At Easter pope calls Christians to be channels of mercy, justice, peace

**BY CINDY WOODEN**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With Jesus’ Resurrection “love has triumphed, mercy has been victorious,” Pope Francis said in his first Easter message “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

“Let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish,” the pope said after celebraing Easter morning Mass March 31.

Pope Francis offered special prayers for peace in Syria and the rest of the Middle East, for an end to violence in Africa — especially in Mali, Nigeria, Congo and the Central African Republic — and in Asia, particularly on the Korean peninsula.

He prayed for “peace in the whole world, still divided by greed looking for easy gain, wounded by selfishness which threatens human life and the family, selfishness that continues in human trafficking, the most extensive form of slavery in this 21st century.”

Pope Francis said he would like to bring the good news of Christ’s Resurrection to each person on earth, “to every house and every family, especially where suffering is greatest: in hospitals, in prisons.”

Easter, he said, “means that the love of God is stronger than evil and death itself; it means that the love of God can transform our lives and let those desert places in our hearts bloom.”

Easter dawned with blue skies and sunshine in Rome, but as the crowds gathered in St. Peter’s Square, dark clouds began gathering overhead. Still, some 250,000 people gathered for the Mass, and thousands more arrived for the pope’s “urbi et orbi” blessing.

Bishop Rhoades celebrates Easter, Triduum

**BY TIM JOHNSON**

The theme of “light” pervades the Easter Vigil. From blessing the Easter fire on the plaza of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, to blessing the Easter candles and singing three times “Christ our Light,” with the response, “thanks be to God,” to the singing of the “Exsultet” to the Scriptural readings of the night, the theme of light is evident.

“My brothers and sisters, our column of fire, our sacred cloud, is the Risen Christ, symbolized by the lighted Paschal candle,” said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in his homily at the Easter Vigil Mass. “He is our light. The history of salvation, recounted in our readings tonight, culminates in the One who is the Light of the World. The Easter Vigil is fundamentally the celebration of the new creation in Christ.”

Bishop Rhoades said, “The Resurrection is like a great explosion of God’s light in history, an explosion of love: God’s victory over the powers of darkness, over sin and death. And we can share in this victory, this new life. We can become new creatures. Is this not what happens in the sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist? These sacraments are anticipated in our lives. We rejoice that our catechumens and our candidates will receive these sacraments tonight.”

But all Catholics are called to renew their Baptismal promises, their commitment to follow Christ, “to build our life on Him and to live His Gospel,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“The light which breaks forth from His resurrection reveals the definitive victory of love, joy and life over evil, suffering and death,” Bishop Rhoades concluded in his homily.

“May that light fill the souls of those who will now receive the sacraments of initiation!”

The Easter Vigil, the greatest night of the Church, was one of several Triduum and Easter liturgies Bishop Rhoades celebrated. With just a little snow remaining on the north side of the cathedral grounds, hundreds gathered in downtown Fort Wayne for the celebration of the Easter Vigil with Bishop Rhoades.

The “mother of all Vigils” began at 8:35 p.m. on Saturday evening, a half-hour after sunset, as all gathered outside on the cathedral plaza.

Upon re-entering a darkened cathedral with the Easter candle, the candle light symbolizing the light of Christ quickly spread among the congregation holding individual votive candles.
Doubt and faith

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES


Each year on this Sunday we hear the Gospel passage from Saint John (20:19-31) about Jesus’ appearance to the Apostles in the upper room on the first Easter night. The apostle Thomas was not present that night. Later, when the other apostles told him that they had seen the Lord, he did not believe them; rather his testimony to the other apostles was: “unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

A week later, the Risen Jesus appeared to the Apostles again. This time Thomas was with them. Our Lord invited Thomas to put his finger into the nailmarks and his side and said to him: “do not be unbelieving, but believe.” At that moment, Thomas pronounced probably the greatest profession of faith in the whole of the New Testament. He said to Jesus, “My Lord and my God.” Our Lord then proclaimed a Beatitude: “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

This Beatitude is important and fundamental for all of us on our journey of faith. Another Thomas, Saint Thomas Aquinas, wrote: “Those who believe without seeing are more meritorious than those who, seeing, believe.”

Many perhaps can relate to the experience of the “doubting Thomas.” We can experience, at different times in our lives, doubts about the truth of the faith. Sometimes these doubts can pertain to very fundamental articles of our faith: the existence of God; the doctrine of the Trinity; the divinity of Christ; the Resurrection; the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, etc. Or they can pertain to particular moral teachings of the Church, on matters such as abortion, contraception, sexuality, etc. An increasing number of people are doubting the Church’s teaching on marriage, not only its indissolubility, but even about its very nature as the permanent union of one man and one woman.

Doubt can trouble the conscience. Sometimes, doubt arises because of intellectual pride. Or it can arise because of particular trials and difficulties in life. The Catechism distinguishes between voluntary and involuntary doubt. Voluntary doubt about the faith disregards or refuses to hold as true what God has revealed and the Church proposes for belief. Involuntary doubt refers to hesitation in believing, difficulty in overcoming objections connected with the faith, or also anxiety aroused by its obscurity. If deliberately cultivated, doubt can lead to spiritual blindness (CCC 2088).

Voluntary doubt is truly dangerous. It is a lack of reverence for the first commandment which “requires us to nourish and protect our faith with prudence and vigilance, and to reject everything that is opposed to it” (CCC 2088). It is a sin against faith. Involuntary doubt, on the other hand, can be unwanted. This trial of faith needs to be faced calmly and resolutely. But how?

One should examine the source of the doubt. Is it coming from something happening in one’s life that really has nothing to do with the truth about God and our faith? Does it arise from resentment towards one’s parents or other Catholics? Is it due to arrogance? Is it due to some perceived conflict or incompatibility between faith and science or reason? Thomas’ doubt arose because he needed physical evidence to believe. The testimony of his brother apostles was not enough for him to believe.

Blessed John Paul II wrote a wonderful encyclical entitled Faith and Reason. It begins: Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth. The Church has always promoted what Pope Benedict once called “the natural friendship between faith and reason” and spoke of how faith is open to the effort of understanding by reason and “impels her towards vaster and loftier horizons.” Rationalism, on the other hand, dismisses faith and closes reason to the fullness of truth, the mystery of God.

Some people’s doubts arise from immature faith or erroneous understandings of the faith. I once met a man who had serious doubts about God and his love when he was facing a serious illness. He questioned whether God existed, and if he did, how could he allow him to suffer? Obviously, this man’s faith had been lacking something essential: the reality and mystery of the cross! Some have their own ideas about God, false or narrow ideas, and their faith is shattered when God doesn’t fit into their preconceived ideas.

Those who sincerely want to believe, but face struggles in believing, must look to the source of the doubt and work on it. If it is an intellectual doubt about a doctrine of faith or morals, one must delve more deeply into that teaching of the faith through the rich writings of the Doctors (teachers) of the Church, great apologists, popes, etc. Often doubts can be overcome by serious study since we have such a rich and bountiful theological and philosophical patrimony.

At the same time, one must always be humble in the pursuit of truth. Faith is ultimately a gift from the Lord, so we must pray for that gift. We can pray simply: “Lord, increase my faith” or, “Lord, help me to overcome my doubt.” I am convinced that the light of faith will always break through when we sincerely ask for that light. The important thing is to never give up. We all go through moments of darkness in our life of faith.

There may be many dark nights in our life of faith. Even Mother Teresa experienced such dark nights. But we must not lose confidence that God is always in the midst of our life, even if we do not feel his presence sometimes. This is true and mature faith, believing when not seeing nor feeling. We must not succumb to the temptation to lose faith, to lose trust in God’s closeness. To be steadfast in faith, especially during dark times of trial, is a way to holiness. We must fight the temptation of the Evil One to lose faith. This is his ultimate attack on believers. In these situations, we must keep on praying and cry out to God, convinced that He is close, even if he seems silent.

May this Year of Faith help all of us to grow in our faith, allowing God’s grace to illumine our minds and strengthen our hearts. And let us pray for those who lack faith, asking Saint Thomas the Apostle’s intercession for them.

Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed!
Holy Week is time to follow Jesus in search of lost sheep, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Holy Week is a time to follow Jesus out of one’s parish, group and out of one’s comfort zone to go with Him in search of the lost sheep, Pope Francis said.

“There is such a great need to bring (people) the living presence of Jesus, who is merciful and rich in love,” the pope said March 27 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

The pope began very simply, saying in Italian: “Good morning. I’m happy to welcome you to my first general audience.”

After Easter, he said, he will return to the audience series Pope Benedict XVI began on the creed for the Year of Faith, but he wanted to continue the tradition of speaking about the Holy Week liturgies on the Wednesday before Easter.

Unlike his predecessors, Pope Francis did not read greetings in a variety of languages. Reportedly not comfortable speaking English, he chose to stick to Italian and allow aides to translate his remarks. The Argentine pope did not even speak Spanish during the audience.

Introducing the Triduum liturgies that commemorate the Last Supper, Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection, Pope Francis said Holy Week “is not primarily about pain and death, but about love and the gift of self that gives life.”

Holy Week is a call to follow Jesus more closely, he said, which means going with Jesus “to the margins of existence, making the first move toward our brothers and sisters, especially those who are farthest away, those who are forgotten, those who have the greatest need for understanding, consolation and help.”

“Christians are called to be merciful as God is merciful, the pope said, reminding the crowd it is God who guides them and made it clear he wanted nothing to do with “It’s difficult,” the pope said. “Often we settle for a little prayer, a distraction,” the pope said. “It’s time to say in Italian: ‘Good morning. I’m happy to welcome you to my first general audience.’”

The pope told the estimated 15,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square: “Always go out. Jesus, said, did not ask people if they were a Jew or a Gentile, if they were rich or poor. He simply asked them what they needed, he said. Jesus “healed, consoled, understood, gave hope, brought everyone the presence of God who is interested in every man and every woman, like a good father and a good mother toward each of their children,” Pope Francis said.

Before the audience, groups of young people chanted in Spanish, “We are the pope’s youth.” Like at Pope Francis’ first Angelus address, his inauguration Mass and his Palm Sunday Mass, many people held up homemade signs. One, written on a large pink heart, said, “Viva il papa!” (Long live the pope). The woman handed it to the pope and he took it.

He rode through the crowd in the open popemobile, waving and giving groups a thumbs-up. He kissed several babies, although he only caressed the face of a little boy whose screams and kicks made it clear he wanted nothing to do a security guard taking him from his mother to pass him to the man in white.

Pope Francis kisses a baby as he arrives to lead his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican March 27.

Ready to forgive and that Jesus died for them, too.

Pope Francis gives a thumbs up as he greets the crowd during his arrival for his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican March 27.
NOTRE DAME — Three deacons of the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers, will be ordained to the priesthood at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Provincial Superior Holy Cross Father Thomas J. O’Hara will present Holy Cross Deacons Brian C. Ching, Mark F. DeMott, and Jarrod M. Waugh, for ordination. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, Bishop of Peoria, Ill., will confer the sacrament of Holy Orders.

By professing perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, Deacons Ching, DeMott and Waugh have already committed themselves to the common life and the apostolic work of the congregation. As Holy Cross priests, they will minister the sacraments of the Church, making God known, loved and served throughout the world.

“All of us in the province are extremely proud of these three young Holy Cross men. Our prayers and support are with them as they prepare for this most sacred moment,” Deacon Ching said.

Father Ching’s first Masses will be:
• St. Joseph Parish — 10 a.m., Sunday, April 7
• St. Kevin’s Parish, Flushing, N.Y. — 10 a.m., Sunday, April 14
• Holy Cross High School, Flushing, N.Y. — 9 a.m., Monday, April 15

During his diaconate year, Mark DeMott has been serving as a residence hall director and campus minister at the University of Portland in Oregon, a Holy Cross university.

The eldest of five children of Dr. and Mrs. John and Jodi DeMott, Deacon DeMott was born in Kansas City, Mo., and grew up in Holland, Mich., where he graduated from Holland High School in 1998. He attended the University of Notre Dame, earning a bachel- lor’s degree in 2002 and the master of divinity degree in 2007. Since entering formation with Holy Cross, Deacon DeMott has served at a number of Holy Cross apostolates. His first assignment was as director of Christian formation at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend (2007-2008). He went on to serve at Parroquia Nuestra Madre Santaízna de la Luz in Guadalupe, Nuevo León, México (summer 2008); Penrose Main Hospital and Sacred Heart Parish in Colorado Springs (during his novice year in 2008-2009); Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish, South Bend (2009-2010), where he served as director of liturgy and music; Saint Joseph High School, South Bend (2010-2011); and Holy Cross Lake View Senior Secondary School, Jinja, Uganda, where he was choir director and also taught chemistry and biology (2011-2012). Deacon DeMott professed his first vows on Aug. 1, 2009, and final vows on Aug. 25, 2012.

“I hope that life in Holy Cross will place me in real relationship with many kinds of people. I hope that it will challenge me to embrace the Gospel. I hope that it will draw me more closely into God’s presence. And, I hope that sharing my journey with others will offer them the same,” said Deacon DeMott.

Father DeMott’s first Masses will be:
• Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame — 11:45 a.m., Sunday, April 7
• Chapel of Christ the Teacher, University of Portland — 9 p.m., Sunday, April 21
• St. Francis de Sales Parish, Holland, Mich. — 10:30 a.m., Sunday, May 26
• Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Holland, Mich. — 9 a.m., Sunday, June 2

Jarrod Waugh grew up in rural southeast Kansas, graduating from Labette County High School in Altamont in 2004. The eldest of three children of Jerry and Carolyn Waugh, he earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame in 2008 and a master of divinity in 2012. He lived in Keough Hall for two years and was active in campus ministry and the campus council of the Knights of Columbus before entering Old College as a junior in 2006. Deacon Waugh professed first vows on Aug. 1, 2009 and final vows on Aug. 25, 2012.

During his years as a Holy Cross seminarian, Deacon Waugh served as an adult Bible study catechist at Holy Cross Parish in South Bend (2007-2008); worked with the homeless at St. André Bessette Catholic Church, Portland (summer 2008); served as chaplain at Penrose Hospital during his novitate year (2008-2009); Holy Redeemer Parish and School, Portland (January, 2009); at Holy Cross Family Ministries, North Easton, Mass. (summer, 2011); and served as assistant director of the Old College Undergraduate Seminary Program at the University of Notre Dame (2011-2012). Over the past year, Deacon Waugh has been at Christ the King Parish, South Bend, leading the RCIA team, serving as chaplain to third through fifth graders at the school, working on Baptismal and marriage preparation programs, chairing the Vocations Promotion Committee and assisting with visits to the sick and homebound.

“I get really excited when I think about what my future might hold in parish work or someday in another area of ministry. One of the reasons I joined Holy Cross is because of the diversity of personalities and talents of the Holy Cross religious that I have met over the years. We are definitely not all alike or cookie-cutter copies. I look forward to working with this talented and varied brotherhood in so many of the places where we minister,” Deacon Waugh said.

Father Waugh’s first Masses will be:
• Christ the King Parish, South Bend — 12:15 p.m., Sunday, April 7
• St. Patrick Parish, Parsons, Kan. — 11 a.m., Saturday, April 20.
INDIANAPOLIS — School choice advocates experienced a major victory under the state capitol dome the final week of March as the Indiana Supreme Court rendered a March 26, unanimous decision upholding the 2011 choice scholarship law as constitutional. A day later March 27, state lawmakers in the Senate approve House Bill 1003 a proposal to expand the current statewide voucher program.

While HB 1003 has not made final passage, the Indiana Supreme Court removed a potentially major obstacle, the question of constitutionality of the original voucher plan, making expansion this year, and in years to come more possible.

“The court’s decision is great news for families who are currently receiving vouchers and also for families and children who hope to get a voucher in the future,” said Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference executive director. “Once and for all, this decision will put to rest arguments raised by school choice opponents that the school scholarship law is unconstitutional.”

Tebbe said, “We were confident going in, but the strength of the vote, as well as the written decision, just confirms everything we have been saying about the voucher program.”

Every point challenged by the plaintiffs was ruled constitutional, and “you don’t always get that in a case of this magnitude.”

The opinion stated, “We hold that the Indiana school voucher program, the choice scholarship program in the legislature’s power … and does not violate … the Indiana Constitution.”

The justices also held that the law did not violate religious freedom and the states constitution’s ban on tax funding religious institutions.

The choice scholarship program is an attempt to even the playing field for low to moderate income families and offers parents’ real choice,” said Tebbe. “It is a win for religion, freedom and I’m extremely happy with the Supreme Court’s ruling.”

A day after the decision, the Senate Education Committee passes a trimmed back version of the voucher expansion. A member of the panel, State Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, who also chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, offered an amendment to HB 1003 removing portions of the voucher expansion, including the immediate kindergarten access provision. He told the panel members that after looking at the fiscal note prepared by Legislative Services Agency, he became concerned that the kindergarten eligibility provision alone would double the cost each year.

Kenley’s amendment, which passed the panel 12-0, removes kindergarten eligibility requiring income eligible children to first attend a public school for two years. The amendment removes the preschool tax credit scholarship program; removes eligibility for children of military families and foster children.

The school choice expansion now includes access to a voucher for children with special needs and allows siblings of current voucher students to also be eligible to receive a scholarship. Students who are income eligible can receive a voucher as early as kindergarten if their home school had received an F on its state report card. The bill increases the scholarship cap from $4,500 to $4,600 in fiscal year 2013-2014; and from $4,600 to $4,700 in fiscal year 2014-2015.

Gov. Mike Pence in his State of the State address reiterated his commitment and high priority to early childhood education. Early childhood education also was part of his roadmap to Indiana campaign. State Rep. Robert Behning, R-Indianapolis, author of HB 1003, told lawmakers earlier this year that the preschool scholarship tax credit program, and the voucher expansion to help military families, special needs and foster children were provisions initiated by the governor. With the exception of special needs children, the other priorities of the governor were removed from HB 1003 by the Senate.

“Even though the Senate made significant changes to the expansion,” said Tebbe, “the bill could potentially be changed again,” noting the session wasn’t over yet.

Tebbe explained that the House will have an opportunity to “concur” or “dissent” on the Senate changes. If the House dissents on the Senate changes, HB 1003 will go to a conference committee. This four-member committee will iron-out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Tebbe said if the bill goes to a conference committee, he is hopeful some of the provisions which were taken out in the Senate, could be added back to the bill before the end of the session.

The School Scholarship Act, the largest school voucher program in the country, passed out of the Senate in 2011, allows income eligible families to receive a partial scholarship to use to pay tuition at a nonpublic school of the family’s choice. At last count by the Indiana Department of Education, that number doubled from last year from roughly 3,900 to over 9,000 for the 2012-2013 school year.

According to the national organization which tracks school choice, Alliance for School Choice, this school year, approximately 150,000 children nationwide are benefiting from 16 school choice programs in nine states and the District of Columbia.

Web Resources
For more information on pending legislation the Church is following go to the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) Web page at www.indianacc.org.

School, Church officials praise Indiana court for upholding vouchers

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Indianapolis archdiocesan officials praised the Indiana Supreme Court’s unanimous decision March 26 that said the state’s school voucher program is constitutional.

“It’s great for our students and our schools, and it’s great for the state of Indiana,” said Harry Plummer, executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education. “It’s a major step toward an educational system that truly reinforces that parents are the primary educators of their children.”

The court’s 5-0 decision upholding the nation’s broadest school voucher program also drew praise from Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state’s bishops.

“I’m just really happy that Indiana’s constitution provides for and allows for parental choice,” Tebbe said. “It complies with the Church’s understanding that parents are the first teachers, and have the right and responsibility to educate their children consistent with their values and their child’s educational needs.”

The combination of the Indiana school voucher program and generous donors in the archdiocese helped make it possible for 3,201 students from families in need to attend archdiocesan Catholic schools during the 2012-13 academic year.

Statewide, more than 9,300 students received school vouchers during this school year, more than double the 3,919 students who received vouchers in 2011-12, the first year of the voucher system in Indiana.

The voucher program has had a major impact on Catholic schools that serve low-income families, according to G. Joseph Peters, associate executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education. It has also benefited middle-class families with disabled children and it has strengthened diversity in Catholic schools.

“This has allowed a large number of families, many of them Catholic, to be able to choose Catholic education for their children for the first time,” Peters said. “It has also allowed a number of our Hispanic families to choose Catholic education.”

The Indiana Supreme Court ruled on a 2011 lawsuit filed by a group that included the Indiana State Teachers Association. The lawsuit argued that vouchers are unconstitutional.

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence also praised the court’s decision.

“I have long believed that parents should be able to choose where their children go to school, regardless of their income,” Pence noted in a statement. “Now that the Indiana Supreme Court has unanimously upheld this important program, we must continue to find ways to expand educational opportunities for all Indiana families.”

Efforts to expand the state’s school voucher program are already in motion in this year’s session of the Indiana General Assembly.

While the law currently requires children to attend a public school for two semesters before receiving a school voucher, H.B. 1003 would remove that provision. According to the bill, current nonpublic school families and students entering kindergarten could receive a voucher to attend a nonpublic school if their family meets income-related guidelines.

The bill has already been approved by the Indiana House, and was scheduled to be debated in the state Senate March 27. Senate-funded vouchers cover the tuition and fees at accredited private schools in Indiana up to a maximum of $4,500 a year in elementary school and even more during high school. The amount of the vouchers could increase if H.B. 1003 becomes law.

John Shaughnessy is assistant editor of The Criterion, archdiocesan newspaper of Indianapolis.
High court: Definition of marriage less a focus than who’s defining it

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
WASHINGTON (CNS) —In its second day of oral arguments, the justices reflected on the various aspects of laws related to same-sex marriage. March 27, the Supreme Court spent little time discussing the actual definition of marriage, focusing instead on issues of jurisdiction, state’s rights, motives behind the federal Defense of Marriage Act and timing.

DOMA cases — United States v. Windsor March 27 and Hollingsworth v. Perry March 26 — have stirred enormous national interest over whether the court will definitively rule on the legality of same-sex marriage. But the direction of both days of oral arguments focused little on what the definition is and more on who has the authority to define it.

As it did the day before, questioning from the justices reflected skepticism about the law being reviewed. Justice Anthony Kennedy, who often holds the deciding vote in close cases, joined Justice Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan in suggesting the definition of marriage, not DOMA, creates two classes of marriage in the country, those recognized by the federal government and those that are not.

Justice Elena Kagan asked the U.S. government’s position that the court has jurisdiction to decide the case and Paul Clement, who defended members of Congress who want the law upheld. Those discussions focused largely on who has jurisdiction to define a federal law that the administration has decided is unconstitutional, but that has not been overturned.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor moved onto the merits of the claim by a New York woman who says she should not have to pay a higher rate in inheritance taxes because she inherited from her spouse, Thalia Spyer, when both were part of a couple.

The court spent nearly a full hour considering the unusual situation of DOMA being defended before the court by members of Congress, not the federal government, which typically would defend a federal law.

The court could decline to rule on the merits of the case on standing grounds because the members of Congress lack jurisdiction over how a law they pass is enforced.

Because the administration is not defending DOMA, its defenders in this case, a small group of members of Congress, known as the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group of the U.S. House of Representatives, known as BLAG.

Vicki Jackson, a Massachusetts attorney appointed by the court to argue against the case for consideration of the merits of DOMA, told the court that “while it is natural to want to reach the merits of such a significant issue — this is a matter of the Constitution of the United States,” it “has got to stay aside because, however important the constitutional question, Article III prevents its decision here and requires this court to await another case, another day, to decide the question.”

She noted that the U.S. government got the ruling that it wanted in lower court. Between the two parties involved in the original lawsuit, the U.S. government and Edith Windsor, “there is there is no adversity, they’re in agreement, and neither of them is asking this court to reverse or modify the judgment below.”

The court also heard from dep- uty solicitor general, Paul Clement, on behalf of the Obama administra- tion’s position that the court has jurisdiction to decide the case and Paul Clement, who represented the members of Congress who want the law upheld. Those discussions focused largely on who has jurisdiction to define a federal law that the administration has decided is unconstitutional, but that has not been overturned.

Clement emphasized that contrary to what is often portrayed in the media, not all young people are in favor of same-sex marriage. Justice Samuel Alito noted that the country “had been debating the issue for less time than people have been using cellphones or the Internet.”

Another possibility raised by the justices is that it’s too soon for the court to decide whether same-sex marriage is constitutional. Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, “I was an issue they intended to keep under wraps.”

Two speakers, like all the others, were not motivated by an animus or bias against same-sex marriage. Clement acknowledged the remark in the House report, and said, “I think it’s enough to invali- date the statute, that you think it’s invalid a statute. But that has never been your approach” espe- cially under the legal tests set by the court.

A previous case he cited holds a different example, Clement said, of “Look, we are not going to strike down a statute just because a couple of legislators may have had an improper motive.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was among about 30 orga- nizations that filed friend of the court briefs in support of DOMA. Another 45 filed briefs arguing that DOMA should be overturned.

The USCBC said there is “no fundamental right to marry a person of the same sex. ... Specifically, civil recognition of same-sex relationships is not deeply rooted in the nation’s history and tradition — quite the opposite is true.”

A day earlier, the court heard oral arguments in another case over same-sex marriage. The court in reaction to Justice Antonin Scalia’s question to a lawyer who addresses issues specific to California, where voters in 2008 approved a constitutional amend- ment barring same-sex marriage a few months after the state Supreme Court said it was unconstitutional to limit marriage to pairs of a man and a woman.

Questioning by the justices raised the possibility that they might toss out that case on the issue of standing, namely whether the people who put the ballot measure together have a legitimate right to stand up for the amendment in court.

Another possibility raised by the justices is that it’s too soon for the court to decide whether same-sex marriage is constitutional. Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, “It is important as well as the march is being held during Holy Week, because that time in the life of the church not only makes us more aware of the great sacrifice that Jesus made in giving his life for us, it also reveals how deeply people in both culture have been affected by the march.”

“I think it is important as well as the march is being held dur- ing Holy Week, because that time in the life of the church not only makes us more aware of the great sacrifice that Jesus made in giving his life for us, it also reveals how deeply people in both culture have been affected by the march.”

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, sent a message praising Catholics’ support for and participation in the march as a “manifestation of Catholic belief and practice, which sees in marriage and the family a unique resource for the good of all humanity.”

The archbishop also said the eccumenical character of the march was important because it dem- onstrated the importance many Americans see in the marriage mar- ry, and that we are not motivated by animus or bias; it is not our intention to offend anyone, and if we have, I apologize; please try to listen to us fairly, and calmly, and try to understand us and our posi- tion, as we will try to do the same for you. He continued, “Please understand that we don’t hate you, and that we are not motivated by animus or bigotry; it is not our intention to offend anyone, and if we have, I apologize; please try to listen to us fairly, and calmly, and try to understand us and our posi- tion, as we will try to do the same for you.

He said the message of the day boils down to the concept that tradi- tion marriage “matters to kids.”

He added, “It’s OK to be countercultural,” she added. Other speakers noted that this was an issue they intended to keep defending, no matter how the Supreme Court rules. As one speaker put it: “We are here to be the conscience of America.”

WASHINGTON (CNS) —Thousands of people who gathered at one end of the National Mall March 26 in support of traditional marriage took their mes- sage to the U.S. Supreme Court as they walked and held aloft placards with signs saying: “Kids do best with a mom and dad.”

The court began hearing oral arguments that morning on the constitutionality of California’s Proposition 8, the law banning same-sex marriage, the day before hearing oral arguments in a chal- lenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

Hours before and up to the min- ute the hearings began, the street in front of the court was filled with protesters on both sides of the same-sex marriage issue. Those in support of traditional marriage came to Washington with church or parish groups from nearby or had traveled alone or with one or two others from states across the country, including Massachusetts, New York, Minnesota and Florida.

When the groups dispersed, those supporting traditional mar- riage continued their march back to the rally point on the mall where numerous speakers echoed the message that marriage should not be redefined.

Under sunny blue skies but chilly temperatures, those taking part in the March for Marriage cheered and applauded speakers who addressed the crowd from a platform under the banner “Every Child Deserves a Mom and Dad.” The crowd, primarily adults, stood on muddy grass on the mall and the National Mall and the Washington Monument. Tour groups, including some on Segways, passed the group, and asked those on the periphery what the rally was about. A member of one family visiting Washington found out what was going on by looking up a name on a sign. Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on the Promoting and Defense of Marriage and the event’s first speaker, noted that all eyes were upon the court at this time.

“I want begin with a word to those who disagree with us on this issue and may be watching us right now. We love you, we are your neighbors, and we want you to be happy.”

He continued, “Please understand that we don’t hate you, and that we are not motivated by animus or bigotry; it is not our intention to offend anyone, and if we have, I apologize; please try to listen to us fairly, and calmly, and try to understand us and our posi- tion, as we will try to do the same for you. He said the message of the day boils down to the concept that tradi- tion marriage “matters to kids.”

He added, “It’s OK to be countercultural,” she added. Other speakers noted that this was an issue they intended to keep defending, no matter how the Supreme Court rules. As one speaker put it: “We are here to be the conscience of America.”

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, sent a message praising Catholics’ support for and participation in the march as a “manifestation of Catholic belief and practice, which sees in marriage and the family a unique resource for the good of all humanity.”

The archbishop also said the...
St. John the Baptist holds prom

FORT WAYNE — St. John the Baptist will hold a technol-
ogy fundraiser “80s prom titled “Almost Paradise” on May 11 in
the St. John PAC from 7-11 p.m. Advance tickets are $25 per
person (must be 21), which includes heavy appetizers, prom picture
by Vorderman Photography and dancing with deejay Dr. Feelgood.
Recommended attire includes ‘80s themed formal attire and prom
dresses. There will be casino games, Affine food truck and beer
and wine available. Order tickets before April 24 and be entered
with a limo ride to the prom. Tickets will be sold at the door
for $30 the night of the prom. All proceeds support technol-
ogy upgrades for St. John the Baptist School. For more informa-
tion call (260) 456-5321. Make checks payable to St. John the
Baptist School, Attn: “80s Prom and mail to 4500 Fairfield Ave.,
Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE SEMIFINALIST

Dawson Vilama, a sixth grader at Sacred Heart School in Warsaw has been named the
Indiana National Geographic Bee semifinalist by the National Geographic Society. The
winner of the school-wide bee, Vilama’s qualifying test score placed him in the top 100
scores to compete at the state level. The 2013 Indiana National Geographic Bee will be
held at IUPUI in Indianapolis on Friday, April 5. The Bee is sponsored by Google and
Plum Creek.

EURO-CHALLENGE TEAM WINS
REGIONAL COMPETITION

The Saint Joseph High School Euro-Challenge Team won
the regional competition in Chicago March 23-24. The
team moves on to compete at the nationals in New York
on April 11-12. The Euro-Challenge provides high school
students with the opportunity to learn about the European
Union and the euro. Saint Joseph’s team of seven students
made presentations answering specific questions about
Italy. The following students are members of the team:
Sofia Carozza, Nora McGreevy, Nora Kelly, Molly Clark,
Chismar and Phil DePauw serve as their coaches.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Digital Confession encourages international Catholics

SOUTH BEND — Little i Apps, LLC has announced the updated
release of “Confession: A Roman Catholic App,” the internation-
al best seller for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Android devices.
Developed for those who frequent the sacrament and those who wish
to return, this popular Confe
ssion he
r now features push noti-
fication reminders, additional
vocation choices, sin counts and
updated examinations. In honor
of the election of Pope Francis
and the global renewal of the New
Evangelization, the app is also
now available natively in Spanish,
Italian and Portuguese.

In March, i Apps developer and
cofounder, Patrick Leinen said,
“This release is part of a long-term
goal of our creative team to pro-
vide first quality Catholic applications
for the faithful. The user response
to the original version of Confession
was overwhelmingly positive. From
assisting those who had fallen away
for 20 years or more, to aiding our
newest members of the Catholic
community in taking part in the
sacrament, to supporting regular
attendees, the app became part of
the faith journey of Catholics at
every stage. This new version offers
users additional features that will aid
them in preparing for the sacrament
of Reconciliation as well as offering
many more Catholics around the
world the opportunity to use the app
in their native languages.”

Dance Marathon raises a
record $100,000 for Riley
Hospital for Children

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s
College students have announced
that a record $104,374.83 was
raised for Riley Hospital for
Children in Indianapolis thanks
to Dance Marathon. That is more
than any single year in the eight
years of marathons at the col-
lege. Mini Dance Marathons held
at Marian High School, Bremen
High School and Northridge
Middle School contributed to the
total. The figure was announced
at the end of the 12-hour mara-
thon, which wrapped up at 12 a.m.
everyday, March 24, in the Angola
Athletic Facility.

Seeing that number revealed at the end of the night was absolutely
amazing,” said Amy Tiberi, Dance
Marathon president. “I can’t even
put words to how proud I am of
this year’s Dance Marathon execu-
tive board, committees and dance-
ers. Seeing the passion and dedi-
cation from college students for a
cause bigger than this campus and
even the South Bend community is
such a humbling experience. Like
I told them Saturday night, “A lot
more miracles will be made at Riley
because of that number.”

Dance Marathon supports the
General Benefit Fund, which funds
areas of Riley Hospital that have
the greatest need, including clini-
cal programs and medical research.
Since Saint Mary’s students brought
Dance Marathon to the school in
2006, they have raised more than
$610,000 for Riley. The hospital
treats children from all over the
state, including the South Bend area.

Participants of Dance Marathon
raise most of the funds through
sponsors by pledging to stay on
their feet for 12 hours and through
the support of local businesses.
Saint Mary’s students, as well as
University of Notre Dame and Holy
Cross College students, take part.
Throughout the event, local Riley
families stopped by, often sharing
their stories.

The marathon is the big finish
after a year of fundraisers. This year
Saint Mary’s students organized a
concert, a 5K run/walk, coupon book
and apparel sales, and Give Back
Nights at local restaurants where a
percentage of sales benefit Riley.
The totals from all of these fundrais-
ers and the mini Dance Marathons at
the other schools are rolled into the
Dance Marathon total.

Angola St. Vincent de
Paul receives grant money

ANGOLA — The St. Francis of
Assisi Conference of the Society of
St. Vincent de Paul in Angola has received a $500 grant from
the Fort Wayne District Office of
the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The grant assists in provid-
ing financial assistance to those in
desperate or emergency need.
It was announced on March 24,
which is also the five-month anni-
versary of the Angola Conference.

“The timing of this grant was a
real blessing,” said conference presi-
dent, Eric A. Reynolds. “Not only
because it came on our anniversary,
but because we are now starting to
see just how widespread poverty is
in Steuben County. We’re now
starting to see our first homeless
client who have fallen through the
cracks and need money for hotel
rooms while we find them a long-
term place to stay, and that gets very
expensive.”

Also, the society delivered Easter
lilies to Northern Lakes and Lakeland
Nursing Homes on Williams Street
to bring some Easter cheer to the
residents. Upon hearing about this,
the store director of Menards in
Angola offered a donation of over
20 Easter lilies to the effort. The lil-
ies were delivered by several society
volunteers on March 26, along with
prayers, personal visitations with the
residents and a Mass celebrated by
Father Bernie Zajdel of St. Anthony
of Padua Church in Angola.

“I want to thank Menards in
Angola for their generous donation
of lilies,” said Michelle Sanders,
treasurer of the Society of St. Vincent
de Paul in Angola. “They saved us
over $100, which can now be used
for other needs, and provided a great
service to the community.”

The Society of St. Vincent de
Paul in Angola can be reached at
(374) 624-5577, 24 hours a day,
seven days a week.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC 7
The Easter Triduum

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades washes the feet of seminarians, including J.D. Kimes, at the Holy Thursday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades processes with the Eucharist from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel for quiet prayer by the faithful on Holy Thursday.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades baptizes the infant daughter of Christopher Karami, who was one of three adults who were baptized, confirmed and received their first Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades venerates the cross at the Good Friday liturgy at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

After blessing the fire on the plaza of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at the Easter Vigil, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the faithful begin a procession into the church.

The faithful hold candles at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception during the singing of the “Exsultet” at the Easter Vigil.
EASTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Deacon Chris Lapp, who is scheduled to be ordained a priest this June, served several key roles in the liturgy: carrying the Easter candle, singing solo the “Exsultet,” reading the Gospel, and remaining close at Bishop Rhoades’ right side throughout the liturgy. Three adults were baptized, confirmed and received their first Holy Communion: Cristina Gimbel, Christopher Karami and Sarah Wright. Christopher Karami’s infant daughter Olive was baptized in the same font as her father.

On Easter Sunday, Bishop Rhoades celebrated two Masses for the prisoners at the Allen County Jail in Fort Wayne.

Triodium celebrations

The triduum celebrations began Holy Thursday with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

“Jesus chose this very important day to establish a new covenant,” Bishop Rhoades said.

After the homily, Bishop Rhoades demonstrated Jesus’ example of humble service at the Last Supper by washing and drying the feet of 12 diocesan seminarians seated near the front steps of the sanctuary.

The cathedral’s baptismal was empty with its doors wide open throughout Mass. After Communion, Bishop Rhoades, servers, choir and the congregation processed solemnly out the main doors with the Holy Eucharist, over to the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. The Holy Eucharist was venerated and then reposed in the chapel for Adoration. More than 50 Mass participants remained with the Holy Eucharist to pray, recalling Jesus’ night of anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane before His crucifixion.

Good Friday was celebrated by Bishop Rhoades at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the death of Jesus on the cross.

“A beautiful nut was that Jesus, God’s love for us, humanity, is manifested in all its depth and intensity,” he said. “The cross is the decisive proof of God’s love. As St. Paul wrote: ‘God showed His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.’”

Bishop Rhoades pointed out that God’s solidarity with humanity, not only by becoming man, but by humbling Himself, as St. Paul wrote, even unto death, death on a cross.”

Bishop Rhoades added, “Jesus willingly carried the cross and embraced both physical and moral suffering, all for love of us, to liberate us from sin and death.”

Bishop Rhoades recalled the presences of St. John at the foot of the cross: “He saw Jesus, the Son of God, embracing in His human heart the Father’s love for us, loving us to the end. He heard Jesus’ prayer of pure love: ‘Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.’ He saw Jesus bow His head and hand over the spirit, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit breathed forth to dwell in our hearts, also symbolized by the water that flowed from the pierced side of Jesus.”

“The Fathers of the Church saw this double outpouring of blood and water as an image of the sacraments of the Eucharist and Baptism, flowing forth from the heart of Jesus,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“The most profound mystery of the Church is that of being the sacrament of Trinitarian love,” Bishop Rhoades said. “We are a community of disciples rooted in the love with which Christ loved us. The Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, from His Sacred Heart. We, the members of His Body, the Church, are called to love Him and in Him, one another. This is the new outpouring that creates the Church and renew mankind.”

He concluded the homily by noting, “On the third day, St. John would enter the tomb and find it empty. He who witnessed the climax of the revelation of God’s love on Good Friday would also witness the triumph of that love on Easter Sunday.”
The joyful mysteries of married life

I was driving my daughters to ballet class last Monday. At a red light we spotted an older couple coming out of a diner. The man and woman were elderly, appearing to be in their 80s. He was dressed in khakis and a dark jacket. She was wearing a feminine coat and what my grandmother would have called sensible shoes. They were holding hands. As we waited for the light to turn green, my girls and I watched the couple slowly huddle down the sidewalk. The gentleman was in his step and every few moments he would pause, arm extended, and patiently wait for his companion (presumably his wife), who seemed to have trouble with one leg. It was sweet to see this juxtaposition of slow steadiness and dedication against the busy highway, full of cars whizzing by, and young people on their cell phones, zip-ping past the older couple. I smiled.

As I watched this pair momentarily, I couldn’t help but think about the joyful mysteries of married life — what makes a marriage last, how couples survive the tumultuous waves and assaults against them in modern society, how married love helps individuals become their best selves, with opportunities to grow in unselfishness, devotion and an increase in faith over the years.

The joyful mysteries of married life. I pondered, even seem to correspond with the joyful mysteries of the rosary. Many of the lessons are the same:

The first joyful mystery is the Annunciation. The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary and speaks to her as the Mother of God. Mary’s “fiat,” her “yes” to God in faith, not knowing the specific details of the plan, is an example to married couples. Through her “yes,” Mary cooperated with God to bring Jesus into the world. Married couples can learn a lot from Mary in this first joyful mystery.

In faith, on their wedding day, a couple takes a solemn vow to honor, love and be faithful until death. The purposes of their marital union are unitive (joining them in friendship and pulling them toward heaven) and pro-creative (open to life, begetting and educating children). In faith, the man and woman promise to be true to their vows, not knowing the specifics of what the future holds. Their initial “yes” to one another, and daily “yeses” thereafter bring about their fulfillment and the fulfillment of a family. A married couple’s stability is the fertile soil for the healthy development of their children. Their love ensures their children’s security, and in demonstration loving for one another they joy.

JOYFUL PAGE II

The risen Christ is with us still

For its second reading, the Church provides a passage from the Book of Revelation. John, the author of Revelation, imagines in the reading, John, the author of Revelation, assumed by tradition to have been the Apostle John, tells of being in exile on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. He said that on the Lord’s Day, or Sunday, the day of the Resurrection, he had a vision of the Lord himself and heard John to write about what John saw.

St. John’s Gospel provides the last reading. It begins with an appearance of Jesus to two of the Apostles before the Apostles. The Lord brings them peace. He then empowers the Apostles to forgive sins. Jesus says that if they forgive, sins are forgiven.

Next comes the familiar story of the doubting Thomas. Other Apostles had seen the risen Lord, but Thomas had not seen Jesus. Thomas insisted that he would not believe unless he personally could touch the wounds of Christ. The Gospel account, before the Apostles, Thomas saw the wounds. He proclaimed Jesus as “my Lord and my God.”

The reading ends by stating that Jesus performed many other miracles. The crucified Lord lived. He is present with us through the Apostles. The Church does not just profess that the Apostles came after the Lord. They re-present the Lord. In the second reading, from the Book of Revelation, we are told of John’s extraordinary encounter with the Risen Lord.

John’s Gospel, in the third reading, continues this process of reporting the Lord’s granting to the Apostles the very power of God itself, by giving them the ability to forgive sins. As sins afford God, only God can forgive sins. Yet Jesus conveyed this power to the Apostles.

Thomas is important to the story. He doubted, not an unusual human reaction to the amazing assertion that Christ had risen from the dead. Then Thomas saw Jesus and uncompromisingly believed. The Church is saying that we today encounter Christ through the Apostles. Through the Apostles the Lord heals and redeems us. It is a clear and direct testimony of the Church’s own sense of its identity.

Euthanasia avoided

I n the State of Michigan, where I have practiced medicine for 30 years, euthanasia (assisted suicide) is illegal. However, my clinical experience with patients who ask for physician-assisted suicide has been frequent. My last case involved a patient’s request for assisted euthanasia has some elements that illustrate why euthanasia should remain illegal.

Desire for Euthanasia Patient X had many of the common problems often cited as reasons to justify euthanasia. He had terminal cancer; in fact, he felt his other physicians were correct when they told him he had less than a month to live. He had difficulty breathing; his cancer would fill his chest with fluid, and he had difficulty swallowing his lungs. He expressed that he felt as if he was drowning with each breath he took. Drainage of this fluid was necessary, but invasive and became necessary on a near daily basis. Thus, some might say that the patient’s request for enough pills to be left on his bedside table that he never wake up again might seem reasonable.

He had accumulation of large amounts of edema in all of his extremities. This edema not only caused pain but restricted movement and added to his negative self-image. His blood pressure was difficult to control. He required assistance with all functions of daily living. He believed that the money he spent for care for him could be better spent on someone else.

From the beginning, the patient said that he would never consent to being kept alive in the condition to which he had now degenerated. He was an outstanding example for a right of self-determination, including a “right to euthanasia.” And his attorney, who was present for many of our discussions, agreed with him.

After I explained that it was illegal to assist him in euthanasia, the patient allowed me to work staff and me to begin pain management for him. He had feared that pain control would come with morphine, and it had been complicated to convince him that this was not true. Trust improved when pain control improved, and it involved several days of trials of medications. However, he had some with doses too low to be fully effective.

My unstated strategy during these days was simply to stall. I was keeping him in the hospital until he would accept the aid and comfort he deserved. He did have a legal right to ignore medical advice and leave the hospital. For the first 10 days, he made it clear that he would use his gun as soon as he could get his hands on it. Thus, my stalling was expressed to him by me as a need to get him stable enough to allow him to go home.

My stalling strategy allowed the use of our greatest weapon against evil: prayer. An urgent request to multiple prayer groups was answered by a slow change of his heart. As more of his medical issues were managed and his comfort improved, his request to leave for home to his hand gun became less urgent. They were able to reconcile, and patient X died a day or two after this reconciliation.

A dignified Death

The refusal of euthanasia to patient X allowed for many goods to be accomplished. After his death, I learned that for many years his greatest fear was rejection. By showing him respect, even though he voiced ideas that he knew were unacceptable to me, he grew to understand that I would not abandon him, and we developed a beautiful relationship. His reconciliation with his son, even though it was at the last hours before his death, was a great joy for him. It was also a source of joy for his son, and surely it will be a source of joy for his son’s life. The nursing staff felt good that, finally, their skills were accepted by the patient and that they had made a difference in his life. A lifetime of pushing people away before they might reject him had finally been undermined. One of covering this man’s fears and needs, while trying to address them, gave this man peace at the time of his death. Hopefully by reading about him, more people may see through the lie that euthanasia is a “right to be protected.” Killing any person who is always living evil, even when the life one wants takes is one’s own.

Dr. Brennan practices medicine in Sturgis, Mich. He is also in the final months of formation for the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

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Easter is the axial point of history: the moment when God demonstrates that His creative purposes have been vindicated — redeemed — such that the entire cosmic drama of creation, redemption and sanctification will be brought to its proper conclusion in the New Jerusalem, at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. No Easter, no Easter faith; no Easter, no Church; at Easter, history and the cosmos are re-ordered to the trajectory intended for them “in the beginning” (Gen 1:1). Still, the Church remembers throughout Lent that there is no Easter without Good Friday. Good Friday is not an accidental prelude to Easter; Good Friday is the essential, divinely-ordained gateway to Easter.

This has always been hard to accept, as we see from the dialogue at Caesarea Philippi to which Pope Francis referred in his post-election homily. We would have arranged things differently; we would have chosen another kind of Messiah — that theme runs like a bright thread throughout Lent, in the readings from the Old and New Testaments that the Church assigns to the liturgy during the 40 days, so that the Church can ponder again the full panorama of salvation history. And as the Holy Father suggested in the Sistine Chapel, the temptation to deny the cross is perennial; moreover, it is at the root of the Church’s failure to be the credible witness it must be, if the world is to be offered friendship with Jesus Christ.

There is much that needs reforming in the Church; and true reform, as I describe it in “Evangelical Catholicism” (Basic Books) is always Christ-centered and mission-oriented. True reform gives fresh expression to the truth of Christ crucified; true reform equips the Church for the more effective proclamation of Christ crucified. That expression and proclamation ought to be done with joy, for we are living on the far side of Easter. But Easter can never be emptied of the Passion and Death of the Lord; Easter faith must be faith built on an embrace of the cross.

So in generating the cross on Good Friday, in the first Holy Week of a pontificate of reform and renewal, let the entire Church remember that You have not only offered us a heart to confess the infirmities of our sins in His body on the tree, but that You have shown us how to bear our crosses throughout Lent, in the readings from the Old and New Testaments that the Church assigns to the liturgy during the 40 days, so that the Church can ponder again the full panorama of salvation history. And as the Holy Father suggested in the Sistine Chapel, the temptation to deny the cross is perennial; moreover, it is at the root of the Church’s failure to be the credible witness it must be, if the world is to be offered friendship with Jesus Christ.

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JOYFUL
continued from page 10

model Christ’s own love for His Church, and the Church’s reception of that love. Like Mary, the couple says “yes” in faith, and trusts God to do His work in them.

The second joyful mystery is the Visitation. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist. Mary is not self-absorbed with her own pregnancy, but chooses to serve rather than be served. She demonstrates hospitality even in her own need.

Married couples can learn from Mary that their relationship must be one of service toward each other. Service can be demonstrated in big ways, such as in heroic sacrifices, but in small ways as well, such as a husband making coffee for his wife in the morning, or a wife rubbing her husband’s feet after a long day at work. A couple follows the joyful mystery by putting his or her spouse’s needs above his or her own, steadily, day after day, looking first to see what can be done to serve the other.

The third joyful mystery is the birth of Christ. From the birth of Christ is demonstrated the manifestation of God’s love for mankind. God sent His Son to earth for man’s salvation. A human baby is not divine, of course, but he is a gift nonetheless, to the married couple, to society at large, and to the child himself.

Through the mutual self-giving of man and woman in married love, God creates a new human being. God could have individually created each new human person without the collaboration of man and woman, but He chose to involve earthly parents in the process.

Married couples can learn from the third mystery of the awesome nature of their vocation, the deep love God has for them and for families, and of the respect and reverence due to one another. Married couples also learn the preciousness of each and every child. As Jesus was born in a humble stable and God provided to the Holy Family all its needs, married couples can learn to trust God for what they need and depend upon His generous provision, even in seemingly impossible times.

The fourth joyful mystery is the Presentation. This is when Joseph and Mary take baby Jesus to the Temple, as prescribed by Jewish law. This mystery demonstrates the Holy Family’s humble obedience to God, even in their privileged position. Married couples can learn from this mystery the importance of following God’s commands in their married and family lives.

The fifth joyful mystery is the Finding in the Temple. Married couples can learn that misunderstanding is a part of life and trust and faith are the answers. In a broader sense we can understand how important it is to “search” for Jesus in their own families.

A moment at a stoplight on Monday, offered me a chance to ponder the mysteries of married life, and how they are not unlike the joyful mysteries of the rosary. A married couple that follows the examples of the rosary’s joyful mysteries in their daily lives can find depth and meaning, and a growth in faith, resulting in deeper joy in their marriage.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children. Watch for her newest book “Big Hearted Families” (Scepter) and read more on her blog: http://theresathomasis.wordpress.com/
All Diocese Team

Today’s Catholic joins the Serra Club in sponsoring the All-Diocese Team, highlighting athletes from Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. These student-athletes are recognized in character, sportsmanship, leadership, athletics and Catholic values. The athletes are selected by their coaches.

Marian High School
Boys’ basketball
Devin Cannady, sophomore, guard
Demetrius Jackson, senior, guard, St. Joseph, Mishawaka

Girls’ basketball
Erin Guzicki, junior, guard, St. Matthew
Kaitlin Barnard, senior, guard/post, St. Pius X

Saint Joseph High School
Boys’ basketball
Ryan Brown, senior, guard

Wrestling
Austin Fitzpatrick, junior, 160 lbs., Christ the King
Brandon Hyndman, senior, 170 lbs., St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart

Girls’ basketball
Margaret Pendergast, senior, 100 fly/200 IM, St. Matthew
Josephine Cressy, senior, 50 free/100 breast stroke, Sacred Heart, Notre Dame

Boys’ swim
Stephen Rice, senior, diver, St. Matthew

Nolan Cassoday, senior, 145 lbs., Holy Family

Mark Rymsza, senior, 126 lbs., Christ the King

Girls’ basketball
Shannon Hendricks, sophomore, 100 breast stroke/100 butterfly, Christ the King

Nicole Przybyslawski, senior, guard, St. John the Baptist, South Bend

Kaitlyn DelleDonne, senior, 200 free relay

Megan Cohoon, junior, 200 free relay, Christ the King

Nicole Francoeur, junior, forward, Corpus Christi

Courtney Jenkins, sophomore, 200 free relay, St. Anthony de Padua

Girls’ swim
Erica Evans, sophomore, 50 and 100 freestyle, St. Patrick, Arcola

Boys’ swim
Kaitlyn Coffee, senior, 100 butterfly, St. Vincent de Paul

Meg Lloyd, sophomore, 200 free relay, St. Joseph, South Bend

Dillon Oswald, senior, 100 butterfly/100 breast stroke, St. Vincent de Paul

Girls’ swim
Sarah Coffee, senior, 100 butterfly, St. Vincent de Paul

Boys’ swim
Therese Pointsatte, senior, Our Lady of Good Hope

Wrestling
Ben Evans, senior, 182 lbs., St. Patrick, Arcola

Logan Parrish, senior, 138 lbs., St. Vincent de Paul

Shawn Ryan, senior, 285 lbs., Queen of Angels

CJ Bostwick, senior, 170 lbs.

Bishop Dwenger High School
Wrestling
Nolan Cassoday, senior, 200 IM and 100 backstroke, St. Vincent de Paul

Sarah Coffee, senior, 100 butterfly, St. Vincent de Paul

Boys’ swim
Dillon Oswald, senior, 100 butterfly/100 breast stroke, St. Vincent de Paul

Gymnastics
Kaitlyn Coffee, senior, St. Charles Borromeo
Young authors from Catholic schools share their writing

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School in South Bend hosted the 29th Annual Young Authors’ Conference for elementary students in grades kindergarten through 6 on March 23. The conference began at 9 a.m. with a gathering in the auxiliary gym.

Suzanne Wiwi, principal of Saint Joseph Grade School, opened the conference with a prayer and an introduction of guest author, Louise Borden, entertainer, Frances Luke Accord, and parent-presenters, Melissa Green and Pam Regnery, teachers at the school. The conference offered students an opportunity to share a piece of their own writing work with their peers.

The morning had three 40-minute sessions: meeting author Louise Borden, hearing about her journey as an author, and more. Borden participated in a book signing and stayed until the last book was signed.

While students discussed their writing, parents attended a presentation titled, “Memoirs: Writing Memories with Kids,” led by Melissa Green and Pam Regnery.

The event was $5 per student. Additional funding for the conference is made possible by way of proceeds made at the event’s on-site book sale.

This year, families chose from a wide range of Louise Borden’s books that included, “Caps, Hats, Socks, and Mittens,” “A Book about the Four Seasons,” “The John Hancock Club, Sea Clocks,” and more. Borden participated in a book signing and stayed until the last book was signed.

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Image on Turin shroud is reminder of God’s love, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Gazing upon the image of a crucified man on the Shroud of Turin, Catholics contemplate Jesus and are called on to remember His great love for them and for all who suffer, Pope Francis said.

The face on the shroud “has eyes that are closed; it is the face of one who is dead, and yet mysteriously He is watching us, and in silence He speaks to us,” the pope said in a video message broadcast March 30 on Italian state television.

The pope’s message was part of a special Holy Saturday exhibition of the shroud as part of the Year of Faith.

According to tradition, the 14-foot-by-4-foot Shroud of Turin is the linen burial shroud of Jesus. The shroud has a full-length photonegative image of a man, front and back, bearing signs of wounds that correspond to the Gospel accounts of the torture Jesus endured in His passion and death.

Housed at Turin’s cathedral, the shroud usually is kept from public view in a specially designed, high-tech case to prevent its disintegration and other damage. Put briefly on public display on Holy Saturday, the shroud was the centerpiece of a prayer service where the sick were the special guests, read the prayer petitions and were the first to venerate the holy image.

The entire service was broadcast live on the main channel of Italian state television.

“This image, impressed upon the cloth, speaks to our heart and moves us to climb the hill of Calvary, to look upon the wood of the cross, and to immerse ourselves in the eloquent silence of love,” Pope Francis said in his message.

“This disfigured face resembles all those faces of men and women marred by a life which does not respect their dignity, by war and violence which afflict the weakest,” the pope said. “And yet, at the same time, the face in the shroud conveys a great peace; this tortured body expresses a sovereign majesty.”

Pope Francis said the “restrained but powerful energy” of the image calls people to have faith and never lose hope because “the power of the love of God, the power of the Risen One overcomes all things.”

The pope ended his message reciting a prayer that St. Francis of Assisi was said to have recited before the crucifix: “Most High, glorious God, enlighten the shadows of my heart, and grant me a right faith, a certain hope and perfect charity, sense and understanding, Lord, so that I may accomplish your holy and true command. Amen.”

The Shroud of Turin is seen on display in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin, Italy, in this 2010 file photo.
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: hogan@dioceseoffw.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.

Dinner for Father Solanus Food Basket
Fort Wayne — The Sacred Heart and St. Henry’s St. Vincent de Paul Society’s annual dinner for the Father Solanus Food Basket will be Saturday, April 27, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 601 Reed Rd. Deacon John Hilger will be the featured speaker and his wife, Mary, will create artwork while John speaks, which will be auctioned off later in the evening. A silent auction, 50/50 raffle and door prizes will be offered. Tickets are $30 per person with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

NFP classes offered
Fort Wayne — The Couple to Couple League will offer the series of three one-per-month Power-Point-based classes in modern, 99 percent-effective “symptothermal” Natural Family Planning starting Sunday, April 7, at 6 p.m. in the home of Ron and Marilyn Shannon. To register call (260) 489-1856 or email mshannon11@frontier.com.

Mass and dinner for friends
South Bend — Friends of St. Adalbert School will have a Mass and potluck dinner Saturday, April 20, at 5 p.m. at St. Adalbert Church and Heritage Hall. The bilingual Mass will feature school children and alumni. Bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner. For information contact Linda Cornell at (260) 637-6329 or SaintAdalbertAlumni@gmail.com. RSVP is helpful but not required.

Spaghetti dinner planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5752, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, April 11, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $2.50 for children 5-12.

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has decided not to move into the papal apartments in the Apostolic Palace, but to live in a suite in the Vatican guesthouse where he has been since the beginning of the conclave that elected him, said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman.

“He is experimenting with this type of living arrangement, which is simple,” but allows him “to live in community with others,” both the permanent residents — priests and bishops who work at the Vatican — as well as guests coming to the Vatican for meetings and conferences, Father Lombardi said March 26.

The spokesman said Pope Francis has moved out of the room he drew by lot before the conclave and into Suite 201, a room that has slightly more elegant furnishings and a larger living room where he can receive guests.

The Domus Sanctae Marthae, the official name of the guesthouse, was built in 1996 specifically to house cardinals during a conclave.

Celebrating Mass March 26 with the residents and guests, Pope Francis told them he intended to stay, Father Lombardi said.

The permanent residents, who had moved in during the conclave, had just returned to their old rooms.

Pope Francis has been there since his election March 13, taking his meals in the common dining room downstairs and celebrating a 7 a.m. Mass with Vatican employees in the main chapel of the residence.

He will be the first pope in 110 years not to live in the papal apartments on the third floor of the Apostolic Palace.

In 1903, St. Pius X became the first pope to live in the apartments overlooking St. Peter’s Square. The apartments were completely remodeled by Pope Paul VI in 1964 and have undergone smaller modifications by each pope since, according to “Mondo Vaticano,” a Vatican-published mini-encyclopedia about Vatican buildings, offices and tradition.

The large living room or salon of the apartment is located directly above the papal library where official audiences with visiting bishops and heads of state are held.

Pope Francis will continue to use the library for official audiences and to recite the Angelus prayer on Sundays and holy days from the apartment window overlooking St. Peter’s Square, Father Lombardi said.

The apartments contain a chapel, an office for the pope and a separate office for his secretaries, the pope’s bedroom, a dining room, kitchen and rooms for two secretaries and for the household staff.

When Pope Francis returned to the guesthouse after his election, Father Lombardi said the move was intended to be short-term while a few small work projects were completed in the papal apartments. He said March 26 that all the work had been completed, but at least for the foreseeable future, Pope Francis would not move in.

The Domus Sanctae Marthae, named after St. Martha, is a five-story building on the edge of Vatican City.

While offering relative comfort, the residence is not a luxury hotel. The building has 105 two-room suites and 26 singles; about half of the rooms are occupied by the permanent residents. Each suite has a sitting room with a desk, three chairs, a cabinet and large closet; a bedroom with dresser, night table and clothes stand; and a private bathroom with a shower.

The rooms all have telephones and access to an international satellite television system.

The building also has a large meeting room and a variety of small sitting rooms. In addition to the dining room and the main chapel, it also has four private chapels, located at the end of hallways on the third and fifth floors of each of the building’s two wings.

This photograph, taken March 9, shows the view through a doorway of the living room in the residence where Pope Francis has stayed since his election at the Vatican. The pope has decided not to move into the papal apartments in the Apostolic Palace, but to live in a suite in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, the guesthouse built in 1996 to house cardinals during a conclave.

GRANDER — St. Pius X fourth-grader Jade O’Brien is a very busy girl and always involved in some project at home that includes art, crafts or Lego.

O’Brien surprised her mother Gwen in late November of 2012 when she asked to purchase some tools. Gwen was reluctant to buy the then nine-year-old a saw, hammer and nails, but she gave in. Along with tools, she bought a small bag of balsa wood and also offered some two by fours left over from a home renovation.

O’Brien spent close to three hours in the basement working on her project after which she called her family to see her creation.

The family members, including middle sister Grace, dad Terry and middle sister Mary, were amazed at what they encountered. O’Brien had created a four-foot high crucifix with a corpus made of balsa wood. Google images of the crucifix were used by the young artist to guide her in her work.

The family shared photos of O’Brien’s work with her art teacher, Anne Bostwick, who suggested she paint it and display it at March to the Arts at the school on March 20.

As O’Brien put the final touches on the crucifix, invited me to look deeper into the heart of Jade and see the pure and simple desire and willingness to share what is important to her. The piece itself leads one to reflection.

“When a task is approached openly, our ears and heart are open to listen to the Holy Spirit. I believe Jade has that gift,” Bostwick, her art teacher, added.

St. Pius Principal Elaine Holmes said, “When I first looked at Jade’s project I was taken back by the beauty of it. I was amazed that one of our students created such a beautiful artwork of a crucifix. I thought for sure that a middle school student designed it and then when I realized it was Jade I was just in awe as that as we approached the most holy week of the year in our faith, a fourth-grade student could create such a beautiful symbol of it.”

The crucifix will be hung prominently in the O’Brien’s home, serving as a reminder that faith is the center of the family and that it can be demonstrated in the most unexpected ways.

At Hannah’s House, we give and receive help.

PO Box 1413 • Mishawaka IN 46546 • 574-254-7271

Student’s crucifix art project wins award