FORT WAYNE — About 150 teenagers from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend came together for the weekend of Feb. 7-9 for the second annual Ignited retreat, “Enter the Fire.” The event, held at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, was a collaboration of numerous Catholic schools and parishes in both South Bend and Fort Wayne.

Ignited 2014 offered a chance for teens to encounter the person of Christ in the sacraments, prayer and fellowship. The aim was “that they would come to know that He will fulfill their deepest longing,” said Cindy Black, a retreat organizer and director of the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry.

“The idea is that authentic relationship — realizing that God’s love is what we are made for, and it is the only thing that satisfies,” said Liz Cotrupi-Pfunder, who led praise and worship music throughout the weekend with the Liz Cotrupi Band.

Eucharistic Adoration was one aspect of the weekend that several of the teens named as a high point. Adoration is “really building your relationship with Jesus,” said Ariella Witt, 18. “Just like you spend time with your friends to really get to know them, you have to spend time with Him. It’s that part of the day when nothing else matters — it’s just you and Jesus being best friends. It’s that special time when you find yourself by finding Him.”

Witt, who gave a teen witness, added: “Coming on retreat is the main reason that I found God in my life; so for me, it’s everything. I can’t put it into words. A couple of years ago I...”

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — It’s so important to go to Mass every Sunday because that’s where people receive Christ who saves, forgives and unites everyone to His Father, Church and each other, Pope Francis said.

It’s also “important that children are well prepared for first Communion because ... after Baptism and Confirmation it is the first step toward belonging strongly, really strongly, to Jesus Christ,” he said Feb. 5 at his weekly general audience.

The pope continued a series of talks on the sacraments of Christian initiation, focusing on the Eucharist as the source and summit of the life of the Church.

“In fact, every authentic journey of faith, communion and witness springs from this sacrament of love,” he said.

The pope began his audience talk by greeting the estimated 13,000 people huddled under umbrellas and raincoats as heavy rain beat down on St. Peter’s Square.

“Dear brothers and sisters, Good morning, but not good day, huh? It’s a bit nasty,” he said.

The pope also prayed, at the end of the audience, for all those in Tuscany and Rome affected by severe flooding caused by days of heavy rain. To help visiting pilgrims who were ill or with disabilities and their caregivers keep warm and dry in the bad weather, the pope said he had them go indoors to the Vatican’s Paul VI audience hall to watch the audience on the big screens set up inside.
In these weeks of Ordinary Time before the season of Lent begins, the Sunday Gospel comes from Saint Matthew’s account of the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount has been called the Magna Carta of Christianity. The French author Francois Mauriac once said: ‘Those who have never read the Sermon on the Mount cannot grasp what Christianity is all about.’

In the Gospel this coming Sunday, we will hear the following words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount: ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.’

The Catechism teaches us that the Law of the Gospel fulfills the commandments of the Law. The Lord’s Sermon on the Mount, far from abolishing or devaluing the moral prescriptions of the Old Law, releases their hidden potential and has new demands arise from them: it reveals their entire divine and human truth. It does not add new external precepts, but proceeds to reform the heart, the root of human acts, where man chooses between the pure and the impure, where faith, hope, and charity are formed and with them the other virtues (CCC 1968).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives examples of how His Law, the Law of the Gospel, fulfills the commandments of the Old Law. One example that Jesus gives is the fifth commandment: ‘You shall not kill.’ Our Lord adds to this the proscription of anger, hatred, and vengeance. And then He goes even further, asking His disciples to turn the other cheek and to love their enemies. Jesus is calling us on a moral and spiritual journey towards holiness, the perfection of love.

Another example Jesus gives is the sixth commandment: ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ Jesus calls us to more, to the virtue of chastity: ‘But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.’

Our Lord insists on the conversion of our hearts. This happens through the grace of the Holy Spirit and our cooperation with that grace. We receive this grace in the sacraments. I think particularly of the need we have for the Eucharist which strengthens us to live the Law of the Gospel. And the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, which not only restores us to God’s grace, but also helps us to progress in the life of the Spirit.

Saint Augustine thought that when he became a Christian, he would attain the life proposed in the Sermon on the Mount. He thought that by receiving Baptism and the Eucharist, he would live the ideals of Christ perfectly. He learned later that he was mistaken. In reflecting on this change in Augustine’s thinking, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote: ‘Only Christ himself truly and completely accomplishes the Sermon on the Mount. We always need to be washed by Christ, who washes our feet, and be renewed by him. We need permanent conversion. Until the end we need this humility that recognizes that we are sinners journeying along, until the Lord gives us his hand definitively and introduces us into eternal life.’

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proposes to us a new way of life. He gives us a charter of Christian life. In the qualities of discipleship He describes, we see the image of Jesus Himself. He is teaching us to model our lives on his own. He is the Light of the World. At the same time, recall last Sunday’s Gospel, where Jesus says to the disciples in the Sermon on the Mount: ‘You are the light of the world. We are light when we live with the mind and the heart of Christ. This is what Jesus teaches us to do in the Sermon on the Mount.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us the way to life, the path to true happiness. The Sermon on the Mount describes for us the path that leads to the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus has given us what Blessed John Paul II called ‘a code of Christian holiness.’ He exhorts us to a perfection modeled on that of God Himself: You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48).
U.N. committee presses Vatican on child abuse, some Church teaching

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child continued to insist that the Vatican compile and publish detailed statistics on clerical sexual abuse of minors and that the pope, as head of the Church, can and should order Catholic dioceses and religious orders around the world to implement all the policies of the U.N. Convention of the Rights of the Child.

The committee, which spent an entire day Jan. 16 questioning two Vatican representatives, also urged the Catholic Church to revise the Code of Canon Law to make it mandatory that bishops and religious superiors report suspected cases of sexual abuse to civil authorities, even in countries where civil law does not require such reporting.

The Vatican always has insisted that Church law requires bishops and religious superiors to obey local laws on reporting crimes; however, it also has said that where reporting is not mandatory and the victim does not want to go to the police, the victim’s wishes must be respected.

The “concluding observations” of the committee, which monitors compliance with that Convention, listed several new rules and guidelines adopted under Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, “when properly applied, will help eliminate the occurrence of child sexual abuse by clergy and other Church personnel.” He is pictured in Rome in a 2012 file photo.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, testified before a United Nations committee in January and told the committee that new rules and guidelines were adopted under Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, “when properly applied, will help eliminate the occurrence of child sexual abuse by clergy and other Church personnel.”

The committee’s “concluding observations” said the Church’s procedures for dealing with suspected cases of abuse are so hostile to children and their parents that some have reported being “re-victimized by the Church authorities.”

The committee’s report also objected to confidentiality being “imposed as a condition of financial compensation,” although Bishop Scicluna testified that Vatican knows “there are things that need to be done differently,” particularly to address concerns about whether a local bishop or religious superior has covered up cases of alleged abuse.

“The only truth will help us move on,” he told the committee.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, also testified and told the committee that new rules and guidelines adopted under Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, “when properly applied, will help eliminate the occurrence of child sexual abuse by clergy and other Church personnel.”

Archbishop Tomasi told Vatican Radio Feb. 5 that his first reaction to the report was “surprise because the negative aspect of the document they produced makes it seem that it was prepared before” he and Bishop Scicluna testified in January. “In fact, the document doesn’t seem to have been updated to take into account what has been done in the past few years” by the Vatican and by individual bishops’ conferences.

“The Church has responded and reacted and will continue to do so” to protect children and end the scandal of clerical sexual abuse, the archbishop said. “We must insist on a policy of transparency and zero tolerance for abuse because even one case of the abuse of a child is a case too many.”

In other areas concerning the rights of children as set forth in the U.N. convention, the committee:

• Praised a pledge to consider “withdrawing the discriminatory expression ‘illegitimate children’ which can still be found in canon law.”

• Insisted the Church and its teaching on sexuality “contribute to the social stigmatization of and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender adolescents and children raised by same sex couples.”

• Said the rights of children to know their biological parents have, in some cases, been violated by Catholic adoption agencies and in cases where the biological father is a priest. The policy of some Catholic convents and hospitals to let mothers know they can anonymously leave unwanted babies and any other practice that gives parents anonymity should be only a last resource.

• Expressed concern about adolescents “separated from their families and isolated from the outside world” when they enter minor seminaries run by some religious orders.

• Asked the Church “to review its position on abortion, which places obvious risks on the life and health of pregnant girls” and to amend Church law to identify “circumstances under which access to abortion services can be permitted.”

Archbishop Tomasi commented that the preamble of the Convention on the Rights of the Child “speaks of the defense of the life and of the protection of children before and after their birth,” yet “the recommendations that are made to the Holy See include changing its position on abortion,” which “seems to be a real contradiction.”

• Suggested the Church needs to “overcome all the barriers and taboos surrounding adolescent sexuality that hinder their access to sexual and reproductive information, including on family planning and contraceptives.”

The Vatican press office said the Holy See would give the U.N. committee’s report, which is not binding, a “thorough study and examination.”

“The Holy See does, however, regret to see in some points of the concluding observations an attempt to interfere with Catholic Church teaching on the dignity of human person and in the exercise of religious freedom,” the statement said.
INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Catholic Conference’s (ICC) legislative priorities successfully reached the halfway point in the Indiana General Assembly, also known as “crossover.” Among the ICC legislative priorities successfully reached the halfway point include: a measure to strengthen traditional marriage, and bills to improve early childhood education and child-care safety legislation to clarify insurance coverage for abortion and a bill to provide better follow-up care after an abortion also moved forward.

Glen Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference, who serves as the official spokesman for the Catholic Church on public policy matters, said, “The majority of the bills we have supported this year have passed the first chamber with bipartisan support.”

House Joint Resolution 3 (HJR 3), authored by Rep. Eric Turner, R-Cicero, would solidify current law that marriage is between one man and one woman by putting that definition into Indiana’s Constitution.

HJR 3 passed the House, 54-40, Jan. 28, after being amended the previous day. HJR 3 currently contains only the statement that a marriage is between one man and one woman. On Jan. 28, the amendment was voted, 52-43, to remove the second sentence, which prohibits any legal status “identical or substantially similar to that of marriage” for unmarried individuals. Turner argued to keep the second sentence because it provides a stronger definition of marriage between one man and one woman, thus banning other legal same-sex arrangements like civil unions.

HJR 3 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Judiciary on Feb. 10. Tebbe expects there will be attempts in the Senate to restore HJR 3 to its original form putting the second sentence back into the resolution.

A bill to give low-income families with young children access to an early education voucher passed the House Jan. 16, receiving a bipartisan vote of 87-9. The bill, House Bill 1004, establishes the early education scholarship pilot program. The program would provide supplemental funding for eligible children receiving qualified services from certain early education providers. The bill gives a child a sibling of a child who receives an early-education scholarship and meets certain other applicable criteria access to the Choice Scholarship program from grades K-12.

Three Indianapolis lawmakers, Rep. Bob Behning and House Speaker Brian Bosma, both Republicans, and Democrat lawmaker Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh authored the bill. Tebbe expects the bill will get a hearing in the Senate, but noted that the Senate has been less receptive to early childhood education.

A bill to improve child care regulations for families passed the House, Jan. 28, with bipartisan support, 71-24. The proposal, House Bill 1036, authored by Rep. Kevin Mahan, R-Hartford City, increases accountability and improves group sizes of children, food, health, safety and sanitation. The Division of Family and Children (DFC) would determine the specific standards. The bill moves to the Senate for further consideration.

Tebbe expects the bill to get a hearing in the Senate and move forward. A bill to clarify insurance for elective abortion care, House Bill 1123, passed the House with bipartisan support, 80-14. The bill, authored by Rep. Jeffery Thompson, R-Lawrence, would prohibit elective abortion insurance coverage in health insurance plans. The bill would make elective abortion coverage available only as a separate rider for health insurance policies purchased privately and in group coverage. It now goes to the Senate for consideration. Tebbe expects the bill to get a hearing in the Senate and move forward in the process.

A bill to enhance follow-up care after an abortion passed the Senate, 34-4 and sau. 4. The bill, Senate Bill 292, authored by Sen. John Waterman, R-Sherbinton, provides clarity to the current abortion statute by requiring written documentation of admitting privileges and better notification of where follow-up care can be obtained should complications follow an abortion. Tebbe said the fate of SB 292 is uncertain due to the controversial nature of abortion legislation.

Tebbe explained that a few bills the ICC was successful in halting include House Bill 1264 and Senate Bill 162, which would have added unnecessary government regulation to the school voucher program; and Senate Bill 62, a bill to add more out-of-state gaming operations to compete for Hoosier limited charitable gaming dollars.

What happens next in the legislative process? Tebbe said, “The process starts over again; existing Senate bills will ‘crossover’ to the House to be considered by the House and Senate bills will ‘crossover’ to the Senate to be considered by the Senate.”

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A glance at half-way point, “crossover”

• Marriage Amendment — House Joint Resolution 3 (HJR 3) would solidify current law that marriage is between one man and one woman by putting that definition into Indiana’s Constitution. The marriage amendment passed the House 57-40. Status: It moves to the Senate. The Senate Judiciary heard HJR 3 Feb. 10.

• Early education voucher, House Bill 1004, establishes the early education scholarship program for lower income families. The bill passed the House 87-9. Status: It moves to the Senate. The Senate Education and Career Development Committee will hear HB 1004, Feb. 12.

• Child-care regulation, House Bill 1036, increases safety and accountability to certain childcare facilities. It passed the House 71-24. Status: It moves to the Senate. Referred to Senate Health and Provider Services Committee awaits a hearing.

• Elective Abortion insurance coverage, House Bill 1123, would prohibit elective abortion coverage in standard health insurance plans. It passed the House 80-14. Status: It moves to the Senate. Referred to Senate Insurance Committee, awaits a hearing.

• Abortion follow-up care, SB 292, would prohibit follow-up care after an abortion. It passed the Senate 34-14. Status: It moves to the House. Referred to the House, awaits assignment to a House Committee.

ICC’s priorities make it to halfway point
Everyone, each in his or her own way, has a particular role and sphere, feel called to love and serve life, to welcome it, respect it and promote it, especially when it is fragile and needs attention and care, from the mother’s womb to its end on this earth.” The pope’s remarks came after reciting the Angelus with people gathered in St. Peter’s Square Feb. 2, which was designated in Italy as the Day for Life.

The pope encouraged all associations and movements involved in “the defense and promotion of life” to continue their work. He also quoted a statement by Italian bishops that “every child has the face of the Lord, lover of life, a gift for families and society.” He thanked those in the Diocese of Rome who organized the annual Day for Life celebration, as well as university professors who organized seminars and conferences on “current difficulties linked to childbirth.”

Cardinal says bill stops taxes from ‘subsidizing violence’ of abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Passage of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act “will help save lives and will reduce abortions,” U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., said Jan. 28. The measure, known as H.R. 7, was approved 227 to 188. Sponsored by Smith and U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-Ill., the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act applies the principles of the Hyde amendment to federal health programs, including the Affordable Care Act. Since 1976, the Hyde Amendment has prohibited the use of taxpayer dollars to fund federal subsidies to any part of a benefits package that includes elective abortions.

“Americans have consistently demanded that public funds not pay for abortion,” Smith told House members prior to the vote. President Barack Obama signed the Hyde amendment restrictions and applying them to the new health insurance exchanges. But Smith said the effort has failed because “many, perhaps most” plans available on health care exchanges include elective abortion. In Connecticut and Rhode Island, at least, state officials have confirmed that all insurance plans offered on their respective health care exchanges include abortion coverage.

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act also requires that health care providers fully disclose the extent of their abortion coverage, including any abortion surcharges required of premium payers. Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, praised the legislation. “The federal government should not use its funding power to support elective abortion, and should not force taxpayers to subsidize this violence,” the cardinal said in a Jan. 28 statement.

Senate OKs farm bill; Obama to sign it into law during Michigan trip

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With a 62-38 vote Feb. 4, the U.S. Senate passed a five-year comprehensive farm bill, a measure President Barack Obama said was “not perfect” but “on the whole will make a positive difference” for rural economies and the nation at large. House passage came Jan. 29, two days before a second extension of the 2008 farm bill was to expire. The new bill “will build on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, create new jobs and opportunities, and protect the most vulnerable Americans,” said Obama, who signed the measure into law Feb. 7 during a visit to Michigan, the home state of Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow, chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

While Catholic groups and other rural advocates were urging passage of a farm bill, their support for the House version of the bill was muted, largely because of an $800 million cut in food stamps a year and the deleting of agricultural reform measures from the version of the bill that came out of a joint House-Senate conference committee. What praise there was to offer dealt largely with the conference’s ability to put together a compromise bill despite their partisan differences. “While we are disappointed that the final compromise continues to call disproportionately for sacrifices from hungry and poor people in this country and around the world, especially when large industrial agricultural operations continue to receive unnecessary subsidies, we are glad to see support will continue for domestic and international nutrition and development aid, rural development and conservation,” said a Jan. 29 statement from Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.
St. Louis Besancon transformed for future generations

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — The parishioners of St. Louis are patiently awaiting their return to a newly renovated church. Since June 9, 2013, the faithful of Besancon have been celebrating Mass in their recreation hall as their hallowed space undergoes a stunning transformation.

On the feast of St. Louis the year prior, a capital campaign kicked off to raise funds for the much-needed project coined “CRP” or Church Restoration Project. In his fundraising pitch, lifetime member of the parish, Darrel Dodane, reminded fellow parishioners of the sacrifice that the early founders made to build the church and how he feels the responsibility of current members to preserve St. Louis for future generations.

Father Steve Colchin, who has served as pastor at St. Louis since 1997, was very pleased with the overwhelming response from family and friends of the parish, saying, “Because of the generous support of so many, we were able to meet our goal of $675,000 quickly.”

Soon after, architects and decorators were hired, various subcommittees were formed, months of meetings transpired, and the process began. It is estimated that the church was last painted nearly 40 years ago and the stained glass windows were restored two decades ago.

The total restoration of the structure, built in 1871, includes extensive exterior work as well as a major interior makeover. One of the first undertakings was repainting the steeple and re-gilding the gold cross, which reaches high to the eastern Allen County sky. A new “Decra” roof was put on to match the three other major buildings on the parish grounds. The shingling on the outside of the church was repaired and repainted and all new storm windows were installed.

The roof of the sacristy was also lowered approximately 20 inches to allow the change to a hip roof on the back. In addition, all new doors were installed. The front steel doors were each made three inches wider as Father Steve Colchin has always quipped, “Two fat men and a casket could not get through.”

Among the many changes inside, a row of pews was removed from the rear to allow for a funeral viewing area. The former cry-room was converted to a fully handicap accessible restroom and a reconciliation area. A new, slightly larger cry-room was placed on the other side. The extremely steep steps to the choir loft were flattened and the south wall was completely reinstalled. All of the pews were removed and refinished in a rich oak stain.

Altars were graciously gifted from Bishop Leonard Blair (former Toledo bishop and now archbishop of Hartford, Conn.) and St. Anthony Parish in Toledo, Ohio. Home to early French settlers, it has been a goal of the committees at St. Louis to incorporate all of the old, along with the new, during the renovation.

Along the way and the bitter cold this winter have slowed the process, but for the most part, all has gone smoothly and a Mass of rededication with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will be planned for some time in the early spring.

On the list, is the installation of the new porcelain tile and carpeted floor on the south wall was completely reinsulated. All of the pews were removed and refinished in a rich oak stain.

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The former Altar of Repose is now the Altar of Sacrifice and the columns are being used in the ambo. The old altars from the top of the holy water font were also modified. Now all the columns will be Corinthian style adding a look of sheer beauty and elegance to the purple eggplant paint scheme paired with three shades of gold. All new lights and fans were also added.

Another eye-catching highlight includes the exposure of the center window featuring St. Louis for the first time ever in the history of the church. Donated by former St. Louis pastor and diocesan legend, Father Julian Benoit, the window had previously been hidden for over a century. “Uncovering the window was one of the major goals of our CRP,” Father Colchin explained.

Most recently completed, the exquisite apse dome is now graced with a dove, symbolizing the Holy Spirit and the verse from Scripture: “Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you,” another special feature noticed in old photographs and brought back from years gone by.

Services were rendered from architect Sam Jones of the Troyer Group in Mishawaka, local interior decorator Jo Dormer, local artist Rick Fisher and the Jack Laurie Flooring Group, under the direction of Bart Albright.

Father Colchin was also impressed with Robert Koores, owner of Custom Building and Design, and his crew, and said, “They were so easy to work with and really went above and beyond their duties.”

All in all, the long-awaited completion will be a magnificent and dramatic change for the people of Besancon. Eileen Renier, who will turn 93 this month and lived within the church steeple’s shadow most of her years, concluded, “I am so happy I will get to see the fruition of this project in my lifetime.”

‘Son of God’ in theaters Feb. 28

LOS ANGELES — From the producers of the record-breaking miniseries “The Bible,” Roma Downey, star of the TV show, “Touched by an Angel,” and producer Mark Burnett, comes “Son of God,” the first major motion picture on the complete life of Jesus Christ in nearly 50 years.

“Son of God” will be released by 20th Century Fox in theaters nationwide on Feb. 28, featuring powerful performances, exotic locales, dazzling visual effects and a rich orchestral score from Oscar-winner Hans Zimmer.

“It has been nearly 50 years since a major motion picture has been made about the whole life of Jesus,” said Archbishop José H. Gomez, archbishop of Los Angeles. “In this film, the entire cast vividly depicts the life, death and resurrection of our Lord. I hope the movie will be an evangelization resource to share the teachings of the Gospels and the Word of God with our society.”

“Son of God” is an engaging and compelling presentation of the story of Jesus, the Son of God among us. It is a joy to watch this film bring alive the pages of the Gospel and help us see what those who lived at the time of Jesus experienced,” said Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington D.C.

Downey and Burnett enlisted the help of Catholic theological and catechetical experts and have developed a variety of ways for Catholics to participate in the film. They are providing these materials with the hope that “Son of God” will bring people into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Msgr. Brian Bransfield, associate General Secretary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has authored a companion reflection guide based on scenes from the film, which encourages viewers to reflect on the deeper meaning of the associated Scripture passages.
St. Pius X Catholic Church announces $20 million campaign to expand, build new church

GRANGER — St. Pius X Catholic Church, Granger, has announced the Behold, I Make All Things New capital stewardship campaign for facilities expansion. Upon the recommendation of St. Pius’ Facilities Study Committee, Parish Council and Finance Council, and approval from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the Diocesan Finance Committee, the parish is moving forward with the $20 million capital campaign to fund:

• Construction for a new, larger church
• Construction for a new rectory
• Renovation of the existing church building
• Expansion of the Parish Education Center.

The campaign was formally announced at the Feb. 1-2 weekend Masses. With one-third of the campaign goal already secured through advance commitment gifts and pledges, the parish will now move forward with the active phase of the campaign with its parish membership and the greater community.

Founded in 1870 by Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin, the origins of St. Pius began at St. Joseph’s Farm in Granger. In 1951, a new church dedicated to St. Pius X was built on Fir Road south of State Road 23 for the 145 families it served. In 1992, the present church was built to accommodate 1,400 families. St. Pius X has now grown to more than 3,150 families. The parish is fulfilling its mission to provide opportunities of faith formation for all members and serving the many needs of the surrounding community while proclaiming the Good News to all.

Msgr. William C. Schooller, pastor of St. Pius X, said the campaign is an ambitious, but necessary step for the parish. “We always stand on the shoulders of those that go before us. We benefit by their sacrifices and I’m convinced that the sacrifices we make now will help the next generations,” Msgr. Schooller said.

“Through the works of this campaign, we will provide for the spiritual needs of our parish today and in the future.”

The campaign is raising funds for three major components of the facilities expansion project:

A new church

The new church will comfortably seat over 1,300 people, nearly doubling the size of the current church. This will allow more parishioners to attend Mass together each weekend. A Romanesque style of architecture, together with a bell tower, will allow the church to make a very powerful and positive statement of faith on one of the busiest corners in Granger. To make way for the new church, which will connect to the existing worship space, the parish rectory will be relocated.

Renovation of the existing church

The existing church is loved and cherished by many parishioners of St. Pius. Renovations to the current church will accommodate multiple needs including a larger gathering space for before and after Mass, weddings, and funerals; a new, larger baptistry, a parish library, and additional meeting rooms, office, and storage space.

The rendering shows the plans for the Behold, I Make All Things New capital stewardship campaign for facilities expansion at St. Pius X Church in Granger.

The existing church building

Along with making the curriculum available for free to any Catholic educator, the program was also sent directly to all Holy Cross parishes with schools and large presentations. It was also made directly available to ACE schools, PACE (Pacific Alliance for Catholic Education, which is administered by the Archdiocese of Portland) and Notre Dame’s ECHO’s Faith Formation Leadership program. The Office of Vocations has also alerted directors of the Master of Divinity Program at Notre Dame and recruited participants in the National Religious Vocation Conference and the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors.

An Imprimatur is official approval from the Catholic Church. Bishop Rhoades gave the Imprimatur on Jan. 14. Prior to approval, the curriculum was reviewed by Msgr. Michael Heintz, director of the Master of Divinity Program at Notre Dame and director of the ECHO Ecumenical and Interreligious Office in South Bend. Msgr. Heintz teaches undergraduate and graduate theology courses at Notre Dame.

The curriculum is available on the website at curriculum.holycrossvocations.org and can be downloaded for use as individual lessons, or printed and assembled into resources for ongoing use. The entire curriculum is available at curriculum.holycrossvocations.org.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

USF Jesters presenting spring performance

FORT WAYNE — The Jesters of the University of Saint Francis will present their annual spring performance on March 8 at 6 p.m. and March 9 at 3 p.m. in the North Campus Auditorium at 2702 Spring St. The Jesters’ program and this year’s performance are in support of a grant from the AWS Foundation.

This year’s show, “Horse Tales,” is set in a stable where horses and dogs are gathering for a fox hunt. As they meet, they share their life stories based on pieces of literature, including, “Misty of Chincoteague,” “Black Beauty,” “Sea Biscuit” and “Call of the Wild.” These various story lines will be portrayed by Jesters participating. Throughout the story, a fox will strive to build a relationship with the horses/dogs, ultimately convincing them to cancel the hunt and create opportunities to explore themes of friendship, love and loyalty.

Tickets are $10 and are available beginning in February 2014. Call the School of Creative Arts (SOCA) at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001 for information.

Sponsored by the University of Saint Francis since 1978, the Jesters is a performing group of people with mild to severe developmental/physical disabilities. The purpose of the Jesters is to enhance quality of life for people with disabilities by engaging them in the creative arts. The vision is to develop self-expression, self-esteem, socialization and other life skills while providing learning opportunities to the USF community and the community at large.

Afternoon tea for mothers and daughters

SOUTH BEND — The diocesan Office of Family Life and Saint Joseph FertilityCare Center will co-sponsor an afternoon tea with mothers and daughters on PACE. The event will begin at 1 p.m. and conclude at 2:30 p.m. at the South Bend campus of the University of Notre Dame.

“Teens Can Protect Their Reproductive Health and Fertility,” Suzy Younger, Saint Joseph FertilityCare Center manager and practitioner, on “Unveiling the Mystery of Fertility: What Every Teen Should Know;” and Lisa Everett, Office of Family Life, on “God, Sex and the Meaning of Life: Theology of the Body.” A panel of young women will offer personal witnesses about chastity and appreciating God’s gift of life. That can be a vocation for the faithful. By using the curriculum, the goal is for elementary and middle school students to become engaged and begin to consider God’s call in their own life. That can be a committed single life, marriage or vocations to the Priesthood or religious life.

The curriculum was the collaborative effort of many, not only within the Holy Cross Office of Vocations, but also with ACE educators. ACE developed the individual grade-level lesson plans based on Holy Cross’ theology of vocations.

Along with making the curriculum available for free to any Catholic educator, the program was also sent directly to all Holy Cross parishes with schools (grades K-8). It was also made directly available to ACE schools, PACE (Pacific Alliance for Catholic Education, which is administered by the Archdiocese of Portland) and Notre Dame’s ECHO’s Faith Formation Leadership program. The Office of Vocations has also alerted directors of the Master of Divinity Program at Notre Dame and recruited participants in the National Religious Vocation Conference and the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors.

An Imprimatur is official approval from the Catholic Church. Bishop Rhoades gave the Imprimatur on Jan. 14. Prior to approval, the curriculum was reviewed by Msgr. Michael Heintz, director of the Master of Divinity Program at Notre Dame and director of the ECHO Ecumenical and Interreligious Office in South Bend. Msgr. Heintz teaches undergraduate and graduate theology courses at Notre Dame.

The curriculum is available online at curriculum.holycrossvocations.org and can be downloaded for use as individual lessons, or printed and assembled into resources for ongoing use. The entire curriculum is available at curriculum.holycrossvocations.org.
I met a woman who traveled for three years following her husband’s untimely death following a heart attack. She worked as a traveling nurse in areas from the East Coast to the West, living in studios or one-bedroom apartments while her heart was empty back home. She found a new slice of life that actually had a bit of joy in it as she met new people and experienced new landscapes across all the country. Her grief was not part of this nomadic life.

Then her oldest daughter gave birth to her first grandchild, and her strongest desire was to settle back home to be near this new life. She realized this was the grief she had been avoiding for the past three years. There are times along the grief journey particularly in the beginning when the pain is raw, when being busy is a healthy thing to do. Those are times when we take purposeful breaks from the heaviness of grief, or must set about accomplishing life’s ever-present tasks. However, being excessively busy with no time to mourn in personal ways can upset the healing process and must be monitored closely. It’s important for us to understand the need to face our emotions and respond to them in healthy ways.

I found in my own experience following the death of my husband Trent and the subsequent deaths of my mom and my young nephew, Adam, that though it feels like trial and error when one first acknowledges the hard work to be done to reconcile a loss into life as it is now, it is really just a matter of following your heart.

As I struggled to reconcile to my new role as single mother after Trent’s untimely death, I found a balance between the comfort of parenthood and the challenges of being a solo mother. This process reveals two important factors. The first is that God’s law is permanent and unchanging. It is logical. It touches very basic instincts and conditions among humans, all attached deeply to human nature itself, and as such it is not open to qualifications or to changes that humans might wish to make.

Secondly, here the Lord speaks with authority. He defines and explains the law of Moses. Jews did not regard the law of Moses as merely a set of principles composed by Moses. Rather, Moses was the medium through which God revealed the divine law to humanity. God is the author of the divine law. He is the author of the Commandments. He is the lawgiver. By defining and making more precise this law, the Lord acts as God. It is an important revelation of the identity of Jesus.

Trent was killed, I found myself overwhelmed by the comings and goings of my two young daughters’ lives. And of course that was my desire. However, it wasn’t long before I found myself crashing in the evening after the girls were in bed. Fortunately, a very wise woman counseled me to find time to get out and do something like ‘even if you just get a babysitter and sit in your backyard,’ she joked.

I eventually saw wisdom in her encouragement and slowly over time I found a balance between the continuous onslaught of life events and my new role as single mother after Trent’s death.

It is an important revelation of the identity of Jesus.
End-of-life decision: Can a pacemaker be turned off?

Physicians and their patients are frequently challenged with moral issues as it becomes clear that death is approaching. As a cardiologist, I talk to many people who have devices like a pacemaker or an ICD (implantable cardioverter-defibrillator). When their heart condition progresses to end-stage there are times when a patient may ask me to turn their device off. As a Catholic and a physician, when would such a request be acceptable? Allow me to first educate the readers on pacemakers and ICDs.

Pacemakers are inserted when a person’s heart rate begins to wander (bradycardia). The major advantage of a pacemaker is that it allows for a fatal arrhythmia because of death by automatically shocking the heart when this rhythm disturbance recur. The ICD will then prevent potentially fatal arrhythmia will occur. Those that have been (shocked) back to a normal rhythm will heal, we will choose our commitment to “get over it quickly” and actually detracting from a more comfortable with turning off ICDs. As a point of clarification, when an ICD is turned off the pacemaker part of the device is typically left on.

Many patients though, that have a pacemaker become pacemaker dependent. If you turn their pacemaker off their heart stops and they die very suddenly. This is akin to physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia in my opinion and that of religious scholars. If you poll physicians, the majority is against turning off pacemakers, although they are typically comfortable with turning off ICDs.

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

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my own need to mourn my loss.

With my own experience in mind, I encouraged my friend those years ago to examine her reason for traveling. As she became educated about the universality of grief, through her support group meetings and seminars and books, she came to understand that grief is heart work. She looked back on her busy-ness and realized that though at first it was necessary for her to travel just to survive, later it became a consorted effort not to feel the pain of her loss.

My friend eventually came to terms with her grief and started at the beginning with the healing process, albeit three years after the loss. She, too has now struck a balance in her life, between being busy or distracted and slowing down to acknowledge and the myriad feelings that come with mourning the loss of a loved one. Distractions are commonplace in our fast-paced American culture and we are bombarded with the encouragement to “get over it quickly” and “move on” from our grief. But those of us who have lost dear ones know that there is no quick fix to mourning a loss. It is a process that we must take time to work through as our hearts lead us.

Perhaps as our journeys proceed and we learn what we must do to heal, we will choose our commitment activities and behavior a little more wisely. We will take the time we need to acknowledge our loss, sit with our grief and feel all that comes to us, and seek the support we need to respond to those feelings, even in the busy-ness of life.

Key Codazi 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 kcodaz@todayscatholicnews.org.
BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. Rose/ St. Louis Twins had an especially sweet victory when they claimed the 2014 Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) fifth-and-sixth-grade small school title on Monday evening, Feb. 3. The Twins won the final game a year ago and tradition has it that the reigning champions are entitled to host the next year’s tournament.

In the past, St. Rose/St. Louis have not been able to do that because they didn’t have their own court, but with St. Rose’s purchase of the Monroeville Elementary School earlier in the school year, another dream became a reality.

“This is the first year for the girls to have a home gym, so the win was extra special,” explained Twins’ Athletic Director and CYO Business Manager Ava Meyer.

The win was not an easy task, however. Coach Corey Sheehan and the Twins had battled with St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel on two different occasions during the season — each claiming a win and both squads had done well against their conference foes.

So, once the tournament finally got underway after several weather cancellations, it was not surprising the two teams each made it through their brackets to face each other one last time in the championship.

In the showdown, Coach Ed Men’s Squires jumped out to a 6-4 first-quarter lead, then held the Twins scoreless in the second quarter to take a 9-4 advantage into the locker room at the half.

But St. Rose/St. Louis had a big second half and climbed their way back to slip by the Squires for a 17-16 victory.

In the loss, Hannah Sweeney and Ingrid Spenn each had five points with Allie Beard, Maddie Parsenow and Addie Knipp adding a bucket each for Hessen Cassel. Audrey Renninger, Abby Sheehan and Bella Roussy all had a basket for the Twins. Meg Saalfrank had four points and Maggie Castlemale led all scorers with seven.

St. Therese won the coveted boys’ Blue League championship, 30-16, with St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel coming in runner-ups.

Coach Chad Creager’s Crusaders played an awesome tournament and had a great season going 7-0 against other small schools in the league.

With 12 players on his roster, Creager had a nice mix of fifth-grade talent and strong sixth-grade leaders. His team finished with a 14-5 overall record.

“It was a great team effort,” Creager remarked. “Our boys play very unselfishly.”

Creager and the older squad’s coach, Zach Palmer, recall that the last CYO title dates back to the late 1990s, and they were pleased to end the dry spell.

Many of the younger boys played “up,” so the future is bright at St. Therese.

“We play well as a team for a group,” explained Palmer.

The seniors were victorious in their matchup against St. Louis/St. Rose on Saturday morning, Feb. 8, by a score of 47-33. Blake Rhymer had 13 points for the Twins, while Zach Frantz added 12 for the Crusaders. St. Therese’s Evan Creager led all scoring with 17 as the Crusaders improve to 4-1 in the Blue League.

In varsity girls’ action, the Twins hosted former teammates, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, in a non-conference, weekend matchup on a snowy Tuesday, Feb. 4. The first half was neck-and-neck with the Raiders ahead, 17-15; but it was all New Haven in the second half, thanks to the deadly shot of Grace Renninger, who finished with 18 points. The Raiders won, 36-19. Norah Painter was a big presence inside adding 12 and Grace Wharton rounded out the scoring with six points.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the Twins lost to St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel in a conference showdown, 36-19. Katherine Knapke led all scorers with 10 points for St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, including six in the first quarter and Erica Renninger was tops for the Twins with nine.

The girls’ CYO championship games are slated for Saturday, Feb. 15, at St. Charles.

CHARGERS FOR CHANGE GAME RAISES MONEY FOR BREAST CANCER GROUP Feb. 8 marked the fifth annual Chargers for Change fundraiser, as the men’s and women’s basketball teams of Ancilla College hosted the event. The Ancilla Chargers faced off against the Red Hawks of Lake Michigan College in conjunction with Ounce of Prevention to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research and patient support. “We really love fun public events like this. Awareness is key to prevention and Ancilla basketball gives us one more opportunity to spread the word,” Jennifer Houin, co-founder of Marshall County’s Ounce of Prevention organization said.

J V teams claim CYO hoops title
ICCL matchups offer thrilling basketball action

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The weather in St. Joseph County had finally unleashed its grip on the Inter-City Catholic League’s schedule and it opened up some thrilling games at the area Catholic high schools. Two teams, though vastly improved, were searching for answers before the postseason embarked in this week’s matchup. The red-clad St. Adalbert squad faced their eastside rivals, the Pumas of Queen of Peace, in a rematch that saw an Eagle two-point win earlier in the season.

The Pumas were poised to avenge their defeat and pounced to an early 6-0 lead until the lanky forward of the Eagles, Avery Shrum, broke the scoring drought by scooping in a layup with 15 seconds remaining in the first and cut the deficit to a four-point margin. Field goals would be hard to come by or nonexistent as the Pumas’ Christian Mauzak’s layup after a steal was the only one for each team.

The lack of scoring was precipitated by a couple of factors; the Pumas’ Colin Jones was shadowing Shrum and the rebounding machine of St. Adalbert’s Jason Galindo was limiting the second shot opportunities of Queen of Peace. The second half would show more of the same.

Garrett Vangundy, the talented point guard for the Eagles, tried to make a dent in the Pumas’ lead, but his crossover drive into the lane was not enough as Josh Nickles and Mauzak combined for 12 for Queen of Peace and were victorious in the defensive battle, 16-7.

In other games from around the league, Christ the King, behind a 20-point performance on Michael Dunkelberger, stunned Corpus Christi, 50-28.

The Panthers of St. Anthony knocked off Holy Family, 31-13, as Nick Crates scored 14 in the win. The Eagles of St. Joseph edged by Holy Cross, 45-37, behind Josh De St. Jeane’s 17 and Ben Lamont’s 11. Elliot Zyniewicz and John Bader had 19 and 10 points respectively in the defeat.

In an old-fashioned barn burner, the Blazers of St. Matthew squeaked by St. Michael, 28-27, with the help of Mason Talos’ 12. Brady Holiday had another big day despite the loss throwing in 17.

Despite a hard fought first quarter, the Falcons of St. Jude were overmatched in the next three as the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic were victorious, 46-17, behind double-digit scoring of Ike Branson and Zack Whitfield.

Undefeated in the league, the Lions of St. Pius would have the task of playing two games on Sunday to keep their record unblemished.

First up would be St. Thomas and the tandem of Tommy Ghopp and Nolan Grose, both who scored in double figures, however, the trio of Walter Ellis, Zach Lattimer and Reese Jackowiak were too much as the Lions snatched a victory, 53-50.

In the nightcap, the Lions kept their day and their record perfect by displacing St. Matthew, 47-31, again with high scoring efforts of Ellis and this time Sam Padmos. Talos paced the Blazers with 11 points.

“Due to the severity of this winter conditions the ICCL will have to permanently cancel some games,” explained Tony Parshall, ICCL commissioner.

Unfortunately, in order to have a complete playoff schedule in time for our spring calendar, we will have to shorten the season.”

For the complete list of schedules and locations, go to the web site at www.icclsports.org
would have never spent my weekend like this. It’s really special to see that if you’re a teen living your faith, you’re not alone.”

Another favorite aspect for teens was the participation of numerous religious — both men and women — who helped with activities like leading small group discussions. At the retreat’s conclusion, the teens expressed their strong appreciation for all the religious with a standing ovation of thanks.

“The nuns are especially cool to have around — to see young people in the convent is really inspiring,” said retreatant Abby Lyon, 17. “I really enjoy seeing everyone come together, because we all have the same passion. This is what the Church is about — fellowship, community, communion. The love that’s in this room is beyond our comprehension. It just feels like a big family.”

For Brother Francis Mary of the Franciscan Brothers Minor, who served as retreat sacristan, this family dynamic was especially fitting, in that teens might take away a “new understanding of which God the Father is, as truly someone who cares for them and wants them to be a part of His family — who wants to be a Father to them.”

In his homily at the closing Mass, Franciscan Father David Mary Engo expounded on the same truth: “In Baptism, God really and truly became your father.”

That is exactly the sense that teens like Alex Biggins, 17, have gleaned from Ignited. “I’m taking away a feeling of community, the feeling that God does love me, even if sometimes I feel like He doesn’t.” He added that last year’s Ignited retreat was “one of the best weekends of his life.”

The depth of our desire to love and to be loved played prominently in Father David Mary’s homily, as well. “I’m challenging you to love the God who loves you, to love Love,” he said. “If you believe in that radical, intense love, you have no other choice. What is your reply? As teenagers, you are now geared for ‘radicality.’ If not now, when? If not you, then who?”

On the reality of this responsibility, Witt said, “A lot of my friends don’t know God or go to church, so a retreat gives me the boost to realize that I may possibly be the only Gospel they’ll ever see.”

Justin Seng, the retreat’s emcee, also spoke on the importance of conveying a passion for Christ in daily life: “My ‘mission statement’ would be to present Christ as irresistible to the human heart, especially in a world where it seems required that we water everything down. We’re not allowed to be really passionate about anything today, because we have to be cool and levelheaded and PC. We can’t go over the brink about anything.”

In a similar vein, Father David Mary preached, “Jesus didn’t say, ‘Tolerate others as I have tolerated you.’”

He therefore challenged all those present: “Go deeper! Deeper into your prayer life, into your faith, and do not stop until you have reached perfect union with Him. Be on fire for the God whose heart is engulfed in flames for sinful humanity — for you and me.”

The pope arrived about 25 minutes later than his usual start time in the square because, as he later explained, he first had gone to greet those pilgrims seated inside the hall. In his catechesis, Pope Francis said that by celebrating the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, “we participate in the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.”

“By making Himself broken bread for us, the Lord Jesus pours out to us all of His mercy and His love, renewing our heart, our existence and our way of relating to Him and our brothers and sisters,” he said.

Taking part in the Eucharist “conforms us in a unique and profound way to Christ,” he said, granting Christians a foretaste of full communion with God in heaven, “where with all the saints we will have the unimaginable joy of contemplating God face to face.”

“We will never thank the Lord enough for the gift He gave us with the Eucharist,” the pope said. “It’s such a great gift and that’s why it’s so important to go to Mass on Sundays,” he said.

Mass is a time “not just to pray, but to receive Communion — this bread that is the Body of Christ that saves us, forgives us, reunites us to the Father. It’s beautiful to do this.”

Mass on Sundays is particularly important, he said, because “it is the day of the resurrection of the Lord, and with the Eucharist we feel our own belonging to the Church, to the people, to God, to the body of God, to Jesus Christ.”

At the end of the audience, Pope Francis met and spoke briefly with Lidia Guerrero, the mother of Victor Saldano, an Argentine national who has been on death row in Texas since 1996. Guerrero was accompanied by a representative of the Community of Sant’Egidio, which is active in the fight against the death penalty.