Bishop declares Our Lady of Lourdes as Marian patron

Feasibility study considers Catholic middle/high school in center of diocese

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Would a Catholic middle and high school be feasible for the center of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend? A consulting group at the request of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is studying that question.

The diocese currently has four Catholic high schools: two in Fort Wayne and two in South Bend. There is no Catholic high school in the center of the diocese, and only one of the Catholic grade schools

BY TRISH LINNER

MISHAWAKA — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made his first pastoral visit of the new year to Marian High School on Thursday, Jan. 9, to celebrate Mass, visit with students and faculty and announce the new patron saint — Our Lady of Lourdes — for the Mishawaka school.

Bishop Rhoades will be visiting all four diocesan Catholic high schools to announce the patron saint at each school. “This is something I have thought about for a long time. I am excited about what this will mean for the students,” Bishop Rhoades said.

Our Lady of Lourdes is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary in honor of the apparitions witnessed by Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl from the nearby village of Lourdes. The first apparition appeared to her in the cave of Massabielle while she was gathering firewood with her sister and a family friend on Feb. 11, 1858. Our Lady appeared to Bernadette 18 times during that year. Numerous healings also were credited to the spring water that Bernadette found after Our Lady instructed her to dig in the ground. Bernadette was later canonized as a saint. In 1862, Pope Pius IX authorized Bishop Bertrand-Sévère Laurence to permit the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lourdes.

Feasibility study considers Catholic middle/high school in center of diocese

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Bishop names patron saints for all diocesan high schools
Patron saints for our diocesan high schools

By Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Each year, I thoroughly enjoy my official visits to our wonderful four diocesan high schools. I also enjoy “un-official” visits for various events. I try to visit Saint Joseph High School in South Bend on March 19th every year, the feast of the school’s patron, Saint Joseph. It is a special day of celebration there. I have been thinking for some time that it would be good for each of our high schools to have a patron saint and feast day. I have decided, after consultation with the principals, to name patron saints for all the high schools. The titles of the schools remain the same.

Of course, Saint Joseph is the patron saint of Saint Joseph High School. Both the name of the school and the title of the chapel is “Saint Joseph.” I believe that the devotion of the Holy Cross Brothers, who originally staffed the high school, to Saint Joseph influenced the naming of the school. The feast day of the high school, therefore, is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary, on March 19th.

It is clear that the patron saint of Marian High School is the Blessed Virgin Mary, since the title of the school is “Marian.” However, the school is not named with any particular title of Mary nor does the school have a particular patronal feast day. I have, therefore, decided to designate Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Lourdes, as the patron of Marian High School. The feast day of the high school will be celebrated each year on February 11th, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. I have seen the wonderful devotion of young people to Our Lady of Lourdes, particularly at World Youth Day a few years ago when we spent a few days in Lourdes prior to the event in Madrid.

Saint Bernadette, a teenager when Our Lady of Lourdes appeared to her, is a wonderful example for our youth.

Bishop Luers High School was originally staffed by the Franciscan Order. The community has always had a special devotion to Saint Francis of Assisi, therefore, I have decided to designate Saint Francis of Assisi as the patron of Bishop Luers High School. The feast day of Bishop Luers High School will be celebrated each year on October 4th, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi. The new chapel, presently being planned, will also have the title of Saint Francis of Assisi. The popular Saint Francis is an ideal role model for our young people who inspire us to live the Gospel of Jesus in simplicity and humility.

Bishop Dwenger High School students and teams are called “the Saints.” I have decided, therefore, to designate the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title Queen of All Saints, as the patron of Bishop Dwenger High School. The feast day of Bishop Dwenger High School will be celebrated each year on August 22nd, the Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The new chapel, presently being planned, will also have the title of “Queen of All Saints.”

I am designating these patrons for our high schools in order to promote the veneration of these wonderful saints and also to implore their intercession for our high school communities. The veneration of the saints fosters our sanctification and growth in holiness. Their example helps us in living the Christian life. I also think it is good that the high schools have a patronal feast day, as Saint Joseph High School does, in order to celebrate their Catholic identity in a special way each year.

It is good to remember the following words of the Second Vatican Council about the saints: “To look on the life of those who have faithfully followed Christ is to be inspired with a new reason for seeking the city which is to come, while at the same time we are taught to know a most safe path by which ... we will be able to arrive at perfect union with Christ, that is, holiness. God shows to us, in a vivid way, his presence and his face in the lives of those companions of ours in the human condition who are more perfectly transformed into the image of Christ. He speaks to us in them and offers us a sign of this kingdom, to which we are powerfully attracted, so great a cloud of witnesses is there given and such a witness to the truth of the Gospel. (Lumen Gentium #50)

May Saint Joseph, Our Lady of Lourdes, Saint Francis of Assisi, and Our Lady, Queen of All Saints, intercede for us and our Catholic high school communities!
Pope names 19 new cardinals, including six from Latin America

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis named 19 new cardinals, including the archbishops of Westminster and Quebec and six men from his home region of Latin America, and announced a consistory for their formal induction into the College of Cardinals Feb. 22.

The consistency will bring the total number of cardinals to 218 and the number of cardinals under age 80 to 121. Until they reach their 80th birthdays, cardinals are eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

Two current cardinal electors will turn 80 in March, bringing the number of electors back to the limit of 120 set by Pope Paul VI. (Other popes have occasionally exceeded the limit for short periods of time.)

Five of the new electors are from Latin America, an increase by one-third of the current number from the region. Latin America, home to about 40 percent of the world’s Catholics, will account for 16 percent of the group eligible to choose the next pope.

Four new cardinal electors are from Italy, leaving that nation’s share practically unchanged at nearly a quarter.

Four new cardinal electors are Vatican officials, three of them in offices that traditionally entail membership in the college.

Another three of the new cardinals are already over the age of 80 and, therefore, ineligible to vote in a conclave. The pope uses such nominations to honor churchmen for their scholarship or other service to the Church.

Among the new so-called honor cardinals is Cardinal-designate Loris Capovilla, who served as personal secretary to Blessed John XXIII.

Here is the list of the new cardinals:

• Italian Archbishop Pietro Parolin, secretary of state, who will turn 59 Jan. 17.
• Italian Archbishop Lorenzo Baldisseri, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, 73.
• German Archbishop Gerhard Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 66.
• Italian Archbishop Beniamino Stella, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, 72.
• English Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster, 68.
• Nicaraguan Archbishop Leopoldo Brenes Solorzano of Managua, 64.
• Canadian Archbishop Gerald Lacroix of Quebec, 56.
• Ivorian Archbishop Jean-Pierre Kutwa of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 68.
• Brazilian Archbishop Orani Tempesta of Rio de Janeiro, 63.
• Italian Archbishop Gualtiero Bassetti of Pergusa-Citta della Pieve, 71.
• Argentine Archbishop Mario Poli of Buenos Aires, 66.
• Korean Archbishop Andrew Yeom Soo-jung of Seoul, 70.
• Chilean Archbishop Ricardo Ezzati Andrello of Santiago, 72.
• Spanish Archbishop Philip Ouedraogo of Ouagadougou, 68.
• Philippine Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato, 74.
• Haitian Bishop Chibly Langlois of Les Cayes, 55.
• Italian Archbishop Capovilla, 98.
• Spanish Archbishop Fernando Sebastian Aguilar, retired, of Pamplona, 84.
• Saint Lucian Archbishop Kelvin Felix, retired, of Castries, 80.


Diocese gains preliminary relief in HHS Lawsuit

FORT WAYNE — The United States District Court, Northern District of Indiana, has entered a preliminary injunction temporarily barring enforcement of the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive mandate against the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc., Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc., Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc., Franciscan Alliance, Inc., Specialized Physicians of Illinois, LLC, University of Saint Francis and Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

The court’s order was filed, Friday, Dec. 27 by Judge Jon DeGuilio.

The plaintiffs had filed their first amended verified complaint seeking declaratory and injunctive relief claiming that the government defendants — including Kathleen Sebelius in her capacity as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources — have violated their rights under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000bb et seq., the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 500 et seq., by enacting the “contraception mandate,” which requires certain employers to provide coverage for contraception and sterilization procedures in their employee health care plans on a no-cost-sharing basis, or face stiff financial penalties and the risk of enforcement actions for the failure to do so.

The defendants have moved to dismiss the amended complaint. By granting a preliminary injunction, the court focuses only on plaintiffs’ request for injunctive relief and defendants’ objection in an effort to prevent the possibility of any unjust enforcement of the contraception mandate against plaintiffs beginning Jan. 1, 2014 while the case proceeds to conclusion.

Pastor resigns after allegation of sexual abuse of minor

Father James Seculoff, pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Walkerton, has resigned from the office of pastor after being accused of sexual abuse of a minor, alleged to have taken place approximately 44 years ago.

After receiving the allegation, the diocese conducted a preliminary investigation in accord with the norms of the Church and diocesan policy. The investigation revealed sufficient evidence that the abuse did occur. Bishop Rhoades sought the advice of the Diocesan Review Board which examined the evidence and advised the bishop in the assessment of the credibility as credible.

As required by Church law, the diocese has notified both civil authorities and the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The norms of the Church also require that Father Seculoff be withdrawn from the public exercise of the sacred ministry while the canonical process continues.

If anyone has been the victim of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy, please contact the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Glowaski, at 260-399-1458 or the Vicar General, Monsignor Robert Schulte, at 260-422-4611.

Priest appointment

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has appointed Father Jan Klimczyk as Administrator of Saint Patrick Parish, Walkerton, effective January 15, 2014.

Bishop Rhoades to celebrate Memorial Mass for Bishop D’Arcy

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate a Memorial Mass for Bishop John M. D’Arcy at 12:05 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3 — the first anniversary of the passing of Bishop D’Arcy. The Mass will take place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, and all the faithful are welcome to attend. After Mass, the annual blessing of throats for the feast of St. Blaise will be offered.

In addition, the Cathedral Choir will perform the Requiem Mass by Gabriel Fauré in memory of Bishop D’Arcy at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, (the anniversary of Bishop D’Arcy’s priestly ordination) in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Admission is free, and all are invited to attend.
Indiana Catholic Conference gears up for legislative work as lawmakers return to state capitol

INDIANAPOLIS — A new year brings hope and challenges. This message rings crystal clear for those who headed to the state capitol for the opening of a new legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly, Jan. 7.

This included the return of Republican Gov. Mike Pence, a Republican-controlled House and Senate made-up of 150 state lawmakers, 100 House members and 50 Senators, and the Church’s public policy watchdog, the Indiana Catholic Conference.

“Our goal during this ‘short’ session will be to do no harm,” said Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), who serves as the official public policy spokes-person for the Indiana bishops. Tebbe said that to “do no harm” means he will work to stave off attempts to change laws that currently are effective in protecting families and children, while working to support new laws that promote the consistent life ethic and the common good.

“Obviously the big gorilla in the room in terms of issues this coming session will be the marriage amendment,” said Tebbe. “The Church’s teaching is clear that we support traditional marriage between one man and one woman, and have a long history of working to support families and children.”

The ICC will be engaged in promoting and improving education policies and programs; safeguarding parents and educational institutions’ rights and responsibilities; protecting religious liberties regarding marriage and health care; protecting programs that support vulnerable families and individuals; and ensuring new programs or initiatives to protect parent rights and responsibilities and to enhance family life.

According to Tebbe, the ICC will work with state lawmakers to require parental notification for minors to use Plan B abortion-inducing drugs; improve access to early childhood education; improve childcare regulations; work to bridge the health insurance gap under the Affordable Care Act for Medicaid and lower income families; and work toward passing legislation to improve Indiana adoption laws.

“‘There will be many issues on the table, and we will be taking part in the process to ensure that the voice of the Church and the least among us are heard,’ Tebbe said.

Tebbe said that in years past, the success of the ICC’s legislative agenda is impacted in part by: 1) the willingness of the leadership in the House and Senate to have these bills heard in committee; 2) a willingness of lawmakers to work in unison with the Church’s efforts; and 3) a willingness of Catholics in the pew to be engaged in the political process.

To better equip Catholics to participate in the process, the ICC offers an online system that provides efficient and effective communication with members of the Indiana General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. A Legislative Action Center is available on the ICC web page (www.indianacc.org) that allows visitors to participate in the political process in a number of ways. Visitors to the center can sign up for the weekly I-CAN Update newsletter, identify his or her representatives, contact lawmakers, and much more. To explore the new means of political engagement go to www.indianacc.org and click “Legislative Action Center.”

The Indiana General Assembly alternates biannually between a “long” session or budget session, to a “short” session. This year is a “short” session. Tebbe said lawmakers will work at break-neck speed to meet the short working deadlines of this year’s session, which lasts only 10-weeks. Due to time constraints, the “short” session renders fewer introduced bills, roughly 1,000 bills. Tebbe says that far fewer than that number will actually get hearings and move through the process.

Lawmakers must complete legislative business by March 14.

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Statehouse Calendar
Jan. 7 — Session began
Jan. 14 — Governor’s State of the State Address
Feb. 3 — Third reading deadline for House bills in the House
Feb. 5 — Third reading deadline for Senate bills in the Senate
March 3 — Third reading deadline for Senate bills in the House
March 14 — Session adjourns

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Preschool voucher to assist low-income families clears House panel

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill to give low-income families access to an early education voucher program passed the House Education Committee Jan. 9. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the legislation.

The measure, House Bill 1004, establishes the early education scholarship pilot program. The program would provide supplemental funding for eligible children receiving eligible services from certain early education providers. Beginning after June 30, 2015, an eligible child may receive a scholarship through the program. Under the plan, a child or a sibling of a child who receives an early education scholarship and meets certain other applicable criteria is eligible for the Choice Scholarship program from grades K-12.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference said, “The program outlined in HB 1004 will provide needed assistance to families who may experience more obstacles and whose children are often without sufficient opportunities that benefit their social and cognitive development.”

Tebbe added, “Public policy should maximize the quality of educational opportunities for all children by ensuring that all parents have access to and the financial capability to exercise the right to choose the school they believe is best for their children.”

The bill, authored by three Indianapolis lawmakers, House Education Chairman Rep. Bob Behning and House Speaker Brian Bosma, both Republicans, and Democrat lawmaker Rep. Shelli Vandenburgh, initiates a preschool pilot program in five counties across Indiana. The plan targets low-income children who would receive a voucher to attend a state approved, high-quality preschool program.

“We have done a lot in moving education and education reform forward. The greatest need where we have not done a lot is the area of early childhood education,” said Behning. “There is no question, Indiana is behind the rest of the nation in providing early childhood education especially to children of poverty.”

Under the bill, eligible students would come from families at 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, which is $45,367 for a family of four according the federal Health and Human Services Department. Students selected for the pilot program would receive $6,800 to attend a high-quality preschool program for a child attending a full-day program or $3,400 for a child who attends a half-day program. The bill would authorize the program, however, funding would need to be allocated during the 2015 budget session.

Leaders from the business community around Indiana spoke in favor of the legislation during the Jan. 9 education hearing. Connie Bond Stuart, regional vice president for PNC Bank of Indianapolis, testified in support of the bill noting that PNC Bank has committed $350 million over multiple years to assist in early childhood initiatives. Stuart said that research shows for every $1 invested in early childhood education the state saves $16 in later remediation. Stuart said, “Every child deserves a chance to be prepared to learn and ultimately be successful with a productive life.”

Angela Smith Jones, director of public policy for the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, said early childhood education has been their organization’s top priority for the past 10 years. She added that early childhood education boosts the overall academic success for children throughout their school years and “provides a home-grown pipeline of workforce-ready individuals for our business community.”

Derek Redelman, vice president of education and workforce policy for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, echoed Smith’s remarks saying early childhood education was a “high priority” and “critical approach” to the business community.

While public schools advocates have a history of being strong supporters of preschool education, several raised concerns about some of the specifics of the bill. Vic Smith, representing the Indiana Coalition of Public Education, rose in opposition to the legislation and said, “We need to end the erosion of public school funding.” Since House Bill 1004 gives students in the pilot program an automatic entry point into the state’s Choice Scholarship voucher program for grades K-12, he claims it would lead to increased funds being diverted from public to private schools.

“Voucher program grows, public school students get fewer resources,” said Smith.

John O’Neal, of the Indiana State Teachers Association, raised similar concerns that the pilot program would serve as a “feeder system” into the K-12 voucher program.

Vandenburgh asked Behning if he would consider removing the portion of the bill, which gives children access to the K-12 Choice Scholarship. Behning reminded Vandenburgh about the coming Senate battle to get the bill passed and that many members in the Senate who are not very pro-early education, voted for the bill last year primarily because it had the Choice Scholarship entry point. For now, Behning said he was keeping that part of the bill intact.

House Bill 1004 now moves to its second reading on the House floor where it may be amended before it reaches its third reading and a final House vote.

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Pope baptizes 32 babies on feast of the Baptism of the Lord

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis assured mothers that breast-feeding their babies in public, even during a papal Mass in the Sistine Chapel, is okay.

"No chorus is as wonderful as the squeals, squelches and banter of children," he said during a Mass in which he baptized 32 babies on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 12.

"Some will cry because they are uncomfortable or because they are hungry," he said during his brief and unscripted homily.

"If they are hungry, mothers, let them eat, no worries, because here they are the main focus," he said.

One of the mothers, Emer McCarthy, an Irish journalist at Vatican Radio, told Catholic News Service that while most of the other mothers had brought baby bottles for feedings, she did not hesitate to discreetly at appropriate moments to contribute to their communities.

Private Baptisms help these parents rediscover the beauty of faith and to return, in a new way, to the sacraments and the community of the Church, he said.

The pope's remarks "underline how natural it is, how motherhood and maternity are natural and have a place, even in church, even in the Sistine Chapel," McCarthy said.

Typically, the babies that are baptized by the pope at the annual liturgy are children of Vatican employees.

This year, Pope Francis also included one couple who do not work at the Vatican, but had requested the pope baptize their second child.

The couple, Ivan Scardia and Niccoletta Franco, both work for the Italian military police in the central Italian town of Grosseto.

However, while they are Catholic, they were married civilly and not in the Church, which caused a slight "glitch" when they had to send the requested paperwork to the Vatican, Scardia said.

"But they called me back right away and this problem, too, was taken care of," he told the Italian daily Corriere della Sera.

Scardia said they consider themselves to be believers and wanted their 7-month-old daughter to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

He said they had not gotten married in church because "we were in a hurry and there wasn’t time to organize a Church ceremony. Maybe we will get married in the Catholic Church later." 

One of the intentions read during the prayers of the faithful was for families and asked that "the Lord rekindle the sacramental grace of marriage and give (parents) the ability to teach their children in the faith."

In his homily, Pope Francis told the parents and godparents the faith was "the most beautiful inheritance they will leave" their children and that they had "the duty to hand down the faith."

Later, at the Angelus prayer with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope again underlined how a child’s baptism would serve as an impetus for his or her parents to live a Christian life more fully.

"For this reason the children’s Baptisms help these parents rediscover the beauty of faith and to return, in a new way, to the sacraments and the community of the Church," he said.

Churches inundated as violence continues in Central African Republic

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Church leaders in the Central African Republic report an increasing humanitarian crisis and warn that international forces, which have been in their country a month, had not secured law and order. "The situation is very chaotic and worsening all the time," said Msgr. Cyriaque Gbate Doumalo, secretary-general of the Catholic bishops’ conference.

"All our churches and parishes are inundated with displaced people, and some were unable to celebrate Christmas as a result. Whole districts of Bangui are deserted, while even those in the relative safety of Catholic centers are living in total fear," he told Catholic News Service. "Clashes continued in the capital between rival Christian and Muslim armed groups, despite the Dec. 8 arrival of 1,600 French paratroopers under a U.N. mandate. Msgr. Doumalo told CNS Jan. 2 that Bangui Archbishop Deod одине Nzapalainga had paid a morning visit to Bangui airport, where the Church's Caritas charity was helping distribute food and shelter to more than 100,000 refugees. However, he added that 12,000 more displaced civilians had sought refuge in Bangui's major seminary, while the bishops' conference secretariat was sheltering 600 people, half of them children. He said many children had been abandoned when their parents were killed or fled and were now without food and clothing and "at the mercy of armed groups."

Pope: In new year, step outside your comfort zone, get involved

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The new year will be brighter only if everyone steps outside their safe havens, gets involved and works together to solve local problems with generosity and love, Pope Francis said. As 2013 comes to a close, let everyone ask God for forgiveness and thank Him for His patience and love, the pope said as he presided over a Dec. 31 evening prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica. Mary "teach us to welcome God made man so that every year, every month, every day be overflowing with His eternal love," he said on the eve of the feast honoring her as Mother of God. Leading the annual "Te Deum" prayer service to thank God for His blessings in 2013 and the gift of salvation in Christ, the pope asked people to reflect on how they have spent the past year — the precious days, weeks and months the Lord has given as a gift to everyone.

"Have we used it mostly for ourselves, for our own interests or did we know to spend it for others, too? How much time did we set aside for being with God, in prayer, in silence, in adoration?" People should also reflect on how they used their time to contribute to their communities.

The quality of life in a community — how it runs and looks — depends on everyone, he said in his homily, which he delivered standing from a lectern.

USCCB president asks Obama for exemption from fines over ACA compliance

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops asked President Barack Obama to exempt religious institutions from fines related to health insurance requirements while legal challenges work their way through the courts. "The administration’s flexibility in implementing the (Affordable Care Act) has not yet reached those who want only to exercise what has rightly been called our ‘first freedom’ under the Constitution," wrote Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky. in a letter dated Dec. 31, letter, he asked Obama to extend the same kind of temporary exemption from penalties for non-compliance with the ACA that the administration has allowed for small employers and individuals whose current insurance plans will be canceled. The letter described those allowances as "actions to advance the ACA's goal of maximizing health coverage, while minimizing hardships to Americans as the act is implemented." 

Archbishop Kurtz said a whole category of Americans "has been left out in the cold: those who, due to moral and religious conviction, cannot in good conscience comply with the (Health and Human Services) regulation requiring coverage of sterilization and contraceptives. This mandate includes drugs and devices that can interfere with the survival of a human being in the earliest stage of development, burdening religious convictions on abortion as well as contraception," the letter said.

Pope limits ‘monsignor’ honor for diocesan priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has decided to limit the honor of "monsignor" among diocesan priests and grant it from now on only to those at least 65 years of age. The change, which is not retroactive and does not affect Vatican officials or members of religious orders, was announced in a letter from the pope to local bishops.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States, informede U.S. bishops of the new policy in a letter dated Dec. 30. Msgr. Ronny E. Jenkins, general secretary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, forwarded the letter to the bishops Jan. 3. Of the three grades of monsignor — apostolic protonotary, honorary prelate of His Holiness and chaplain of His Holiness — only the last will be available to diocesan priests who meet the new age requirement. Bishops must resubmit any pending requests for monsignor honors in accordance with the new rules. Archbishop Vigano’s letter did not give a reason for the change, but Pope Francis has often warned clergy against the temptations of careerism and personal ambition.
Consulting group, which is based at Bishop Rhoades asked that a feasibility study be conducted by the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Consulting group, which is based at the University of Notre Dame.

That study is ongoing and will conclude in March, according to Holy Cross Father Thomas Doyle, the senior financial analyst for ACE Consulting and a leadership development specialist in Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives. The consultants then will write a report for the bishop that details their findings, and Bishop Rhoades will make the decision.

Father Doyle explained that ACE Consulting identified 12 parishes in the center of the diocese (see box) to survey about interest in such a school. Only four of those parishes have grade schools, but the 12 parishes combined have over 15,000 registered parishioners.

The ACE Consulting study will analyze several issues, Father Doyle said, including: whether there is an adequate number of students and families that have a desire to be served by such a Catholic school; what characteristics of Catholic education does the school need to attract Catholic students for whom Catholic education is their only source of students; and what are the feeder schools to a Catholic middle school in the area?

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Father Doyle also is talking to civic and community leaders for their input. He explained that Catholic schools could be a “gift” to an entire community, not just to Catholics.

“Whether they are community leaders or educational leaders, their input, insight and investment in the community in many ways mirrors Catholic education lead people to Catholic schools. Right at the top would be Catholic identity of the school, academic quality, a sense of community,” Ellison said.

Ellison said ACE Consulting will not analyze the data until the survey closes, but she and Father Doyle can predict from their national work what characteristics of Catholic education lead people to Catholic schools.

“All the top would be Catholic identity of the school, academic quality, a sense of community,” Ellison said.

St. Jude Students win top honors in poetry contest

Four St. Jude School, Fort Wayne, students won top places in the 2013 Allen County Public Library Poetry Contest. The theme this year was “To Whom It May Concern.” Hundreds of children and young adults from public, private, parochial and home schools entered their poems. The school’s winning poets, from left, include the following: Louie Tippmann, fifth grade, third-place winner; August Grube, fifth grade, second-place winner; Annabella Cobos, eighth grade, second-place winner; and Isabel Adamson, fifth grade, first-place winner.

Office of Worship posts liturgical trainings

FORT WAYNE — The Office of Worship has organized diocesan liturgical trainings in February and March for lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Registration is required.

Extraordinary minister trainings will be on Feb. 8 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, and on Feb. 22 at St. Charles Church in Fort Wayne.

Lector trainings will be on Feb. 22 at St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne, and on March 1 at St. Pius X Church in Granger. More specific information, as well as the full registration form (cost is $15 per training), can be found online at www.diocesefwsb.org/Trainings-And-Retreats.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY TO RAISE MONEY WITH BABY BOTTLES

FORT WAYNE — The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne will be holding its first annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Baby bottles will be provided to local parishes where parishioners will be asked to take them home and fill the bottles with spare change and bills.

All proceeds of the fundraiser will go toward stocking the Crib Club at the Women’s Care Center and providing layettes for moms in need. Baby bottles will be distributed Jan. 24-25.

For additional information on the Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne, visit www.christchildfw.org.

STUDY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in that area offers grades seven and eight.

Bishop Rhodes told Today’s Catholic that he has been approached at various times and places by people asking about hav- ing a Catholic junior high and high school in the central part of the diocese.

“People who have mentioned it to me speak about the benefits and value of a Catholic education for teenagers, especially the need for good moral formation during those teenage years,” Bishop Rhodes said. “Some have also mentioned the academic excellence of Catholic schools.”

In September, 2013, letters to pastors and Catholic school principals, Bishop Rhodes explained that he is open to the possibility of such a school, but good stewardship requires a decision to be based on “sound reason and judgment.” Thus, Bishop Rhodes asked that a feasibility study be conducted by the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Consulting group, which is based at the University of Notre Dame.

Two of the components of the study are focus groups that have been conducted in those central parishes and a survey instrument that invites input about the school possibility.

To date, the survey has garnered “a few hundred” responses, according to Brandy Ellison, ACE Consulting associate director of research and a faculty member in Notre Dame’s English as a New Language Program. This is an “impressive” response rate she said, but she is hopeful even more people will participate by the Jan. 26 deadline.

Ellison said ACE Consulting will not analyze the data until the survey closes, but she and Father Doyle can predict from their national work what characteristics of Catholic education does the school need to attract Catholic students for whom Catholic education is their only source of students.

That study is ongoing and will conclude in March, according to Holy Cross Father Thomas Doyle, the senior financial analyst for ACE Consulting and a leadership development specialist in Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives. The consultants then will write a report for the bishop that details their findings, and Bishop Rhoades will make the decision.

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TO PARTNER IN THE DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND TO ALLOW ALL CATHOLICS TO AVOID THEMSELVES THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.

FORT WAYNE — The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. comes to life in “Heartland Sings: We Are the Dream” on Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. in the North Campus Auditorium at the University of Saint Francis. This production, which pairs Heartland with USF’s University Singers, pays tribute to the revolutionary man and his contributions that have made the world a better place today.

The significance of Dr. King’s drive to unite all people, regardless of race, religion or other affiliations will be underscored during this event when several community leaders share many of the words he spoke. The music of this concert sets the tone for a call to action to help change the world, much as King’s life positively impacted the nation.

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with Heartland and the USF University Singers and be part of the dream. Although this soul-stirring community event by Heartland is free, tickets are required. To reserve your seats, call the Heartland office (260) 436-8080 or visit www.heartlandchorale.org.

The Light Is On for You set for March 12

“The Light Is On for You” is an interactive Live of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to allow all Catholics to avoid themselves the sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is a wonderful opportu- nity to set aside one’s sinful ways and to draw closer to our Lord. Confessions will be held on Wednesday, March 12, from 6-8 p.m. in every Catholic church in the diocese. Learn more at www.diocesefwsb.org.
Looking to Our Lady of Victory to win the battle for life

BY LISA EVERETT

This past summer on vacation, our family visited a beautiful basilica near Buffalo, N.Y., named Our Lady of Victory. This national shrine was built in 1926 by Father Nelson Baker, who began his lifelong devotion to Our Lady of Victory after a visit to a basilica of the same name in Paris. Father Nelson, whose cause for canonization is underway, built this magnificent church to honor and thank the Mother of God for the success of the many charitable institutions he established and expanded to serve those in need. One in particular caught my attention — a home for unwed mothers and their infants, so that women in crisis would not be tempted to seek an abortion.

As we observe yet another anniversary of the tragic Roe v Wade decision, I have been thinking a lot about Our Lady of Victory and her role in the battle for life. This particular title of the Blessed Mother goes way back to the Battle of Lepanto in the 16th century. At this point in history, the Turkish Ottoman Empire occupied large swaths of Christendom and subjected it to a version of Islamic law. Having its eyes set on an eventual invasion of Rome, the Turkish fleet now sought to control the Mediterranean Sea. Knowing the terrible threat this posed, Pope Pius V urged Christians throughout Europe to gather in their churches to pray the rosary, imploring the intercession of Our Lady of Victory.

Also praying the rosary were the crewmembers on the more than 200 ships of the Holy League, a tenuous coalition of political rivals commanded by 24-year-old Don Juan of Austria, who sailed to confront the Turkish fleet off the coast of Greece on Oct. 7, 1571. Muslim spy ships that were sent to scout the situation reported that the Catholic armada would be no match. But by the grace of God, through the intercession of His Mother, all but 13 of the almost 300 ships of the Turkish fleet were captured or sunk, and 12,000 Christian slaves who were rowing the Turkish galleys were set free.

According to military historian John Guilmartin, Jr., “Turkish victory at Lepanto would have been a catastrophe of the first magnitude for Christendom, and Europe would have followed a historical trajectory strikingly different from that which obtained.” To honor and thank the Mother of God for winning what has been called the “the battle which saved Europe,” the Holy Father instituted on Oct. 7 the feast of Our Lady of Victory, which later became known as Our Lady of the Rosary.

While a stunning naval victory was what was needed in the 16th century to save Christendom, what is needed now to save civilization is a stunning victory in the battle for life, one that is fought on many fronts — cultural and political, to be sure, but also and above all, as St. Paul says, with powers and principalities that are not of this world.

Blessed John Paul II spoke of a special kind of “prophetism” that belongs to women in their femininity. By this he meant that women are called to be exemplars of receptivity to the love of God and response to that love which is the essence of the Christian life. The Holy Father suggested that precisely because woman is called to be this exemplar to everyone, she is the special object of Satan’s enmity, his prime target: if he can “take down” woman, he can “take down” the whole human race. We see this from the temptation of Eve in Genesis, all the way to the dragon who stalks the Woman clothed with the sun in the Book of Revelation, waiting to devour her child. As soon-to-be saint John Paul II wrote in his beautiful letter “Mulieris Dignitatem,” on the dignity and vocation of women: “The struggle with evil and the Evil One marks the biblical exemplar of the ‘woman’ from the beginning to the end of history. It is also a struggle for man, for his true good, for his salvation. Is not the Bible trying to tell us that it is precisely in the ‘woman’ — Eve—Mary — that history witnesses a dramatic struggle for every human being, the struggle for his or her fundamental ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to God and God’s eternal plan for humanity?”

As a direct, large scale and legally sanctioned attack on innocent human beings, abortion is one of Satan’s strongholds, and we cannot conquer it without imploring the intercession of Our Lady and imitating her love of God and neighbor. As St. Maximilian Kolbe, the priest and martyr of charity who gave his life for a fellow prisoner at Auschwitz once reflected: “The conflict with hell cannot be engaged by men, even the most clever. The Immaculata alone has from God the promise of victory over Satan. However, assumed into Heaven, the Mother of God now requires our cooperation. She seeks souls who will consecrate themselves entirely to her, who will become in her hands effective instruments for the defeat of Satan and the spreading of God’s kingdom on earth.”

There can be no doubt that widespread consecration to Mary and a daily commitment to pray the rosary will turn the tide in the battle for life in our nation. By the grace of God, our rosary prayers can be the beginning of an army of consecration. She seeks souls who will consecrate themselves entirely to her, the special object of devotion, to be an example of how to live in God’s love and response to that love which is the essence of the Christian life. By this he meant that women are called to be exemplars of receptivity to the love of God and response to that love.

If you are interested in finding out more about what consecration to Mary entails, I recommend a very readable book, a sort of do-it-yourself retreat that was recently published, called “33 Days to Morning Glory,” by Father Michael Gaitley.

Our Lady of Victory, pray for us.

Lisa Everett is the co-director of the Office of Family Life.
St. John the Evangelist Parish - Goshen  
Rev. Tony Steinacker, Pastor

St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish - Bristol  
Rev. Robert Van Kempen, Pastor

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkhart  
Rev. Jason Freiburger, Pastor

St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Elkhart  
Rev. Glenn Kohrman, Pastor

Join with us “in prayer” in support of the unborn children.

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur, Indiana invites our diocese to offer “prayer cover” for the hundreds of thousands gathering January 22, 2014 in Washington, DC to show support for the unborn children and the Catholic Teachings which express dignity for all human life from the moment of conception. Thank you for your prayer!

Project Rachel companions offer hope to those suffering from post abortion

BY KAY COZAD

Project Rachel is the post-abortion reconciliation program in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend that offers hope and healing for those suffering from the pain of abortion and its aftermath. In addition to the confidential dedicated toll-free number and email contact the program offers, 17 individuals across the diocese have recently been trained as volunteer companions to work one-to-one with those seeking help.

Allison Sturm, ministry specialist, offered companion-trainings consisting of three three-hour sessions in Fort Wayne and South Bend. She intends to hold these trainings in spring and fall each coming year.

The trainings offered informed speakers, as well as interactive discussions on types of abortion and statistics, understanding why women choose abortion and its psychological impact, how to invite someone to seek healing, good listening skills and much more. A section on men and abortion and another on family members were also included. Participants acquired good listening skills as well as the tools to respond to secular comments on abortion as they prepared to be matched with clients who call seeking help. Because all information is held in confidence between the client and companion, Sturm offers debriefing to any volunteer who may need to process the interaction with the client.

The Project Rachel training had two main goals undergirding the effort. The first, says Sturm, is to reach out to those needing help with post abortion issues. The second is to spread the post abortion message. “If you are confident in the Church’s teachings on post abortion, you can kindly respond to those who judge,” Sturm says.

Sturm, a passionate pro-life advocate, admits that she was once one who judged. “It seemed at odds to be compassionate to people who had abortions. But this is as important a piece of the profile movement as prayer, changing laws and changing hearts.”

The ministry is aimed at all ages yet Sturm reports that it is uncommon for young men and women to reach out for help following an abortion. She says typically the need arises years after the abortion when the wound requires attention. But she hopes Project Rachel will offer hope. “I want to give the message that we are here so they don’t go through years of distress,” says Sturm.

“We know they’re out there,” says Sturm, adding that the trained volunteer companions can promote the project in any venue in which they work. “Even if these trained volunteers don’t work with anyone in a year, they can see the beauty of the ministry,” she says.

“We all have things in our past we regret.”

In addition to standing ready to provide one-to-one service, nearly half the volunteer companions serve as liaisons for their particular parish- or Spanish-speaking parishes in the diocese.

Another newly trained volunteer, Julie says, “When Allison contacted me regarding the training classes, I was overjoyed. Having had an abortion 40 some years ago, I have always felt that I could be of service to others who have gone through the same experience. God has been very, very good to me by providing me with wonderful priests who have helped me along the way.”

Another trained companion, Sturm believes the pro-life movement has embraced the Project Rachel message of mercy and healing, and says, “There’s value in it. It’s a part of the whole thing. We always give guidance with a way back.”

To contact the Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Ministry call the confidential dedicated toll-free number (855) 722-4354 or email projectrachelhope@gmail.com. For more information visit http://sites.dioceafwb.org/projectrachel. To volunteer in this ministry or find out more about how to support Project Rachel, contact Allison Sturm at (260) 399-1452 or email asturm@diocesafwb.org.

The training was a powerful experience for this bi-lingual woman and she is now working Project Rachel liaison for the 13 Spanish-speaking parishes in the diocese.

The Mother of Our Saviour  
The Star of Hope  
The Comfort of the Afflicted

And the one chosen to guide us through the sorrows of life, including the agony brought about by abortion.

Queen of Peace, be with us.

St. Patrick Church
ARCOLA

RESPECT LIFE

“The gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message...it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity; as ‘good news’ to the people of every age and culture.”

-Pope John Paul II

Our parish is dedicated to

The Mother of Our Saviour  
The Star of Hope  
The Comfort of the Afflicted

St. Mary Parish - Huntingon
Pro-life efforts advance in Allen County

Cathie Humbarger coordinates Allen County Right to Life activities

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Thursday, Jan. 2, marked the first time since June of 1978 that Allen County was abortion-free. Although the abortion facility was opened for 18-hour notifications for women seeking abortions, at this time Dr. Ulrich Klopfer, the abortion doctor, will be referring women to his South Bend facility for the abortion procedure.

Allen County has an ordinance that requires abortion doctors to have a backup doctor who is registered with the Allen County Health Department and who has admitting privileges at one of the Allen County hospitals or surrounding counties. Dr. Geoffrey Cly, a pro-life physician, had been that backup doctor.

But when details that Klopfer had not appropriately reported abortions that he had performed on young girls under age 14 — something required to be reported within three days to Indiana Department of Health and the Indiana Child Protective Services — Dr. Cly announced in mid-December that he would step down as the backup doctor.

“We found literally thousands of errors and omissions on termination of pregnancy reports filed by Klopfer, not only here in Allen County, but in Lake County where he performs abortions in Gary, and St. Joseph County, where he performs abortions in South Bend,” said Cathie Humbarger, executive director of Allen County Right to Life.

“After we filed the necessary complaints with the Attorney General’s office, the Indiana Medical Licensing Board has changed the classification of his license from ‘Active’ to ‘Valid to Practice While Reviewed’ and they have summoned him to appear before the Indiana Medical Licensing Board on Jan. 22, which is the anniversary date of Roe,” she added.

“I am happy to report that yesterday (Jan. 2) was the first day in years that there were no abortions done here in Allen County,” Humbarger said. “I will also caution everybody that this is not over yet.”

Dr. Klopfer could come up with a backup, “although I find that very unlikely,” Humbarger said, “but that is a possibility.”

There are 10 clinics within a two-hour drive from Fort Wayne that have closed within the last year or two.

Fighting for the cause of life

Humbarger is one of the forces behind the closure of the abortion facility. Humbarger, who has been executive director for 12 years and was the first employee of Allen County Right to Life, often finds herself in many roles: educator, fundraiser, public policy advocate, referral agency coordinator and even a bit of watchdog — making sure that pro-life regulations are enforced.

Humbarger, who grew up in a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod home in Columbus, Ind., is quick to give credit for any successes to the Lord and those who are in the trenches with her fighting the pro-life cause.

“All the glory goes to the Lord. He has just used me as a tool in His hand and again, there are many other folks who stand with me,” Humbarger told Today’s Catholic at an interview at the Allen County Right to Life offices, located next door to the Fort Wayne abortion facility.

“I love babies. I want to save as many as I can. But I have a special place in my heart for the women who have believed the lie that, for a price, an abortionist can erase the life of a baby, and they find out later in a subsequent pregnancy when they see an ultrasound or through something they see on TV, or read, whatever, that ‘Oh my gosh, I paid to have somebody kill my child.’

Once they get to the point when they worked through the healing process, their witness has certainly advanced the cause for life, because you certainly cannot argue with somebody who says, ‘This is what I chose, and this is what happened to me.’ And they are becoming more and more vocal as well.”

Humbarger traces her interest in pro-life issues over 25 years ago, when a very dear friend shared that she had had an abortion and wanted to know, “If I would still be her friend even though she made an abortion decision,” Humbarger told Today’s Catholic.

Humbarger answered, “Well sure. I know that abortions had been going on but I didn’t know that I knew anyone who had made an abortion decision.”

“The Lord grabbed my heart for this issue through the broken heart of a young desperate woman who chose an abortion in the midst of her crisis,” Humbarger said.

Efforts bring success

When Humbarger began her career as executive director, she was a “one man band.” Today three part-time employees offer their talents as well.

“I am certainly standing on the shoulders of those who founded Allen County Right to Life, all those years ago after the Roe v Wade decision, and their investment in this issue,” she said.

“The Lord has blessed their efforts and likewise what we’ve been able to do, but I certainly take no individual credit for anything that has been accomplished,” she said.

The Catholic community was among the first to speak out for life — even before the Roe v Wade decision — and Humbarger has forged a good relationship with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

“We are on the battlefield together,” she said.

“I appreciated Bishop (John M.) D’Arcy so much. I miss his hugs and words of encouragement he always had for me every time he saw me,” she said. “And I have a good relationship with Bishop (Kevin C.) Rhoades.

“We produce a pro-life radio program that airs on Redeemer Radio, and we produce and write the ‘Culture of Life’ snippets they air,” she noted.

“We couldn’t ask for a better partnership,” Humbarger said.

Three advances

Humbarger credits three reasons for the advances seen in the fight for life.

“The first is the younger face of the right to life movement,” she said. “It is absolutely amazing to go to Washington, D.C., to the National March for Life and see the youth. I think they far outnumber those of us who are of the older generation. That is so encouraging and it is our responsibility to make sure that they are ready and prepared to carry on the fight.”

“The second thing,” she noted, “is technology — particularly ultrasound. I’m of the opinion that the best witness for the unborn are the unborn. Depending on the studies that you look at, anywhere between 90 and 95 percent of abortion-minded women — in other words they’ve already decided they’re going to have an abortion — change their minds if they see an ultrasound.”

“We are blessed to have the Women’s Health Link (coordinated by the Allen County Right to Life) right here and we get people coming in thinking they are going next door to the abortion facility, and because of where we are located we can walk them in the interior of the building down the hallway to the Women’s Care Center.”

“We’ve worked hand in hand with them and in 2013 we know of 11 babies that were saved as a result of our being here and Women’s Care Center being at the other end of the hall,” Humbarger said.

“The third thing is the testimonies of women who have made an abortion decision and repented and come in and have come through the healing process,” Humbarger added. “You cannot deny somebody’s testimony of the heartbreak and grief that they experienced. Maybe (there is) relief immediately after the procedure because they thought their problem was solved, but what they realize later is that they did not erase that pregnancy, it just made them the mother of a dead baby.”

“Obviously there is forgiveness and healing at the foot of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ for this sin choice, just as there is for everyone of us,” she said.

Humbarger added, “The 40 Days for Life campaign and the faithful prayer effort of people in this county have been the basis for any success that we’ve had. God hears and answers prayer. I think we’ve seen an ever increasing level of activity and success since the 40 Days for Life campaign started and since people are more and more aware of the importance of praying for an end to abortion here in Allen County and then we’ll take on the state.”

Cathie Humbarger at her post with the Allen County Right to Life office.
Right to Life rallies, marches and activities

Fort Wayne

Angela Minter will be the keynote speaker at the 40th annual Fort Wayne March for Life on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 12 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center, 421 W. Berry St.

Her story is one of forgiveness and healing through Christ. Minter is the founder and executive director of Sisters For Life — a Christian, nonprofit organization based in Louisville, Ky., and is inspired by God to take a holistic approach in advocating for preborn babies, and mothers and fathers that are faced with an unplanned or crisis pregnancy.

After the rally, attendees will march through downtown Fort Wayne and conclude at the Federal Building to hear Silent No More Awareness Campaign post-abortion testimonies.

South Bend

Wednesday, Jan. 22, St. Joseph County Right to Life will sponsor the March For Life South Bend at the Federal Courthouse, 204 S. Main St. (Jefferson and Main) in downtown South Bend from noon to 1 p.m. March participants are encouraged to show elected representatives and the South Bend community that citizens care about LIFE. Signage will be provided. Participants' sacrifice in the cold will be meaningful as they represent the unborn who have no voice of their own. For more information, call (574) 232-LIFE (5433).

“What We Pray, Say, and Do” is the theme for this year’s “Walk the Talk for Life” event hosted by the Knights of Columbus at Council 553 in downtown South Bend on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 2 p.m. Participants are asked to gather at the Knights of Columbus at the corner of Hill and Washington streets, so they can walk together prayerfully to the nearby St. Joseph Church for a prayer service at 2:15 p.m. Deacon Mel Tardy will preside. Participants will return to the council for a panel discussion at 3 p.m., followed by a question-answer session and conversation/networking/refreshments until 4 p.m. Two speakers will briefly describe how spiritual values, informed policy stances and activities grounded in love go hand-in-hand to promote the full range of pro-life causes.

Father Tom Shoemaker, chaplain of South Bend’s Apostolate of Divine Mercy in Service of Human Life chapel, will give an overview of the new apostolate’s offerings of service for women and children and its spiritual grounding. Jeanette Burdell, program director at St. Joseph County Right to Life, will describe that organization’s ecumenical and informational mission and activities. The event is free and open to the public.

National

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a bus trip to the 41st National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Pro-lifers will depart from several locations around Indiana for Washington, D.C., for the national march. Non-Knights are welcome on this trip. For more information visit www.indianakofc.org or call Michael Velasco at (219) 663-0509.

9 Days for Life

Your prayers matter. Your sacrifices make a difference.

Pray with the bishops to end abortion

WASHINGTON — On Jan. 22, the United States will remember the 41st anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Since that tragic decision, more than 55 million children’s lives have been lost to abortion, and the lives of millions of their parents have been shattered.

In prayerful recognition, “Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage” will take place Jan. 18-26. A simple novena with different intercessions, brief reflections and suggested acts of reparation can be received directly each day by email, text message or through a new mobile application for smartphones (soon to be made available for both Android and iOS). Visit www.9daysforlife.com to subscribe through any of these means.

Other prayer, programmatic and promotional resources are also available on the USCCB website at www.usccb.org.

HOMESCHOOL GROUP ATTENDS RIGHT TO LIFE DINNER

An area homeschool group of 12, organized by John Paul Fitzmaurice, had a teen table at the Annual Right to Life dinner hosted by the St. Joseph County Right to Life on Oct. 10, 2013. Anonymous donors assisted the group with funding. It was the first time the group, who hopes to make this an annual event, attended the dinner.

Respecting ALL LIFE through our ministries including the elderly, children, refugee, homeless, poor, sick and underserved.
Pope says abortion, hunger, environmental damage threaten peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said world peace requires the defense of human dignity from violations such as world hunger, human trafficking and abortion.

The pope made his remarks Jan. 13 in his first annual address to the Vatican diplomatic corps, offering a survey of world conflicts and crises he said were caused by “envy, selfishness, rivalry and the thirst for power and money.”

Speaking in the Apostolic Palace’s Sala Regia, the vast “royal hall” where popes traditionally received Catholic monarchs, Pope Francis spoke of what he has frequently called a “throwaway culture” exemplified by widespread food waste that leaves children starving or malnourished.

“Unfortunately, what is thrown away is not only food or disposable objects, but often human beings themselves, who are discarded as if they were unnecessary,” the pope said. “It is horrifying just to think that there are children, victims of abortion, who will never see the light of day; children being used as soldiers, abused and killed in armed conflicts; children turned into merchandise in that terrible form of modern slavery called human trafficking, which is a crime against humanity.”

The pope also lamented what he called rising numbers of “broken and troubled families,” which he attributed to both moral and material factors: the “weakening sense of belonging so typical of today’s world” as well as the “adverse conditions in which many families are forced to live, even to the point where they lack basic means of subsistence.”

Noting the devastation caused by typhoon Haiyan in November, Pope Francis warned against “greedy exploitation of environmental resources,” and quoted what he said was a popular adage: “God always forgives, we sometimes forgive, but when nature — creation — is mistreated, she never forgives!”

Most of the pope’s speech was devoted, as usual for the occasion, to geopolitical problems in different regions of the world.

The pope called for an end to the almost three-year-old civil war in Syria, voicing hope for upcoming peace talks and praising neighboring Lebanon and Jordan for accepting refugees from the conflict. He also noted what he called “significant progress” in ongoing negotiations “exodus of Christians from the Middle East and North Africa,” as well as violence between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

Without specifying countries, the pope noted sectarian tensions in Asia, “where growing attitudes of prejudice, for allegedly religious reasons, are tending to deprive Christians of their liberties and to jeopardize civil coexistence.”

The pope recalled his July visit to the southern Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, an entry point for immigrants without legal permission to enter Europe, and voiced sympathy with those who, “in the hope of a better life, have undertaken perilous journeys which not infrequently end in tragedy.”

“I think in particular of the many migrants from Latin America bound for the United States,” he said, “but above all those from Africa and the Middle East who seek refuge in Europe.”

After his speech, the pope personally greeted the attending ambassadors and their spouses. The Holy See has full diplomatic relations with 180 nation-states, the European Union and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, as well as “relations of a special nature” with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

**Abortion cannot be a human right... It is the very opposite.**
- Cardinal Franz Koenig

For rallies and events in the diocese visit diocesefwsb.org

Lord, hear our prayer!

May Saint Monica, example for wives and mothers, intercede for those who seek her assistance.

St. Monica Parish
222 West Mishawaka Avenue
Mishawaka

**St. Patrick Parishioners in Walkerton, Indiana support all life from conception to natural death!**

Take my hand... not my life!
St. Stanislaus Kostka
55756 Tulip Road
New Carlisle, Indiana

40th Annual March for Life
COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE v. WADE

**Sponsored by Allen County Right to Life**
**Three Rivers Educational Trust Fund**

**Saturday, January 18, 2014**
**RALLY AT NOON**
**March to Immediately Follow**
USF Performing Arts Center
(formerly The Scottish Rite)
431 West Berry St. Downtown Fort Wayne

**Keynote Speaker:**
Angela Minter
Exective Director
Sisters for Life

**A “Silent No More” Awareness Event at the Federal Building will follow immediately after the march!**
“THE CONFLICT is between a culture that affirms, cherishes, and celebrates the gift of life, and a culture that seeks to declare entire groups of human beings - the unborn, the terminally ill, the handicapped, and others considered ‘useless’ to be outside the boundaries of legal protection”

- Pope John Paul II

St. Joseph Parish
Mishawaka

“Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mothers’ womb, belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with His own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are numbered and whose vocation is even now written in the ‘book of life’.”

-Evangelium Vitae

Respect for life requires that science and technology should always be at the service of man and his integral development. Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person’s life.

JOHN PAUL II, Evangelium Vitae

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
NOTRE DAME

All of those who favor abortion have already been born.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
God’s Greatest Gift of All

Respect Life!

GOD’S GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

Respect Life!
St. Bavo Parish
MISHAWAKA

The nearer a soul is truly united to God, the more its sensibilities are increased to every being of His Creation; much more to those whom it is bound to love by the tenderest and most endearing ties.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
Fort Wayne

St. Joseph Parish - Bluffton

“May the noble humility and caring love of our parish patron, St. Joseph, as the protector of the infant Jesus and the Holy Family, enhance the cause of Pro-Life!”

“May God have mercy on our nation for the killing of the unborn!”

Servant of God, Dr. Jerome Lejeune
Discovered the cause of Down Syndrome

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fort Wayne

Babies are a gift from God

CHOOSE LIFE!
Sacred Heart Parish
125 North Harrison
WARSAW

Acknowledge God’s Sovereignty Over All Life—Respect and Defend Life!

SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES CHURCH
SYRACUSE, INDIANA

God, author of all life, bless, we pray, all unborn children; give them constant protection and grant them a healthy birth that is the sign of our rebirth one day into the eternal rejoicing of heaven.

Grant their parents comfort in all anxiety and make them examples of justice and truth for their children.

Amen.

Christ the King Catholic Church
52473 State Road 933
South Bend, Indiana 46637

Corpus Christi Catholic Community
SOUTH BEND

It was you who created My inmost self; and put Me together in my Mother’s womb; for all These mysteries I thank you, For the wonder of myself, for The wonder of your works.

Psalm 139, 13-14
Don’t get me wrong. My life overflowed with caregiving. Generous people who stepped out of their way to include me in the festivities of the season. But in the exhausting pain of my early grief, I had little energy to respond. The goodness that pervaded my life that first Christmas swayed me to a place of darkness where I was sure I would simply exist forever. The only light I saw was the willful joy my two young daughters maintained even in their loss.

So in that light — for them — I decorated a tree. Not quite as elaborately as in years past, but standing nonetheless as a reminder of peace and beauty, baked cookies to share with family and friends and then to place on the hearth on Christmas Eve for Good St. Nick, wrapped gifts that were distributed at family gatherings and, of course, on Christmas morn, and tried my best to be joyful as well.

The busy-ness of the season kept my grief at bay some of the time, though the ache I felt for Trent grew with each gathering. And when Jan. 2 finally arrived I breathed a sigh of relief that I had survived my first Christmas season without my beloved spouse.

Unfortunately for me then, and many others who grieve, I suspect, the relief of the “back to normal” routine that one usually experiences after the activities are over and the decorations are boxed in anticipation of another season did not return.

HOPE, PAGE 16

KAY COZAD

Fasting

KAY COZAD

When I first contemplated writing an article on fasting, I thought it might give me the opportunity to discuss all the health benefits involved. Being a doctor, that was my initial simplistic view. After just a little research and reflection I realized how little I really knew. So I am going to presume there will be plenty of readers like me that need some education.

Fasting is primarily for the spiritual! There are many healthy benefits especially for the overweight crowd, but it’s all about the spirit and without a prayer or meditation, fast it is really an empty exercise.

I also became very much aware of how winny I have been over the years with incorporating the fasting. This is all right, I am embarrassed to say I have never done other than when I was sick.

The Bible tells us that adding fasting to prayer elevates your ability to more fully connect with God. Biblical characters added fasting to prayer when they needed to step up their game and get serious about worshiping God or getting God’s attention.

It sounds like a good idea for modern times as well. Do you need forgiveness? Do you or a loved one need healing? Has your personal life faltered? Maybe it is time for a fast.

Some basic ground rules are in order. There are some people who should not embark on a significant fast. They include people that are fighting advanced cancer or other serious illness, malnourished during today, eating disorders, pregnancy, or if you are just too underweight.

Whether it’s a one meal fast or a several day fast you shouldn’t restrict liquids. Dr. David Kaminskas

Dr. David Kaminskas is a cardiologist and the treasurer of the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Guild of the Catholic Medical Association. All health professionals are welcome to join. Visit www.fort- wayneanca.org

The lonely trail

N

ow that the holidays are behind us, many are breathing a sigh of relief, grateful for the time spent with family and friends and all the preparation and events that made this season so special. Most are grateful to pack up the Christmas decorations and get back to “normal.”

But there are some who struggle with the end of the season that kept them so busy — struggle with getting back to normal. Those who are in deep mourning for a lost loved one know of what I speak.

The loneliness of loving a loved one is a burden any time of the year, but for some it is especially cumber-some during and after the Christmas season. I remember well, that first Christmas after my husband Trent died in a car accident. Every event was a sheer act of will for me as I struggled numbly through the tradi-

tional Advent preparations and Christmas events he and I would have enjoyed together.

Invited to know Jesus

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jn 1:29-34

T

he Book of Isaiah furnishes this weekend’s first reading from the Scriptures. There is the overtone of relief and joy. There is the promise of a bright future. It was all because of the fact that, first, after the destruction and anguish of being conquered by Babylonians, and then after genera-
tions of exile in Babylon for many, God’s people were enter-

ing a new day of return to their homeland and hopefully to lives of prosperity and security.

Lest anyone think this fortunate turn of events was the mere fact that the people were entering a new day of return to their homeland and hopefully to lives of prosperity and security.

Finally, treasured Old Testament symbols testify to the identity of Jesus. The dove descends from the sky, from heaven to rest upon Jesus. God is in Jesus.

Reflection

At Christmas, the Church excitedly told us that Jesus was born. Son of Mary, Jesus was a human, as are we. The shepherds adored Jesus, representing all humanity.

At the Epiphany, the Magi found Jesus after searching for God. To assist them God led them and protected them. In Jesus, they found God.

At the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, celebrated last week, the Church introduced us to Jesus as the Savior of doomed humankind. In Jesus, humans would have access to eternal life.

Now, continuing the process, John the Baptist, so reliable and so insightful, proclaims Jesus as the Lamb of God. In all these settings, the Church carefully puts before us the person of Jesus the Lord and tells us about Jesus. It is an invitation to follow Jesus. Hearing these Scriptures of this season, we know Jesus. He is no stranger. However, truly knowing the Lord depends upon our willingness to respond to this invitation.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10 1 Cor 1:3-8 Jan 1-29-34 Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-21 Ps 50:8, 9, 16-17, 21, Mk 23:11-18 Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:11-13 Ps 89:20-22, 27-28, Mk 23:23-28 Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40, Ps 144:1-2, 9-10 Mk 8:1-6 Thursday: 1 Sm 18:7-12 Ps 56:2, 3, 9-13 Mk 37:12 Friday: 1 Sm 24:21-22 Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11 Mk 3:13-19 Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 Ps 117:1-2 Mk 16:15-18

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

Dr. David Kaminskas

longer than two days without some caloric intake. I know of a couple that fasts one day per week by eliminating all foods other than natural juices. They use their juicer to combine fruit and vegetables into nutritional liquid meals. This also would give you health benefits by reducing your caloric consumption for the week and would provide you with a wonderful boost of natural vitamins and minerals (as discussed in a previous column) in the way nature intended people to get them.

When fasting, it is essential that you design it around major time for prayer. It is through praying and fasting together that you will close the gap between your humanity and the spiritual. Your goal should be to conquer the flesh. With a successful fast your mind will become sharper and clearer and you may very possibly be able to discern the right decision or course of action that you have been seeking. Is this not what Jesus was doing in the desert for 40 days and nights? The time to make a difference thing when you fast — don’t tell anyone! As Mt 6:16-18 says: “When you fast, you are not to look glum as the hypocrites do. They change the appearance of their faces so that others may see you fasting. I assure you, they have already repaired that thing for you. When you fast, see to it that you groom your hair and wash your face. In that way no one can see you are fasting. Fasting is not to show off to God or getting God’s attention. Fasting is never good and not the goal here. So drink plenty of water or juice. They use their juicer to combine fruit and vegetables into nutritional liquid meals. They use their juicer to combine fruit and vegetables into nutritional liquid meals. They use their juicer to combine fruit and vegetables into nutritional liquid meals. They use their juicer to combine fruit and vegetables into nutritional liquid meals.
Opting out of the Belgian solution

Recently, Belgium’s Senate voted overwhelmingly to extend legal euthanasia to children of any age. The proposal, which will likely become law, limits the practice to children who are terminally ill, suffering great pain and have their parents’ permission.

In theory, they must also understand what they are asking for (if that is even possible for, say, a 10-year-old).

This horrifies most Americans. Perhaps The New York Times exaggerates when it makes a subtle comparison to “the horrors of Nazi Germany, which killed thousands of mentally and physically handicapped children,” but that does not mean the Belgian proposal is wise or well-thought-out.

Philippe Mahoux, sponsor of the Belgian bill, argues that ever since Belgium legalized adult euthanasia, doctors have been killing terminally ill children anyway and covering it up. He hopes to spare those doctors from prosecution.

Once death is pursued as an acceptable medical outcome, medicine is changed. Mahoux’s argument implies as much. And if doctors can cause the death of suffering adult patients, then what argument is there to deprive children of the same option? Dr. Jan Bernheim of the Free University of Brussels makes precisely this argument in favor of Mahoux’s bill.

Across the border, the Royal Dutch Medical Association has taken the argument a step further still. Although euthanasia is illegal in the Netherlands for children under 12, the association holds that “severe suffering (by) the parents” over a newborn’s abnormalities is sufficient to justify euthanasia. This is the scariest position of all, depriving medicine of any reference whatsoever to the patient’s well-being.

It is not hard to deduce from this mindset the danger it creates for patients who are incapacitated or who feel pressure (real or imagined) from family or society to choose death. Underlying the embrace of doctor-assisted suicide and euthanasia is a conviction that suffering is pointless.

My brother Kevin died from leukemia when he was 13. His form of the disease is survivable today, but in those days few survived more than 18 months. It was a hard trial for Kevin, who as a child was afraid of a lot of things, including scary movies, large birds, spiders and needles.

He needed bone marrow transplants and blood transfusions, both of which involved large, painful needles. The drug regimen caused his hair to fall out. When he couldn’t fight an infection and his temperature spiked, the doctors would put him in a tub full of ice water. He became thin and weak. He eventually bled to death.

But as Kevin grew weaker from the disease, he grew in wisdom and holiness. For our family it was a period full of grace. I was 10 years older, but I found myself making mental notes of how I could be more like him. He had long since overcome his fear of needles, the least of his problems.

By his last Christmas, he knew he was going to die, though he didn’t burden the rest of us with the knowledge. I remember praying the rosary with him and thinking what a privilege it was to pray with such a saintly young man.

Catholics maintain that suffering has meaning and can be redemptive. Kevin’s suffering changed his family, his doctors and the children around him in the hospital. After he died, my parents bought a house in Buffalo, N.Y., near the hospital, for the use of patients and families who needed a place to stay while being treated.

Since then, hundreds of other houses have cared for thousands of families. These things wouldn’t have happened if my parents had opted for the Belgian solution.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington.

HOPE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15
— as much as I tried to coax it. Without the hustle bustle of the Christmas season, the loneliness encircled me once again in a shroud of darkness that brought me an intrusive physical ache. And as the new year unfolded, the loneliness was in God’s promise of healing.

Best selling author Richard Paul Evans exposed my life in his 1997 novel “The Letter,” when he penned, “I feel lost. No. To be lost is to not know where one is — and I am all too sure. I am alone. My heart, my love, has been torn from me and I am consumed by the pain of it… I don’t know where my road now leads but I fear the shadows that lie ahead. But it is not the darkness of the path I fear. Just the loneliness of the trail.”

It is sometimes a dark and lonely trail that those who mourn must walk when life outside resumes its normalcy, especially after the holidays, no matter the type of loss. But hope is hidden in that loneliness for all of us. God is present in the empty, fertile space of the new year, even when the ache vies to overtake us. His grace will sanctify our grief as we work through it toward life. But we must do that necessary work!

I’ve learned over the years that grief work is essential to discovering how our lives have been changed by the death of our loved ones and how we will create a “new normal” that will honor them. The work of grief is not time bound and is certainly difficult with its emotional chaos and uncertainty. But it is a transitional process — and will not last forever. In the process we must maintain our hope that God’s plan for our future is one of healing and peace.

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

Gratitude expressed for the 2013 Collection for the Church in Latin America

On behalf of the Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America, I would like to express my gratitude to you and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the generous contribution of $4,322,10 to the 2013 Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA).

As a result of your diocese’s continued generosity, the subcommittee was able to secure a total of 393 grants amounting to $5,548,716 in pastoral grants in 2013. These projects included the formation of seminarians and religious, the development of youth ministry projects and the support of pastoral ministry activities.

Our next collection is scheduled for the weekend of Jan. 25-26. Without you, our solidarity could not take shape into concrete programs that support and spread the faith among the people of Latin America, a faith that is now bearing fruits in the person of our Holy Father Francis. On behalf of the subcommittee and those who benefit from the collection, I offer you my humble thanks.

Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S., Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America
SAINT JOSEPH, MARIAN TEAMS WRESTLE

Wrestlers from Saint Joseph and Marian met for a Jan. 9 match. It was Saint Joseph’s Senior Night and St. Joseph won by a score of 42-36. St. Joseph’s Ryan Jankowski is currently ranked second in the 182-pound class of IHSAA state wrestling rankings. Jankowski is shown with Marian’s Jack Yeung. Jankowski won with a pin at 3:05.

SAINT JOSEPH, MARIAN TEAM WRESTLE,

teams return to basketball action

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The streets were shoveled and the temperatures back to a “balmy” 28 degrees as the Inter-City Catholic League play drifted back to normalcy after a week of weather that had closed schools and gyms.

The Eagles of St. Joseph, with just one blemish to their early season record, were playing a much-improved St. Matthew team that had made a run to the semifinals of the Christmas tournament.

Both squads relished in their early full court pressure defense of St. Joseph set the tone as the Blazers would counter with a posse of three — Coley Quinn, Casey Szymanski and Mason Talos.

The teams started action like two pugilists measuring strikes and circling the ring as De St. Jean struck first, but was counteracted with a score from Quinn.

The early full court pressure defense of St. Joseph set the tone as they forged ahead 10-5 after one; the pressing issue was that De St. Jean was relinquished to the bench with early foul trouble.

Without their muscle, St. Joseph turned to running the floor and pushed the lead to 14-7. Then Eagle Ben Falkaw knocked down a three late in the stanza to inflate the lead to 24-8 and a blowout seemed imminent.

As the Blazers came out of the locker room, it looked as though their game plan would be to fight fire with fire and promptly went inside to Talos, who converted a three-point play the hard way as St. Matthew concluded an 8-0 run catching the Eagles flatfooted.

St. John, New Haven, girls off to a good start

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — In his 15th season, Coach Steve Pepe is off to a good start with his St. John the Baptist, New Haven, eighth-grade girls’ basketball team. The Raiders finished runner-up at the Thanksgiving break, won a Queen of Angels Invitational over Baptist, New Haven, eighth-grade boys and then made a run to the semifinals of the Christmas tournament.

Christmas, then had a good showing at the Hoopfest tournament after Christmas. The Raiders were eliminated at Hoopfest by the top two teams — St. John Emmanuel Lutheran School and St. Charles. Pepe lists eight on his roster and leaves the ball handling to his two playmakers — Grace Wharton and Veronica Hathaway.

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) champs from a year ago also list their defense as a team strength.

The Raiders had a tough challenge as they faced St. Charles again in their first conference matchup of the season when CYO games resumed on Saturday, Jan. 11.

Counter punches on a three pointer by St. John’s Ben Lamont and a goal from De St. Jean and the constant driving and penetration from Talos made it a two-point game with 1:10 on the clock.

De St. Jean knocked down one free throw; but just seconds later, Szymanski knocked down a big time shot making the margin one with 50 ticks left on the clock.

The final points of the contest would come from the line by the Eagles’ Michael Anthony and De St. Jean as the Blazers’ comeback victory would be extinguished, the final score 35-31.

“A win is a win and it was definitely great to get this one,” commented Eagle Coach Anthony. “Two of our eighth graders, Josh and Michael, came up big at the line in the last minute and played tough down the stretch. I’m pretty happy with their leadership,” he said.

“Our goals are to go after every loose ball, rebound and play fun-tastic defense,” Pepe said.

After winter weather break, ICCL teams return to basketball action

BY JOE KOZINSKI

They are back! With the winter weather break behind them, both the boys and girls basketball teams from ICCL return to the hardwoods.

The Raiders had a tough challenge as they faced St. Charles again in their first conference matchup of the season when CYO games resumed on Saturday, Jan. 11.

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“Our goals are to go after every loose ball, rebound and play fun-tastic defense,” Pepe said.

RENNER PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL NFL PUNT, PASS, KICK COMPETITION

Hunter Renner, a sixth-grade student at Mishawaka Catholic School in Mishawaka, participated in the NFL Punt, Pass, Kick Competition on Jan. 11 in Denver, Colo., representing Mishawaka and the Chicago Bears. Locally, he won the competition and advanced to sectionals in Gary, where he won and placed in the top 4 to go to the Team (State) Competition with the Chicago Bears. Renner won that competition and the following day participated in a pass demonstration before the Bears’ game. Renner was announced as the winner for the 10-11 year olds and placed No. 2 in the nation for his age group.

Liturgical Music Director

St. Michael Parish in Plymouth has an immediate opening for Director of Liturgical Music. We are searching for a Catholic in good standing, with expertise at the piano. St. Michael is a bilingual parish and knowledge of Spanish would be beneficial. There are four weekend Masses in English and Mass with the school children four days a week. For more information please contact Mrs. Kathy Girres at 574-936-4935 or kgirres@comcast.net

Golden Jubilee Mass

Celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
January 26, 2014 2:00 pm
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Reception to follow Fellowship and refreshments at the USF Performing Arts Center 431 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802
NEW YORK (CNS) – Following are capsule reviews by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“47 Ronin” (Universal)

Despite lavish special effects, this big-budget retelling of the fact-based Japanese national legend of the title is so badly done as to render its classic story incomprehensible. Working from a script by Chris Morgan and Hossein Amini, director Carl Rinsch has Keannu Reeves as a mysterious half-breed warrior helping 47 leaderless samurai (most prominently Hiyoryuki Sanada) regain their honor after their master (Min Tanaka) has been deposed through the machinations of a jealous rival (Tadanobu Asano) and a shape-shifting witch (Rinko Kikuchi). Combat violence, the bloodless portrayal of a suicide and a beheading. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

“Justin Bieber’s Believe” (Open Road)

Director Jon M. Chu’s amiable follow-up to his 2011 feature “Justin Bieber: Never Say Never” chronicles the eponymous star’s second world tour. The young girls who represent the Canadian-born singer’s carefully targeted audience will certainly need no convincing of his latest project’s worthiness. But parents will be reassured to know that, though it contains a brief acknowledgement of the wunderkind’s foul-mouthed encounter with a cursing photographer, this documentary as a whole provides overwhelmingly harmless entertainment. A single, incomplete instance of crude language and some gyrating dancers. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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Our Lady of Hungary hosts trivia night
South Bend — The Our Lady of Hungary School will host a trivia night Saturday, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m. Game starts at 7 p.m. Cash prize of $200. Tickets are $10 per table. Bring in your own food for sharing with your table. No carry-in beverages. Call (574) 289-3272 or email: maj@olhsb.org by Jan. 14 to reserve a table.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 17, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8.50, children (5-12) $3.50. Carry-out available.

Be Still... The Contemplative in the Active World

30 at 6 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. After the presentations and sharing, Sister Beattie will lead the participants in centering prayer. For information visit scl.nd.edu/ proclaim or by phone at (574) 631-1379 or email phbelin@nd.edu. Reservation required.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Jan. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Psalms.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $20 and includes lunch. Register by Jan. 24 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

NFP classes offered
Fort Wayne — The Couple to Couple League will offer morally acceptable, 99 percent-effective Natural Family Planning classes. Three classes, one per month, as well as optional pre-menopause or postpartum classes as needed. Classes start Sunday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. in the home of Ron and Marilyn Shannon. To register call (260) 489-1856 or email mshan nonlinear@frontier.com.

Freshman registration begins at Luers
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will begin registration Jan. 29-30, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. A copy of birth certificate, recent report card and $135 registration fee will be needed. For information call the admissions office at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Chapel of Divine Mercy announces
Masses, Adoration
South Bend — Dominican Father Anthony Giambrone will celebrate Mass Tuesday evenings at 7:30 a.m. in the Chapel of Divine Mercy, 2018 Ironwood Circle. After Mass, Father Giambrone will lead prayer for Exposition. Consider an hour of Adoration on Tuesday or Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or on Wednesday from 2-7 p.m. Contact Tom Policinski to schedule a time at Tom.policinski@divinemercyforlife.com.
FATHER DELANEY BLESSES STATIONS

Father John Delaney, pastor of St. Jude Parish in South Bend, is shown near the baptismal font and the oil paintings of the Stations of the Cross. The stations were blessed on Dec. 16. The renovations and artwork were a part of the $3.9 million “Our Time to Build” capital campaign, which began in 2012. Also shown are mosaics of St. André Bessette, a Canadian Holy Cross brother, and Blessed John Paul I, which were recently completed.

MARIAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bishop Rhoades also reflected on Catholic schools.

“Catholic schools are meant to be institutions of learning, schools of knowledge,” he said. “But they are also meant to be schools of virtue. And the greatest virtue is charity. Here at Marian, you learn about God’s love for you and also about your vocation to love God and neighbor. And you have many opportunities to live that vocation. Here at Mass, for example, we are showing our love for God through prayer.”

“In your service activities, you show your love for neighbor, especially the poor and suffering,” Bishop Rhoades added. “But there are opportunities every day to live this vocation to love through the way you speak and act with others.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visits the freshman theology class of teacher Erin Pierce during a pastoral visit to Marian High School on Jan. 9.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visits the freshman theology class of teacher Erin Pierce during a pastoral visit to Marian High School on Jan. 9.

Before the big announcement, Bishop Rhoades celebrated Mass. His homily focused on St. John and his writings. Bishop Rhoades noted, “A major theme (of St. John) was love, God’s love and our vocation to love. St. John wrote that, ‘God is love.’ This is a profound truth of Christianity. With love, He sent us His Son. This was entirely gratuitous. In today’s reading, he reminds us that, ‘we love God because He first loved us.’ But there is a requirement attached to God’s gift of love, that of sharing it with others.”

Bishop Rhoades also reflected on the idea the announce-ment was coming. The students and faculty were very excited about their new patron, Our Lady of Lourdes.

“I was excited to meet the bishop for the first time,” said freshmen Josh Weist. “I really liked the homily.”

Matthew DiTommaso, freshmen student council president, agreed saying, “I enjoyed the bishop coming to our school. I have heard of the name, Our Lady of Lourdes, before the bishop mentioned her, but I am not familiar with her background information. I think it is great to have a feast day to celebrate as a school. I do think the student council will plan activities for this wonderful feast day.”

Senior Matthew Garatoni was also impressed with Bishop Rhoades’ visit. “He is very insightful and broke up his homily into three parts that made it so easy to understand his message,” Garatoni said. “While I am leaving the school, I am excited about the new grotto and patron saint for Marian. I have younger siblings that will be here soon and will really be able to enjoy it.”

More photos are available at www.diocefwsb.org