the pool with my daughters (the temps rose to almost 80 during the day — hurray for the desert climate!) and exploring the city and, called appropriately, the Living Desert with our son and his girlfriend, who drove down for a Saturday visit with us. I wasn’t mind at all our cuisine was limited to two days to no meat, and a day of fasting, on account of us traveling on Ash Wednesday and on a Friday. I felt guilty for the pleasure during Lent only for about a minute. God provided this opportunity without me even looking. I gladly accepted.

Our flight home was scheduled to leave Sunday morning at 8 a.m., early as most West Coast flights are. Therefore, our family attended Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in Palm Desert at 5:30 on Saturday night. We scooted into the pew after a busy day, and I wasn’t as mentally pre pared and focused as I usually am. After a few moments, in the presence of God, however, my soul was calmed. I looked down at my girls and was suddenly grateful for the vocation of motherhood, for my wonderful husband, and for the unique opportunity for this travel to strengthen our family and enjoy our home in warm and sunshine. Then came the horn, and I was blown away by it. It was one of the few times in my life that I wished I had a record-

When children die, where is God?

When a child dies, shock, denial and even alcohol and drugs can cushion the crushing grief for awhile. But eventually reality sets in. It is hard to even consider facing years and years of living without that precious person. Life is totally disrupted and even the routine of being at a hospital or bedside feels like a loss. In a case when I lost my daughters, I had to remind myself that my husband, children, and others needed me. But at times even that thought seemed secular world, even people of faith can feel lost and helpless.

All death is hard because it involves loss, but the death of a child seems especially cruel whether the death resulted from violence, accident or illness. No parents expect to outlive their child. When the supposed “natural order” of life and death is broken, it shakes all of the core even when the child is not our own. Especially in today’s

Jesus warns reform or face doom

O n Oct. 18, 2012, we lost our six-year-old grandson Noah after a long and often brutal battle with a rare autoim mune disease called familial HLH (Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis). Less than two months later, on Dec. 14, 2012, 20 children around our Noah’s age along with other victims — were viciously gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School by a disturbed young gunman. While the Sandy Hook tragedy affected the whole country and Noah’s death affected a smaller group of family and friends, I kept hearing the same question: Where is God or does He even exist?

The answer is that God is where He always has been when we grieve and suffer: with us and even carrying us through the roughest times, as the famous “Footprint in the Sand” poem depicts. But what does that really mean?

Almost 44 years ago, I witnessed my first death of a child as a student nurse. Thirty years ago, my baby daughter Karen, who had Down syndrome, died from complications of pneumonia. Three years ago, my oldest daughter Marie died by suicide. And now, there are Noah and the Sandy Hook victims. Personally and professionally as a nurse, I have also been with countless parents and others who have lost loved ones. I would like to share what I discovered as my personal “survival guide” for coping with grief as a Catholic woman.

It consists of three decisions I made years ago.

I choose to live

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3rd Sunday of Lent

In the first reading, from the Book of Exodus, Moses encounters God. Moses was testing his father-in-law’s family at a time when suddenly an angel appeared and led Moses to a bush. The bush, although on fire, did not burn. The First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. Corinth’s Christian community challenged Paul since the city was a reservoir of excesses and moral outrages, and Christians were vulnerable. Not surprisingly, Paul warned the Corinthians of the temptations surrounding them, bombarding them. He encouraged them, taught them and sought to inspire them.

Recalling the history of God’s people, Paul insists that without God’s guidance, without the nourishment provided by God, the people will die. What they had from earthly resources will not protect or sustain them. With God, they will live and live forever.

St. Luke’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. This reading gives one of the most instructive lessons of Luke’s Pilate in the Gospels outside the Passion Narratives. It is hardly complimentary to him. The Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to death was ruthless and unmerciful. It is hard, but humans must face the fact that very often they expose themselves to calamity if they rely upon themselves alone. They cannot always withstand human power as great as Pilate’s. They cannot control nature.

God alone is their sure support.

Lovingly, Paul provides guidance, support and eternal life in Jesus. The question is whether or not we humbly will turn to God and obey God. God will not overwhelm us. He will not entrap us as if we were prey. We must decide.

READINGS

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-19 Ps 103:1-4, 5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-35


Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-36 Ps 25:4bc, Sab, 6-7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-33

Wednesday: Dn 4:1-5, 9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 27:22-33 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Lk 11:33-37

Friday: Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17 Mt 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6 Ps 31:3-4, 18-21b Lk 18:15-19

OCTOBER 23, 2013
I choose to be happy

that storms can be weathered and

an optimist, but I do know

cure that eluded Noah as we face

We pray that he will achieve the

have the disease and will also

Liam, who is due in April, does

a half-year-old brother Eli is free

example, while Noah's two and

even with God.

friends gave me a renewed sense

Hugging my loved ones and

helped me. Exercise decreased

these three techniques had

him.

He said he found this also helped

exercise, discipline and affection.

bereavement from his experience

the famous "dog whisperer"

motivating.

I choose not to reject

after your death. And, in our rich

your children to be forever sad

be blighted by his or her death

child would not want your life to

grief to hold onto the love you

great.

potential to be good, perhaps even

Life may never be "normal" in

that she should celebrate those

more and more in the future and

beginning of healing. I reassured

her that any laughter was the

spoke almost daily for a long

Hook parents were surrounded

endured. Obviously, you can

tum away. However, in watching

victims and their relatives. I

found it excruciating to watch

the relentless TV coverage of the

tragedy, but I also found it hard to

turn away. However, in watching

the story unfold, I was struck

by the fact that although I have

never met a parent who said

parents over the last three decades,

I was surprised by the depth

of grief felt for the Sandy Hook

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HOLY CROSS COLLEGE’S JELICIC SIGNS WITH OTTAWA FURY Holy Cross College’s men’s soccer captain, Niko Jelicic (Sucuraj, Croatia), has continued to garner praise and attention after an exceptional junior season in which he was named a First Team All-Conference member while helping lead the Saints to a school record nine wins and first ever conference tournament berth. Jelicic received invitations to try out for the Ottawa Fury and Michigan Bucks of the Premiere Development League (PDL) — the top-level men’s soccer competition in the United States. He decided to take the opportunity to return to Canada, and signed with the Ottawa Fury, where he will report to training camp on May 1.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

CYO St. Vincent boys win fifth-grade tournament

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In junior varsity Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) action, the St. Vincent boys capped off a great season by winning the fifth-grade tournament. In their first game on the road to the championship, the Panthers beat St. John, 13-12. Led by Hunter Burns with eight points, terrific rebounding by Josh Scrogham and tremendous team defense, St. Vincent was able to build an early lead and pull off a 43-18 victory.

Again, team effort and defensive pressure were keys to the win with Howard Steele and Jordan Watercutter providing swarming coverage.

Earning a spot to the championship, the Panthers faced their rivals, St. Charles, on their home court. The two teams struggled to a 1-0 score at the end of the first quarter. Shaking off their nerves, things picked up in the second quarter, and St. Charles held a 13-10 lead at the half. The Cardinals held onto their lead for the majority of the game and with 2:30 left in the game had built their lead to eight. At that point, Pesa made a long-range trey for the Panthers to cut the lead to five. St. Vincent applied their tenacious full court press, creating turnovers, which allowed Griffin Eifert to score six quick points. The Panthers clawed their way to a late game lead and went on to win by a score of 27-19.

Top scorers were Burns with eight, Eifert with six and Pesa with five. St. Charles got six points each from Patrick O’Keefe and Drew Lytle in the loss.

During the season, Coach John Ryan challenged his team to treat practices and games like home and work hard to get a final exam.

He told them, “Work hard on your skills at practices and study your opponents during games. Then, at the end of the season will come the big exam to see who worked and studied the hardest to win the championship.”

However, for the tournament, Ryan handed the reigns over to Coach Zach Meyer as the final game fell on his Air Guard drill day.

Ryan explained, “Even though we could only fit 16 players on the bench for the tournament, all 31 members, two managers and four coaches helped get us to the championship and all deserve to be called champions.”

In the end, Ryan was allowed to leave work early and see his team’s hard work pay off.

For the seventh-eighth-grade leagues, three new champions were crowned at the St. Charles Hession Center on Saturday, Feb. 23. In the White League battle, St. Vincent topped St. Charles, 45-29, while St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel beat Queen of Angels, 41-25, for the Blue League title. Finally, it was St. Vincent again in the Gold League with a championship win over St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, 46-32.

Representing the Fort Wayne side of the diocese, St. Vincent, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth and Hessen Cassel will go up against the best from South Bend in the annual CYO vs. ICCL showdown on Saturday, March 2. All games will be played at Hessen Cassel this year.

SAINT JOSEPH WRESTLER PLACES SIXTH IN STATE TOURNAMENT

Ryan Jankowski, a student at Saint Joseph High School in South Bend, earned a sixth-place award in the Indiana State Wrestling Tournament held Feb. 15-16. He was the first Saint Joseph student to earn a sectional title in over a decade. Jankowski was defeated in a fall to Dakota Thacker of Bloomington South in overtime.

Trevor Carroll repeats as state champion in swimming

BY CHUCK FREEBY

INDIANAPOLIS — Saint Joseph senior Trevor Carroll already knew he had what it took to be a state champion. Saturday, he wanted to prove he was one of the best the area had ever seen.

Carroll repeated as state champion in the 200 freestyle, took second in the 500 free and anchored two medal performances in relays to lead the Indians to a 10th-place team finish at the IHSAA Boys Swimming and Diving championships here at the IU Natatorium.

Carroll missed a state record in the 200 free by just .08 seconds, posting a remarkable time of 1:37.10. He followed by setting a personal record in the 500, finishing second to Bloomington North’s Max Irwin.

“I’m happy with my times,” said an elated Carroll afterwards. “I wanted that state record (in the 200), but I’m pretty proud of my time in the 500.”

For Carroll, the proudest moment came in sharing the podium with teammates Nicholas Miller, Andre Marin and Anthony Kolbus for their sixth-place finish in the 200 relay and seventh-place result in the 400 relay.

“To get two relay medals in my senior year is one of the highlights of my career,” said Carroll, who will leave Saint Joseph as one of the most decorated swimmers in school history.

Marian diver Stephen Rice was the only member of the Knights to place, finishing seventh.

FREELANCE WRITERS WANTED

Today’s Catholic is expanding its pool of freelance writers who would be able to cover diocesan, parish and school events in the South Bend area. News writing experience necessary. Must be able to turn over stories quickly to meet strict deadlines. Must have email access and able to send copy in Microsoft Word. Knowledge of the Catholic faith is necessary. Please email two published news articles with a letter of interest to editor@diocesefwsb.org.

Email Michelle Castleman at mncastleman@aol.com to see your scores and highlights in Today’s Catholic next week.
Author, founder of Catholics Come Home talks about new book

A growing number of Catholics are leaving the Church, which spurred Tom Peterson to begin CatholicsComeHome.org aimed to bring people back to the Church and keep those who are practicing. Peterson draws from Scripture, his own struggles with Catholicism and his work with converts to explain the importance of practicing the faith in his new book Catholics Come Home.

Question: What are you trying to accomplish with “Catholics Come Home?”

Answer: I want to inspire readers to go deeper in living and sharing their Christian faith in order to change our world for the better, and find true happiness in our own vocations. Our lives are getting busier and busier and we are losing focus on the most important goal in life … heaven. Secularism is rampant and we are losing sight of the eternal. “Catholics Come Home” is an invitation to experience the peace that only comes from God, and encourages others to share God’s love with those we meet.

Question: This book has the same name as your multimedia apostolate, “Catholics Come Home,” a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting Catholic evangelization. In what ways does the book mirror the mission of the Catholics Come Home organization? In what ways does it go beyond that mission?

Answer: The book promotes the New Evangelization, but goes beyond by helping to teach and encourage others to share their Catholic Christian faith with those they meet.

Question: Many people may already be familiar with the Catholics Come Home message having watched your television commercials or visited your website. How does your book tie-in with the television campaign?

Answer: Our world is in need of hope and answers. Once we understand Christ’s love for us, and God’s plan for our lives and everlasting happiness, we must then share this Good News with others. The “Catholics Come Home” book is an exciting and motivational collection of inspiring stories and life-lessons, to help the reader go deeper in their faith lives.

Question: It seems quite fitting that this book is being published during the Year of Faith, a timed deemed by Pope Benedict XVI as an invitation to “an authentic and renewed conversation to the Lord.” In what ways will this book help readers respond to that call?

Answer: Theodore Roosevelt said, “Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care.” “Catholics Come Home” helps motivate the reader to see the needs of others, and feel much more comfortable and excited about helping others by sharing the faith.

Question: How did you draw from your own personal experience of reverie to the Catholic faith when laying the groundwork for this book? How did rediscovering your faith help lead to the founding of “Catholics Come Home”?

Answer: A person can’t give what they don’t have. In other words, by growing deeper in my faith, I began to understand why growing closer to God mattered in my life, and how a Christ-centered life was a huge benefit and blessing in my life. Having been there before, I can now share this with others, to encourage them to seek and share Christ with others.
FISH FRY
Fish fry
Roanoke — St. Joseph Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 15, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 1122 N. Main St. Adults are $8, children 4-12 are $4 and children under 4 are free.

St. Charles fish fry benefits athletics
Fort Wayne — St. Charles Parish will have a Fish fry on Friday, March 1, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria — door No. 9. Carry outs available, door No. 8. Tickets for adults are $8.50; child, 6-12, $4.50; grilled cheese, $4, under 5, free. Proceeds benefit the St. Charles Athletics Association.

Fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will have a fish fry each Friday of Lent from 5-7 p.m. at the Knights’ hall, 533 E. Washington St. Tickets are $9 for adults, $4 for children under 12 and children under 5 free.

Fish fry
South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary, 735 W. Calvert, will have a fish fry Friday, March 1, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets are $8 for adults, $4.50 for children 6-12 and children under 6 free. Carry out available.

Fish fry
Fort Wayne — St. Vincent Venture Scouts will have fish fries on Fridays, March 1 and 15, from 5-8 p.m. Adult tickets are $9, children 6-11 $4 and children under 6 are free. Carry out available.

Holy Name Society Lenten fish fry
New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 1, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free.

Little Flower Men’s group to meet
South Bend — The Little Flower Men’s breakfast group will host Holy Cross Brother James Kozak to speak on “Male Spirituality.” The Saturday, March 2, Mass at 8 a.m. in the chapel will be followed by a buffet breakfast in the parish center at 8:45 a.m. The topic “Male Spirituality,” is also the theme of Brother James’ class at Forever Learning on Thursdays beginning March 7 at Little Flower.

Fish fry
Clear Lake — St. Paul’s Chapel, 8780 E 700 N, will have a fish fry on Friday, March 1, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are $7.50 for ages 12 to adults, $4 for those 6-11 and children under 5 are free.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
Catholic Business Network Group
Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, March 1, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Mass will be followed in the Cathedral Center by guest speaker Father James Brosnich of the Sons of St. Philip Neri, who will speak on the reign of Pope Benedict XVI. Refreshments will be provided.

Winter carnival planned
Yoder — St. Aloysius School, 14607 Bluffton Rd., will have a Winter Carnival Saturday, March 2, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the school gym. Purchase game tickets for 25 cents each or six for $1. Full concessions, Moon Walk, and door prizes for adults and children.

Chastity speaker Jason Evert to speak
South Bend and Fort Wayne — Jason Evert will speak on Wednesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis in the North Auditorium. Jason Evert presents the truth and power of the gift of human sexuality in an honest and direct way, challenging young people to maintain their sexual purity or begin again if they’ve made mistakes in the past. The event is free. Co-sponsored by the Office of Family Life and the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry. For information visit www.diocesefwsb.org/ym or call (260) 422-4611.

Decatur
Gerald J. Martin, 91, St. Mary of the Assumption
Edward Leo Ginter, 92, St. Vincent de Paul
Camilla G. Kohler, 88, St. Jude
Geraldine M. Kepper, 87, Our Lady of Good Hope
Naomi Ruth Harber-Bobbila, 87, St. Jude
James R. Monroe, 44, St. John the Baptist
Richard A. Sordelet, 78, St. Vincent de Paul
Diana Sullivan, 69, St. Mary
Dorothy M. Anderson, 95, St. Peter
Robert A. Keitzer Jr., 71, St. Joseph
Dick E. Lehman, 88, St. Jude
James Trahin, 68, St. Charles Borromeo
Irene Freistroffer, 91, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Genevieve Nagel, 92, St. Peter
Granger
Dorothy H. Smith, 87, St. Pius X
Huntington
Alfred T. Campbell, 93, St. Peter and Paul
Kendallville
Joseph Yuska, 90, Immaculate Conception
Mishawaka
Daniel Anthony Thornton, 71, St. Bavo
Anthony P. Schnapp, 88, Queen of Peace
New Haven
Rosalie T. Mathieson, 81, St. Louis Besancon
Notre Dame
Sister M. Francis Helen Fox, CSC, 87, Our Lady of Loreto
Percy Reid Staffelbach, 92, St. Joseph Chapel
South Bend
Wilma Atchison, 76, St. Jude
Sophie A. Wieczorek, 95, St. Casimir
Joseph Kambol, 76, Corpus Christi
Betty Thielka Spheer, 86, St. Patrick
Emerence A. Shubert, 85, Holy Family
Stanley H. Zablocki, 89, St. Anthony de Padua
Joan A. Zwierzynski, 76, St. John the Baptist
Warsaw
Bernice M. Erow, 86, Sacred Heart

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

Preschool Director
Saint Joseph Parish, a vibrant, Catholic faith community of nearly 900 families and a large K-8 grade school in South Bend, seeks a full-time Director for the newly established Saint Joseph Preschool. This position advances the mission of the parish by providing a clear vision and strong leadership for the new preschool program that will serve 3- and 4-year old children. Saint Joseph Preschool will open in August 2013, and the Director will be responsible for the initial set-up and ongoing administration of this new preschool program.

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.

Visit www.stjoeparish.com for a complete position description.

Qualified candidates should send a cover letter and résumé with references to Saint Joseph Parish, 226 N. Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617.

Questions may be directed to Fr. John DeRiso, C.S.C., Pastor, at 574-234-3134, ext. 20 or jderiso@stjoeparish.com

REST IN PEACE

Saint Joseph Parish, 226 North Hill Street
South Bend, Indiana 46617
WWW.STJOEPARISH.COM

TV MASS SCHEDULE
FOR MARCH

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Bake sale for Easter
South Bend — The St. Adalbert Sisters’ Auxiliary Bake Sale will be Saturday, March 23, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Lamb Cakes will be available on a $15 prepaid, order basis only with a deadline of Friday, March 15. Sweet-sour cabbage, Polish noodles, homemade Pierogi and baked goods for Easter will be available. Lunch will be served. Call (574) 288-5708, ext. 203 for information.

MoonTree Studios plans opening
Donaldson — MoonTree Studios will hold an opening reception for “Nature: Amplified” on Saturday, March 2, from 1-3 p.m. The work of Laurie Balla, a watercolor artist who specializes in larger-than-life flower studies, will be featured. The show will be on display through April 14.

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Pope Benedict has made 24 trips outside Italy during pontificate

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although traveling the globe was a hallmark of Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, who when elected was not expected to do too much traveling, logged a lot of miles during his own pontificate.

The pope, who announced his resignation Feb. 11, made 24 trips outside Italy in his eight years as pope. Pope John Paul made 104 trips over a 27-year span.

Pastoral visits to Catholics worldwide, a key aspect of the pope’s role as shepherd of the Church, were taxing. According to the pope’s brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, the pope’s doctors had advised him to discontinue transatlantic trips.

“He is being weighed on him,” Msgr. Ratzinger told The Associated Press Feb. 11. “At this age, my brother wants more rest.” Pope Benedict will turn 86 in April.

In announcing his resignation, the pope said: “After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry.”

In October 2011, Pope Benedict began riding a mobile platform in liturgical processions. At the time, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said it was “solely to lighten the burden” of processions, although he acknowledged the pope had been experiencing the kind of joint pain normal for a man his age.

A few months later, the pope began occasionally using a cane. Father Lombardi told reporters Feb. 12 that the pope had a pacemaker and three months ago for a routine procedure to have the pacemaker’s batteries changed.

The pope’s last trip outside Italy was to Lebanon in last September, visiting the region during a time of heightened tension with a civil war under way in neighboring Syria and violent protests taking place in several Muslim countries. Last year, he also visited Mexico and Cuba. In Mexico, he addressed a crowd of more than 600,000 at an outdoor Mass.

This year, his only scheduled trip was to Brazil in July for World Youth Day. During his pontificate, he presided over three World Youth Day gatherings, in Germany in 2005, in Australia in 2008, and in Spain in 2011.

In 2011, he also visited Croatia, Germany and Benin. The previous year he visited Malta, Portugal, Cyprus, England, Scotland and Spain. In 2009, he visited Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian territories as well as Cameroon and Angola.

In 2008, the pope traveled to the United States, visiting Catholics in Washington and New York City. He presided at World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia, and also visited France, where he spoke in Paris and Lourdes.

In 2007, Pope Benedict traveled to Brazil and Austria. The previous year he visited Poland, Spain, Germany and Turkey.

During the first year of his pontificate, he visited his home country of Germany for World Youth Day in Cologne.

Offering Confession

At left, Pope Benedict XVI is shown at his last public liturgy — Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 13.

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