Jubilarian priests’ celebrated as ‘fishers of men’

BY MARK WEBER AND TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — The Priesthood anniversaries of 12 priests were recognized Sept. 5 at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

Those jubilees celebrated included the following: 25 years — Father Cyril Fernandes, Holy Cross Father Wilson Miscamble and Father Timothy Wrozek; 40 years — Father Robert D’Souza, Father Daniel Durkin and Holy Cross Father John Pearson; 50 years — Father Danney Pinto, Capuchin Franciscan Father Ronald Rieder, Father Edward Ruetz and Father Kenneth Surezine; 60 years — Holy Cross Father Leonard Banas; and 70 years — Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh.

Jubilarian Father Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne, told Today’s Catholic, “From family life in Michigan, a career in Scouting, that was a long time ago; but the 25 years of Priesthood seems like yesterday and it gets better and better every day.”

Father Pearson, reflecting on his years of Priesthood, said, “I was particularly excited to celebrate this Mass because somehow it hit me that 40 years is a long time and it’s a time I have really enjoyed being in ministry to people of all types. I’ve been a parish priest. I’ve been a law professor and now I am campus minister to 1,500 students.”

St. Elizabeth Parish breaks ground for educational expansion

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, on the southwest side of Fort Wayne, is celebrating its silver jubilee as a vibrant faith-centered Catholic community this year. In its remarkable 25-year history the church has grown from a congregation of 375 families to almost 2,300 families and continues to thrive.

The original church, with daily Mass Chapel, Eucharistic Chapel and parish hall, opened in 1990, at 10700 Aboite Center Rd., expanding in 1998 with the construction of the 10-room catechetical center and the opening of a joint school with St. Joseph Parish. In 2006, the parish saw the groundbreaking for construction of an additional four classrooms, gymnasium, stage and cafeteria.

This year the St. Elizabeth community is gearing up to expand its facilities with a new construction project.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish broke ground at a special blessing, Sept. 15, that kicked off a new construction project for an educational expansion at the school. From left are parish council president, Gary Torkeo, Molly Slocum, religious education representative, St. Elizabeth school principal Lois Widner, Jon Lassus, founding pastor Msgr. Robert Schulte, current pastor Father James Shafer, Dr. Mike Mastrangelo, and Doug Kinder of Michael Kinder and Sons construction.
CHA support of health care rules ‘less than helpful’

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said the Catholic Health Association’s acceptance of rules governing women’s access to contraceptive coverage under the Affordable Care Act was “less than helpful” to the bishops’ effort to seek changes in the mandate.

“We have not, ourselves as bishops, been able to arrive at the same conclusion, that accommodation with HHS is that easy. There’s no way that we’re ready to say that yet,” said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York at a news conference Sept. 11 after a two-day meeting of the USCCB’s Administrative Committee.

While acknowledging CHA’s expertise in health care concerns, the cardinal told reporters that he appreciated the fact that the organization acknowledged that the bishops remain the authentic teachers of faith and morals within the Church.

“We really listen to them in a lot of the input they give us. But when it comes to faith and morals that, of course is what this ultimately is all about, they do defer to us,” he said.

The contraceptive mandate remains a “high, high concern among the bishops,” he said.

The Department of Health and Human Services June 28 issued final rules for implementing the mandate, which is part of the Affordable Care Act. The USCCB maintains that the rules still conflict with Church teaching. Cardinal Dolan said the conference continues to evaluate what next steps it will take in response.

In the final HHS rules, contraceptive coverage for accommodated religious organizations with health insurance plans will be provided separately through health insurance companies or third-party administrators who must ensure that payments for contraceptive services come from outside the objecting organization’s premiums. For self-insuring institutions, a third-party administrator would provide or arrange the services, paid for through reductions in federally facilitated-exchange user fees associated with their health insurance provider.

The mandate does not include a conscience clause for employers who object to such coverage through reductions in federally facilitated-exchange user fees associated with their health insurance provider.

Cardinal Dolan pledged to continue to educate and “rally our people,” challenge the rules in court, and seek changes in the law.

“We’re going to continue to keep giving this careful study, but I tell you we still worry about how, if, where can we do because we can be the problem, the questions we have remain grave,” he said.

Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the Committee on Communications and former chair of the Committee on Migration, urged the U.S. and the rest of the world to begin to plan to accept Syrian refugees who may not be able to return home once the war ends.

He said some 2 million people have fled Syria to neighboring countries, 4 million people are displaced within the country and that many of them will need homes in the future.

Prior to the news conference, the Administrative Committee issued a Sept. 10 statement in support of the humanitarian work of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. Church’s overseas relief and development agency. The statement follows the release of a report by the Population Research Institute that accused CRS employees in Madagascar of distributing contraceptives in opposition to Church teaching.

Cardinal Dolan said that Carolyn Woo, CRS president, told the bishops that the agency’s principles are clear and that employees are held accountable for their actions. When a problem arises, he said, CRS leaders address the concern as quickly as possible so that all services align with Church teaching.

“We don’t have perfection here on earth of any organization, but they adhere very strongly in terms of their values and principles ... and they will not deviate from that,” Bishop Pates added.

BISHOP RHoades celebrates mass at IPFW

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne on Sept. 3. “It is my prayer that you continue to grow as a vibrant presence on this campus,” Bishop Rhoades said of the Catholic Campus Ministry in his homily to the university students.

“I was thinking about how the words of St. Paul to the Thessalonians apply to you. He told them ‘all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness.’ We live in a society and culture where there is a lot of darkness. We are called to be people of the light. Christ is our light. We are called to live as His disciples, radiating His light in our lives, in our conduct, our actions, our speech and our example. It’s not always easy because it may mean going against the tide sometimes, bearing witness to the truth of the Gospel that is not always popular.” Bishop Rhoades encouraged the students, through campus ministry at IPFW, “to grow in your Catholic faith, in true discipleship. Allow yourselves to be astonished at Jesus’ teaching.”
Praying for peace in Syria, pope calls selfishness the cause of war

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Leading a crowd in prayer for peace in Syria, Pope Francis said that war is ultimately caused by selfishness, which can be overcome only through expressions of fraternity and never with violence.

“We leave behind the self-interest that hardens your heart, overcome the indifference that makes your heart insensitive to others, conquer your deadly reasoning, and open yourself to dialogue and reconciliation,” the pope said Sept. 7 before an estimated 100,000 people in St. Peter’s Square.

The pope had called the prayer vigil less than a week earlier, as the central event of a worldwide day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria, the Middle East and the world.

The Vatican called the vigil an unprecedented papal gesture for peace, by virtue of its scale and prominence of location. It took place the same day that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with European leaders to make President Barack Obama’s case for a military strike on the government of Syria President Bashar Assad, as punishment for the alleged use of chemical weapons in the ongoing civil war there.

The pope’s homily, which took up about 15 minutes of the four-hour liturgy, did not refer to contemporary events but spoke in biblical terms about the nature of war, whose origins he traced to the fall of Adam and the first murder, by Cain of his brother Abel.

Answering Cain’s famous question to God — “Am I my brother’s keeper?” — the pope replied: “Yes, you are your brother’s keeper! To be human means to care for one another.”

“We bring about the death of Cain in every act of violence and in every war,” the pope said. “All of us!”

War’s ultimate source, Pope Francis said, is the original sin of disobedience.

“When man thinks only of himself, his own interest, and places himself in the center, when he permits himself to be captivated by the idols of dominion and power, when he puts himself in God’s place, then all relationships are broken and everything is ruined,” the pope said. “Then the door opens to violence, indifference and conflict.”

The pope concluded on a hopeful note, asking the crowd: “Can we get out of this spiral of sorrow and death? Can we learn once again to walk and live in the ways of peace?”

“Yes, it is possible for everyone!” he said, drawing applause from the huge crowd and then he invoked the image of Christ’s redemptive sacrifice as the ultimate symbol of peace.

“How I wish that all men and women of good will would look to the cross, if only for a moment,” he said. “There, we can see God’s reply: violence is not answered with violence, death is not answered with the language of death. In the silence of the cross, the uproar of weapons ceases and the language of reconciliation, forgiveness, dialogue and peace is spoken.”

The pope’s homily was followed by a period of Eucharistic Adoration, including several stretches when all present stood or knelt in silence, without any musical accompaniment.

At other times, during the praying of the rosary in the first half of the vigil, prayers and readings alternated with music or performances on the organ, the harp and other string instruments.

During Adoration, people representing five different countries or regions with direct or indirect links to the Syrian conflict — Egypt, the Holy Land, Russia, the United States and Syria itself — brought up incense to burn in a brazier beside the altar.

Ten students from the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, served as attendants. Daniel Davis, a seminarian from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was a server at the vigil. He is shown at the far left.

Pope Francis leads a vigil to pray for peace in Syria Sept. 7 in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. Seminarian Daniel Davis of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South was a server at the vigil. He is shown at the far left.

In a quiet chapel setting at the University of Saint Francis on Saturday, Sept. 7, a rack of vigil lights flamed in silent testimony to the presence and prayers of visitors who responded to a papal invitation to pray for peace in Syria, Egypt and all areas of the world where people suffer from violence and war.

USF economics professor Doug Meador, representing five different countries or regions with direct or indirect links to the Syrian conflict — Egypt, the Holy Land, Russia, the United States and Syria itself — brought up incense to burn in a brazier beside the altar. Ten students from the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, served as attendants.

Daniel Davis, a seminarian from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was one of the servers.

The ancient icon of Mary known as “Salus Populi Romani” (health of the Roman people), which had been transported for the occasion from Rome’s Basilica of St. Mary Major, stood on an easel beside the altar. The icon has special importance for Pope Francis, who went to pray before it on the first morning of his pontificate in March.

The atmosphere in the square was solemn, with none of the festivity of a Sunday Angelus or Wednesday public audience. Security guards confiscated flags and placards, though some Syrian flags and banners criticizing Obama could be seen on the periphery of the square.

For more than an hour prior to the vigil, and then for the duration of the event, projectors beamed confessions in the square, sitting face to face with penitents on simple wooden chairs.

Many in the congregation clapped and cheered when Pope Francis came out of the basilica at 7 p.m., but soon fell silent when they noticed his serious demeanor and his failure to wave or smile.

At the end of the liturgy, just before 11 p.m., after the pope had returned to the basilica, the crowd applauded again. Pope Francis came out to offer a few final words, thanking the congregation for their company and asking them to continue praying for peace.

“Good night and have a good rest,” he said.

Thousands flock to Rome armed with power of prayer in fight for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For the thousands of people who turned out for a solemn vigil in St. Peter’s Square, the power of prayer and hopes for peace are still mightier than the world’s weapons and wars.

“Instead of using hatred, we are using prayer because it’s the only thing that can bring calm and peace to everything,” Michele Di Stadio, 20, told Catholic News Service.

Di Stadio came with 30 other young people from the Neocatechumenal Way in Rome, he said, “to pray so that a war that would only cause a world catastrophe shouldn’t happen.”

While the journey to St. Peter’s Square wasn’t anything unusual for Di Stadio and his friends, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Julie Abdely, 18, of Fort Wayne, Ind., and her brother Walid, who flew in from Damascus, Syria, specifically to take part in Pope Francis’ call for peace in Syria and the whole world.

PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHODES

• Sunday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m. — Wedding Anniversary Mass, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
• Monday, Sept. 23, 8:45 a.m. — Mass for Catholic School Teachers, Saint Joseph High School, South Bend
• Tuesday, Sept. 24, 8:45 a.m. — Mass for Catholic School Teachers, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
• Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m. — Mass for Legatus, Saint Theodore Guerin Chapel, Fort Wayne
• Wednesday, Sept. 25, 4 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Catholic Charities, Catholic Charities Office, Fort Wayne
• Thursday, Sept. 26, 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of Presbyterate, Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw
• Thursday, Sept. 26, 5:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Review Board, Holiday Inn, Warsaw
• Friday, Sept. 27, 11 a.m. — Mass with Blessing of Saint Matthew Chapel and Dedication of Altar, Stayer Hall, Mendoza College of Business, University of Notre Dame
• Saturday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m. — Mass with Dedication of Altar and Blessing of New Sanctuary and Windows, Saint Jude Church, South Bend
• Saturday, Sept. 28, 12 noon — Closing Mass of 150th Anniversary of Saint Michael Parish, Saint Michael the Archangel Church, Plymouth
• Monday, Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m. — Talk at Parish Mission for Saint Mary and Saint Peter Parishes, Saint Mary’s Church, Fort Wayne
• Tuesday, Oct. 1, 6 p.m. — White Mass, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne
• Wednesday, Oct. 2, 5:30 p.m. — Red Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
• Thursday, Oct. 3, 12 noon — Luncheon meeting with Student Leaders, University of Notre Dame
• Thursday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Christ the King Church, South Bend
• Friday, Oct. 4, 6 p.m. — Mass, Saint Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
• Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 a.m. — Mass for World Apostolate of Fatima, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
• Saturday, Oct. 5, 1:15 p.m. — Speech at Diocesan Conference on Harms of Pornography, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne
• Sunday, Oct. 6, 5:30 p.m. — Charity Fest for Saint Vincent de Paul Society, The Lantern Hall, Fort Wayne
Red Mass speaker Robert P. George announced

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Robert P. George, the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, will be the speaker following the Fort Wayne Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Concepcion in early October. The talk and a dinner will be held following the Mass in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne. The evening is hosted by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the St. Thomas More Society in Fort Wayne.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades extends an invitation to lawyers, judges and civil government officials in the Allen County and surrounding counties area to attend the Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Concepcion on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 5:30 p.m.

George, who will speak at the Fort Wayne event, is a visiting professor at Harvard Law School. He is chairman of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and previously served on the President’s Council on Bioethics and as a presidential appointee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. He is a former Judicial Fellow at the Supreme Court of the United States, where he received the Justice Tom C. Clark Award. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. His talk after the Mass is entitled “What Marriage Is … and Isn’t?”

“I will explain what marriage is, and what it isn’t,” George said in an email interview with Today’s Catholic. “I will also explain why government has a legitimate interest in marriage and why it rightly recognizes and supports marriage. Finally, I will explain why it is so critical to the common good for law to define marriage correctly — that is, in line with the truth of what marriage actually is.”

Professor George is author of many books, including, most recently, “Conscience and Its Enemies” (ISI Books, 2013). His articles have appeared in the Harvard Law Review, the Yale Law Journal, the Columbia Law Review, the Review of Politics, the Review of Metaphysics and Law and Philosophy.

He is a recipient of the United States Presidential Citizens Medal and the Honorable Medal for the Defense of Human Rights of the Republic of Poland. His other honors include the Canterbury Medal of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, the Sidney Hook Memorial Award of the National Association of Scholars, the Philip Merrill Award of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, and the Bradley Prize for Intellectual and Civic Achievement.

He gave the 2007 John Dewey Lecture in Philosophy of Law at Harvard; the 2008 Judge Guido Calabresi Lecture in Law and Religion at Yale; and the 2008 Sir Malcolm Knox Lecture in Philosophy at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

A graduate of Swarthmore College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, he holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, an M.S. from Harvard Divinity School, and a doctorate in philosophy of law from Oxford University. He has received honorary doctorates of law, letters, ethics, science, divinity, humane letters, civil law and juridical science.

George addressed being a conservative heavyweight in the liberal environment of Princeton University. “I enjoy being what a cover story of the Princeton Alumni Weekly magazine called me: ‘The Heretic in the Temple,’” George said. “Orthodoxies have their place, but that place is not in secular academic discourse. I take it as my job to question such orthodoxies when they form. I want to make sure that students form their opinions on the basis of reasons and arguments — not trends and fashions.”

George’s interests include bluegrass music, English literature — especially of the 18th and 19th centuries — and fishing.

For more information about the Red Mass in Fort Wayne, contact Scott Hall at (260) 424-2530.
Harms of pornography discussion at upcoming Oct. 5 conference

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and nationally recognized experts — Morality in the Media, and RECLAIM Sexual Health — will discuss the harms of pornography, how to protect oneself, loved ones and family, and regain sexual integrity at the Ignite the Light in a World Darkened by Pornography conference to be held at the North Campus of the University of Saint Francis on Saturday, Oct. 5.

The conference is open to adults and teens aged 14 and older. Morality In Media (MIM) and RECLAIM Sexual Health have partnered to organize the full day diocesan conference, bringing in nationally recognized experts to discuss the harms of pornography and healing and protection for individuals and loved ones.

Morality In Media is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to fighting pornography through public education and the application of the law. Founded by an inter-faith group of clergy in 1962, MIM has been on the front lines of the war on pornography for over 50 years.

“Morality In Media has a faith outreach program and was inspired by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to do conferences on the harms of pornography,” said Patrick Trueman, the president of Morality in the Media and former chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1988 to 1993. He will be one of the conference speakers.

“MIM is working in conjunction with the Diocese of South Bend-Fort Wayne and RECLAIM Sexual Health to plan the Oct. 5 conference in Fort Wayne,” Trueman told Today’s Catholic.

Topics covered will include a keynote address by Bishop Rhoades, the growing magnitude of pornography, brain science of addiction, protecting married youth and hope, help and healing.

Trueman’s talk will cover the topic, “The Growing Darkness of Pornography: The Magnitude of the Problem.”

Bruce and Jeannie Hannemann will also speak at the conference. They are speakers, trainers, authors and consultants with RECLAIM Sexual Health. Their two talks will cover the topics, “The Brain Science of Pornography: Addiction: A Distortion of God’s Plan” and “Stepping into the Light: Offering Hope, Help and Healing.”

The Hannemanns are best known as the founders and directors of Elizabeth Ministry International, offering hope and healing on issues related to sexual identity, childbearing and relationships. Together they manage a headquarters for over 700 registered chapters on six continents and operate a retreat center for direct service to those in need. They have been married for over 37 years and are blessed to be enjoying the grandparent stage of life.

As the “Mad Scientist and the Church Lady” they are dynamic speakers known for their unique way of bridging science and religion. They are qualified to speak on the topic of pornography and sex addiction from not only professional training, but from their own lived experience. At the request of Bishop David Ricken, they have shared their story of pornography and recovery in the press, on television and radio, with a desire to encourage others to seek help in overcoming porn addiction and offer hope for healing marriages. They were instrumental in the collaboration of scientists, psychologists, researchers, electronic learning technicians and Catholic leaders to create RECLAIM Sexual Health, a state of the art online recovery program for individuals struggling with pornography and other unhealthy sexual behaviors.

Also slated to speak is Dr. Jill Manning, who will cover “How to Protect Marriage and Youth: A Therapist’s Perspective.”

Bishop Rhoades will speak on the topic, “God’s Plan for a Life of Sexual Integrity.”

In a video that explains the conference, Bishop Rhoades said, “My friends, as you know, many men and, increasingly, women, are struggling with pornography and other unhealthy sexual behaviors. Surveys conducted in the past few years, for example, indicate that more than half of the men in our society indulge in the use of pornography. Such behaviors often result in wounded souls, broken relationships, divorce and family dysfunction.”

He added, “Many priests have reported the prevalence of good people coming to them for pastoral help in this area. Given the clear pastoral need, the Church must do more to address this problem.”

“The speakers will help educate us on this growing problem and its sometimes devastating effects,” Bishop Rhoades said in the video. “It will also provide the practical tools to help us move in the right direction. Today, I invite you to join me at this conference and ask you to encourage others to attend as well.”

There will also be a panel discussion and question-answer session on the topic, “Ways to Safeguard Yourself — And Those You Love.”

The conference will include a 4:30 p.m. Mass and enrollment in the Ignite the Light Initiative.

Cost for the conference, which includes lunch, is $10 before Sept. 28 or $15 after Sept. 28.

To register online, visit http://pornharms.com/ftwayne/.

The conference is organized by Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Morality In Media and RECLAIM Sexual Health with a special grant from Our Sunday Visitor.
JUBILEE

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women at Saint Mary’s College, so I feel that I have had a very full and wonderful ministry which I hope has a long time to go.”

Father Dan Durkin, pastor of St. Henry Parish, Fort Wayne, said, “It has been an exciting 40 years. Every assignment has been unique and a real blessing.”


“The pope emeritus, Pope Benedict XVI, said, ‘For many years, our priest jubilarians have been fishers of men,’ Bishop Rhoades said. “In their Priesthood, they have indeed ‘put out into the deep,’ devoting their lives to the mission of evangelization, to teaching the faith, to communicating God’s grace in the sacraments, and to leading God’s people as shepherds after the heart of Christ. When they were ordained, they, like the apostles, left their boats on the shore to follow Jesus as His priests.”

Bishop Rhoades said of the jubilarians, “We thank them for their devoted priestly ministry, for their zeal for evangelization, for ‘putting out into the deep,’ trusting in the Lord and His grace. The Lord only knows the many thousands of people who have been touched, and continue to be touched, by their pastoral ministry, their charity and their priestly witness of holiness. Today we thank God for their priestly lives and ministries and we pray for them, that the Lord will continue to bestow His grace and love upon them.”

In the first reading of the day from the Colossians, Bishop Rhoades noted that St. Paul prayed that the Colossians might be filled “with the knowledge of God’s will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.”

“How often our priests pray for you, our faithful people, our brothers and sisters in Christ,” Bishop Rhoades emphasized. “This is part of the priest’s mission, like St. Paul, not only to teach but also to pray. Priests are to be men of prayer. This is how we enter into the knowledge of Jesus and friendship with Him. This is where our priests receive the grace and strength for their ministry.”

“It is in prayer that all of us learn to think with Christ, to think His thoughts and feel His sentiments,” he said. “And then we are better able to convey Christ to others. Prayer helps all of us to build our lives on Christ and to put His teachings into practice.”

Bishop Rhoades said, “If the new evangelization is going to bear fruit, it must be rooted in Christ, our relationship with Him and our faithful partnership with Him and our faithful people, our brothers and sisters in Christ.”

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Continuing up for yet another growth spurt — an educational wing expansion and renovation of the church’s worship space. The $9.5 million three-year capital campaign, which begins in earnest this month, will also fund a debt elimination for the church. Town meetings for the parish, led by chair of the capital campaign, Janet Churman, informed parishioners of the details of the project with architectural renderings and question-answer sessions.

Currently, pre-kindergarten through fourth grades are educated at the St. Elizabeth campus of the St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. Grades 5 through 8 are located at the St. Joseph campus at 2211 Brooklyn Ave.

It was announced in April that Fort Wayne’s only joint Catholic parochial school would split and gain academic independence by fall of 2014, allowing St. Joseph to become the central city Catholic school, housing grades pre-K through fifth with an additional class added in successive years through eighth grade. St. Elizabeth School would offer pre-K through eighth-grade education at its campus.

As St. Elizabeth School vies for room with its ever-expanding student roster, including religious education (RE) students, an expansion will make the dream of an independent school come true. According to Father Jim Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth, the over 36,000-square-foot planned addition is the completion of the original goal of the church, though there is always room to grow. He said, “Having the pre-K through 8 here for our parish, actually completes our parish facilities for the foreseeable future.”

The expansion project to be constructed by Michael Kinder and Sons Construction, parishioners of St. Elizabeth, will include 10 new classrooms including a Spanish room and an additional computer lab, a state-of-the-art digital media center that will be of parish-wide use, a complete basement housing the new youth room more than double the size of the old, basement storage, stage wings and a new playground. This addition will bring the parish’s facility space to 140,000 square feet — all perfectly connected.

According to Deacon Jim Kitchens the new educational wing will be a middle school wing housing grades 5-8 and religious education students, with lockers, a color scheme that differs from the lower grade area and bigger furniture that will suit the middle school aged students. The furniture, he said, will make these rooms multipurpose for not only the students of the school but RE students and adult programs using the facility.

Deacon Kitchens said, “This building is for the next generation. It’s a great day!”

The sanctuary renovation, which will begin in fall of 2014 following the completion of the educational expansion, will include relocation of the choir area to the back of the church where a handicapped-accessible loft will be built to accommodate 60 people, the addition of 100 pew seats, relocation of the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary, and enlargement of the sanctuary with an alcove for a statue of St. Joseph. A handicapped-accessible ramp will also be installed at the altar area and the crucifix will be hung high on the stained glass window.

The leaky bell tower will be dismantled and a new one will be built in the front of the church in close proximity to a new 24-hour chapel.

Groundbreaking for the expansion was held on Sunday, Sept. 15, led by Father Shafer. Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and representative for Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who is recovering from surgery for a broken clavicle, offered a special prayer in which he invoked God’s blessing on the successful completion of the project and for the safety of the workers involved.

With the assistance of Deacon Jim Kitchens, Msgr. Schulte, and the founding pastor of the 25-year-old parish, then blessed the ground with holy water. Surrounding by an excited crowd of supporters, the groundbreaking crew that included Father Shafer, Msgr. Schulte, Dr. Mike Mendez, Jon Lassus, Louis Widner, principal of St. Elizabeth School, Molly Slocum, representative RE, Gary Toreko, parish council president, and Doug Kinder of Michael Kinder and Sons, took shovels in hand, and broke the ground on which the educational wing will be constructed.

A round of applause, the crowd raised their voices in a closing hymn and the project was officially begun.

Msgr. Schulte believes that the expansion will be beneficial to the entire church community. “It benefits the continued growth of the school and will help the children in religious education classes as well,” he said.

Principal Lois Widner agreed and added, “When the bishop told us his plan it fell in line with all we’ve been thinking. … Having this vision will serve so many more people.”

Father Shafer concluded saying, “It’s a great day to rejoice in the Lord!”
Poor Handmaids seek memories for commemorative video

FORT WAYNE — The Sisters of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ founded St. Joseph Hospital in 1869 and while they have been influential members of this community serving the poor and sick, it is the end of an era at St. Joe. To honor their contributions, the hospital is planning a celebration and is in need of help. St. Joe is seeking fond memories or photos of the sisters that may be incorporated into a commemorative video being compiled to acknowledge their loving handprint forever on grateful hearts. Share stories or photos by Sept. 30 online at lutheranhealth.net/poorhandmaids. For additional information contact Lizette Downey, public relations coordinator, at (260) 435-7107.

National adoption advocate to speak at Allen County Right to Life Banquet

FORT WAYNE — The 16th annual Banquet for Life benefiting Allen County Right to Life is Monday, Oct. 14. The evening event will be held at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne with a social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner. Honorary hosts are Don and Mary Kay Ehlerding.

The evening’s theme is adoption, which will highlight the blessings of this selfless act. National adoption advocate Ryan Bomberger, of The Radiance Foundation, will provide a keynote address. Bomberger, who was conceived in rape and adopted, is now an adoptive father himself. Bomberger and his wife started The Radiance Foundation to bring healing to the broken. Their organization focuses on a variety of pro-life issues, including the TooManyAborted.com awareness campaign.

This year’s banquet will again include the popular Auction for Life featuring donated packages with local celebrities and chefs and other items. Tickets to the Allen County Right to Life Banquet for Life are $45 per person or $450 a table. More information is available by visiting www.ichooselife.org or calling (260) 471-1849.

St. Vincent de Paul Society announces upcoming Charity-Fest

FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent de Paul Society Fort Wayne District Council will host its second annual Charity-Fest on Saturday, Oct. 5, at The Lantern, 4420 Arndmore Ave., in Fort Wayne. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Music will be performed by Spike and the Bulldogs from 7:30-10:30 p.m. The event will include beer, soft drinks, cash bar, light dinner buffet, live and silent auctions.

Cost is $25 per person in advance or $30 per person on Oct. 5. Tickets may be obtained from St. Vincent de Paul Society members or by mailing checks to: St. Vincent de Paul Society, Attn: Charity-Fest, 1600 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Tickets will be sent by mail or held at the door on Oct. 5. For additional information, call (260) 456-3561.

Dismas House Forgiveness Breakfast to be held

SOUTH BEND — The Dismas House Forgiveness Breakfast will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 53995 SR 933 on Thursday, Sept. 26, at 7:30 a.m. Speaker will be Dismas House resident Johnny Hunt. Prison minister and author Father David Link will also participate. The breakfast is free but donations are welcome. Be a Forgiveness Sponsor for $300 and receive a reserved table for eight at the event. Reserve a seat by Sept. 23 by calling the Dismas House at (574) 233-8522 or email dismassouthbend@saintsabigail.net.

Grand opening of The Life Center, fall 40 Days for Life campaign, to build on successes

SOUTH BEND — The Life Center (TLC) at 2010 Ironwood Circle will have its official grand opening as part of the kick-off of this fall’s 40 Days for Life campaign in South Bend on Sept. 22. Alan Keyes will be giving a keynote address at 4 p.m.

Owned and operated by the Apostolate of Divine Mercy, in the Service of Human Life, The Life Center is located next door to the only abortion facility in the Michiana area. The Life Center is home to the apostolate and several other pro-life groups, including 40 Days for Life, South Bend. Primary among the apostolate’s missions is the Chapel of Divine Mercy, a Eucharistic Adoration chapel under the auspices of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Several post-abortive healing ministries, including Haven for Hope, are also launching their programs at the grand opening. The apostolate also sponsors the TLC Advocates, along with its companion ministry, Life Support. Since its inception in November 2012, the TLC Advocates have been responsible for 20 babies being saved from abortion.

The Life Center also houses an adoption agency and a group dedicated to teaching Natural Family Planning. The people behind all these ministries will be available for questions during the ministry fair.

The 40 Days for Life campaign is a peaceful, highly focused, non-denominational, pro-life initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities and grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history.

The campaign will feature a peaceful 40-day prayer vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Women’s Pavilion at 2010 Ironwood Circle. All prayer vigil participants are asked to sign a statement of peace, pledging to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner at all times.

Scheduled are Saturday Masses at 8 a.m., which will be held indoors in the Chapel of Divine Mercy inside the Life Center rather than at the gazebo as in the past. The scheduled celebrants of the Masses are as follows:

• Oct. 5 — Father Dave Ruppert, pastor, St. Anthony Parish
• Oct. 12 — Father Thomas Shoemaker, pastor, St. Therese, Little Flower Parish and chaplain of the Chapel of Divine Mercy
• Oct. 19 — Father Terry Cooman, parochial vicar, St. Pius X, Granger
• Oct. 26 — Holy Cross Father Kevin Russeau, pastor, St. Joseph Parish, South Bend

For assistance or for more information, contact Mary Akre at 40DaysSB@divinemercyforlife.com or (574) 807-1991.

Mary on the Eve of the Second Vatican Council conference held

NOTRE DAME — The Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame will host the upcoming Mary on the Eve of the Second Vatican Council Conference from Oct. 6-8. The event will be held at McKenna Hall on the Notre Dame Campus, and is open to the public. Registration is now live at https://icl.nd.edu and is required for all participants.

Keynote speakers include Society of Jesus Jesuit Father Brian Daley, University of Notre Dame and Marianist Father Michael Moyna, University of Dayton. The conference is being organized by John C. Cavadini, Ph.D., McGrath-Cavadini Director of the Institute for Church Life.

A complete list of speakers, detailed schedule and registration information are available at https://icl.nd.edu.
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Roundtable offers common-sense immigration reform

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — An immigration reform roundtable was held at First Wayne Street Methodist Church in downtown Fort Wayne on Aug. 28 to foster a solutions-focused conversation. Faith leaders, law enforcement and business owners — Bibles, Badges and Business (BBB) — engaged in a discussion about immigration reform and why it’s important to these three sectors for Indiana’s economy and diverse communities.

Bibles, Badges and Business is a project of the National Immigration Forum, Washington, D.C., and the National Immigration Forum Action Fund. Similar coordinated roundtables are being held throughout the country for attendees to learn about the issue and become more educated about immigration reform as well as encouraging U.S. Congressional members to talk about the issue and, hopefully, vote for some common-sense solutions.

Angela Adams, Bibles, Badges and Business Midwest regional coordinator and an Indianapolis attorney, served as moderator and introduced the panelists, who spoke about why immigration reform is important to their particular sector.

In his remarks from the panel, Society of the Divine Word Father Lloyd (Sam) Cunningham, parochial vicar of St. Patrick Church, Fort Wayne, referenced the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops who support comprehensive immigration reform. Father Cunningham said the bishops’ reform proposal provides a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in this country. The proposal includes a worker program to permit foreign-born workers to enter the country safely and legally and would help reduce illegal immigration and the loss of life in the American desert. The proposal contains positions that preserve and strengthen family unity, provide legal avenues for low-skilled immigrants working in the U.S., restore due process for individuals caught up in the immigration system and promotes efforts that will address the root causes of immigration, such as poverty and persecution.

In the photo, beginning with Angela Adams, standing, the Bibles, Badges and Business roundtable included, right to left: Society of the Divine Word Father Lloyd (Sam) Cunningham, parochial vicar, St. Patrick Catholic Church, Fort Wayne; Rev. Joe Johns, Fellowship Missionary Church, Fort Wayne; Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab, director of ministry programs, The Lutheran Foundation, Fort Wayne; Barry Sharp, owner/president, S&S Steel Services, Inc., Anderson; Chief Stuart Hamblen, Angola Police Department; and John Metzger, dairy farmer from Kimmell.

COMMUNITY CAN SUPPORTS WOMEN’S CARE CENTER

The first ever Saint Joseph High School Community Can collection took place during the varsity football game on Friday, Aug. 30. Students Mallorie Kendzicky and Jackie Youngs, organizers of this project, collected over $630 from the crowd at half-time. Pictured are student Jackie Youngs, Claire Freedos from the Women’s Care Center and student Mallorie Kendzicky presenting a $630 donation to the Women’s Care Center.
St. Mary Parish, Decatur, celebrates 175 Years, plants Mary Garden

DECATUR — On the feast of the Birth of the Virgin Mary, Sept. 8, Father David Voors, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur, dedicated the parish’s new Mary Garden and statue of Mary on Sept. 8.

In celebration of its 60th anniversary of graduation, the Decatur Catholic High School Class of 1953 donated a concrete bench placed along the path offering a place to pray and meditate. Private donations funded this project without support of the parish budget.

Explore the ways Christian tradition and virtues are equipped to promote healing and provide wisdom in our divisive, young century.

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Llama a Larry Fisher al 260.426.2044 para agendar una cita, o visitanos en las oficinas del cementerio en 3500 Lake Avenue de Lunes a Viernes a partir de las 8:30am - 4:30pm.

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur dedicated its Mary Garden and statue of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sept. 8.

Tickets are required for this free event and are available at the Moreau Center Box Office, online at MoreauCenter.com, or over the phone at (574) 284-4626. Box Office hours: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday. For more information, visit saintmarys.edu/Tippett

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Father Ed O’Connor, priest with a servant’s heart

BY JILL BOUGHTON

SOUTH BEND — Holy Cross Father Edward D. O’Connor celebrated 65 years as a priest this June. He never wanted to be anything else, and he has no regrets. “I enjoy my priestly life,” he says, “all of it.”

The oldest of nine children who grew up mostly in Pittsburgh, Father Ed was delighted that so many family members were able to come for his jubilee celebration. However, a brother who also became a priest and a sister who became a nun have died.

During high school, he explored several religious orders. Since his father was a Notre Dame graduate, that list included the Congregation of Holy Cross. The order seemed to serve in all the ways that interested him, especially mission work, so he entered seminary at Notre Dame after graduating from high school in 1939. Although teaching wasn’t on Father Ed’s original list, college teaching became his career. Except for studying for a year in France, he has spent his entire priestly life at the University of Notre Dame. His book “The Catholic Vision” (OSV, 1992) distills some of his theological wisdom.

Reluctantly retiring from the theology department at age 70 simply changed the focus of Father Edward O’Connor’s priestly ministry. He no longer teaches classes, but he doesn’t have time for “hobbies.”

Father Ed celebrates Mass at five different nursing homes and the county jail. Every week he says Mass at a shepherding home in Osceola where Dolly Donahue provides housing for as many as 25 people with special needs. He also chops wood for Dolly’s wood stove.

Long devoted to the Virgin Mary, Father Ed leads a rosary when his computer somehow lost the first chapter. Father Ed has been involved in the charismatic renewal since its early days. He still celebrates Mass at the Log Chapel every week followed by a charismatic prayer meeting, as well as a first Saturday Mass in Alumni Hall. Books on this topic include “The Pentecostal Movement in the Catholic Church” (Ave Maria Press, 1974).

Spiritual direction is another ministry close to his heart, and he is confessor to the Franciscan sisters at Mount Alviero. In recent years, hearing loss has made it difficult for him to serve as chaplain for other groups. He has long participated in an annual citywide Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday that draws 800 people.

Despite a full hip replacement, Father Ed remains active. He prefers to use the stairs even though he now lives in Corby Hall, where there is an elevator. He did have to give up riding a bicycle. He is keenly aware of gaps in his short-term memory, but his wry humor remains intact. “No, I don’t have time to do puzzles — but I sometimes create puzzles for other people — by the way I act,” he jokes.

Father Ed has done some world traveling. He’s spoken at conferences in China and Australia, gone on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and met visionaries in Korea and Latin America. A book currently at the publisher is about a recent Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta.

Although he has long lived in academia, Father Ed has a heart for the poor whom Jesus promised would always be with us. He traveled to Indianapolis to be with a despondent man who had shot himself, and he still uses his personal allowance to help people from the west side of South Bend who telephone him. He has no idea how that got started, but word of mouth seems to keep it going.

There’s no stopping a servant’s heart.
Music still integral part of life for retired choir director

BY DENISE FEDEROW

GOSHEN — Choir practice has resumed this fall at St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen but minus one member. Long-time choir director Kathy Fredrickson retired over the summer. Fredrickson, who said she never wanted the position and just did it to help out, led the choir voluntarily for 26 years.

“I enjoy hearing four-part harmony — it just lifts me up to hear voices joined as one,” she told Today’s Catholic.

Fredrickson comes from a musical family. Her mother Catherine Gardner sang in the choir, as did her aunt Rose Woods. Her paternal grandmother was a contralto, and her paternal grandfather and uncle played the violin. Her two brothers Mike and Tim are also accomplished singers and musicians.

As a child, Fredrickson, along with other girls from St. John’s, was part of a group called “The St. John’s Little Singers” led by Rose “Rody” Weaver, a choir director for many years at St. John the Evangelist Parish. Fredrickson was a member from third through eighth grades. She was also a member of the Goshen High School Crimsonaire’s show choir.

When Weaver retired from directing the choir at St. John’s, Mike Rulli took over for a short time. Fredrickson said, “I didn’t want to be director,” but when Rulli moved on and there was no one to take over, she relented.

“I called the office and said, ‘put in the bulletin that choir practice is starting up,’” she said.

But Fredrickson added, “I really didn’t know what I was doing.” Despite that claim, many choir members had loyally remained with the choir for all or most of her time as director. Members like Marcie Kisseberth, the late “Tex” Hoopingarner, Bev Stegelmann, Steve and Norma Earle and many others — including most members of her family — members had loyally remained with the choir for all or most of her time as director. Members like Marcie Kisseberth, the late “Tex” Hoopingarner, Bev Stegelmann, Steve and Norma Earle and many others — including most members of her family.

“We’ve had a lot of family members — in choir together — it’s been nice,” she said. “To me, the ultimate best time in choir was when my family was there.”

Her mother and sister-in-law Karen were altos, brother Mike was bass, brother Tim sang tenor and she was soprano.

“I cannot direct and not sing,” she said. “But they were staples of those sections — every choir needs section leaders.”

Now only Tim remains in the St. John choir.

As far as Fredrickson’s decision to retire, she said, “I just felt like it was time — that I’d taken it as far as I can go.”

She also cited family reasons — now that her parents are both gone she wants to keep the family close and be able to travel to see them on holidays — something that hasn’t been possible as choir director.

High jinks in the choir loft

Fredrickson said that although being a choir member requires commitment, they have a lot of fun, too. Over the years there have been plenty of stories, mishaps and high jinks. Choir members used to fall off the risers until parishioner Doug Allen took the old Communion rail and installed it behind the risers so people wouldn’t fall back anymore.

Former organist Josie Kasprzak gave her a director’s baton one Christmas decorated with sparkles.

“I thought it was great — until it flew out of my hands,” she said. “It was during rehearsals — thank goodness!”

Pretty as it was, she didn’t take a chance on using it again after that. Another memorable gift came from choir member Jan Butner, who gave Fredrickson a Nerf bow and arrow to take care of the guys in the choir — notably Fredrickson’s brothers — when they acted up during practice. Fredrickson admitted that she used it on her brother Mike once.

“We’re kind of our own mini family — that I will miss terribly,” she said.

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PHOTO BY DENISE FEDEROW

September 22, 2013
Diocese, St. Rose Parish signs purchase agreement on Monroeville Elementary School building

MONROEVILLE — The centennial dream of St. Joseph Catholic School and St. Rose of Lima Church, Monroeville, has finally been realized. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades signed the purchase agreement with East Allen County Schools on behalf of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and St. Rose of Lima Church on Aug. 30. The purchase of the building was part of the 2012 centennial celebrations of St. Joseph School, Monroeville. After careful consideration of the future needs of St. Joseph Catholic School to provide excellence in Catholic education for the 21st century, the committee decided that purchasing the Monroeville Elementary School building would be a most worthy centennial project and an investment in the future of children and St. Joseph School for the next 100 years.

The Monroeville Elementary School’s layout and floor plan is conducive for instruction and learning. “In this day of ever-changing and advancing technology, the building is wired for our present and immediate future technology needs,” noted St. Rose pastor Father Lourdino Fernandes.

The school has 17 classrooms, with a typical size of 1,200 sq. ft. each. All classrooms include restrooms, drinking fountains and sinks which would eliminate the need for students leaving the classroom, causing less interruptions and disruptions. The school also has special classrooms such as: art, music/band, computer lab, media center, conference room, guidance room, clinic, teacher’s lounge, administrative office rooms, etc.

The building offers a gymnasium with large wood floor, wood bleachers on each side, five jumping goals, fixed goal and has the provision of separate locker and changing rooms for boys and girls. The spacious gym would provide an ideal place for weekly physical education classes, daily exercise, sports’ programs, and when needed, indoor recess.

The school has a large playground area, which can accommodate playground equipment. In addition, the school has a large kitchen and cafeteria.

The three parking lots provide reasonable parking for all. It has a safe student play area south of the building and a well-designed access drive for parent dropoff/pick-up off of Monroe Street and bus dropoff/pick-up off of Mill Street.

The building is handicap accessible. There is room to expand and grow.

The Monroeville Elementary School has a building area of 63,199 square feet and a site area of four acres.

“In short, St. Rose Parish’s present and future children would have a facility that would be comfortable and very conducive to receiving an excellent Christ-centered education, a tradition of St. Joseph School,” said Father Fernandes.

He added, “The bold decision by St. Rose of Lima Church, Monroeville, to purchase the Monroeville Elementary School facility is a great contribution to the larger community of Monroeville.”

“As this precious asset of a good school will now be preserved for future generations and the children from Monroeville,” he said, “and neighboring towns can have access to excellent, value oriented and Christ-centered education.”

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Call Larry Fisher at 260.426.2044 for an appointment or visit the Cemetery Office at 3500 Lake Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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What comes next?

When the subjects of grief and loss come up for discussion, we typically focus on the intense span of time following the death and funeral. We speak of our heartache and confusion, the roller coaster ride of emotions that perplexes and puzzles us. (Baruch 5:1) We open ourselves to discovering what “new robe of splendor” will soon fit us best.

It was three years after my husband Trent died in a car accident that I awoke to the trill of a bird song. Mind you, those weeks had stopped their twittering along the way, but their life song fell on deaf ears as I sat wrapped in a heavy blanket of grief for a time.

Then, I marked my new awareness of self. I saw for the first time that I had settled into life as a single mom, adjusted to making life’s decisions without my spouse. My daily experiences were quite unlike modern economics, but then again certain similarities occurred. For this reason it is better not to elevate the employer in the parable recounted by Luke’s Gospel to too high a level of prestige. Few are tempted, of course, to ionize the irresponsible manager.

Rather, the bottom line is that things in life are more important than money. It is the theme of the reading from Amos. It seems a truism, however little else in contemporary life could be more relevant that the Church’s caution in these readings not to stake our future, or measure our success, in monetary terms.

The line between genuine security and peace of mind on the one hand, and grasping for more and more on the other is easy to cross. It is easy to rationalize that struggling to obtain more material assets is in fact only an effort to be financially secure. Wise and experienced, reinforced by the inspiration of God, the Church offers the Scriptures to us as a warning. Remember what is important. Pursue what is important.

Remember what is important

The Sunday Gospel

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lk 16:1-13

The first reading for this weekend is from the Book of Amos. It is portrayed as a physician, a shepherd, and obviously he knew well the religious traditions of his ancestors. He also had a sense of events occurring beyond his own environment, even events happening in other lands.

His pastoral occupation, and keen knowledge not only of tradition but also of life far beyond his own situation, gives his book of only nine chapters a special quality.

The reading for this weekend is quite frankly monetary in its wording. It speaks of ancient units of currency, such as the shekel. It also has the critical of any quest to gather great sums of money, insisting that a higher standard, a higher reward, exist in life.

For its second reading the Church presents the First Letter to Timothy. Early Christian history, including that of the Apostolic Era, includes the names of deeply committed pioneer converts to Christianity. Timothy was one of these converts. He was so close to the Apostle Paul that Paul referred to him as “beloved son,” although, of course, nothing suggests that Timothy literally was the Apostle’s biological child. Son of a Greek father and a devout Jewish mother, and then converted by Jewish under the laws of Judaism, Timothy became a Christian through Paul’s influence. Tradition is that Timothy was the first bishop of the Christian community in Ephesus.

In this weekend’s reading, Timothy is asked especially to pray for the church and for other persons in authority. Such officials especially are vulnerable to the temptation of yielding to greed and the desire for power.

St. Luke’s Gospel supplies the last reading. It is a parable. An irresponsible manager fears the signing of his discharge as he discovers the manager’s mishandling of his duty. So he called his employer’s debtors and ordered them to reduce the amount owed. In fact, he cancelled his own commission, but obviously the commission was excessive.

This arrangement would have been unacceptable then as it would be now. The employer would have had every right to repudiate the manager’s bold discounting of the amounts owed. If the manager had insisted on the original figures, he would have been uphold the outrageous commission, but he would have lost the regard of the community and appeared to be out of control of his own business.

In our time saving honor was more important than collecting the money owed as debts. The message is clear. The fear of doing world’s business has its pitfalls and unfairness.

Reflection

Money is a fact of life. Ancient Jewish economics at times were quite unlike modern economics, but then again certain similarities occurred. For this reason it is better not to elevate the employer in the parable recounted by Luke’s Gospel to too high a level of prestige. Few are tempted, of course, to ionize the irresponsible manager.

Rather, the bottom line is that things in life are more important than money. It is the theme of the reading from Amos. It seems a truism, however little else in contemporary life could be more relevant that the Church’s caution in these readings not to stake our future, or measure our success, in monetary terms.

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HOPE IN THE MOURNING

KAY COZAD

had become less clouded by my pain and some joy, though different than before, was making a slow but steady reappearance in my life. It was then that I contemplated what good would come from the ashes of my grief. I have learned that reaching out to others in the throes of grief with compassion and understanding can bring great comfort and healing for all involved. For me, working with Hope, Page 16

The art of saying no

Someday along the line, as college-admission rates proliferated, “busy” became code for “important.” We got the sense that doing more means doing better. We fell into the flattery, the idea that a busy person is in demand — qualified, experienced, needed, loved. The person with the fullest calendar wins.

Even our social lives got blocked up and assigned off, so now a group of three friends requires a dozen emails to uncover an available date, which may be a month out. The response to this scheduling bottleneck is a kind of mystified satisfaction: “Would you like…”

The root of the problem is a 21st-century phobia affecting many talented, well-intentioned Catholics: the fear of saying no.

This time of year is fraught with invitations, as councils and committees grind into gear after a summer hiatus, each with a major fundraiser in need of stronger marketing muscle. Be wary.

While the inability to say no can have financial and physical consequences, from loss of income to lack of sleep, ultimately it is a spiritual issue. I was reminded of this during a conversation with Dr. Javier Diaz, a 90-year-old Jesuit brother who is preparing to become a priest while working as the only full-time family doctor at a Washington, D.C., clinic. With a warm smile and salt-and-pepper hair, he wears a white lab coat over his Roman collar and speaks with a thick Costa Rican accent.

“The inability to say no to pro- posals, to me, is the biggest chal- lenge,” Brother Javier said. “I think in religious life it can be even worse because there are so many expecta- tions for the religious.”

Finding the conviction to say no, he explained, was not easy. “In some ways it’s to forgive yourself about things you cannot cope with. Many times I have to say to my patients, ‘Look, I’m not God. I’m human.”’

In replying to many worthy requests, Brother Javier has learned not to be hasty. “My first response is, ‘I have to check with my supe- rior,’” and then we go to prayer

Thank you for support of Retirement Fund for Religious

Dear Bishop Rhodes,

Thank you for your diocesan check for $180,809.2, which has been deposited in the Retirement Fund for Religious account. This brings your total diocesan contri- butions for all the years of the collection to $3,397,693.67. The money has been recorded as part of Appeal XXVI for 2013.

Our gratitude and appreciation helps religious address the many chal- lenges religious face as they age. Religious today, as always, con- tinue to make an impact on our society. Even as they age, their commitment to the ministry of their community, their prayer and spiritual life are vibrant testimony to the faithfulness they promised so many years ago. Your commit- ment to them is a heartfelt testimony to their faithfulness. Each religious, young and old, are grateful for your support! Your support and the sup- port of your Retirement Fund for Religious coordinator, pastors, parish priests and deacons is essential to the Fund’s continued success. We are most grateful for all you do! You can surely rely on the prayers of the over 34,000 religious who have supported us over age and the ever increasing numbers of religious who will be retiring very soon. May God bless you as only He can!

Sister Janice Bader, CPPS Executive Director National Religious Retirement Office

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READINGS


Christina Capechi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.
The darkened eye of pornography

T he world was shocked when the tragic and twisted case of Ariel Castro burst recently into the limelight. Before he took his own life in prison earlier this month, he had kidnapped and repeatedly raped, humiliated and beaten three young women he held captive inside his Cleveland house for more than 10 years. At his sentencing in August, he blamed his longstanding habit of watching two to three hours a day of pornography to a point that it really makes him impulsive and I don’t realize what I’m doing is wrong.”

To what extent pornography is directly related to violence remains up for debate (explaining any complex human behavior in simple cause and effect terms can be exceedingly difficult). What is beyond dispute is that pornography sets the stage for viewing women in an exploitative way, as sexual fodder. “One of the key objections to pornography is that it sets up a fantasy world without the risks and challenges that exist in real relationships. It wifair and diverts the beauty and gift of human sexuality, so it no longer serves as an interpersonal force for bonding and building families, but instead devolves into an exploitative and isolating force in the lives of those who fall prey to it, changing its clients, in the words of one commentator, into “basement dwellers” and “bottom feeders.”

On the other hand, the glance of authentic sexual love, flowing from a pure gaze, avoids denigrating others as mere objects of pleasure. “Your eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is sound, your whole body is full of light; but when it is not sound, your body is full of darkness. Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness” (Luke 11:34). We see just how dark the darkness was in the life of Ariel Castro. Through pornography addiction, a skyrocketing phenomenon today, our eye easily becomes darkened and shuttered.

This darkness affects not just the man who views it, but also women who may not themselves be regular consumers of pornography. Women may be drawn into the subtile and demeaning trap of objectification when they are pressed to serve as compliant proxies for the act ing out of their spouse’s hardcore pornographic fantasies. Instead of relating to the actual person they are with, they may instead feel obligated to play a role in satisfying various desires and fetishes. In this way, pornography may impact the way consensual relationships develop between men and women, weaving a warped and exploitative element into the early stages of the relationship.

The average woman may also struggle with a sense of inadequacy when it comes to competing or measuring up to the naked women of the Internet, particularly in the face of pervasive aerialbrushing, silicone implants and photoshopping of porn models. These concerns about undue pressure on women not just to the pornography industry, but even to the modern fashion industry with its frequently provocative designs, and to the numerous soft porn initiatives such as the Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition. It should come as no surprise when ordinary women and girls manifest loathing and abusive tendencies towards their own bodies, when they feel threatened by impossible comparisons and expectations. The enduring glance, sparked by the sexual attractiveness of the other, is never meant be directed askance by the vite of pornography, but instead to point towards a personal and committed marital love, purified of exploitative and objectifying tendencies.

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

HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

the bereaved, one person or group at a time, is a gift wrapped in my own grief experience. I learn so much from each individual and the bond that grows out of the healing is strong and steadfast.

Just the other day, a friend, four years out from the death of her husband, relayed to me that she would be joining a newly established grief support group at her parish. She had participated earlier in a group I facilitated and after two years there had rejoined life in earnest. Now she says she feels called to be a witness to others who are in deep grief, offering not only her friendship, but her compassion and understanding. She suspects she will be a treasured asset to the new group and find purpose and meaning for herself as well.

Finding meaning in life after the death of a loved one is an essential part of healing and can take so many forms — working with the bereaved is only one. I have seen those who mourn a lost loved one take up meaningful activities from the simple to the complex. One family established an annual 5K run to honor their deceased patriarch. The proceeds of the exciting annual community event are donated to their loved one’s favorite charity. Each year as the family members gather to organize the ever-expanding run, healing grace shines light on all the participants.

A widow I met had always had an interest in floral arranging but never found the time to pursue it in her youth. Following her husband’s death, after a few painful years of questioning her worth and purpose, she chose to volunteer at a local florist. The joy she now feels using her innate artistic talent and love of flowers brings new life to her days knowing that her bright bouquets bring pleasure and meaning to others. And she was eventually hired by the shop owner and has established delightful friendships with her co-workers who she calls family.

We must remember to be gentle with ourselves as we move closer to that peaceful shore, after fighting the raging seas of grief. Taking the time to investigate what will bring meaning to our lives is an important step in reaching a future filled with hope and joy.

Father Tad Pacholczyk

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

RICH MAN
MY MASTER WELCOME ME FIFTY GENERATION WEALTH SERVE

PROPERTY TAKING OLIVE WHEAT
LIGHT ETERNAL HATE ONE

I HEAR STRONG SIT DOWN DISHONEST FRIENDS TRUST DESPISE

INVETIVE

P R O P E R T Y T F I F
M Y M A S T E R N M G T
K E D O I H E A R E H S
W L M I P D S I N D O U
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E G F E T E R A L G T

SCRUPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for September 22, 2013


Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: a crafty person lives by the world’s rules. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

INVENTIVE

ACROSS
1 Ashamed to ___ ditches
4 Capital of Norway ___
5 ___ of Sheba ___
6 Word-breaking ___
8 Rhinoceros ___
11 After awhile ___
16 ___ is ___ ___
18 ___ wine from ___
22 ___ wine from ___
27 “The plot’ s ___”
31 This is ___ and ___
36 ___ cat off ___
37 ___ wine from ___
38 ___ wine from ___
39 ___ cat off ___
40 ___ wine from ___
44 ___ wine from ___
45 ___ wine from ___
46 ___ wine from ___
47 ___ wine from ___
48 ___ wine from ___
49 ___ wine from ___
50 ___ wine from ___
51 ___ wine from ___
52 ___ wine from ___
53 ___ wine from ___
55 “To the king of ___”
57 “To the king of ___”
59 “To the king of ___”

DOWN
1 Bad firework ___
2 Anger ___
3 ___ wine from ___
4 Opaque gem ___
5 Color deficient ___
6 Word-breaking ___
7 Bishop does to priests ___
8 ___ wine from ___
9 ___ wine from ___
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Look for the words: DISHONEST FRIENDS, TRUST DESPISE, FIFTY, FIFTY, and FIFTY.
MISHAWAKA MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS’ SOCCER COACH CELEBRATES 20TH VICTORY The Knights 4-0 victory against the Panthers of South Bend Washington was celebrated with little fanfare as the quiet general praised his team for their continued improvement and determination. Ben Householder’s 200th career victory milestone during his 17-year run was accomplished at the helm of the Marian boys’ soccer program, 157 victories more than any other coach in school history. Among Householder’s coaching accomplishments are the school’s only sectional (5), regional (4) semi-state runner up (2) and semi-state championships partnered with numerous Coach of the Year honors. — Joe Kozinski

CYO football:
Weeks 2, 3 and 4 in review

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football teams have been busy on the gridiron with three more weeks of action. Coach Jim Carroll and the St. John, Fort Wayne/St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel (SJFW/HC) Eagles improved to 3-0 after big wins in Weeks 2 and 3.

On a hot Saturday afternoon of Labor Day weekend, the Eagles got by St. Charles, 7-6, at Bishop Dwenger field. The Cardinals led most of the game, but SJFW/HC did not quit and tied it up on a DeShawn BUssel 40-yard run. LaShon Bright plunged over the goal line for the 40-yard run. LaShon Bright

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ICCL game of the week: Mishawaka Saints square off with West Side Cardinals

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — As bleachers chattered with people, freshly popped corn filled the air and the skies darkened, it could only mean one thing, the Inter-City Catholic League’s football season was in full swing.

Mishawaka High School’s Otoleski Field hosted the powerful Mishawaka Catholic Saints as they squared off against the undefeated West Side Catholic Cardinals.

The first possession of the game for the Cardinals foreshadowed the relentless pursuit of the athletic and powerful defensive line of their foes as Ike Branson blew up the would-be blockers and had two huge sacks giving West Side a 4th and 35 with nowhere to hide.

Working with a short field the Saints took little time to establish a formidable ground attack, and just that quickly Julian Keutjes ran in a 14-yard touchdown. Edgar Moralís’ points after kick was true giving Mishawaka Catholic an 8-0 lead.

The west siders again spelled disaster for the Saints second time in as many possessions. Starting the second stanza, the Saints stayed on the ground with a 10-yard run by Ronnie King followed with the rush of the day as Keutjes broke two tackles, spun, regained his balance and then tugged down the sideline 65 yards to the 10-yard run by Ronnie King followed with the rush of the day as Keutjes broke two tackles, spun, regained his balance and then tugged down the sideline 65 yards to the

The Cardinals made their adjustments on the offensive end as the Saints penetrated the line into the backfield. The west siders threw into the flat to Andrew Washburn to start moving the chains.

With a nice rhythm developing, an errant snap and a sack by the Saints’ Zack Whitfield put the Cardinals in a hole, a 20-yard pass play from Ruszkowski to Jake Pipp came up short of the first down stakes and again Mishawaka Catholic had the pigskin in their possession.

The first play of the fourth quarter again spelled disaster for the Cardinals as Keutjes found the endzone making the margin 26-0.

Most teams would have folded but the Cardinals marched on using their skill position players to move the chains and drive the ball down field. They ended the drive with a 25-yard pass and catch by Ruszkowski to a sliding Brady Powers ending the drought and making the score 26-6.

The story of the game would be big plays for the Saints and they had one more left in them as on the ensuing kickoff, Wheaton Webb, scampered 70 yards for the final scoring play of the contest.

“The Saints today was a huge assignment for us. They play a physical brand of football that was hard for us to match,” stated Cardinal Coach Giles Horban.

“We are trying to instill a winning attitude and I think we are making progress. I believe we have a good football team and we can develop over the next couple of weeks and be a factor come playoff time.”

“I was hoping that our big five (lineman) would have a good day and they really came through, commented long-time Saints’ coach Tony Violi. “I think we have a nice group here and the biggest attribute this team has is that they listen well.”

“We had a difficult time today handling the Cardinals’ Aiden Kendall. He was a beast defensively for them,” added Violi. “I think Coach Horban is doing a great job with his squad. They have a lot of things going for them and are going to give other teams in the league fits.”

In other play around the league, the Holy Cross Crusaders stymied the Blazers of St. Matthew, 19-7, behind a 25-yard pass play from Drew Sutton to Ben Terry and a Hunter West 25-yard TD run. Sutton also added a two-yard burst. St. Matthew’s Jose Vasquez had a 60-yard touchdown jaunt in the loss.

The Panthers of St. Anthony played Elkhart Christian in an exhibition and outlasted the Eagles, 18-13. Charlie McFadden had two touchdown runs and Ben Lamont added another in the victory.

The ICCL will continue action this weekend at both Marian and Saint Joseph high schools. The complete schedule can be found at www.icclsports.org.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

Joint Mission to ‘Rediscover the Joy’

Fort Wayne — St. Peter and St. Mary Parish will hold a joint mission Sept. 30 through Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m. The first two evenings will be held at St. Mary and the last two evenings will be held at St. Peter. Refreshments will be served after the services and limited childcare will be provided.

Dinner and auction supports Christ Child Society

South Bend — The Christ Child Society will hold its “Let Love Shine” dinner and auction Wednesday, Oct. 9, in the Grand Ballroom at the Morris Inn to benefit its clothing center and outreach programs. Cocktails and silent auction begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and live auction to follow. Tickets are $100 each. For tickets or information, contact Linda Brammer at (574) 287-5048 or macbrame@hotmail.com.

St. Gaspar plans Fancy Fair

Rome City — The annual Fancy Fair craft and cookie bar bazaar will be held Saturday, Oct. 26, from 9-2 p.m. at St. Gaspar Church, 10871 N. St. Rd 9. Tables are available for vendors at a cost of $20. Contact Luanne Shull at (574) 202-3007 for information.

Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Meek and Humble of Heart.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $20 and includes lunch. Register by Sept. 20 to Sister Barbara Annette Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Oktoberfest at the K of C

Huntington — The Knights of Columbus, 2817 Theater Ave., will celebrate German heritage Saturday, Sept. 28. Doors open at 5 p.m., food served 5:30-8 p.m. German food, music, beer and German costume prizes awarded. Special menu includes bratwurst dinner plate with German potato salad, kraut and dessert. German pretzels with cheese and mustard will also be available.

Knights plan breakfast at Queen of Angels

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will host a breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the activities center at Queen of Angels, 1500 W. State Blvd. Adults $7, children 6-12 $3 and a family $20. Carry-out will be available. Proceeds will benefit the Bill Roth Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Fall festival planned

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish, 11337 Old US Hwy 27, will have a fall festival Saturday, Sept. 28, at the church. Softball tournament, concessions, auctions, bingo, chicken dinner and more. Music in the beer tent from 8-11 p.m. Call (260) 639-3748 for information.

St. Bernard Parish starts youth group

Wabash — The St. Bernard Parish youth group Wabash — The St. Bernard Parish LYP “Light Your Fire” youth group will begin meetings on the first and third Sundays of the month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the church. All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome. Upcoming events include: hiking at Salamonie, bonfire and hayride at the Ross’ compound, bowling. Amazing Race night, laser tag, caroling and more.

Like on Facebook at St B Student LYP. Contact Steve and Lisa Kroh at (260) 569-0044; Todd and Angel Shear at (260) 774-3567; Shannon Tracy at (260) 906-6509; or Brian and Steph Gottschalk for information.

St. Patrick to hold annual brat and fish fry to benefit historic church

Lagro — St. Patrick Oratory will have a brat and fish fry Friday, Sept. 20, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 595 S. Wabash St. Wabash. Tickets are $7 in advance or $8 at the door. Call (260) 563-1008 for information. Proceeds will benefit brick repair on the historic church.

St. Joseph County Right to Life dinner

South Bend — The St. Joseph County Right to Life dinner will be Thursday, Oct. 10, at the Century Center. Social hour at 6 p.m. is followed by dinner and program at 7 p.m. Keynote speaker for the event will be Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood clinic director. Also featured will be Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Tickets for the event are $45 per person and can be obtained by calling (574) 232-5433.

Respect Life Walk planned

LaGrange — The Knights of Columbus Council 13962 and St. Joseph Church are sponsoring a Respect Life Walk at the LaGrange County Courthouse on Saturday, Oct. 12. The walk will be from 11 a.m. to noon.

Pancake breakfast

Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger High School will host a pancake breakfast Saturday, Sept. 28, from 8 a.m. to noon in the Bishop Dwenger Cafeteria. Music students will perform throughout. Tickets are $6 for adults and $3 for children 10 and under. Family price is $25. Tickets will benefit the Bishop Dwenger music department.

Knights plan fish fry

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

Preferences are important... Don’t settle.

If the funeral home you preplanned with is no longer what you had in mind, the prearrangements may be transferred to us. Please call us — we can help.
Celebrate with us!
Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

SEPTEMBER 29, 2013
2 pm Holy Sacrifice of the mass
Celebrant: Rev. Daniel Scheidt
Reception Following
St. Francis Convent, Main Chapel
1515 W. Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544

OCTOBER 13, 2013
2 pm Holy Sacrifice of the mass
Celebrant: Most Rev. Kevin Rhoades
Reception Following
University of Saint Francis, North Campus
2702 Spring Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Our Presence in the Diocese

St. Patrick School ......................... Largo ........... 1889-1895
University of St. Francis .............. Fort Wayne ...... 1890-present
Holy Family School .................... Hartford City .... 1909-1971
St. Andrew School ..................... Fort Wayne ...... 1911-1971
St. John School ......................... Goshen .......... 1917-1934
St. Mary School ......................... Huntington .... 1921-2000
Sacred Heart School ................. South Bend ...... 1952-1960
St. John the Baptist School ......... South Bend ...... 1956-1994
St. Therese School ................. Fort Wayne ...... 1957-1986
Queen of Peace School ............ Mishawaka ...... 1958-1970
Marian High School ................... Mishawaka ...... 1964-present
Primary Day School ................. South Bend ...... 1968-1985
St. Anthony de Padua School ...... South Bend ...... 2009-present
Franciscan Alliance Corp. Office .... Mishawaka ...... 1974-present