FORT WAYNE — The Year of Faith, an initiative promulgated by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, is coming to a close this month. A closing Mass, with a plenary indulgence attached (details presented in the Nov. 10 issue of Today’s Catholic) will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Nov. 24, the feast of Christ the King. The Mass will feature three choirs from St. Augustine, St. Matthew Cathedral and a Hispanic choir from St. Dominic in Bremen.

During this Year of Faith several faith-building observances and initiatives were planned, not only on a worldwide scale, but also at the diocesan and parish level. Locally, the year began with an opening Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Oct. 11, 2012, a date that coincided with the 50th anniversary of the opening of Second Vatican Council.

To enhance the year’s journey in faith building, Bishop Rhoades commissioned a laminated prayer card featuring the Apostles’ Creed and other faith devotions for the faithful of the diocese. ARISE Together in Christ, sponsored by the diocese and Renew International began in earnest last year at many parishes. ARISE is a process that builds upon the small Christian community model, and works to increase open dialogue and faith sharing in participants homes, or select gathering spaces.

BY KAY COZAD

FALLING INTO SERVICE

BY TIM JOHNSON

More than 500 Saint Joseph High School students offered Sunday, Nov. 10, to partner with REAL Services and rake leaves at over 100 homes. The annual “Work for Saint Joe” day began in November of 1995.

Sisters celebrate beatification of Blessed Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel

Sisters of St. Francis in Mishawaka, told Today’s Catholic, “Shortly after our arrival in Germany at the motherhouse, we were taken to a room near the chapel where the casket of Mother Maria Theresia was placed until her remains were to be transferred to St. Martin Church in Olpe the Monday after the beatification. It was such a privilege to be able to go into this room and pray these days prior to the beatification.”

The pilgrims attended a prayer vigil in Paderborn on Saturday evening, Nov. 9, and returned the following day for the beatification.

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BY TIM JOHNSON

PADERBORN, Germany — A Catholic nun who was born into a poor rural family and founded a religious order has been beatified in her native Germany more than a century after her death. Her impact is felt also in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as the foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka.

The beatification Mass on Nov. 10 was one of several activities that pilgrims from the diocese — including 47 Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who concelebrated the beatification Mass, and three diocesan priests — took part in during the week.

Sister Angela Mellady, provincial of the Sisters of St. Francis in Mishawaka, told Today’s Catholic, “Shortly after our arrival in Germany at the motherhouse, we were taken to a room near the chapel where the casket of Mother Maria Theresia was placed until her remains were to be transferred to St. Martin Church in Olpe the Monday after the beatification. It was such a privilege to be able to go into this room and pray these days prior to the beatification.”

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“Of the most moving events was the unveiling of her picture in the sanctuary,” Sister Angela said. “The picture was directly behind where Bishop Rhoades was seated, which made it
It was a great joy and blessing for me to join 47 of our Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Paderborn, Germany on Sunday, November 10th, for the beatification of their holy foundress, Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel. Three priests of our diocese were also present for the beatification: Fathers Daniel Schiefer, Jason Freiburger, and Ben Muhlenkamp.

I concelebrated the beautiful beatification Mass in the 700-year old Paderborn Cathedral with Cardinal Angelo Amato, the Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and the Archbishop and Auxiliary Bishops of Paderborn. At the beginning of Mass, after Mother Maria Theresia was proclaimed “Blessed,” a beautiful painting of her was unveiled in the sanctuary. It was an emotional moment for the sisters and all present.

On the next day, November 11th, the festivities continued in the city of Olpe, Mother Maria Theresia’s hometown and the site of the congregation’s motherhouse. November 11th is a special day in Germany — the feast of Saint Martin of Tours. Saint Martin is the patron saint of the parish in Olpe. The city’s coat of arms shows Saint Martin giving half of his cloak to a beggar.

After Vespers in the motherhouse chapel, we processed in cars and buses to Saint Martin’s Church, where a Blessed Sacrament procession was held. Saint Martin’s Church was constructed, with a tomb inside, as the permanent resting place for Blessed Maria Theresia’s body. Saint Martin’s Church where a Blessed Sacrament chapel was constructed, with a tomb inside, as the permanent resting place for Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel.

The German people were surprised and grateful to see many young American sisters. The Sisters of Saint Francis in Olpe are not attracting new vocations, unlike our Sisters in Mishawaka. The German people were surprised and grateful to see many young American sisters.

The German bishops also shared with me some signs of hope as a growing number of young Germans are getting involved in the Church. Though this is a minority, their commitment to the faith is strong. The new evangelization is not just about numbers: it requires deep commitment to Christ and witness to Him in the midst of a secularized culture. It is like Our Lord’s parable of the mustard seed, a tiny seed, that grows into a large bush. It is good to keep this in mind. The new evangelization involves authentic conversion to discipleship, the rediscovery of faith and its power and beauty.

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Holy men and women, witnesses of faith like Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel, teach us the beauty of following the Lord Jesus in our lives. They teach us to bear witness to the fact that we are Christian: in the family, in the workplace, and in public life. We are to live by faith with constancy and not grow lazy in our practice.

At the beginning of this Year of Faith, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote: “What the world is in particular need of today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord, and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life without end.”

May Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel intercede for us and our diocese in the work of the new evangelization!

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Sisters of St. Francis pray over the casket of Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel at the motherhouse in Olpe, Germany, before the casket was taken to the parish church.
Bishops elect new leaders, approve liturgical texts, discuss relief aid

Baltimore (CNS) — The U.S. bishops at their fall general assembly in Baltimore elected new leaders, discussed taking a second collection in their dioceses for typhoon relief in the Philippines, reviewed efforts to defend traditional marriage and religious liberty, and approved development of a statement on the dangers of pornography.

They also passed a number of liturgical items, including the use of a Mexican translation of the Roman Missal, and approved a budget for 2014 and a 3 percent increase in the diocesan assessment for 2015.

The actions came during the first two days of their Nov. 11-14 meeting. The bishop group that meets in tandem behind closed doors in executive session Nov. 13 and 14.

On Nov. 12, the bishops, by a wide margin, elected Bishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., to succeed New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The archbishop had been USCCB vice president. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston was elected vice president.

Both prelates were originally chosen as three-year-term as the conclusion of the USCCB meeting.

In an interview with Catholic News Service, Archbishop Kurtz spoke of seeing the example of Pope Francis as a model for outreach, listening and collegiality.

“He’s asking us to go beyond what we’ve been doing,” he said.

Cardinal DiNardo had been set to become USCCB president at the end of the bishops’ meeting in 2015.

The bishops, Nov. 12, approved the development of a pastoral statement on the dangers pornography poses to the increasing availability and use as a teaching tool for Church leaders. The Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth will develop the statement, providing a draft to the bishops in 2015.

“The more pornography spreads, the more violent and debased it becomes and the more it exploits the men and women who are part of the industry,” explained Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, N.Y., incoming chair of the committee.

Citing the explosion of pornography on the Internet and its exploitation of women, men and children, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, outgoing chairman of the committee, said the U.S. bishops’ National Advisory Council, better known as the “Knights of Columbus” grant, to the bishops on the fall meeting and added a few more items, spanning a request the bishops could make a concerted effort to make Catholic education more available to underserved populations.

The council also suggested the bishops review the federal government’s Comprehensive Core State Standards initiative and consider a recommendation for mentoring and training programs for newly ordained priests.

The bishops elected three new members of the Catholic Relief Services board: Bishops William P. Callahan of La Crosse, Wis., Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., and Ciro B. Flores of San Diego. They also elected Bishop Richard J. Garcia of Monterey, Calif., and Miami Auxiliary Bishop Thomas W. Lambrecht to the board of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, better known as CLINIC.

Contributing to this report were Mark Pattison, Patricia Zapor and Dennis Sadowski in Baltimore and Carol Zimmerman in Washington.

Collection Nov. 30-Dec. 1 supports CRS relief efforts in Philippines, Vietnam

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During these days, we continue to mourn the terrible suffering of our brothers and sisters affected by the powerful storms that destroyed villages and devastated cities across the Philippines and Vietnam. We pray for the survivors and for the thousands who died in Super Typhoon Haiyan.

Our Catholic Relief Services has been hard at work in responding to this severe disaster. The help of the Catholic community in the United States is urgently needed to provide funds for CRS’s relief efforts.

I have, therefore, asked that a second collection be taken up for this cause at all Masses in the diocese on the weekend of November 30-December 1, the first Sunday of Advent. As we begin our preparations for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord, I ask you to be generous in giving support for our suffering brothers and sisters affected by the devastating storms.

The funds collected will be used to support the efforts of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services as we respond to emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter and medical care and assist in the long-term recovery from the disaster.

I ask each of you to support this need and we’re asking your parishes to take up this collection on the Sunday of your choice.

Thank you.

+Kevin C. Rhoades
Most Reverend Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

• Sunday, Nov. 24, 5:30 p.m. — Closing Mass of Year of Faith, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
• Monday, Nov. 25, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop’s Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
• Tuesday, Nov. 26, 7 p.m. — Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Achduth Besholom Temple, Fort Wayne

The U.S. bishops’ National Advisory Council, a 48-member group that meets in tandem with meetings of the bishops’ Administrative Committee, gave “strong agreement” to the major items on the agenda for the fall meeting and added a few more items, including a request the bishops make a concerted effort to make Catholic education more available to underserved populations.

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SOUTH BEND — Pilgrims gathered outside St. Joseph Catholic Church in South Bend, braving the elements as they embarked on a pilgrimage Wednesday evening, Nov. 13, promoting comprehensive immigration reform. The pilgrimage, organized by St. Adalbert parishioner Jesusa Rivera in collaboration with the Notre Dame Institute for Latino Studies, culminated in a reception held at the Hesburgh Center on the University of Notre Dame campus, where students and faculty received the pilgrims with song, prayer and a meal.

Following the reception, the pilgrims attended a lecture in the Arthur Foundation Transformative Latino Leadership Lecture Series given by Carlos Eire, professor of history and religious studies at Yale University, who spoke on his experience as a Cuban immigrant.

The event was timed to coincide with the feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, herself an Italian immigrant to the United States, and patron saint of immigrants.

Evelyn Gonzalez, a Holy Cross student who assisted in the planning of the pilgrimage, commented that while many immigration reform events focus strictly on politics, they specifically wanted to hold a prayerful pilgrimage for reform.

“What better way to celebrate St. Frances Xavier Cabrini than this?” Gonzalez said.

Parishioners from St. Adalbert Catholic Church, including several families with young children, were joined by students from Holy Cross College for the walk from St. Joseph to the campus of Notre Dame. The majority of the event’s participants were among the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., for whom the issue of immigration reform is of great personal consequence.

“I wanted to participate in this event because it’s something that affects us directly,” said Maria Lopez, a mother of three, who also participated in a march held three years ago in Indianapolis.

Several Latino Holy Cross students also attended the pilgrimage, age, representing the thousands of undocumented youth in the U.S. who are potential beneficiaries of the DREAM Act. Gonzalez herself has recently been approved for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), a temporary legal status awarded to young people between the ages of 15 and 31 who were brought to the U.S. as children. This is a positive step, she says, “But the rest of my family is still left out in the cold.”

Gonzalez currently works alongside other activists to push for comprehensive immigration reform, and feels that garnering political support for this issue is an urgent matter. “Now is the time,” Gonzalez emphasized.

Jesusa Rivera, who works as an advocate for immigrant rights at both local and national levels, explained that the remaining weeks before midterm-December are critical for pushing immigration reform in the House of Representatives. The stakes are high, Rivera said. “If it stalls now, we’ll wait another five, six years, maybe more.”

Rivera chairs the committee for Civil Rights for Immigrants within the Indiana Organizing Project, and has helped to promote awareness and activism for immigration reform at her home parish of St. Adalbert.

She has spearheaded efforts through the parish to capture the attention of Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-Ind.-2), in hopes that the Congresswoman will take up the cause of immigration reform for her constituency.

Rivara was inspired to organize the pilgrimage for reform on Frances Cabrini’s feast day because she wanted an opportunity for local Latino Catholics to experience the support of the larger Catholic community, particularly at Notre Dame. “For this group to be welcomed here at Notre Dame — this is what it’s all about. We just need our legislators to pay attention and push for the same kind of solidarity,”

Dr. Timothy Matovina, executive director of Institute for Latino Studies at Notre Dame, was the first to welcome the pilgrims who arrived at the Hesburgh Center. The evening was an occasion, Matovina remarked, “for asking the saints to accompany our struggle for a more just society.”

In keeping with the spirit of the evening, Dr. Carlos Eire spoke in his lecture about the challenges he encountered as an immigrant to the U.S. Eire was one of the 14,000 children airlifted out of Cuba during Operation Peter Pan in the early 1960s. While the difficulties Eire faced as a child refugee certainly differ from those of many Hispanic immigrants today, his stories of the discrimination he experienced still ring true.

“It has to do with how we see one another,” asserted Rivera. “If we are all made in the image of God, then where is the justice? It doesn’t make sense for some of us to be treated as less than human, I, for one, can’t sit by and let it happen.”

Still waiting, working, walking
VITAL HUMAN ISSUES DEBATED AT ETHICS AND CULTURE CONFERENCE

By Ann Carey

NOTRE DAME — Many of the vital human issues being debated in today’s culture were discussed in depth earlier this month at the 14th annual conference of the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture. With the theme “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: The Body and Human Identity,” the Nov. 7-9 conference featured presentations on topics ranging from marriage, pregnancy and parenthood to abortion, genocide, torture, genetic testing, mental health and sexual identity.

In the Nov. 7 opening keynote address, Gilbert Meilaender of Valparaiso University spoke about human procreation, saying that having children is an act of faith, hope and love. Meilaender, a theology professor who has been a member of the President’s Council on Bioethics since its inception in 2002, said that modern science has raised some “bizarre” ideas about life extension and age retardation. Instead of being concerned about extending one’s own life span well into triple digits, he said, people should be more concerned about producing and nurturing the next generation.

“Gratitude for the sheer wonder of life is at the heart of human procreation,” Meilaender explained. By having children, that gratitude is expressed and something of the parents is left behind in those children. Parenting also images divine life, he continued, and it trains parents in virtue as they care for and nurture the next generation for the sake of wisdom, not power.

Multiple conference sessions over the two days featured presentations by over 70 scholars and other professionals from around the United States as well as a few from abroad. In a session on “Property and the Body” Lorenzo Violini, a law professor at the University of Milan, spoke about “Human Dignity and Human Rights in the Era of Genetic Research.” She compared European laws governing genetic research to such laws in the U.S., concluding that U.S. judges have been less likely than European judges to consider the moral implications of such research, which remains less regulated in this country than in Europe.

In that same session, Melissa Moschella, a philosophy professor at The Catholic University of America, discussed the ethics of artificial reproductive technologies, concluding that these techniques must be rejected because children have the right to be loved and reared by their biological parents. Thus, conceiving a child with an egg or sperm donor is always morally problematic, she concluded.

Likewise, in the same session, Notre Dame Law Professor Margaret Brinig discussed surrogate motherhood. She brought out many of the moral issues regarding surrogate, including exploitation of poor women and the commodification of children. Surrogacy is legal in many of the states, she said, but those laws look at surrogacy in terms of rights rather than the reality that in a surrogacy arrangement, a child is involved who has a relationship to the surrogate and the genetic parents, as well as the intended parents.

“The Catholic Church’s position on the other hand, she said, considers relationships to be essential. The Church sees the relationship between spouses that creates life as a parallel to the love between the Father and the Son that produces the Spirit, she said.

“Parents cooperate with God the Creator and are interpreters of that love,” Brinig explained.

Presenting in a session on “The Body and Morality” was Mark Cherry, a professor of applied ethics and philosophy at St. Edward’s University, Austin, Texas. Cherry cited the cultural shift against traditional sexual moral norms. Those traditional norms have been replaced by a presumption of sexual freedom and satisfaction, separated from reproduction, he said.

This extraordinary shift of disconnecting sex from traditional family life to a presumption of sexual freedom has grave social, economic and medical consequences, Cherry explained. These consequences include a rising population of children born outside marriage, exploitation of women, rise in sexually transmitted disease, demand for abortion and rejection of children judged to be disabled.

This “new morality,” Cherry said, is convinced of the non-existence of God and focused only on function, placing persons rather than God as authority.

“Without God, morality is no more than what humans make of it; without God, morality is not grounded in objective being.”

— Mark Cherry

November 24, 2013

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5:30 p.m.

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St. Matthew Cathedral

1701 Miami Street

South Bend
Catholic Missionary Overcomes Terrible Accident, Finds New Mission Helping Handicapped

When an oncoming car slammed into Grace Okalany in 1990, she had no idea God was using the event to make her a more effective disciple for his people.

In the moment of the accident, all she could think about was her pain.

Grace’s hip, pelvis and femur were severely broken. Doctors tried implanting an artificial hip, but her body rejected it.

For three long years, she struggled through recovery and excruciating rehabilitation at a treatment center in Nairobi, Kenya.

To this day, she bears the physical burden of that accident — one leg is shorter than the other and she must use crutches to walk.

“I felt so weak,” Grace recalled. “I thought God had left me to die in the hospital.”

Grace returned to Uganda after her treatment was complete and there met Father John Ahimbisibwe, coordinator of Wisdom Training Center, an outreach run by the Montfort Fathers in western Uganda.

The ministry is a vocational training center where handicapped young adults living in poverty learn life-skills and income-generating careers like tailoring, shoe repair, and agriculture.

Fr. John convinced Grace to join his work — and she immediately saw how the car accident had uniquely prepared her for this special service at the center.

“Since I am handicapped myself, I can relate to the young adults; they open up to me,” Grace said. “I understand their frustrations, the discrimination they face, and their desire to succeed. Because I understand them, I can better help them.”

Advancing from volunteer to secretary to director, Grace works among the disabled every day, pouring her compassion and skills into helping them improve their lives.

In Uganda and other poor countries, the disabled routinely experience discrimination and abuse. They are often denied the opportunity to attend school.

The 15 to 25-year-olds who come to Grace are often can’t read or write and have been shunned by their families and society, but they all have a burning desire to learn, Grace said.

“Cross” Now Endorsed by More Than 60 Bishops, Archbishops

As Cross Catholic Outreach continues its range of relief work to help the poor overseas, its efforts are being recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S.

“We’ve received an impressive number of endorsements from American Bishops and Archbishops — 60 Catholic leaders at last count,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO). “They’re impressed by the fact that we’ve done outreaches in more than 40 countries and that we undertake a variety of projects; everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor.”

Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis sent one of the more recent letters of encouragement, writing: “It is my hope that this ministry will continue to flourish and reach as many people as possible. I will inform the priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis of the important work that Cross Catholic Outreach does and elicit their prayerful and financial support for the service you provide to the less fortunate around the world.”

In addition to praising the work CCO accomplishes, many of the Bishops and Archbishops are also impressed by the unique collaborative relationship Cross Catholic Outreach has with the Pontifical Council Cor Unum in Rome. This allows the charity to participate in the mercy ministries of the Holy Father himself.

In his praise of CCO, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of Cincinnati said, “Supporting a project like Wisdom Training Outreach has now supported Wisdom Training Center for more than five years, providing them with workshop equipment, training materials, teachers’ salaries, food, and other operational assistance.”

Jim Cavnar, the president of Cross Catholic Outreach believes even more can be done.

“The work of Grace and the Montfort Fathers is the kind of service that resonates with Catholics because it affirms that each person is eternally valuable in God’s eyes,” he said. “As more American Catholics become aware of what the Wisdom Training Center is doing, I believe their support will increase and the outreach will expand, not just here but everywhere the handicapped are struggling for respect and hope.”

“Supporting a project like Wisdom Training Center is a way for us as Catholics to say to a handicapped person, ‘You are loved by Christ. You are worthy, and we brothers and sisters in Christ are here for you,’” Cavnar added.

For Grace, knowing American Catholics are standing with her through Cross Catholic Outreach is an invaluable source of strength.

“It sparks a hope in her that radiates outward to the students, giving them greater self-worth, energy and optimism. “We are all one family in Christ,”” Grace said. “The help we’ve received from our American ‘family’ through Cross Catholic Outreach is a blessing. I want to thank them for their support and prayers, because we couldn’t do any of this life-changing work without them.”

To support the worldwide outreaches of Cross Catholic Outreach, look for the ministry brochure enclosed in this issue of the paper or mail your donation to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01014, PO Box 9558, Wilton, CT 03895-9558. All contributions to the ministry are tax deductible.

Elias is one of the many young people benefiting from the services of the Wisdom Training Center. At 19-years-old, he is finally getting the opportunity to make use of his artistic skills.

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Christ’s Love for Blind, Handicapped Serves As Inspiration for Catholic Missions Helping the Poor

In the ninth chapter of the book of John, the Apostle describes Jesus giving a blind man sight to glorify God. In the story, John shows how faith and a simple dab of mud were used as instruments of a miracle — ultimately giving new hope to the handicapped man. Even today, thousands of years later, we recognize this act as an amazing example of our Lord’s power and love.

When Sister Emma Kalombe looks to this story, she wishes she could, like Jesus, smear mud on the eyes of deaf/blind children to cure them. She and the other Servants of the Blessed Virgin Mary ache to have their wards transformed. Since she hasn’t been so blessed with a miracle, Sister Emma does what she can instead. She helps the children blossom and find hope in other ways.

“These children have something to offer that the world needs. We help them glorify God through their faith, joy and talents,” she said. “We work with them to bring those blessings out.”

This service is not without its tears, however. Many of the children have histories of past suffering that pierce the nun’s heart with grief. Sr. Emma recalls one deaf/blind boy named John [his name is changed here to protect his identity] whose parents worked Outreach-sponsored school when she was 5 years old. At the time, she couldn’t walk or talk. Her impoverished mother, Regina, was struggling to raise her in a shack within Manila’s worst slum neighborhood. Today, thanks to free therapy provided by the Cross Catholic Outreach-funded school, Mishineca is thriving. She loves to dance, sing, and help her mother around the house. No longer trapped in a terrible home, she has new opportunities and enjoys life. The school also provides food for the family. “One day, Mishineca will be capable of independence and the normal life of an adult,” Regina said proudly. “The school is giving her the tools and helping her achieve that confidence. She will not let others take advantage of her. The Lord has done this.”

Mishineca is just one example of the many handicapped children who now lives a better life because American Catholics ministered to her through Cross Catholic Outreach.

“As a Catholic ministry, we know the value of every human life. So do the Catholics who support us,” Cavnar said. “Working together, we want to help poor families see disabled children as a gift from God. We want to give those children an opportunity to succeed in experience God’s love — perhaps for the first time.”

For some of the ministries serving handicapped children, a significant portion of their budgets come through Cross Catholic Outreach. Such outreachs would either close or need to reduce their services drastically without that help.

“Physically and mentally handicapped children are largely ignored in many areas of the world,” said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a ministry alleviating poverty among “the least of these’” worldwide. “Even in cases where the parents are attentive, they are often too poor to provide the special care a disabled child needs to lead a fulfilling life. The poor can’t

Worldwide, millions of handicapped children in developing countries live in the shadows like John, forced to the edges of humanity by social stigmas and, more often, extreme poverty. Parents of disabled children in the developing world are too poor to properly care for them — when there’s barely enough food for the family to eat, much-needed physical therapy, special schools and doctor’s visits are out of the question.

“My heart aches to have their wards transformed. Since she hasn’t been so blessed with a miracle, Sister Emma does what she can instead. She helps the children blossom and find hope in other ways. “These children have something to offer that the world needs. We help them glorify God through their faith, joy and talents,” she said. “We work with them to bring those blessings out.”

This service is not without its tears, however. Many of the children have histories of past suffering that pierce the nun’s heart with grief. Sr. Emma recalls one deaf/blind boy named John [his name is changed here to protect his identity] whose parents worked Outreach-sponsored school when she was 5 years old. At the time, she couldn’t walk or talk. Her impoverished mother, Regina, was struggling to raise her in a shack within Manila’s worst slum neighborhood. Today, thanks to free therapy provided by the Cross Catholic Outreach-funded school, Mishineca is thriving. She loves to dance, sing, and help her mother around the house. No longer trapped in a terrible home, she has new opportunities and enjoys life. The school also provides food for the family. “One day, Mishineca will be capable of independence and the normal life of an adult,” Regina said proudly. “The school is giving her the tools and helping her achieve that confidence. She will not let others take advantage of her. The Lord has done this.”

Mishineca is just one example of the many handicapped children who now lives a better life because American Catholics ministered to her through Cross Catholic Outreach.

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For some of the ministries serving handicapped children, a significant portion of their budgets come through Cross Catholic Outreach. Such outreachs would either close or need to reduce their services drastically without that help.

“There really is a direct link between American Catholics and the success of the work being done. To put it simply — these outreachs wouldn’t be possible without outside support. Fortunately, American Catholics remain involved and their generosity is amazing, especially toward disabled children,” Cavnar said. “I’m confident my fellow Catholics will continue to see the eternal worth of the ‘least of these’ among us and keep supporting our work — the kind of work that touches children like John in Malawi.”

Because John’s parents have allowed him to live and study at Sister Emma’s ministry, the young boy’s life has taken a remarkable turn from its difficult start. Where there was darkness, there is now light. Where there was despair, new hope is taking root. It is the kind of physical and spiritual transformation that only God can orchestrate.

“The Lord has brought us together to serve handicapped children and save them from the darkness,” Sr. Emma said. “He uses our outreach, a dedicated staff and financial support from America to achieve this. Praise God!”

How to Help:
Your help is needed for Cross Catholic Outreach to bring Christ’s mercy to the poorest of the poor. To make a donation, use the enclosed postage-paid brochure or mail a gift to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01014, PO Box 9558, Wilton, NH 03086-9558.
The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration are shown at the vigil service on Nov. 9.

Archbishop Hans-Josef Becker of Paderborn, center, and other prelates, including Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, attend a ceremony for the reburial of the remains of Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel in St. Martin's Church in Olpe, Germany, Nov. 11. Blessed Maria Theresia (1830-1905) was the foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

BONZEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

even more special.”

Sister Angela said of the beatification: “It was such a gift to be among so many other people who have such a devotion to Mother Maria Theresia — from all walks of life. Many of us learned about our foundress through books, and this experience of being present among her relatives, our sisters from throughout the world and the people of Olpe provided such an opportunity to know and love her even more.”

Sister Angela said many of the sisters commented that the celebration on Monday, Nov. 11, in Olpe was the most meaningful for them. It began with vespers in the motherhouse chapel. As part of the service the sisters joined a procession following an open bed fire truck escorting the body of Mother Maria Theresia to St. Martin Church where a special chapel has been constructed. Many people lined the streets. Pallbearers carrying candles surrounded the truck itself. After her body was taken to this small chapel within the church, Mass began, using the new Mass parts for the first time.

Sister Magdalena, the general superior, stated she had never seen so many people in St. Martin Church. Sister Angela noted, “It was so powerful to witness everyone praying for such a long time.” Sister Angela concluded, “We have shared often throughout this week that it will take a very long time to process the profound experiences we have received throughout this week and the entire 150th Jubilee Year.”

“Secondly,” she added, “to use this experience to deepen our own prayer life, particularly our love for the Eucharist.”

“It is written in the Bible that love of neighbor is linked inseparably to love of God,” Archbishop Hans-Josef Becker of Paderborn said during his homily at the Nov. 10 beatification of Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel. Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for Saints’ Causes, celebrated the Mass in the city’s cathedral. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend was a concelebrant.

For more than 30 years, we have invited the public to Christmas at USF, a celebration of family, faith and tradition. Join us this season. Many events are free (including parking), with most occurring the first weekend in December. Show dates and times vary so visit sf.edu/christmas for details.

- Christmas in the Castle (Brookside tours)
- Living Nativity
- Christmas Concert
- Lighting of the Lake
- Planetarium Shows
- Fair Trade Shopping Bazaar
- Art Exhibits

Light the lake with your own luminary to remember a departed loved one, honor a special person or wish your student good luck with finals. Purchase a luminary for $10 at sf.edu/luminaries/form.pdf.

The Serra Clubs of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Junipero Serra

November 24, 1713

“Ever forward, never back!”

For information on membership in Serra, please contact:

South Bend area: Susan Vales
(574) 204-2084

Fort Wayne area: Terry Coonan
(260) 415-0120
And in response to Pope Benedict’s call to use media and technology for the New Evangelization, the diocese created a blog and mobile app for all ages available for iPhone and Android mobile device users that went live on Oct. 11, 2012. The app, titled, “My Year of Faith” is a daily, customized resource for its users, that offers reflections and thoughts from nationally known bloggers and writers, such as Lisa Hendey of CatholicMom.com, popular Catholic authors and speakers such as Dr. Greg Popcak, as well as local voices that included Bishop Rhoades — all with daily content updates. Its intent was to offer features that lead to a deeper understanding of the faith, and an increased prayer life.

Those who do not have smartphones followed the blog at www.myyearoffaith.com.

Megan Swaim, former associate director of Youth Ministry, Emily Barnes, program assistant, and Cindy Black, director of the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, teamed to create the calendar of topics for the blog, with Swaim and Barnes drafting postings. Content was edited and overseen by Swaim and Black. Recruiting contributors included Swaim, Barnes, Black, Mary Glowaski, Secretariat for Evangelization and Special Ministries, and Aaron Seng, New Evangelization specialist. Photos seen on the site were provided by Nate Proulx, Joe Romie and others.

Swaim reported that she “was going through some Google Analytics earlier and found that Steve Gershom’s post ‘Hearts of Flesh’ was the most effective (statistically speaking) post thus far. It is the most searched for post, had the most links coming from social media and lots of other bloggers linking to us. Interestingly ... it also produced more time on the blog than any other post. Usually direct links to the blog produce a few minutes of visiting time, enough to read a post or two. The average amount of time spent on the blog after reading Steve’s post was almost 15 minutes.”

Successive pieces, she said, were Audrey Assad’s, followed by “Dear Joseph” by John Leonetti and the Spiritual Motherhood post from Sister Alicia Torres.

The largest and most consistent online supporters, who sent people to the blog from their sites, were Jen Fulweiler’s Conversion Diary, Steve Gershom’s blog, St. John High School, Catholic Mom and the National Catholic Register. And Swaim said, social media success included Facebook, Twitter, Blogger and Pinterest.

Readers from around the area and as far away as England have responded favorably to the daily blog and have shared some insights into how their faith has grown over this special year.

Joan from Louisiana reported that she began the Year of Faith planning to add ways, such as preparing for Sunday liturgy and reading more religious material, to increase her faith, wondering if anything would change. The diocesan app became part of her daily reflection. She feels her efforts bore great fruit and said, “Our Catholic faith is rich. We have much to discover on our individual and communal spiritual journeys. … I’m thankful that Pope Benedict asked us to make a special effort this past year. I am changed.”

Denice from Fort Wayne evangelized by posting the blog reflections on her Facebook page. She said, “There are some that do not go to the website to see the article or have it on their phones, but will read it from a Facebook post. … This Year of Faith has been about refreshing our knowledge and sharing our faith to others. … At this time, Facebook seems to be a popular and simple way to teach and show our faith. I have found those outside of the faith commenting on the posts, and later asking questions about the article.” Denice sent the blogs to her children for reflection, and to other parents struggling with their vocation. “My Year of Faith has been a great source of inspiration, information and encouragement to our family and others. We are blessed to have this simple site,” she said.

Pope Francis touches the head of a child as he addresses pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Oct. 26. He addressed an estimated 100,000 people taking part in the Year of Faith celebration of family life.
AROUND THE DIOCESE

THE SANCTUARY AT ST. PAUL’S DEDICATES REHAB AND WELLNESS CENTER

The Sanctuary at St. Paul’s in South Bend held a blessing and dedication ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 6, for the opening of The Inn at St. Paul’s, a rehab and wellness center. “Our goal is to blend the best of rehabilitation and nursing care services with the feel of a bed and breakfast,” said Terry Tomasi, the administrator of the inn. Shown at the blessing in the rehab room are, from left, Holy Cross Sister Ruth Marie Nickerson, Holy Cross Father Herb Yost, priest in residence, Shari Binkley, executive director of the Inn at St. Paul’s, and Mary Myers with her daughter Lynne Coddington.

GIRL SCOUTS LEARN ABOUT THE ROSARY, MAKE BLANKETS

The Altar and Rosary Society of Most Precious Blood Church hosted a day for the Girl Scouts of Troop 20616 to learn about the rosary. The Juniors from the troop have also earned their Bronze Awards by spending their cookie money on fleece, which they made into blankets for children at the homeless shelter.
Christ the King belongs to us

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Christ the King
Lk 23:35-43

The Second Book of Samuel furnishes the first biblical reading for this feast, marking the close of the Church’s year.

Once the two books of Samuel composed a single volume. In time, editors divided the volume into the two books now seen in Bibles. The book records the major events of the reign of King David in Israel, which was from 1004 to 971 BC. It is classified as a history book in the Old Testament.

In this weekend’s reading, David becomes the king of Israel. He was more than a governmental authority or political figure. His task as king was to strengthen the union between God and the people. He was God’s instrument, not in a plan to control people. After all, he could not overcome or daunt the Son of God, not even death on the cross. Americans never understand the European concept of royalty. Monarchs exist to serve their God, not even death on the cross.

The Gospel supplies the last reading. It is a passage from Luke’s powerful Passion Narrative that recounts the trial and execution of Jesus. Central in the story is the inscription placed above the head of Jesus on the cross. It read, “The King of the Jews.” It is easy, and probably accurate, to assume that this inscription was placed on the cross above the Lord’s dying body by the Roman authorities to warn potential rebels of the plight awaiting anyone who dared to defy Rome. It was intended to mock Jesus. Instead of mockery, the sign was a revelation. It situated Jesus in the full sweep of salvation history, that pattern of encounters between God and the Hebrews. Jesus was of the Hebrews. He was a Jew. Most importantly, Jesus was the first among the Jews, the Christ.

The Gospel then gives the story of the criminals being executed beside Jesus. One cynically blasphemes Jesus as Savior. To him, Jesus promises life eternal. It is a majestic act of divine love and forgiveness.

The Church closes its year with a brilliant and joyful testimony of Jesus as Son of God and Redeemer. He is the only source of true life. Furthermore, the Lord is the very embodiment of God’s endless love. Jesus frees us from our sins, as He forgave the dying thief on the cross at Calvary.

As Son of God, Jesus is God, possessing all authority over everything. Nothing can overcome or daunt the Son of God, not even death on the cross. Americans never understand the European concept of royalty. Monarchs exist to serve their God, not even death on the cross.

But a different pope means a different personality and a different style, even when teaching or preaching on the same themes. In addition, a new pope means a new shepherd. Eight months after Pope Francis’ March 13 election, the number of visitors to the Vatican continues to be unprecedented, which most observers attribute to his easy rapport with a crowd and his touching focus on children and the sick.

By Nov. 13, more than 8 million Catholics had come to Rome and officially registered as Year of Faith pilgrims at a visitors’ center just down the street from St. Peter’s Basilica. But Father Francesco Spinelli, vicar general of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, said the real number of participants in Year of Faith events at the Vatican is far higher, “because most come without registering at all.”

Pope Francis will close the Year of Faith with Mass on the doors of churches asking to be let out into the world.

At his general audience Oct. 16, the pope asked the crowd: “Are we missionaries by our words, and especially by our Christian life, by our witness? Or are we Christians closed in our hearts and in our Churches: ‘sacristy Christians’?”

Archbishop Jose Octavio Ruiz Arenas, secretary of the New Evangelization council, told Catholic News Service that Pope Benedict proposed the Year of Faith “to give a strong push to the New Evangelization” and to help Catholics “recognize the joy that comes from the great gift of faith” and from knowing that God loves them so much that He sent His Son to save them. Pope Benedict’s election during the Year of Faith can be seen as “providential,” the archbishop said. “The personality of Pope Francis, his closeness, his use of language that is simple and profound, his desire to go out and meet people, has captivated people’s hearts.”

“Let us ask the Lord: Lord, grant me the grace to be more watchful in the face of division or embarrassment? ‘Let each one ask him- or herself, as the beautiful Franciscan prayer says, to sow love where there is hatred; where there is injury, pardon; and where there is discord ...’” (Sept. 25, 2013).

We know the power of words to build up or tear down another person. Words can contribute to a person seeing himself as worthless and unlovable, or can destroy a person’s reputation. But the power of words can also give a person hope in difficult situation, or help someone see the dignity he possesses.

The pope also plans to publish an apostolic exhortation on the New Evangelization, promoting what he calls a “culture of encounter” between Christ and humanity and among believers themselves. The document and the ceremony with future Popes will underline a key point of Pope Francis’ teaching: Christians can no longer knock on hearts to get inside. He knocks on the door of churches as a vehicle of God’s love and share the Gospel.

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Sex, truth and the illumination of our guilt

Guilt has gotten a lot of bad press recently. We live in an age where guilt is practically always something bad, something to get past with the help of a shrink. Particularly when discussing sex, people will declare that religion and morality do nothing more than make people feel guilty. Andrew Aaron, a sex and marriage therapist in New Bedford, Mass., seems to subscribe to this view: “Through centuries,” he writes, “religious education has associated sex with what is wrong and sinful rather than what is sacred. Instead of an expression of the divine, sex is suspiciously regarded as weakness of the flesh. The result of this influence is that sexuality, a natural part of being human, is tainted with shame, guilt and ambivalence.”

Every instance of erotic satisfaction, sexual activity or orgasm, however, cannot be automatically branded as sacred or as a divine manifestation. We are endeavoring to convert the way that easily the unbridled pursuit of sexual gratification can become an exploitative, self-centered and demeaning enterprise. “Confronting matters critically when it comes to getting sex right, and it is too easy in the sexually permissive environment of today’s society to miss the core truth that the unique context for human sexual activity is a very specific one, namely, the beautiful setting of marriage, with its mutual commitment and openness to children.”

Jesus Father Thomas O’Donnell in his “Medicine and Christian Morality” distills the matter to its essence in this way: “In the moral order, all deliberately induced venereal pleasure is restricted to marriage and related in some way, either immediately or remotely, to the proper marital act.” From this perspective, the real harms we bring upon our selves, and others, when seeking to satisfy the sexual impulse outside of its specific context should, in fact, elicit feelings of guilt on our part. To put it simply, there is something like a thing as “good guilt,” which manifests our own inner awareness of how we have acted against what is good for us, and violated the objective moral order.

I recall a story of a woman who committed adultery, and over time she struggled with feelings of guilt. What she ended up doing, in this situation, was to rationalize her guilt away with the help of her therapist. He managed to convince her that she was a “genius of friendship.” The woman became “spiritually thinner” in her relationships with men, and ceased to grow humanly and personally. Simply put, she entered into the worst possible state of spiritual solace. The potential that she had for any deep relationships with members of the opposite sex was dashed by the way she resolved her guilt: men became objects for her every desire and her relationships were reduced to power plays and manipulation. She gradually became an empty shell of a woman, with little left that was genuine inside of her. She had encountered real guilt in her life, but had failed to engage it in a way that could lead to growth, conversion and fulfillment, and her therapist likewise failed her, because he was not sensitive to the value of true guilt and the deepest human needs reflected in that guilt — the need to forgive and to be forgiven.

A few years back, Naomi Wolf wrote about a friend of hers who was a “Cornell-educated, urban, Democratic-voting 40-year-old cardiologist.” This friend had once had an abortion, and afterwards she said something Wolf found very interesting: “You know how in the Greek myths when you kill a relative you are pursued by Furies? For months it was as if baby Furies were pursuing me.”

No matter what our education or background, no matter what our level of sophistication may be, we have all received the gift of conscience, and the gift of “good guilt” that is ordered to help us confront ourselves and turn away from wrongdoing. Pushing away our good guilt or hiding it under the rug only makes our situation worse. We are the only creatures in the animal kingdom capable of illuminating our guilt, of asking why we feel guilty.

Guilt is like a pain of the soul, and pain often indicates that something is wrong and we should see a doctor. Our guilt for sins against wrongs or evils we have committed should lead us to seek the Divine Physician, in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Failing to recognize guilt is a deep personal wound which can easily be healed by forgiving and being forgiven. Forgiveness from God and neighbor leads us to healing and wholeness. In this sense, “good guilt” points to the service of charity and truth, we seeking unity and understanding, love and mercy in the world.

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

Making sense of bioethics

In this sense, “good guilt” points to the service of charity and truth, we seeking unity and understanding, love and mercy in the world.

TOM CASTALDI

Heritage notes

Thanksgiving’s untold story

Father James Fitton wrote an interesting reflection in 1877 about the first Thanksgiving. He told of a French ship that wrecked off Cape Cod in 1617. Most of those on board made it to shore only to spend their lives only to be paraded as trophies shuttled from one village to another. Two of the men soon died of the brutality they suffered. However, the third, a Catholic priest, lived. He spent his time among the tribe endeavoring to convert the Indians from their fierce ways.

Not long after the priest died, a deadly sickness overcame the land that was presumed by the natives to be a direct result of the priest’s prayers to change their ways. The community members that survived the pestilence resolved from that time on to listen to the white man who could teach them of their own God. Three years later the famed Mayflower landed at Plymouth Rock. Father Fitton maintained that it had not been for the priest’s witness, the pilgrims might not have been so benevolently received by that same tribe.

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

SNSEES

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SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for November 24, 2013


“Father, forgive them…”

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the feast of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Cycle C. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SAVED
KING
INSCRIPTION
FEAR
JUSTLY
COME INTO
WITH ME

LET HIM
JEW
CONFIRMED
OF GOD
NOTHING
KINGDOM
TODAY
PARADISE

LETTER

Continued from page 11

said, “He wanted to be sure that in the Year of Faith many people who had been far from the Church would hear an invitation to respond to the Lord,” and, from what bishops and pastors around the world are reporting, it seems to have worked, he said.

Both popes have insisted that being an authentic Christian isn’t simply about one’s private prayer life; it must be evident in the way a person interacts with others and with the world.

A month before he stepped down, Pope Benedict said that believing in God “makes us harbingers of values that often do not coincide with the fashion and opinion of the moment. It requires us to adopt criteria and assume forms of conduct that are not part of the common mindset.”

“Christians must not be afraid to go ‘against the current’ in order to live their faith, resisting the temptation to conform,” he said.

Pope Francis, in a Year of Faith talk in April, said, “Being Christian is not just about obeying orders, but means being in Christ, thinking like Him, acting like Him, loving like Him; it means letting Him take possession of our life and change it, transform it and free it from the darkness of evil and sin.”

“This is a precious service that we must give to this world of ours which all too often no longer succeeds in raising its gaze on high, no longer succeeds in raising its gaze to God,” Pope Francis said.

Both popes have naturally brought distinctive styles to the Year of Faith, Archbishop Ruiz said, but it is “only a hypothesis” to think, for example, that Pope Benedict would have used the pro-life celebration in June to denounce abortion, or the family life celebration in October to denounce same-sex marriage.

“Pope Benedict’s magisterium wasn’t concentrated just on that,” Archbishop Ruiz said, and the retired pope designed the Year of Faith celebrations to be expressions of “joy and happiness,” not protests.

Msgr. Tighe said, “One of the particular achievements of Pope Benedict was showing — with strong philosophical and theologically arguments — the legitimate claim of faith to having a place in the public square and in public debate.”

In a simpler, more directly pastoral way, Pope Francis is almost literally bringing faith to the public square, particularly in and through the media, he said. “We see especially in social media a huge desire on the part of people to share his words and deeds.”

Continued from page 11

Kimberly Baker is a staff assistant for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the bishops’ pro-life activities visit www.usccb.org/prolife.
Seniors gather for faith and fellowship

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — The first brush with lake effect snow appeared in the Michiana area on Nov. 12, as members of St. Pius X Senior Group gingerly exited the parish bus, affectionately known as the “Holy Roller.” The look of eager anticipation of the upcoming monthly Mass, luncheon and speaker were apparent on their chilled faces.

St. Pius X Senior Group co-leaders Julie and David Bullard, noted that the purpose of the group is to provide adults 55 years of age and older an opportunity to attend a monthly meeting from September through June. The itinerary includes Mass, a luncheon and a speaker or entertainment. “We want our seniors to know that they are a valuable asset for St. Pius X. These people have wonderful experiences that they can share with one another,” said David.

The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning with Mass at noon. David begins early in the morning picking up the members who cannot drive to the parish in the Holy Roller from their place of residence. “I love helping the people and hearing their happy chatter,” David exclaimed.

Once the Senior Group members arrived at the parish, several gathered in the church’s narthex to greet one another. For many, like Heather and Walter D’Souza, the monthly meetings provide needed fellowship mixed with spiritual and physical nourishment.

Longtime member Catherine Griffin enjoys rekindling friendships each month at the meetings. Griffin’s gift of public speaking, which she developed in her early career in radio and television, was offered to the parish by volunteering as a lector at Sunday and Senior Group Masses.

As members arrived for Mass, Julie was busy setting up the tables for the luncheon. The cost of the luncheon is usually $3 per person, but the special Thanksgiving meal during November added another $2 to cover the expanded menu of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

The large attendance for Mass in the St. Pius X chapel was highlighted with musical director Jeremy Hoy leading the congregation in “See I Make all Things New” during the Eucharist on the memorial of St. Josaphat.

Following the luncheon, Ellen Jennings from Interim Health Care delivered a presentation on “Communicating with Your Doctor,” to those in attendance.

“We have enlisted speakers whose topics are practical and geared toward the enjoyment and enhancement of the daily lives of seniors. We also will schedule some type of entertainment such as sing-a-longs or instrumentalists for the future. In addition we are open to suggestions from our local community to contact us if they are willing to entertain,” said Julie.

Julie acknowledged the challenges of inviting new members to the group. “It is a fact that people are now retiring later in life. Because of this, many over 55 cannot attend our get-togethers. Hopefully, those people in our parish that are widowed will take another look at the Senior Group and participate.”

Being together as a church family also is important, Julie explained. “Our society today is very transient and families are scattered all over the country. The Senior Group gives them a chance to strengthen relationships with like-minded individuals.”

Msgr. William Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X, noted that parish seniors serve as a foundation for the church as it continues to grow. “The Senior Group is critically important to our parish, because the members of this group have been faithful to the parish for years. We are where we are today because we stand on their shoulders. Now that they have more time on their hands, we have a great opportunity to draw them in more deeply, celebrate the vitality of our parish with them, and thank them for what they have done for us,” he said.

One senior who was unable to attend the meeting due to the slippery weather conditions was 98-year-old Martha Rupchock. Her special Senior Group Thanksgiving meal was delivered to her, after which, Martha, who has played the harmonica since she was 15, played a rendition of “Amazing Grace.”

For more information on the Senior Group contact Julie or David Bullard at (574) 272-1102.

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Pensar en tus gastos y necesidades funerarias ahora, ayuda a tus seres queridos a evitar tomar esas decisiones difíciles.

En el Cementerio Católico, entendemos que la pérdida de un ser querido es más difícil para los que se quedan que para los que nos dejan. Te invitamos a prever esas necesidades sin premura, quitándole a los seres queridos esas decisiones difíciles.

No solamente para prevenir y asegurar que tus deseos finales sean cumplidos, pero por un tiempo limitado el Cementerio Católico esta ofreciendo un 10% de descuento en espacios de inhumación, en el abierto/cerrado de criptas a $250 de descuento en la cripta (por encima de la sepultura) o $75 de descuento en nichos (cenizas).

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.

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Promocion valida hasta el 2 de Diciembre del 2013
**Culture war is topic at CCV dinner**

**BY TOM UEBRING**

SOUTH BEND “You can run but you can’t hide,” warned Notre Dame Law Professor Gerard Bradley last week at the Culture War Summit hosted by the Citizens for Community Values of Indiana (CCV) along with the Holy Cross Sisters of Fort Wayne. Bradley outlined present and future challenges in the fight to save society. Pornography has become accepted socially and legally and it is difficult to find a prosecutor “willing to take on pornography.” With Internet pornography, “The devil is in your house,” he said.

In the future, most abortions will be induced at home with abortion pills. Abortion will not go underground but will be largely off the street and inaccessible to sidewalk counselors or protesters. There have been setbacks in the fight to protect traditional marriage from the legalization of so-called “gay marriage.”

Despite these challenges no one is excited from continuing to fight no matter what new circumstances arise.

Bradley did not place much hope in the major political parties. One major party does not believe what we believe and the other major party has some leaders who do, but they do not have the same priorities in terms of saving babies, saving marriage and the sexual purity of children. In that respect, “Their agenda is not our agenda.”

Due to various reasons, Bradley noted, “the churches have lost their moral authority in our culture.”

Bradley was not optimistic about politically effective leadership coming from the pastors of either Protestant or Catholic churches. He believes that it is lay-led organizations like CCV that are mounting a resistance that offer the most hope in stemming the tide of decline. “We need more groups like this,” he said.

Bradley warned against the threat to sound education posed by Common Core, calling it “pernicious.” Common Core is a set of national educational standards being promoted by various individuals, organizations and textbook companies. A large number of states are moving forward with the program. It is being contested in Indiana and elsewhere by concerned citizens and Indiana has not yet adopted it.

A principle financier behind the nationalization of standards effort is billionaire Bill Gates. The National Catholic Educational Association is a recipient of a Gates Common Core grant.

Bradley expressed concern that a backlash from American Catholic bishops appear to have accepted Common Core without a critical analysis of its content and implications. A large number of states are adopting Common Core without a critical analysis of its content and implications. A large number of states are adopting Common Core. He recently sent a letter cosigned by 132 Catholic scholars to each of the U.S. Catholic bishops urging that it be rejected.

Bradley also opposed Common Core in an essay published in The Irish Rover and reprinted in Crisis Magazine. He said there is an exploding “parent-led rebellion” against Common Core.

Bradley offered reflections on fighting the cultures wars:

- Consider as in the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life” how bad things would be without these efforts.
- Stand tall and stand firm against the juggernaut even when insulted, intimidated and marginalized.
- Time is on our side in a myriad of ways. If Obamacare or Common Core get full implementation, people will see for what it is and rebel.
- We need to be shrewd but simple and guileless with purity of motive, life, intentions and rectitude of the will.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

DINNERS
Fish, chicken and tenderloin supper planned
Huntington — St. Peter and Paul Church, 860 Cherry St., will have a fish, chicken and tenderloin supper, Friday, Nov. 22, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in Rieder Auditorium. Tickets are $8.50 for adults, $5 for students 6-12 and children 5 and under free.

Holy Name Society fish fry
New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Nov. 22, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
Henry-Keener Merit scholarship/placement exam
Fort Wayne — All incoming 2014 freshmen are required to take the placement exam Saturday, Dec. 7, at Bishop Luers High School. The Henry-Keener Merit Scholarship will be awarded to the top 10 scoring students. Awards total $10,000. Students must arrive by 7:45 a.m.

Guided holy hour
Fort Wayne — The Dr. Jerome Lejeune Medical Guild and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church will have a guided Eucharistic Holy Hour for children, families and particularly all persons with disabilities, on Friday, Dec. 6, from 7-8 p.m. The evening, including music, readings, teaching and guided prayer will be led by Father Daniel Whelan. A reception will follow.

Thanksgiving dinner announced
South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral will host a Thanksgiving dinner, Thursday, Nov. 28, from 11 a.m. to noon in the school cafeteria, 1701 Miami St. Those without friends and family are invited to share the free meal. For information, call (574) 289-5539 or email t.monnin@comcast.net

Run for the heart 5k and one mile
Warsaw — A 5k run and one mile walk in memory of Msgr. James Wolf will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, at 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart Parish. Door prizes and refreshments offered. Download registration forms at runindiana.com or sacredheart-warsaw.org. All proceeds benefit tuition assistance.

St. Augustine greenery sale
South Bend — St. Augustine Parish will offer a tree/greenery sale with items handmade by an area tree farm. Advance orders only by calling Mary at (574) 234-7992 or email filbert.1@nd.edu. Orders taken through Nov. 28; pick up Nov. 30 at 1501 W. Washington St.

Bazaars and cookie walks
Winter wonderland craft bazaar
Bristol — St. Mary of the Annunciation will have a craft bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 411 W. Vistula St. Handmade arts and crafts as well as baked goods will be available. Santa Claus will be there for photos with the children free of charge.

St. Patrick plans cookie walk, bake sale
South Bend — St. Patrick Parish will have a cookie walk and bake sale Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish Center, 308 S. Scott St. A variety of cookies (for sale by the pound) and other homemade baked goods will be available.

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Handel’s Messiah
The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the University of Saint Francis will sponsor a special performance of Handel’s MESSIAH on December 8, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. This concert in the season of Advent is a wonderful way, through sacred music, to reflect on the coming of the Lord.

Heartland, the region’s only professional vocal ensemble, the Heartland Festival Chorus & Orchestra and internationally renowned soloists Denise Ritter, Rebekah Ambrosini, Don Bernardini, and Ryan DeRyke present Handel’s Messiah, directed by Maestro Robert Nance.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the USF Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry Street, Fort Wayne (formerly the Scottish Rite Auditorium). Tickets are $8.50 for reserved seating is $30. General Admission tickets are $20 and tickets for 2013 at 7:30 p.m. This concert in the season of Advent is a wonderful way, through sacred music, to reflect on the coming of the Lord.

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The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the USF Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry Street, Fort Wayne (formerly the Scottish Rite Auditorium). Tickets are available by phone at 260-436-8080 and on Heartland’s website www.heartlandchorale.org. The work lasts approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Reserved seating is $30. General Admission tickets are $20 and tickets for
Solanus arrived at St. Felix Friary in Huntington April 25, 1946 and returned to Detroit in the Spring of 1956.

In this Thanksgiving season, I would like to thank all of you who participated in the Father Solanus Casey project.


Continue to thank God ahead of time!

First U.S. native born man to be declared Venerable

A Ferverino for the Beatification of Solanus Casey

Mary, our mother, we ask you to intercede for us before your son, as you did at the wedding at Cana, that the beatification of the Venerable Solanus Casey may be brought about. We pray that through your intercession the Holy Spirit will bring his beatification about at this time so that we may be strengthened in our faith and filled with gratitude to God. Hail Mary...Glory be...

To report favors received through the intercession of Father Solanus, please direct correspondence to the official office in Detroit; The Father Solanus Guild.

www.solanuscasey.org

Anthony F. Laviano • P.O. Box 1816
• Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
a.f.laviano@nanoworldusa.com

CATHOLIC BUSINESS MEET AND GREET

Christmas Network Events

Wednesday, Dec. 11: 5-6:30 p.m.
LASALLE GRILL
115 W. Colfax, South Bend

$10 per person includes hot and cold hors d’oeuvres
Cash bar available.
RSVP by Dec. 6 to tsteffen@diocesefwsb.org
or call (260) 399-1457

Thursday, Dec. 19: 5-6:30 p.m.
BRÓOKSIDE MANSION
University of Saint Francis
2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne

$10 per person includes hot and cold hors d’oeuvres
Cash bar available.
Self-guided tours of Brookside available.
RSVP by Dec. 13 to tsteffen@diocesefwsb.org
or call (260) 399-1457

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