Missionary vocation of St. Patrick celebrated at Notre Dame Mass

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Saint Patrick’s Day was celebrated at the University of Notre Dame at a 5:15 p.m. bi-lingual Irish/English Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as the celebrant. The Irish/English Mass is a tradition on St. Patrick’s Day when the University of Notre Dame is not on spring break during the feast, and this year’s event filled the basilica.

The Notre Dame Folk Choir sang from its Irish repertoire with instrumental accompaniment that included uilleann pipes, the national bagpipe of Ireland. The Notre Dame Irish Dancers added to the Irish flavor of the celebration by leading the entrance procession and the recessional.

The first reading was proclaimed in Irish, and the responsorial psalm was sung in Irish. The preparation hymn was the traditional “Bless the Corners of This House,” sung in both Irish and English. Other Irish hymns during the liturgy were “Jesus, Be in Our Hearts,” and “Song of Patrick,” both sung in Irish.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades noted that Notre Dame’s history, culture and traditions have an interesting mix of French and Irish elements. Notre Dame was founded by a French priest, Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin. The bishop pointed out that within a few decades of the school’s founding, the huge Irish immigration to this country brought Irish men to the Holy Cross order and many Irish students to Notre Dame. In the 1920s, the football team became known as the “Fighting Irish,” he noted.

Pope Francis greets people as he arrives for Mass at the parish of Santa Maria dell’Orazione on the outskirts of Rome March 16. The pope told parishioners to use their commute time to work to read a few lines from the Bible.

POPE FRANCIS GREETS PEOPLE AT ROME PARISH

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The inspiring story of one young woman’s steadfast faith and courage in the face of unfathomable circumstances was told and retold across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend recently. Jeannie Opdyke Smith, the only child of Holocaust rescuer Irene Gut Opdyke, visited all four Catholic high schools and the Brookside Mansion at the University of Saint Francis proclaiming her mother’s powerful message that “one person can make a difference.” The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne sponsored the presentations.

Irene Gut Opdyke was a 19-year-old nursing student when Hitler invaded her home land of Poland. As a Polish Catholic cut off from her family, she joined the Polish underground working with a small group in a forest to fight the atrocities forced on the Jewish population of the area. At one point she was captured, severely beaten, raped and left for dead. She was taken to a Russian hospital where she recovered and eventually escaped. As she moved through town she witnessed more of the murderous atrocities the Nazis perpetrated against the Jews of the area. It was then that she vowed to take every opportunity to help.

During the time she was housekeeper to a high-ranking German soldier, she hid a dozen Jewish people she had met in a German factory’s laundry, in the cellar of the soldier’s very home. Eventually they were discovered and the
Jesus’ thirst and our thirst

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

In the Gospel this coming Sunday, the Third Sunday of Lent, we hear the famous conversation of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well. It is one of the most profound passages of the Bible and especially appropriate for our meditation during this season of Lent.

Jesus asks you to read and meditate on this famous passage in chapter 4 of Saint John’s Gospel. Jesus is thirsty and asks the woman for a drink. Naturally, Jesus was physically thirsty since he had been traveling through the region on a presumably hot day. But His thirst was also deeper. He deeply thirsted for the salvation of the Samaritan woman. Saint Augustine wrote: “Although Jesus asked for a drink, His real thirst was for this woman’s faith. Yes, Jesus thirsts and continues to thirst for our faith and our love. He said from the cross: ‘I thirst.’ Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta often mediated on these words, recognizing their deeper meaning.

The thirst of Jesus was a central theme of Mother Teresa’s spiritual life. In fact, in every chapel of the Missionaries of Charity throughout the world, the words of Jesus: “I thirst” are displayed beneath an arm of the crucifix. Mother Teresa wrote: “It is very important for us to know that Jesus is thirsting for our love, for the love of the world, for the love of each individual you and I. Have I heard Jesus directly say this word to me personally? Did I ever hear that word personally: ‘I thirst.’ ‘I want your love.’ ‘I thirst’... If not, examine yourself: why could I not hear?”

Mother Teresa spoke often of Jesus’ thirst for our love, our affection, our intimate attachment to Him, and our sharing of His passion. She wrote about God thirsting for us to come forward to satiate His thirst. How? By spreading the Love of His Heart to others, and so satiating His thirst for souls.

God thirsts for our faith and our love. He wants us to find our authentic happiness in Him. And He wants us to bring that faith, love, and joy to others.

Like Jesus and like the Samaritan woman, we also thirst. Just as we may at times experience a physical thirst for water since it is indispensable for life, there is also a spiritual thirst in each of us that God alone can satisfy. The Samaritan woman eventually also asks Jesus for water because He spoke to her about the living water He would give. Our Lord spoke to her of a “living water” able to quench her thirst and become in her “a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” She is thirsty for that water, as we all are. It is the living water of the Holy Spirit, the water that satisfies our infinite thirst. In every person, there is an inherent need for God, a thirst that only He can quench.

Pope Francis has written the following: “The Holy Spirit is the inexhaustible source of God’s life in us. Man of every time and place desires a full and beautiful life, just and good, a life that is not threatened by death but can still mature and grow to fullness. Man is like a traveler who, crossing the deserts of life, thirsts for the living water: gushing and fresh, capable of quenching his deep desire for light, love, beauty, and peace. We all feel this desire! And Jesus gives us this living water: He is the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and whom Jesus pours out into our hearts. “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly,” Jesus tells us (John 10:10).”

God the Father sent His Son to quench our thirst for eternal life. He gave us His love. But to give us this gift, Jesus asks for our faith. Jesus knocks on the door of our hearts and waits patiently for our answer. This Gospel has a special significance for our catechumens who are preparing for Baptism. As the Samaritan woman was enlightened and converted to the faith, so are our catechumens. They prepare to receive the life-giving water of the Holy Spirit at Baptism during the Easter Vigil. In Baptism, they will be born by water and by the Holy Spirit and enabled to worship God, as Jesus said to the woman at the well, “in spirit and in truth.”

All of us on this Lenten journey, though already baptized, are still on a journey of faith and conversion. The Gospel of the woman at the well still speaks to us. It can move us to rediscover the meaning of our life in Christ who calls us to renew our profession of faith in Him. When the Samaritan woman’s life was transformed by her encounter with Jesus, she ran to take another during our Lenten journey towards Easter!
Cardinal George speaks of mercy in the teaching of Pope Francis

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Cardinal Francis George of Chicago spoke at the University of Notre Dame on “Mercy in the Teaching and Ministry of Pope Francis” the evening of March 6. His talk was the keynote for a workshop conference on the principle of “double effect.”

Cardinal George said that every talk by Pope Francis comes back to mercy, and that topic has been the “lodestone” of the pope’s pastoral practice. The pope’s “signature idea,” he continued, is God’s endless capacity to forgive and the need for the world to learn about compassion.

Cardinal George said this focus of Pope Francis is rooted in an experience the pope had as a young man of 17. The young Jorge Bergoglio was out with his friends one day and stopped into a church, where he met a priest who moved him to go to Confession. Something in that Confession changed the young man’s life and gave him the sense that someone was waiting for him, the cardinal related.

“Christ, whose mercy was so evident and so moving, transformed the young man into a future priest and future pope,” who often comes back to the theme that “God waits for us,” Cardinal George said.

When Pope Francis discusses the moral teachings of the Church, Cardinal George continued, the pope says those teachings should be presented in context and put in a merciful key. This concept, he said, reflects the writing of St. Thomas Aquinas regarding faith working through love. The Second Vatican Council took up this concept when it recognized that works of love directed to one’s neighbor are an external manifestation of mercy, the greatest of all virtues, he said.

This, too, is how Pope John Paul II recognized mercy as love that is eager to forgive, Cardinal George said. So, mercy is not a new topic for the Church, the cardinal said, but Pope Francis approaches it in a way that is “ populist and even revolution ary.”

For Pope Francis, he said, the call to be merciful and sense the needs of others is grounded in three things: dialogue, poverty and the acknowledgement that “God is always greater.”

The first element, dialogue, is considered by Pope Francis to be born of a respect for the other person that makes room for their proposals in a culture of encounter, the cardinal said. The second Vatican Council also reached this conclusion, he explained, as did Pope Paul VI, who wrote in his 1964 encyclical “Ecclesiam Suam” that the Church must know, meet and dialogue with mankind and the world to create an opportunity to encounter one another.

Pope Francis’s message of mercy has the feel of originality because of his personality, the cardinal said, but his emphasis on mercy really is “in a continuity that builds on his predecessors.”

The pope’s concern about poverty, the second element for mercy, can be seen in his choice of the name Francis to evoke St. Francis of Assisi and his dedication to the poor, Cardinal George said. The cardinal, who was part of the council that elected Francis, said the conclaves was looking for someone who knew how to govern and recognize the need to improve the curia, and someone with “a heart for the poor.”

In Pope Francis the cardinals got all of those traits, Cardinal George said, but they also got “a great surprise” in the pope’s populist approach, for in Argentina, Cardinal Bergoglio had avoided the press and led a rather quiet life. That “surprise,” the cardinal continued, “is evidence of the work of the Spirit.”

Pope Francis also emphasizes witnessing to the Gospel, not just teaching it, Cardinal George said, and this is evident in the pope’s own simple lifestyle and his desire to have one-on-one contact with the people.

The third element, “God is always more,” reflects the pope’s Jesuit training and the Jesuit motto, “All for the greater glory of God,” Cardinal George said. This motto highlights the ability of God to touch the lives of people, the cardinal explained, and while we are limited, “God always more; Christ is always more.”

Perhaps we rely too much on rational arguments, Cardinal George concluded, saying that he believes the pope is “inviting us to trust in God because He works in ways we could not imagine.”

Pope Francis is obviously “free,” and his unique contribution has been his collaborative and collegial style, Cardinal George said. Yet, Pope Francis operates “within the tradition that binds us to Christ.”

Cardinal George’s appearance was sponsored by the several university entities: the Jacques Maritain Center, the Institute for Church Life, the Center for Ethics and Culture, the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the Center for Social Concerns and the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.

The bishop noted that the first reading of the Mass from the Prophet Isaiah described well St. Patrick’s mission of bringing the Gospel of salvation to Ireland. “How beautiful upon the moutains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation.”

Bishop Rhodes described St. Patrick as a model of a central theme of the first year of the papacy of Pope Francis: the Church’s missionary vocation.

“The Holy Father speaks of the Church herself as a mission-
The Light Is On For You

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation

As tensions continue with Russia, Ukrainian Catholic leader meets pope

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis met privately at the Vatican with the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church March 17, the day after pro-Russian voters on the Crimean peninsula voted to secede from Ukraine in a referendum the United States and European Union called illegal.

People celebrate as the results of the Crimean referendum are announced in Lenin Square in Simferopol, Ukraine. Pope Francis met privately at the Vatican with the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church March 17, the day after pro-Russian voters on the Crimean peninsula voted to secede from Ukraine in a referendum the United States and European Union called illegal.

As tensions continue with Russia, Ukrainian Catholic leader meets pope
General Assembly passes first-ever preschool school choice program

INDIANAPOLIS — After months of debate and a persuasive push by Governor Mike Pence, the Indiana General Assembly has passed a preschool pilot program to provide low-income families school choice for their preschool-age children. It’s the first-ever state-funded preschool program in the state’s history.

“Developing an ongoing statewide program to boost early childhood education, particularly for children of poverty, has been a priority of the Indiana Catholic Conference for years,” said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference. “The bipartisan effort by lawmakers and the priority placed on early childhood education opportunities by Gov. Mike Pence this year helped get a meaningful program passed,” said Tebbe.

The legislation, House Bill 1004, authored by Rep. Robert Behning, R-Indianapolis, passed the House, 92-8, and it passed the Senate, 40-8.

Behning called the plan a “good first step that will provide high-quality preschool for four year olds who need it.”

Behning estimates the program will assist anywhere from 2,000 to 4,500 low-income children. The bill authorizes the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to create a pilot program to deliver quality preschool to children in five selected counties. Parents qualify whose income is less than 127 percent of the federal poverty level, which translates to an annual income of about $30,000 for a family of four. Qualifying families may use the funding at qualified preschools, including private preschools, non-public schools or public schools. The bill creates a commission to study the benefits of preschool and analyze the effects of the program.

“While the pilot focuses on these families with need and provides parents with options in preschool programs, which is a good thing,” said Tebbe, “the automatic access to qualify for the K-12 choice scholarships program was deleted from the final bill in conference committee.”

Tebbe said, “This potentially could force a child to go to a public school for kindergarten and then return to the non-public school with a voucher. It would be better for the child to stay in the setting and not disrupt the curricular development. But some leaders in the Senate were adamant that the voucher link be removed.”

The program will be funded by reversions from FSSA funds allocated for this year of up to $10 million. However, the state has to raise up to $5 million from private sources because at least 10 percent of support for each child must be paid for with private sources.

Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, said, “The Headstart Program is a proclaimed failure by the federal government itself and so I think this is a big opportunity for Indiana to push on them to say give us a chance to do this and direct it correctly. I hope we will make every effort, particularly with the Head Start dollars, to try to develop a program that will really be beneficial to those children.”

Rep. Behning said he appreciated Sen. Kenley’s comments and added, “I do believe the state will save money as we meet the needs of these children up front as opposed to having to do remediation and spend money later.”

Sen. Earline Rodgers, D-Gary, said, “My background is in early childhood education. When I was a first-grade teacher, I could always tell which kids went to kindergarten because they came ready to school.”

Rodgers said the program would “level the playing field” for children who come from poverty backgrounds.

Sen. Shelli Van denburgh, D-Crown Point, said, “Today is a happy, happy day for me. I can definitely say this has been a bipartisan effort.”

“We have a governor that really cares about kids,” Vandenburgh said. “I appreciate the parental involvement and the attendance factor.”

She added that the program also opens up different avenues for funding and “much-needed federal funding.”

The Indiana General Assembly adjourned March 14. During the interim, the Legislative Council will be the governing body for lawmakers and directs interim study panels made up of lawmakers who conduct in-depth research on legislative issues in preparation for the next session of the Indiana General Assembly. Aside from Organization Day, which occurs in November, the Indiana General Assembly resumes its next official lawmaking session beginning January 2016.

Tebbe said, “The Indiana Catholic Conference will continue to represent the Church in the public square during the state’s legislative interim and assist the Church in informing the Catholic community on both state and federal public policy matters of importance.”

The Indiana Catholic Conference, the official public policy representative for the Catholic Church in Indiana, offers resources on their webpage for Catholics interested in staying engaged in the Church’s public policy efforts locally and links Catholics to the Church’s federal public policy efforts of the United States Catholic Conference.
Missions in the Philippines “Pick Up The Pieces” With Help From Cross Catholic Outreach

Catholic leaders in the Philippines have quietly but efficiently begun to “pick up the pieces” in their storm-ravaged country. Some, like Sister Eloise David, saw a lifetime of work destroyed in a matter of hours when the super typhoon struck. Still, she insists on moving forward, carried forward by faith, hope — and charity.

“Sr. Eloise and I stood in the middle of a pile of rubble. It was another of the many buildings she had helped construct to better serve the poor. Like those we had toured earlier, it was smashed to splinters when the super typhoon struck this past November. I expected her to be heartbroken, but she wasn’t. As we moved on, her stride conveyed a sense of purpose; her eyes sparkled with optimism. She has an amazing devotion to the poor.”

Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, said he found the same attitude everywhere he turned. Priests, nuns and Catholic lay leaders were all “rolling up their sleeves” and engaging in recovery plans. His organization hopes to collect donations from U.S. Catholics to support this important work. “One priest told us about his plans to repair homes for poorest typhoon victims. Another Catholic mission was going to focus on helping families regain their livelihoods,” he said. “Each missionary is responding to the needs in their own community, and together they’ll have a big impact. This is why the Catholic Church is so respected among the poor in developing countries. Our priest and nuns aren’t afraid to take part in the heavy lifting. They respond to the problems of the poor. They rise to the occasion.”

Cavnar said he was also impressed by the approach Catholic leaders were taking as they worked toward a recovery. Rather than encouraging hand-outs, the resourceful people Cavnar met seemed intent on involving the poor as a workforce and on adopting an entrepreneurial approach to overcoming problems. “At one stop along the coast, we talked about donating boats so that fishermen could return to their trade and feed their families. The leaders had a different idea. They preferred a plan to create a boat building enterprise. That way, they said, they could take part in the construction work, replace the lost boats and create a business capable of employing other poor men and expanding the outreach. I found their spirit and optimism inspiring,” Cavnar said.

The recovery programs underway in the Philippines also illustrate the effective way Cross Catholic Outreach operates. Rather than solve problems by opening offices and sending U.S. staff, the organization empowers the priests, nuns and parish programs already in place. In this way, its donors’ dollars are used more cost effectively.

“Our goal is to give under-supplied missions the resources they need to better serve the poor. If a feeding program needs food, we supply the food. A clinic can depend on us for medicines. A school can get help with teacher salaries or books. Through this kind of support, we can empower the Catholic Church’s existing programs,” Cavnar explained.

And now, more than ever, Catholic missions overseas need that help.

To support the worldwide outreaches of Cross Catholic Outreach, use the ministry brochure enclosed in this paper or mail your donation to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01052, PO Box 9558, Wilton, NH 03086-9558. All contributions to the ministry are tax deductible.

Cross Catholic Now Endorsed by More Than 80 Bishops, Archbishops

As Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) continues its range of relief work to help the poor overseas, its efforts are being recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad. “We’ve received an impressive number of endorsements from Bishops and Archbishops — more than 80 at last count,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “They’re impressed by the fact that we’ve done outreaches in almost 40 countries and that we undertake a variety of projects; everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor.”

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

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

“Cross Catholic Outreach’s close collaboration with the Pontifical Council Cor Unum is a source of encouragement,” the Archbishop said. “The Holy See has unique knowledge of local situations throughout the world through its papal representatives in nearly two hundred countries and through its communications with Bishops and others who care for the poor and needy in every corner of the world.”

CCO president, Jim Cavnar, explained the significance of this connection. “Our collaboration with Cor Unum allows us to fund outreaches in virtually any area of the world and we have used that method in special cases — to help the victims of natural disasters, for example,” he said. “It only represents a small part of our overall ministry, but it can be a very important benefit in those situations.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF L’OSSERVATORE ROMANO

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHURCH OF ROMANIA
March 23, 2014

Memories, Miracles and Opportunities – Priests, Nuns Describe Challenges Following Philippines Super Typhoon

A flood of terrible images still haunt the memories of the priests and nuns who survived Typhoon Haiyan — known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines. On that day, more than 6,000 perished. More than four million lost homes. A wall of water smashed the coast like a bulldozer blade, sweeping away everything in its path. Few imagined the devastation the “super storm” would bring.

“He assumed it had been demolished — cast the shrine. The statue of Mary was missing.”

“The Cross Catholic Outreach’s efforts to help. Cavnar, who toured the mission as part of returned expecting the worst,” explains Jim God had other ideas. be severely damaged by the wild storm. But and a chapel, and Fr. Bart expected both to

A 21-foot storm surge had engulfed the site of that convent with Sr. Eloise after obedience and forced them to leave. I visited the site of that convent with Sr. Eloise after the storm had passed, and it was a shambles. A 21-foot storm surge had engulfed the place and destroyed the nearby school. The nuns would surely have drowned if not for the Mother Superior’s persistence.”

“I believe that was an act of God.”

Jim Cavnar, President of Cross Catholic Outreach

The day the typhoon struck was also a day for miracles.

Father Bartholomew Pastor — known as Fr. Bart in the parish — experienced one of these miracles firsthand. His mission, located on a mountainside in Tacloban, was hit hard by the typhoon’s record high winds. The site includes a shrine to Mary and a chapel, and Fr. Bart expected both to be severely damaged by the wild storm. But God had other ideas.

“After the typhoon passed, Fr. Bart returned expecting the worst,” explains Jim Cavnar, who toured the mission as part of Cross Catholic Outreach’s efforts to help. “The first structure Fr. Bart reached was the shrine. The statue of Mary was missing. He assumed it had been demolished — cast to the four wind, as they say. But to his amazement, he saw the statue as he neared the chapel about twenty-five yards away. Mary was positioned right in front of the door, facing outward as if warding off the storm. The statue had only sustained minor damage, and the chapel itself was in good condition too. The hand of God was clearly on that place because the compound’s other buildings were seriously damaged.”

As Cross Catholic Outreach’s emergency response team continued its work, more stories surfaced and a growing sense of optimism prevailed. Although the island chain’s central section was extremely hard hit, the Catholic Church in the Philippines has rebounded quickly and is now playing a central role in the recovery of the country.

“If it is still so hard to imagine, let me paint you a picture of what I see when I visit Tacloban. The people in the community being helped are brothers and sisters, and the missions are repaired, schools reopened, and people are restored, schools reopened, and people are restored, new hope will return to the poor families who were victimized by the typhoon. And isn’t that how we would want to be treated if a similar disaster swamped us?”

The gifts we are collecting now are as critically needed as those we sought during the emergency relief stage — perhaps even more important because they will be used to help the poor get back on their feet, regaining self-sufficiency,” he explains. “As homes are repaired, schools reopened, and people are restored, new hope will return to the poor families who were victimized by the typhoon. And isn’t that how we would want to be treated if a similar disaster swamped us?”

How to Help:

To support the worldwide outreaches of Cross Catholic Outreach, use the enclosed postage-paid brochure to mail your gift or send it to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01052, PO Box 9558, Wilton, NH 03086-9558.
Display chronicles outreach to Irish women starting new life

BY BETH GRIFFIN

NEW YORK (CNS) — During a major, historic wave of Irish immigration to the United States at the turn of the last century, a tenacious Catholic effort helped one-third of the young, single Irish women who arrived in the Port of New York.

An exhibit celebrating that aid was rededicated March 11 in the Lower Manhattan building that hosted more than 100,000 newcomers between 1883 and 1908. The display originally opened in early 2012, but had to be restored after flooding from Hurricane Sandy caused extensive damage.

It traces the work of the Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary for the Protection of Irish Immigrant Girls, which operated from 1883 to 1954 in Watson House, now a landmark.

“The emigration of single women from Ireland was a unique phenomenon in Western civilization,” according to historian Maureen Murphy, the exhibit’s lead researcher. She said it was an emigration of siblings whose families did not “re-form in the United States.” The women sent money home to help relatives stay on the land, which distinguished them from other groups, Murphy said.

Other emigrants from Western Europe “came out as families, or, as the Italians, the men came out first and then sent for the women,” Murphy said.

Murphy is a member of the board of the Battery Heritage Foundation: The Watson House. It promotes the early religious history of the Battery area of New York, including Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, whose present church building includes the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine.

Watson House, built in 1792, is used as the parish house and rectory for Our Lady of the Rosary. The three-story house and adjacent church are surrounded and dwarfed by glass-and-steel skyscrapers, but maintain a commanding spot overlooking Battery Park and New York Harbor.

The mission was established close to the Castle Garden immigrant landing depot. Its goals were to provide information, counseling, temporary shelter, employment referrals and spiritual support for young women.

Murphy said an “agent,” a mission representative, met arrivals at Castle Garden and later Ellis Island, when immigration processing was transferred from state to federal jurisdiction. The agents helped women locate the relatives or friends who came to meet them and brought those who needed further assistance, or a place to stay, to the mission.

Murphy said the most comprehensive surviving records of the mission cover its first 25 years.

From 1883 to 1908, she said almost 308,000 Irish “girls,” ages 14 to 44, immigrated through the Port of New York and approximately 100,000 of them were cared for by the mission’s staff. Each newcomer’s name and age was written in a bound ledger, with notations for the arrival date and ship, county of origin, anticipated final destination and the relationship to the person at the destination.

Murphy ticked off the statistical highlights: “The average age of the girls was 19. Ten percent of them traveled as sisters and 25 percent were picked up by someone with the same last name. The five counties with the greatest representation were Mayo, Galway, Clare, Kerry and Cork.”

She said the most common phrase in the ledger notes was “seen to her,” a multipurpose phrase that might have included connecting a young woman with her family or providing train fare to get to her destination out of New York and sending a telegram with the details of her travel. Murphy said the mission found jobs for approximately 12,000 Irish women in its first 25 years.

The exhibit, “The Irish Mission at Watson House,” was organized with grant assistance from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. It opened in the basement of Watson House Feb. 29, 2012, and eight months later sustained serious damage when Hurricane Sandy filled the museum space with 13 feet of water. A second grant from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs helped restore the exhibit.

Our Lady of the Rosary pastor Father Peter Meehan said, “The Irish are an example of real immigrants: They come here, invest the capital of their life in the culture and transform it.”

Joan Burton, Ireland’s minister for social protection, said she looked forward to “Bring the Girls Home,” the exhibit’s traveling component visiting Ireland in May. She said it illustrates the route that many young women took to win financial independence for themselves, their children and their grandchildren and underscores the value of education.

Noel Kilkenny, Ireland’s consul general in New York, told Catholic News Service the exhibit is a woman’s story as much as a Catholic story. “It’s a great story about the Church and the role it played as a sanctuary,” he said.

“The Irish are the only ethnic group of European immigrants where the females outnumbered the males. It’s a story of great strength. Maybe the information can be found elsewhere, but here we can all visualize our families coming through this place. It’s very real for us,” Kilkenny said.

In a recent issue of Today’s Catholic, a request was made for financial support to help cover production and mailing costs of the newspaper.

This request has been made before and the response from our readers continues to be gratifying, and expressive of a favorable judgement of what is on the pages of your diocesan newspaper.

So let our response to your generosity express not only appreciation but a pledge of our continued effort to deliver the clear voice of truth and leadership.
Food for Thought program empowers families

BY ALLISON CIRAULO

SOUTH BEND — In an impoverished neighborhood with no parks and high crime rates, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County is reaching out to families through educational and nutritional enrichment.

The Food for Thought program began in the fall of 2012, born out of the desire of St. Vincent de Paul Society staff to make use of their spacious facilities and to engage with the families in their neighborhood. The staff’s discussions and research led them to Perley Fine Arts Academy, located a few blocks away.

“We sat down with the principal and said, ‘What do your students need?’” says Anne Hosinski Watson, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County.

Perley had two main needs: supplemental education, through homework help and preparation for standardized testing, and outreach to families, particularly relating to food and nutrition. The St. Vincent de Paul Society staff met with Nicole Smith, a family and community specialist at Perley, and together they crafted a program that could meet both of these needs.

Food for Thought runs on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 3-5 p.m. in two upstairs conference rooms at the St. Vincent de Paul Society building on Crescent Avenue. When the students arrive, they pick up a healthy snack prepared by volunteers, and sit down with a tutor to start their homework.

After about 45 minutes of work time, Smith introduces an enrichment activity to the entire group. On Tuesdays the focus is on language arts, while Thursdays are devoted to math, with an eye towards preparation for ISTEP, Indiana’s statewide assessment tests.

Twice during each eight-week session, Food for Thought hosts a “family dinner night” in the St. Vincent de Paul Society dining room. A volunteer from the Purdue Extension Service designs a meal plan that the families can replicate at home, based on healthy, budget-friendly ingredients. The presentation incorporates math, reading and even chemistry as the students walk through the steps of cooking the meal.

At the last family dinner night, the families learned to make a simple soup that included noodles, tomato sauce, beans and beef broth. Through a grant from Meijer, the food is provided at no cost to the families and they are sent home with extra ingredients so that they can make the meal again.

Family dinner nights are at the heart of what Food for Thought seeks to accomplish.

“The kids are involved in the lesson and the parents are also learning the recipe,” says Hosinski Watson, “But most importantly, families are sitting down together and talking.”

Increased communication within families as well as among families in the program is what the St. Vincent de Paul Society staff hopes will strengthen the social fabric of the neighborhood and improve academic outcomes for its students.

The hope, Hosinski Watson says, “is that the next time a mom is helping her daughter with homework, she can call another mom and say, ‘Hey, my third grader is having problems with this math lesson. Is your third grader having problems with this math lesson? Can we talk about it?’”

“That’s one of the main goals of this program,” she notes.

While Food for Thought has an open enrollment, Smith invites families who she believes would especially benefit from the program. Now on staff at McKinley Primary Center, Smith works with her counterpart at Perley to identify possible participants. For Food for Thought currently serves about 22 students from both Perley and McKinley.

Among the current volunteers are students from Saint Joseph High School, Saint Mary’s College, and the University of Notre Dame, as well as several retirees.

Food for Thought is what Hosinski Watson and her staff regard as a “Step 2” program. While St. Vincent de Paul Society meets emergency needs in the community by providing food, furniture, clothing and financial assistance, Food for Thought is designed to address an ongoing need with the hope of far-reaching benefits for students and families.

“We’re looking at next steps. When these kids graduate from elementary school, what can we offer them as junior high kids? What can we offer them as high school kids? In five years I would love to see the kids who started with the program serving as tutors, reinvesting in their own community.”

While it’s still early to evaluate the long-term results, Smith already sees the difference that Food for Thought is making in her students’ academic progress.

“I think that it has built confidence in the students,” she says. “I get feedback from the teachers at my school who say the kids are bringing back their homework and are excited about knowing their multiplication facts better.”

Smith has been working in the public schools for 10 years, hopes that the program will expand to other schools in the district.

“It could change a lot of kids’ lives,” she says.
Infertility workshop scheduled

FORT WAYNE — The Holistic Family and Midwifery Center will present a free infertility workshop on Tuesday, April 1, from 5:30-9 p.m. at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), in the Liberal Arts Building, Room 112, located at 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., in Fort Wayne.

The workshop, “Overcoming Infertility and Repeated Miscarriage: Self Care and Beyond,” features Marilyn Shamon speaking on “Self Care for Overcoming Infertility and Repeated Miscarriage” and Dr. Christopher Stroud on “Medical Assistance for Identifying and Overcoming Fertility Issues.”

Registration and refreshments begin at 5:30 p.m., with speakers at 6 p.m. and a question-answer period at 8:30 p.m. For more information call 260-373-1100.

Lenten Saturdays offered at Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME — This Lent, the Notre Dame Club of Saint Joseph Valley offers a unique opportunity to spend one hour each Lenten Saturday on the Notre Dame campus meeting with key religious and lay leaders, to learn more about the university and the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Upcoming weeks include the following:
• March 22, 10 a.m. — “The Brothers of Saint Joseph at Notre Dame in 1842” with Holy Cross Brother George Klawitter, professor of history at Holy Cross College and author of “Adapted to the Lake” and “The Life of Brother Gatien.” Brother George is a noted lecturer, and an expert on the early brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The lecture will be held in the McGlinn Conference Room of Carole Sandner Hall.
• March 29, 10 a.m. — “Holy Cross in East Africa, An Important Ministry of the Congregation” with Holy Cross Father Paul V. Kollmann, the director of Center for Social Concerns. Father Kollmann teaches in the Notre Dame Department of Theology and has worked extensively with Holy Cross priests and brothers in Kenya and Uganda. The lecture will be held in the McGlinn Conference Room of Carole Sandner Hall.
• April 5, 10 a.m. — “The Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), The 20th Anniversary” with Sarah Greene, director of ACE Advisors. Greene will detail the extraordinary success of Notre Dame’s project to serve Catholic elementary and secondary education in the United States and suggest ways in which the Notre Dame Club and others could become actively involved. The lecture will be held in the McGlinn Conference Room of Carole Sandner Hall.
• April 12, 10 a.m. — “Vocations to the Congregation of Holy Cross, An Update” with Holy Cross Father James T. Gallagher, director of vocations for the U.S. Province of Priests and Brothers. Father Gallagher will detail recent, successful recruiting years for vocations to the congregation. Tours of Moreau Seminary will be available and an invitation has been extended to join the community for its 11:30 a.m. Mass. The lecture will be at Moreau Seminary.

Tours are needed for purposes of seating, preparation of name badges and parking passes for Lot A9. Please respond to Joe Mulligan at josephwmulligan@earthlink.net, or 312-399-7048 to reserve tickets.

Mishawaka National Day of Prayer to be May 1

MISHAWAKA — The 63rd annual National Day of Prayer gathering will be held Thursday, May 1, from noon to 1 p.m. at the Battell Center, 904 N. Main St., Mishawaka. Local clergy will open the service, with St. Pius X parishioner Thomas J. Miranda offering the homily on charity.

With Msgr. Bill Schooler giving the homily on charity, the public is encouraged to attend this free event.

St. Joseph Parish mission

MISHAWAKA — The theme of the annual “St. Joseph Parish mission” is “We are Called to be Salt of the Earth, Living Virtues.” The event will be held Wednesday, April 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the McGlinn Conference Room of Carole Sandner Hall.

The panel of experts includes Emily Perry Sims ’09, director of events, media and donor relations, Center for the Homeless; Thomas Hoff, director of rehabilitation services, Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center; Abigail Carr Foster ’06, case manager, Hope Ministries; Beth Morlock, director of support services,YWCA; Tanika Harris, guest services assistant, St. Margaret’s House; Bonnie Stryker, director, Youth Services Bureau; Oliver Davis, president, South Bend Common Council.

SJHS Econ Challenge places in regionals

SOUTH BEND — The Saint Joseph High Econ Challenge Team placed second in regional competition recently. Team members include Nolan Liu, Nora Kelly, Nora McGreavy and Michael Oei.

Lecture form changes

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College regrets that Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU, will not be able to appear in person to offer her talk, “From Darkness to Hope: My Commitment to a World Free of Torture in the Center for Spirituality (CFS),” lecture scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on March 27. The college hopes to host her at another time. In place of the lecture, CFS will show a recorded lecture by Ortiz given at the Eucharistic Convention in New Zealand in 2007. Go to saintmarys.edu/spirituality for information on upcoming CFS events.

Saint Joseph sophomore wins piano competition


Ancilla College announces receipt of major gift

DONALDSON — Ancilla College has received a gift in the amount of $1,002,732 from emeritus trustee, Jim Hardesty.

The gift came in response to a recently announced $875,000 matching gift opportunity from an anonymous donor.

“We are truly humbled, as well as very excited to be the beneficiary of Jim’s generosity,” said Ron May, president of Ancilla College. “Jim’s life has been about giving to help others and this gift is just another example of his investment in our community that will help to change the lives of students and their families.”

In making the gift to Ancilla, Hardesty stated, “I believe in the work of Ancilla College and the impact it is having on students from the area that attend there. It is my pleasure to help the college in this way, I encourage others to step up and take advantage of the matching gift opportunity.”
Partnering with Vincent Village to address unemployment in Fort Wayne

FORT WAYNE — Just last year, Jill was in a seemingly hopeless place. A single mother of two, she was unemployed and owned nothing but the clothes on her back. Jill had no “market-able” skills and had dropped out of high school before earning her diploma. In order to support her young children, she desperately needed employment, but she knew that the type of minimum-wage jobs she would be eligible for would not pay enough to get her family back on its feet.

Looking for a better life for herself and her children, Jill came to Vincent Village where she became part of a new family. Through Vincent Village’s HOME (Hope, Opportunity, Mentoring, and Employment) Academy program, she found the support and self-confidence she needed to achieve her goal of becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant. The HOME Academy program supports clients experiencing the crisis of homelessness by providing job training, including classes, employment placement services and emotional support, all aimed at helping clients make strides towards financial independence. After long days of classes and much hard work, Jill earned her Certified Nursing Assistant certificate in only six weeks. In addition to job training, Vincent Village also provided Jill with transportation, childcare and workshops on other life skills. The HOME Academy program, provided by the HOME Academy program, Jill is now happily employed as a nursing assistant and is making a living wage. With Vincent Village’s help, Jill’s family has since moved out of the shelter system and into one of the 33 homes owned by Vincent Village and was also provided furniture and household items. Jill has new hope for her future. She became part of a new family and is making a living wage.

Jesus is the water of everlasting life

The SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday in Lent
Jn 4:5-42

The Book of Exodus provides the first reading. As might be presumed from its name, this book concentrates upon the journey of the Hebrews across the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, where they had been enslaved, to the land God promised them. The Sinai Peninsula was, and still is, unfairly bleak and sterile. Water was a very critical problem, as it would be a problem now. Without water, thirst became a genuine issue for the people. Thirst leads to death. In this reading, the people are desperate. Moses is at a loss. Amid all this anxiety and serious need, Moses begs God for assistance. Mercifully, God commands Moses to go with, some of the elders, to a rock on the mountains of Horeb. They should strike the rock. Moses obeyed God. The rock gave forth water. The people did not die, but they lived.

For its second reading, the Church offers us a passage from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans. Death was as much a reality for the people in the first century A.D. as it has been real for everyone in every age, anywhere. Paul stresses that earthly death awaited every human being, indeed every living thing. However, for humans who have given themselves to God, in Christ, earthly death merely is a stage in an ongoing chain of events. Much more importantly, eternal life with God, in and through Christ, is in store for the faithful. Paul stresses the point that only by being brought with Jesus, in firm faith and complete obedience to God’s holy law, will anyone possess everlasting life. St. John of the Cross has said that God furnishes us with the last reading. The setting is Samaria, roughly-speaking the territory mentioned in today’s newscasts as the West Bank. It was home to a people quite despised by pious Jews, the Samaritans. This Jewish distaste for the Samaritans was the result of the fact that the Samaritans had collaborated with the foreigners who long ago had conquered the land. They had traded with the foreigners’ paganism, and they even had intermarried with the foreigners thereby defiling the pure ethnic blood of the chosen people. It is instructive in itself that Jesus passed through Samaritan territory. It is even more startling that he deigned to converse with Samaritans, let alone offer them salvation. Additionally startling is that he spoke to a woman. Such was never acceptable. After all, Jesus was an unmarried man.

The encounter with the woman is at the well. (In those days, small communities were usually by one common water supply.) Jesus tells the woman that the water drawn from the well will only temporarily quench thirst. The water that will come from Jesus will end all thirst and give everlasting life.

When the disciples insist that Jesus take food for nourishment, the Lord refers to food of which he spoke to a woman. Such a woman is important in itself and by one common water supply. (In those days, much of this water was drawn from wells.) It is instructive in itself that Jesus passed through Samaritan territory. It is even more startling that he deigned to converse with Samaritans, let alone offer them salvation. Additionally startling is that he spoke to a woman. Such was never acceptable. After all, Jesus was an unmarried man.

Reflection

The first and the third readings capitalize on water, clearly presented as essential to life, as indeed it is, but the readings go further than this fact of nature. In the last reading, Jesus speaks of water that will achieve much more than sustaining earthly life. He promises a water that will give eternal life. The first reading recalls that God alone is the source of life. If we turn to God, as Moses turned to God, then God will assist us and give us life.

These readings come very much in the context of Lent, when persons wishing to join the Church are completing the process. The message, however, is also for Christians who even long ago united with Christ. They need to be reaffirmed. They need to recommit themselves. The Church reminds them that everlasting life is possible only by being with the Lord.

READINGS

SUNDAY: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 Jn 4:42

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Pss 42:2-3; 43:4-6 Lk 6:24-30

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-11
Heb 10:4-10 Lk 12:36-38

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-23, 15-16; 19:20 Mk 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 23:28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9
Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6-11b, 14, 17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b Lk 18:13-14

Catholic Relief Services and Philippines

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is guided by the principle of preference for the poor and most vulnerable. This principle obliges our community to reach out to those who are most in need. Living the Gospel calls us to take action on behalf of those who are most vulnerable in our society.

In Philippines, the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is made possible through the support of the people who believe in the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel. Open your eyes to those in need in our own communities. Give us the courage and the wisdom to serve Your people in faith, hope and love. In moments of discouragement, give us peace.

In moments of triumph, remind us of the long road ahead. Through the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel, we ask that the poorest of the poor, wherever they may be, never be forgotten. And as Pope Leo XIII directed Mother Drexel, may we too accept Your call in our lives. Amen.

You could give up buying something new when you could re-use or repair something you already have. You could give $10 to your Rice Bowl, which provides two weeks of food for a family in need.

Paul Francis gave us vital instruction on the preference for the poor when meeting with students in 2013. “The times talk to us of so much poverty in the world and this is a scandal. Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many who don’t have housing, personal. Poverty today is a cry.” This week, listen for the cry of the poor and pray for guidance to help those in need how and when you can.

Melissa Wheeler is the director for Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. She can be reached at mwheeler@bishopdwenger.com.

Sant of the Week

Joseph

first century

March 19

The husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the legal father of Jesus according to Jewish law, Joseph is a model of humility and obedience to God’s will. He followed God’s instructions, given by angels in dreams, and took the pregnant Mary into his home as his wife, protected her and Jesus from the child’s birth in Bethlehem through the family’s sojourn in Egypt, and provided for them as a carpenter in Nazareth. This feast, which was celebrated locally as early as the ninth century, became a universal feast in the 16th century. Pope Pope Pius IX named Joseph patron of the universal church in 1870; he is also the patron saint of carpenters, the dying and workers.

From the THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Msgr. Owen F. Campion
**March 23, 2014**

**THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE**

**George Weigel**

In “Roman Pilgrimage” was to put readers “inside” the station church pilgrimage experience. Liz’s brilliant descriptions of each church’s architecture and decoration give the reader a sense of “being there” and understanding what, in fact, is “there.”

Stephen’s striking photographs are not modeled on high-end architectural magazines, where places lack people; the photos in “Roman Pilgrimage,” either in the hardback or the e-book (where all the photos are in color and can be “zoomed out by tapping on them), literally put you “inside” the station basilica of the day, with the “living Church” of which Hanna Suchocka spoke. My reflections on the daily Mass and Divine Office texts suggest something of what that “living Church” is pondering, day by day, as it walks through Rome while, imaginatively, walking up to Calvary and the empty tomb.

Americans in Rome have revived an ancient Catholic tradition that had lain dormant for centuries. That’s the happy fact to which “Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches” (Basic Books).

In “Roman Pilgrimage,” “The Basilica of St. Sabina crystalized Roman Christianity’s vision of the perfect church” with its remarkable “synergy of light, space, and decoration.” St. Sabina is also home to the oldest known depiction of the crucifixion, on the cypress doors of its porch: an image caught beautifully in one of Stephen’s Roman Pilgrimage photographs and a reminder that Lent is a journey with the Lord “up to Jerusalem,” where Jesus will meet his messianic destiny in the Paschal Mystery.

Liz’s, Stephen’s and my intention was to put readers “inside” the station church pilgrimage experience.

**WELL WATER**


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**SCRIPTURE SEARCH**

**Gospel for March 23, 2014**

John 4:5-42

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Third Sunday of Lent. Cycle A: the story of the Samaritan woman at the well. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

**DOWN**

1. Mute
2. 16 of an inch
3. Winged
4. Jesus gives this type of water
5. “Awake, O sleeper, ___”

6. Often comes in threes
7. Compass point
8. David was Jesus’ ___ son
9. Crusader controlled
10. Siloam water
11. Rest against
12. When Jesus met

**ACROSS**

1. Resort hotel
2. Commandments
3. Talk incessantly
4. 1 Samuel had a horn filled with
5. Spring flower linked to Mary
6. 12
7. Gold does not
8. Group discussion
9. We believe in ___
10. Our Father


**ANSWER KEY can be found on page 15**
The little team that could…

BY ANNETTE ROMANS

SOUTH BEND — So often today, sporting events are all about the most gifted athletes showcasing their talents. Even at the middle school level, increased competition can result in the less skilled players choosing not to play sports for fear they will not look good, or will let down teammates and coaches with high expectations. So it was truly a blessing this basketball season to watch a team of young men challenge themselves to learn a new sport while competing in a league of experienced and highly-skilled opponents.

The St. Adalbert Eagles boys’ varsity basketball team, comprised of two experienced basketball players from St. John the Baptist School in South Bend and five inexperienced players from St. Adalbert School, reminded the spectators, coaches and other basketball players of the league that sportsmanship is as much about commitment, perseverance and courage under difficult conditions, as it is about athleticism.

Led by Head Coach Steve Sniadecki and assistant coaches Max and Miles Romans, this young team met all their opponents with a noble steadfastness and spirit that gave every spectator a reason to cheer for them, regardless of their affiliation.

Due to illness and transportation issues, the team played many of their games with only five players, and a tournament game with only four. The team never considered being outnumbered a reason to forfeit. While the St. Adalbert Eagles went 1-9 for the season, their slow steady growth and development over the course of the season was impressive.

The team provided the league an opportunity to rediscover the true meaning of sportsmanship. Eagles members include Garrett Van Gundy, Avery Shurn, Jason Galindo, Jesus Gonzalez, Cesar Gonzalez, Moises Lobatos and Jorge Campos.

Annette Romans is a St. Adalbert School resource teacher.

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Diocesan seminarian Bob Garrow serves as chaplain of the Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md., men’s college basketball for two years at Indiana University, South Bend, as well as high school basketball for 13 years. Garrow graduated from Indiana University in 1999 and was a schoolteacher for 11 years, teaching seventh through 12th grade in addition to coaching basketball for 15 years. He coached men’s college basketball for two years at Indiana University, South Bend, as well as high school basketball for 13 years.

LUERS GRAD PARTICIPATES IN GOLF CHANNEL REALITY SHOW Former Bishop Luers High School standout, Kristi O’Brien, is currently part of yet another exciting experience in her life. Along with 11 other female aspiring golfers, the 23-year old was selected out of 3,000 applicants as a contestant on the Golf Channel’s reality show “Big Break Florida.” Now a Fishers resident, O’Brien is competing for $175,000 in cash and prizes and a chance to earn exempt status in LPGA and Symetra Tour events. The show premiered on Feb. 24 and airs on Monday nights. — Michelle Castleman
Father Raymond to take the helm of Holy Cross Family Ministries

EASTON, Mass. — For nearly 14 years Holy Cross Father Willy Raymond has led Family Theater Productions based on Sunset Boulevard in the heart of Hollywood as they use mass media to entertain, inspire and educate families. While that may sound like unusual work for a priest; it isn’t for this priest.

Family Theater Productions is the media ministry of Holy Cross Family Ministries, which in the spirit of its founder, Servant of God Patrick Peyton, promotes and supports the spiritual well-being of families throughout the world.

“What better way to gather families together than television, a medium they are comfortable with and always watching,” said Father Raymond. “As families watch a video and then discuss the stories, they enrich their spiritual life and increase unity within the family.”

Father Raymond has served as director of Family Theater Productions since 2000 and will now take his unique priestly skills and expand his reach, as he takes over as president of Holy Cross Family Ministries effective July 1. He will oversee the visual and spiritual direction of the member ministries of HCFM. It includes Family Theater Productions; as well as Family Rosary, a prayer ministry in 17 countries; and the Father Peyton Family Institute, based in Peru, which provides educational resources to families.

The current president, Holy Cross Father John Phalen, received acknowledgment from the board for his 18-year tenure as well as his many accomplishments for the ministry, including opening offices in eight countries, including Bangladesh, Chile, East Africa (Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania), France, Ghana, Haiti, India and Mexico to better serve families in their own locale.

Throughout his 18 years, Father Phalen also enhanced the ministry’s outreach to families by embracing and expanding into all areas of internet outreach, which is evident as eBlasts alone went out to more than 1.5 million people last year. Significant outreach was also achieved through website visitors, app users and all those engaged through social media. Traditional forms of outreach remain on the forefront of the ministry’s activities through face-to-face outreach to families with events and products.

Father Phalen has accepted a new assignment as novice director in Peru and will begin that role in 2015.

In the spirit of its founder, Servant of God Patrick Peyton, CSC, Holy Cross Family Ministries serves Jesus Christ and His Church by promoting and supporting the spiritual well-being of the family. Faithful to Mary, the Mother of God, Family Rosary encourages family prayer, especially the rosary. Holy Cross Family Ministries, through prayer events and media, reaches out to families to fulfill the founder’s vision that “the family that prays together stays together.”

For more information, call 800-290-7729 or visit www.FamilyRosary.org / www.HCFM.org.

**Fish fry sponsored by Knights Bluffton — The St. Joseph Parish Knights of Columbus, 1300 N. Main St., will have a fish fry Friday, April 4, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are $9 for adults, $6 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under.

Christ the King Jonath Fish Fry South Bend — Christ the King will have a Jonath fish fry Friday, March 28, from 4-7 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Tickets are $9 for adults, $5 for children age 10 and under. Dine in and drive-through carryout available. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Christ the King rectory office. For information call 574-272-3113.

**Fish fry**

Knights plan fish fry South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 21, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8.50, children (5-12) $3.50. Shrimp for $9 will be available.

**Fish fry planned**

South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have an original Jonath fish fry from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, April 4, in the school gym, 2800 Corpus Christi Dr. Carryouts available. Tickets are $9 for adults and carryout, $4 for children 6-12 and children under six, free.

**St. Charles plans fish fry**

Fort Wayne — St. Charles Parish, corner of Reed and Trier roads, will have a fish fry Friday, March 21, in the school cafeteria, door 9. Carryout available. Tickets are $8.50 for adults, $4.50 for children 6-12 and free for those under 5. Proceeds benefit St. Charles athletic association.

**MISC. HAPPENINGS**

Gorkie Zale South Bend — Polish Sorrowful Lamentations will be prayed at 5 p.m. each Wednesday of Lent at St. Adalbert Church. English translations are available.

Mary in the Experience of the Church Notre Dame — Institute for Church Life, 321 Geddes Hall, will host “Mary in the Experience of the Church,” Thursday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m., with Jesuit Father Brian Daly and Danielle Peters — Marian scholars at the University of Notre Dame. An extended question and answer session will follow. Refreshments will be served. Door-prize of a rosary blessed by Pope Francis. For information visit icl.nd.edu/ proclaim or call 574-631-1379.

Lenten Mini-Retreat Mishawaka — Young adults are invited to a Lenten mini retreat “Roll Away the Stone” with preserver Jesuit Father Aaron Pidel, Sunday, April 6, from 1-7 p.m., at the St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragoon Trail. Visit www.diocesefwb.org/yam-retreats for information.

**Natural Family Planning**

Fort Wayne — NFP integrating John Paul II’s Theology of the Body will be taught through the Couple to Couple League in a series of three one-per-month classes beginning Sunday, April 6, at 6 p.m. in the home of Ron and Marilyn Shannon. Call 260-489-1856 or email mishannah11@frontier.com for more information and registration.

**FUNDRAISERS**

Spaghetti dinner planned Mishawaka — A Papa Vino’s spaghetti dinner will be at Queen of Peace Parish, 4508 Vistula Rd., Friday, March 25, from 5-7 p.m. Dine-in tickets are $7 for adults and $4 for children 3-10. Carryout tickets are 6. Contact Carol Cone at 574-255-9674 ext. 119.

Sisters auxiliary bake sale planned South Bend — St. Adalbert Sisters’ auxiliary will have a bake sale Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Lamb Cakes will be $15 on a pre-paid, pre-order basis only by Friday, April 4. Sweet tomato sauce, Polish jibles, home-made Pierogi and baked goods for Easter will be offered. Lunch will be available.

Altar and Rosary Society plan sale South Bend — St. John the Baptist Parish will have a bake and rummage sale Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to noon and Sunday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Rummage sale Kendallville — Immaculate Conception Parish, corner of Oak and Diamond streets, will have a rummage sale Saturday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 5, from 9-11:30 a.m. Grocery bag sales start Friday at 3 p.m.

**Knights plan spaghetti dinner**

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a spaghetti dinner Wednesday, March 19, from 5-6:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the food pantry of the cathedral.

St. Aloysius plans children’s resale Yoder — The St. Aloysius Home and School Association will have a children’s clothing and toy resale Saturday, March 22, from 8 a.m. to noon. For information contact Jennifer Girardin at 260-638-4469.

**FISH FRY**

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**Fish fry sponsored by Knights Bluffton — The St. Joseph Parish Knights of Columbus, 1300 N. Main St., will have a fish fry Friday, April 4, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are $9 for adults, $6 for children 6-12) and free for children 5 and under.

Christ the King Jonath Fish Fry South Bend — Christ the King will have a Jonath fish fry Friday, March 28, from 4-7 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Tickets are $9 for adults, $5 for children age 10 and under. Dine in and drive-through carryout available. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Christ the King rectory office. For information call 574-272-3113.

**Fish fry**

Roanoke — St. Joseph Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 21, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 1122 N. Main St. Tickets are $8 for adults, $4 for children 4-12 and children under 4 are free. Everyone welcome.

Holy Name Society fish fry New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 21, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free.

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**FISH FRY**

Knights plan fish fry South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 21, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8.50, children (5-12) $3.50. Shrimp for $9 will be available.

**Fish fry sponsored by Knights Bluffton — The St. Joseph Parish Knights of Columbus, 1300 N. Main St., will have a fish fry Friday, April 4, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are $9 for adults, $6 for children 6-12) and free for children 5 and under.

Christ the King Jonath Fish Fry South Bend — Christ the King will have a Jonath fish fry Friday, March 28, from 4-7 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Tickets are $9 for adults, $5 for children age 10 and under. Dine in and drive-through carryout available. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Christ the King rectory office. For information call 574-272-3113.

**Fish fry**

Roanoke — St. Joseph Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 21, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 1122 N. Main St. Tickets are $8 for adults, $4 for children 4-12 and children under 4 are free. Everyone welcome.

Holy Name Society fish fry New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 21, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children 5-12 $4 and children under 5 free.
Godparents, sponsors and the assembly affirm catechumens and candidates during the Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call of Candidates to Continuing Conversion on Sunday, March 16, at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Catechumens will be baptized and enter into communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil. Candidates will enter full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.

OPDYKE

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soldier promised her secrecy if she would serve as his mistress. To save her friends, Opdyke agreed.

After much heartache and atrocity the Nazis were eventually pushed out of Poland and Opdyke was able to move her Jewish friends out of hiding into safety.

She was again captured, this time by Russians who restrained her in a camp, from which she eventually escaped. Once in a camp for displaced persons she discovered that her parents had died during the war. And after being invited by a kind woman as mother, Smith learned who kept her past safely locked in her heart.

Growing up with this faith-filled mother Smith began speaking about her mother's life, and her mom's selfless deeds, at the age of 14 when her mother told her story to a student writing a paper on the myth of the Holocaust, she said, it was then that her mother realized that by keeping her past secret she was perpetuating evil. And she began to tell her story across the country.

"It's very common for survivors to come to another country and put it all behind them," said Smith. Following her 85-year-old mother's unexpected death in 2003, Smith, a self proclaimed introvert, "picked up the torch," rising to the public speaking challenge in her mother's stead inspiring audiences of all ages in schools, churches, camps, organizations, fund-raising groups and clubs throughout the United States. She is part of a new generation of Holocaust speakers called "2nd Generation" who share the life stories from their parents' firsthand experiences. She is a member and speaker for the Oregon and Washington Holocaust Speakers Bureau, a regular speaker for the Anti Defamation League.

Smith begins her presentation reminding her audience that her heroic mother was just like them — a bystander.

"The truth is each one of you could do what my mom did. Each one of us has the opportunity, the choice," Smith said. Smith speaks to the young because "they are the future generation. We have to start with the youth. Their values and opinions are still being formed," she said. She wants everyone to know that her mom was not a powerful political figure but a young Catholic girl who was away from home with no family to support her.

But she still made a difference. No matter your background or how much money you have, you can do little things to make a difference," she said, encouraging her audience.

"Love and forgiveness are the strongest influences. They can open the hardest heart and the closed mind," concluded Smith.

One of Smith's favorite teachings imparted by her mother that she shares across the country is, "Hate is easy. It takes real courage to love." Irene Gut Opdyke was truly an example of real courage.

For more information about Irene Gut Opdyke visit www.ireneopdyke.com.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

The Israeli Holocaust Commission named Irene one of the Righteous among the Nations, a title given to those who risked their lives by aiding and saving Jews during the Holocaust. She was presented with the Israel Medal of Honor, Israel’s highest tribute in a ceremony at Jerusalem’s Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

The Vatican has given Irene a special commendation and her story is part of a permanent exhibit in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. In 2008 Irene was presented posthumously the Commanders Cross — the Polish medal of honor, given by the president and first lady of Poland and in 2009 Irene was presented posthumously the Courage to Care award by the Anti Defamation League in a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. Both of these awards were accepted by Jeannie Smith.

Opdyke has written her story in "In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer," (Knopf/Random House) and a Broadway play titled "Irene’s Vow," portrays her powerful story for the masses.

The faithful gather in song for the entrance hymn at the Rite of Election and Call of Candidates to Continuing Conversion at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.