Bishop blesses restored St. Louis Besancon Church

NEW HAVEN — The responsorial Psalm 84 proclaims, “How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!” And lovely indeed is the beautifully restored church at St. Louis Besancon.

During the restoration process, this long-awaited day seemed like a distant dream, but on Sunday afternoon, March 23, an overflowing congregation gathered to create another page of history of the parish founded by French immigrants.

“For many of us, the privilege of experiencing a historical event like this may only happen once in a lifetime,” explained pastor, Father Stephen Colchin.

In the solemn liturgy, celebrant Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was joined by Father Colchin, Father Lourdino Fernandes of St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville, Father William Sullivan of St. John the Baptist, New Haven, and Father Kenneth Sarrazine, retired, second parish son who now resides at Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community in Fort Wayne.

In the dimly lit setting, the bishop reminded the faithful that the Catholic Church is built upon the foundation of the Twelve Apostles. He continued, “St. Paul wrote in our second reading, that ‘we are members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Himself as the cornerstone.’ This is something we must always remember. We are the living stones of Christ’s Church. The apostles are the

Pope to fathers: Teach your children well, always be by their side

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the feast of St. Joseph, patron saint of the universal Church and Jesus’ earthly father, Pope Francis urged all dads in the world to stick by their children’s side, teaching them, guiding them and loving them.

“I ask that you have the grace to be very close to your children, letting them grow, but being by their side. They need you, your presence, to be there, your love!” the pope said.

St. Joseph’s “great mission is to be a guardian,” the pope said.

“Like an educator, St. Joseph guided and accompanied Jesus so he could grow in ‘wisdom and age and grace,’” Pope Francis said. This is the same thing all parents must do, and “it would be a serious mistake to think that a father and a mother can’t do anything to teach their children to grow in God’s grace,” he said.

Even though God was Jesus’ father, St. Joseph lovingly took on the paternal role and taught the young Jesus various skills, the value of work, reverence for the Lord and fidelity and obedience to God’s will, the pope said.

He also had to keep his family safe during the difficult period of their exile to Egypt, which makes the saint a special example for refugees and those facing persecution.

In his main audience address, the pope gave his heartfelt greetings to all fathers in the square, asking them to show who they were by raising their hands. “Oh, how many dads!” he said. “Best wishes! All the best on your day!”

More photos can be found at www.diocesefwsb.org.
IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

On our way to Easter, we walk along with those who are preparing to receive Baptism as we prepare to renew our own baptismal promises. On the Sundays of Lent, the liturgy takes us on a kind of baptismal journey through the readings of John’s Gospel. In this past Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus promised the gift of “living water” to the Samaritan woman. In this Sunday’s Gospel, we will hear the story of Jesus healing the man born blind. It is another amazing story with deep and profound meaning.

Jesus met the man blind from birth on the streets of Jerusalem. He anointed the man’s eyes and sent him to wash in the nearby pool of Siloam. The name “Siloam” means “sent,” symbolizing Jesus as the One sent by the Father to wash away the sins of the world and to purify us through the waters of Baptism. The blind man obeyed Jesus’ instruction and was cured of his physical blindness. But that was only the beginning of the story. Jesus was intent on doing infinitely more for him — to bring him to a greater light, the vision of faith in Him as the Light of the world. Jesus gave this blind man physical sight so that he would come to see with the new eyes of faith the truth about Him and about life and its destiny. As Jesus once said: “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (John 8:12).”

After the blind man received the gift of physical sight, he encountered the Pharisees. The Pharisees confronted him, asking him how he was now able to see. They told him that Jesus was not from God because He did this cure on the Sabbath. The man still insisted that the one who cured him was a prophet. The Pharisees then sent for the man’s parents who testified that he had been born blind. But the parents were afraid and told the Pharisees to question their son about the man who opened his eyes.

The Pharisees again questioned the man who had been born blind, insisting that Jesus was a sinner. They ridiculed the man and accused him of being a disciple of Jesus. The man rejected their assertion that the one who cured him was a sinner. The Pharisees then threw him out of the synagogue. When Jesus heard about this, He came to the man and asked him: “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“IN THE Easter liturgy, the light of the paschal candle lights countless other candles. Faith is passed on to another, just as one candle is lighted from another,” says the encyclical “Lumen Fidei” (“The Light of Faith”) from Pope Francis. Pictured are worshippers holding candles during the Easter Vigil at St. Jude Church in Mastic Beach, N.Y. In Bishop Rhoades’ column this week, he writes, “By opening our eyes to faith, to the light that comes from God, Jesus continues to cure us from the darkness of confusion and sin present in the world.”
Vatican, Rome gear up for canonizations of John XXIII, John Paul II

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just over five weeks before the canonizations of Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II, Rome hotels are reporting they are almost fully booked and the Vatican has confirmed the Mass will take place in St. Peter’s Square, despite knowing that hundreds of thousands of people will have to watch the ceremony on large video screens.

Pope Francis had announced in late September that he would proclaim the two popes saints in a single ceremony April 27, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Less than two weeks after the date was announced, the Prefecture of the Papal Household issued an advisory that access to St. Peter’s Square would be first-come, first-served and warned pilgrims that unscrupulous tour operators already were trying to sell fake tickets to the Mass.

With perhaps more than 1 million people expected to try to attend the liturgy, rumors abounded that the Vatican would move the ceremony to a wide-open space on the outskirts of town. But the Vatican confirmed Feb. 27 that the Mass would be held in St. Peter’s Square, just outside the basilica where the mortal remains of the two rest.

Blessed John Paul II, known as a globetrotter who made 104 trips to 122 countries, was a role model for the papacy that should go forward even without a second miracle attributed to his intercession.

A first miracle was needed for beatification. In Pope John Paul II’s cause, the miracle involved a French nun suffering from Parkinson’s disease, the same disease the pope had. In the cause of Pope John, the Vatican recognized as a miracle the healing of an Italian nun who was dying from complications after stomach surgery.

In February, Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, said Pope Francis did not skip an essential step in approving Blessed John’s canonization, but “only shortened the time to give the entire Church the great opportunity of celebrating 2014 with John XXIII, the initiate of the Second Vatican Council, and John Paul II, who brought to life the pastoral, spiritual and doctrinal inspiration of its documents.”

The cardinal said Pope Francis did not dismiss the need for a miracle attributed to the late pope’s intercession, but recognized that the “positio” or official position paper prepared for Blessed John’s cause, a “full of accounts of miracles” and favors granted by God through his intercession. One case, often mentioned, involves a woman from Naples who accidentally swallowed cyanide; she believes her poison-induced liver damage was miraculously reversed after prayers to Blessed John.

Asked by reporters in July to describe the two late popes, Pope Francis said Blessed John was “a bit of the ‘country priest,’ a priest who loves each of the faithful and knows how to care for them; he did this as a bishop and as a mentor” in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and France before becoming a cardinal and patriarch of Venice.

He was holy, patient, had a good sense of humor and, especially by calling the Second Vatican Council, was a man of courage, Pope Francis said.

As for Blessed John Paul, Pope Francis told the reporters on the plane, “I think of him as ‘the great missionary of the Church,’” because he “was a man who proclaimed the Gospel everywhere.”

A spokeswoman for the office of Rome’s mayor said the city hoped by March 24 to have a working estimate of the number of pilgrims, as well as preliminary plans for transporting them to the Vatican and providing them with water, toilet facilities and first aid stations.

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The library has been scanning its collection for several years with help from various nonprofit groups, and has already digitally archived 6,800 manuscripts, said Msgr. Cesare Pasini, the library’s prefect. But so far only some 300 documents are accessible on its website (vaticanlibrary.va).

NTT DATA Corporation will supply the technicians and equipment necessary to produce high-definition digital records of another 3,000 manuscripts and place them online over the next four years. The library will solicit donations to defray the estimated $23 million cost of the project, among other ways by allowing contributors to sponsor digitalization of individual manuscripts.

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BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Betty E. Stein, noted for her community work in education — both inside and outside the classroom — has been named the recipient of the 2014 Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presented the award to Stein, Friday, March 21, at St. Mary Catholic Church, the parish that presents the award in cooperation with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The Father Tom Light of Christ Award is presented annually to persons of faith whose life and work reflect the values of Father O’Connor, who served as pastor of St. Mary’s from 1970 until his death on St. Patrick’s Day, 2004.

Stein is a member of Congregation Achduth Vesholom, where she served twice as president of the Sisterhood and was the first woman president of the Temple. This is the first time a person from the Jewish faith has been the recipient of the award.

“This gives me special joy especially since our honoree has been a beautiful example and proponent of strong and close relations between our Jewish and Catholic communities in Fort Wayne,” said Bishop Rhoades in his remarks at the award ceremony. “We give thanks today for God’s goodness, the goodness shown to so many through the life, work and service of Ms. Betty Stein.”

“We are pleased to be acknowledging the many contributions to our community of the incomparable Betty Stein,” said Father Phillip Widmann, pastor of St. Mary Parish. “Father O’Connor is considered by many to be an icon of Catholic faith in action … For Father Tom feeding the hungry was a matter of justice, not charity.”

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the years he lived in Italy and while visiting Milan, he went to the famous opera house, La Scala. He noted that he heard that Stein, who enjoys the opera immensely, once sang on the stage of La Scala.

Stein planned to donate her $1,000 award money to a grand opera performance by the Heartland Chamber Chorale for middle school students at Memorial Park Middle School in Fort Wayne. This year, thanks to the grant, the students will have another opportunity “to learn about real music,” Stein quipped in her remarks.

Stein said she had the privilege of knowing Father Tom O’Connor and worked on projects with him, particularly the Jewish-Catholic dialogue. She said of Father O’Connor, “His intellect, his sincerity, his goodness were omnipresent. If you knew him, you knew that there was a twinkle in his eye. (He had) a wonderful sense of humor that helped resolve rather difficult situations.”

She called the St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen a marvelous gift to the community. “This was a man who knew what was needed and did his darnedest to see that it was taken care of.”

Stein said of the award, “I cannot tell you how grateful I am.” Stein told Today’s Catholic that she had a heart for working with underprivileged children “whose home life was not what one wanted it to be.”

Betty Edlavitch Stein was born Dec. 10, 1916. Her father was a physician who was concerned about racial equality. The family’s roots were in Baltimore, Md., and on trips east, she was “horrified by the difference between life there and here (in Fort Wayne) — the segregation. It just didn’t seem right,” she said.

A Fort Wayne native, she is a graduate of Central High School, earned her bachelor of science degree from Ohio State University in social work, and later completed a master’s degree in education at the University of St. Francis. Stein taught English and social studies at Fairfield Junior High, eventually becoming chair of both departments, and then became curriculum coordinator at Memorial Park Middle School. She officially retired in 1981, but started that same year as a consultant with Fort Wayne Community Schools — a position that she continues to enjoy to this day.

Stein has never stopped teaching those who come into contact with her, through her columns, her volunteer work and through her columns, which she tells the always pinpoints exactly what needs to be said or done.

Under the umbrella of the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation, Stein created the award-winning Minority Literature Project — a much-needed effort to introduce the work of African American and other minority poets to students when textbooks and anthologies at that time did not include their work.

In addition to serving on numerous boards and commissions over the years, Stein was the first woman to serve as chairperson of the Leadership Prayer Breakfast, the first woman president of Congregation Achduth Vesholom, Sisterhood president twice, the first woman chair of the Board of Safety, president of the Friends of the Library, charter member and president of the Fort Wayne Citizen’s Education Council, and was instrumental in the revitalization of the Jewish-Catholic Dialogue between Congregation Achduth Vesholom and St. Mary’s Parish.

Her previous awards include, among many others, The Esther Ritz Colyer Award for lifetime achievement in fine arts education, Sagamore of the Wabash, Tapestry Award, Goldie DuBow Award of the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation, and the Excellence in Education Award, presented to her by Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry for her lifetime of service to the community.
Ruling to allow same-sex marriage ‘regrettable,’ say Michigan bishops

The Catholic conference is the public key arm of the state’s bishops.

April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, a Detroit-area couple who are raising three children together, filed suit in 2012 to challenge the voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. U.S. District Court Judge Bernard Friedman in Detroit overturned the same-sex marriage ban — which voters passed by a narrow margin in 2004 — saying it violated the U.S. Constitution because it deprives same-sex couples the same rights guaranteed to heterosexual couples. He also said barring same-sex couples from adopting children was unconstitutional.

“Many Michigan residents have religious convictions whose principles govern the conduct of their daily lives and inform their own viewpoints about marriage,” Friedman wrote in his 31-page ruling. “Nonetheless, these views cannot be stripped of the guarantees of equal protection under the law.”

Friedman did not stay his ruling, and Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette filed a request for an emergency stay with a federal appeals court March 21 to prevent same-sex couples from getting marriage licenses immediately.

Late March 22 the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati granted the stay until at least March 26. Before the appeals court acted, however, several hundred same-sex couples went to county clerks’ offices around Michigan to get married.

With Friedman’s ruling, Michigan becomes the 18th state to allow same-sex marriage. An AP story said that DeBoer and Rowse were not among the couples who went immediately to get a marriage license. The couple will get married, DeBoer told AP, “when we know our marriage is forever binding.”

In their statement, Michigan’s Catholic bishops said the judge’s decision “to redefine the institution of marriage by declaring Michigan’s Marriage Amendment unconstitutional advances a misunderstanding of marriage, and mistakenly proposes that marriage is an emotional arrangement that can simply be redefined to accommodate the dictates of culture and the wants of adults,” they said. “Judge Friedman’s ruling that also finds the state’s adoption law is equally of grave concern.”

“Every child has the right to both a mother and a father and, indeed, every child does have lineage to both,” the bishops said. “We recognize not every child has the opportunity to grow in this environment, and we pray for those single mothers and fathers who labor each day to care for their children at times amid great challenges and difficulties. They deserve our constant support and encouragement.”

The bishops declared, “Persons of same-sex attraction should not be judged, but rather respected with acceptance, compassion and sensitivity.”

“We rejoice with those brothers and sisters in Christ living with same-sex attraction who have found great freedom through Jesus’ call to chastity communicated through the Church,” they said, adding that those struggling to live in “harmony” with Church teaching continue to pray and seek the Lord “with the help and guidance of the Church.”

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Diocese dispenses $201,776.50 to 11 projects

The Annual Bishop’s Appeal of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend includes a funding program to assist less affluent parishes. A Parishes-in-Need Committee met recently to review parish requests for “needy” projects. The committee recommended a total of $201,776.50 be granted to eight parishes for 11 essential projects, enabling them to arrive at a more stable existence.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades approved the grants.

“Obviously, we can’t meet every request submitted by the parishes,” said Msgr. Robert C. Schulte, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese. “We have to consider the nature of each request in light of the total needs and financial resources of the parish as well as the other parishes in the diocese requesting funding assistance,” he continued. A total amount of $531,992.20 in requests was submitted this year.

“If all or part of a request cannot be met, often the committee will recommend the parish apply to another fund of financial resource in the diocese or community, or seek other alternatives,” Msgr. Schulte added.

Some funds usually remain in the account for use throughout the year by parishes when a new need arises, Msgr. Schulte indicated. If all the money is not used in 2014, however, it will be carried over and allocated to next year’s Parishes-in-Need fund.

“Hopefully, this money will strengthen these parishes financially, increase their outreach and improve their ability to do the work of Christ,” said Bishop Rhoades.

This year’s allocation of Parishes-in-Need funds brings the amount granted to $5,645,390.50 from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal to parishes in need during the 27 years of the Annual Bishop’s Appeal.

This year’s dispersion and the primary parish projects include:

Fort Wayne

• Queen of Angels — $7,920 for chimney reduction and repair, and $52,000 to replace the rectory roof.
• St. Joseph — $40,000 to replace the gym roof, and $13,380 for a new program for student assessments, data tracking and academic growth monitoring (hardware and software for teachers).

South Bend

• Holy Cross — $18,000 to replace the sound system in the church.
• St. Adalbert — $28,412 to replace all carpet in the school.
• St. Anthony — $40,000 to replace sloped roof section of the church.
• St. John the Baptist — $1,731.50 to master key all locks in the school — new locks and $7,033 to replace the intercom in the school.

South Bend Area

• St. Michael, Plymouth — $5,300 to replace garage roof and connecting walkway between the rectory and the church.

LANSING, Mich. (CNS) — A U.S. District Court judge’s March 21 ruling that Michigan’s ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional does not change the fact “marriage is and can only ever be a unique relationship solely between one man and one woman,” said the state’s Catholic bishops.

“Nature itself, not society, religion or government, created marriage. Nature, the very essence of humanity as understood through historical experience and reason, is the arbiter of marriage, and we uphold this truth for the sake of the common good,” they said in a statement released by the Michigan Catholic Conference in Lansing.

“The biological realities of male and female and the complementarity they each bring to marriage uniquely allows for the pro-creation of children,” they said.

The Catholic conference is the public key arm of the state’s bishops.

April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, a Detroit-area couple who are raising three children together, filed suit in 2012 to challenge the voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. The law also prohibits same-sex couples from jointly adopting children: only heterosexual married couples are allowed to do so.

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Cardinal, panelists: Pope Francis’ celebrity should turn eyes to Jesus

Baltimore (CNS) — “Like Pope Francis? You’ll love Jesus.” It was a well-circulated Washington Post headline in December, but it could have been the tagline for the March 14 “Francis Factor” event held at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore. As a cardinal, archbishop and four Catholic expert panelists shared insights from Pope Francis’ first year, they repeatedly shifted the attention away from the pope and onto the Son of God. Pope Francis would have done no less. “The pope is a true companion of Jesus,” said Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston in the evening’s keynote address. Speaking to an audience of some 2,800 in Loyola’s Reitz Arena, Cardinal O’Malley said the pope is enticing people to take a new look at the Church. In an interview published in English by America magazine in September, the pope called the Church “a field hospital after battle. The field hospital imagery is more compelling than that of a museum or a concert hall,” the cardinal said. “Sometimes we lose our enthusiasm for mission because we forget that the Gospel responds to our deepest needs, since we were created for what the Gospel offers us: friendship with Jesus and love of our brothers and sisters.”

Bishop holds up St. Joseph as ‘challenging example’ for all

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CNS) — Prayerfully and joyously welcomed into St. Patrick Cathedral for his installation Mass as the 11th bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg March 19, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer held up St. Joseph — whose feast the Church celebrated that day — as “a challenging example” for the members of the Church. Speaking of Joseph’s designation as a “just man,” Bishop Gainer said the description of the saint goes far beyond his decision to take Mary into his home, as was recounted in the day’s Gospel. “Everything we were told about Joseph after Harrisburg established that he was indeed a just man. This primary attribute of Joseph gives us not only an overall appreciation of who he was, but it aligns him with the greatest figures in the Old Testament,” he said. “The biblical concept of a life lived in humble obedience to the will of God — a life in which law is not an external imposition and love is an internal sentiment, but a life in which law and love are not opposed but united — can be summed up in this single idea of a ‘just man,’ said the bishop. He added: “In this way, St. Joseph provides a challenging example to all of us who strive to be faithful members of the Body of Christ.” At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Gainer bestowed the title of cathedral pastor on Father Thomas Rozman, pastor of the current church on the island nation. The Church is being divided by force and intimidation. “We all are worried for the safety of our families and for the future of Ukraine. We are saddened by their sufferings. We share in their feelings of great uncertainty as to their future,” the Ukrainian Catholic archbishop said.

Bahrain cathedral will be ‘symbol of Christianity’ in ‘heart of Islam’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Camillo Ballin, apostolic vicar of Northern Arabia, knows full well what it is to minister to Catholics in a Muslim region because he has been doing that for more than four decades. In recent years, the 69-year-old Italian bishop — a member of the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus who has served in Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Kuwait and now Bahrain — has seen the number of Catholics particularly in the Persian Gulf rise sharply. He attributes the increase to the growing number of workers migrating to the oil-rich nations for manual labor and domestic service work. In his territory, the Northern Arabia vicariate — which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia — there are more than 2.5 million Catholics. The increased Catholic population gives Bishop Ballin a problem not every bishop faces: overflowing churches. In response, he is preparing to build a new cathedral in Awali, Bahrain, called Our Lady of Arabia, which will hold 2,600 congregants. The current church on the island nation seats about 700. The Catholic population in Bahrain numbers about 140,000, the bishop said.

National shrine ‘fitting tribute’ to late pope, says USCCB president

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops’ March 19 designation of a center in Washington as the St. John Paul II National Shrine reflects U.S. Catholics’ love for the late pope, said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky. As president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, he signed the decree declaring the designation for the site of the former John Paul II Cultural Center. It takes effect April 27, the day Pope Francis will canonize Blessed John Paul II and Blessed John XXIII. Liturgical celebrations, a reception and a gathering of young people will mark the occasion. “This national shrine is truly America’s fitting tribute and remembrance of his legacy,” Archbishop Kurtz said in a statement. The center, which first opened in 2001 as a cultural center, named for the pope, with a research component, museum and gallery, sits on 12 acres in Washington’s northeast quadrant just steps from the site of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and The Catholic University of America. The Knights of Columbus took ownership of the shrine in 2011 and will create a shrine dedicated to the pope and his contributions to the Church and society. It is currently known as the Blessed John Paul II Shrine.

News Briefs

MEMBER OF BOYS’ CHOIR FROM SPAIN LINE UP BEFORE PERFORMANCE AT NATIONAL SHRINE

Members of the Escolania de Montserrat, one of the oldest and most venerable boys’ choirs in Europe, prepare to enter the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington March 15. Founded in the 13th century, the choir sings daily for pilgrims at the abbey of Santa Maria de Monserrat in Catalonia, Spain.
Our Lady of Providence Shrine to be rededicated

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — An important facet of the prayer ministry of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods will be re-opened to the general public on April 6.

During a Vesper service at 7:30 p.m., the National Shrine of Our Lady of Providence will be blessed in its new location in the vestibule of the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

The public is welcome to attend the event.

The Our Lady of Providence Shrine most recently had been located in Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, but has been moved from that place to make room for the new permanent shrine to St. Mother Theodore Guérin, which is currently under construction.

“Devotion to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Providence, Queen of the Home, has been an important part of the prayer tradition of our community,” said Sister Dawn Tomaszewski, general officer liaison to the shrine ministry.

“Moving the shrine to this location in the church will offer greater accessibility and visibility.”

The Our Lady of Providence Shrine will include a copy of the painting, “Mater Divinæ Providentiae,” composed by Scipione Pulzoni in 1580, the “Book of Intentions,” and prayer candles, which can be lit.

Sister Dawn said that the Sisters of Providence encouraged a devotion to Our Lady of Providence under the title “Queen of the Home” through a formal association and through a Providence Prayer Circles ministry.

“The needs of families today are great,” Sister Dawn said. “Prayer is one way of bringing the needs of the family to God.”

Besides visiting the shrine, prayer requests may be sent online at http://spsmw.org.

SEVENTH GRADERS BUILD DISPLAY AT CAN-STRUCTION

A group of seventh graders from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School participated in the CANstruction event at Glenbrook Square on March 14. The students designed and built their entry made entirely of canned goods, a recreation of the Great Barrier Reef. These canned goods will be donated to the Community Harvest Food Bank in Fort Wayne.

The seventh graders were directed by junior high teachers Deb Brough, Jody Jump, Abby Dykhuisen, Michelle Voigt and Evan Smith.

SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL FRENCH CLUB WINS MANY AWARDS

SOUTH BEND — The Saint Joseph High School French Club, led by teacher Lori Fournier-Nornem, attended the state French competition. Every student who attended won an award.

Winners include the following:
• Jeannie Freeby and Haley Hessey won fourth place for level 2 non-stop conversation.
• Alexandria Timm, Margaret Murphy and Sophia Brown earned fourth place for their beginner play.
• Sophia Brown won first place for her level 1 art poster.
• Hannah Thomas won second place for her level 1 graphic poster.
• Sophia Brown won second place for level 1 scrambled sentences and third place for level 1 poem recitation.
• Liam Griffin earned first place for level 2 geography and first place for level 2 impromptu speaking.

Our Lady of Providence prayer circle to convene

SOUTH BEND — The University of Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns and the United Religious Community of St. Joseph County will sponsor “In Pursuit of Justice” on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Goodwill Center, 1805 W. Western Ave. in South Bend. Cost is $12 and covers lunch. Kay Praxis, a national speaker for restorative justice, will be the presenter. The discussion will involve changes to the criminal justice system that will promote healing, exploring options for re-entering the community and workforce after prison and sharing ideas to respond to crime that will strengthen the community. Email reservations to lmjep21@aol.com or call 574-282-2397, ext. 4.

Respect Life Prayer Dinner

SOUTH BEND — St. Joseph County Right To Life will have an evening of prayer for life Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Kroc Corps Community Center Chapel, 900 W. Western Ave. Join clergy and religious as they lead prayer for an end to abortion. A Silent No More representative will speak on the experiences of post-abortive women. Entertainment will be provided by a local youth choir. All clergy and religious admitted free of charge. A $20 donation is requested of other guests. Reserve your place by April 1 at life@prolifemichiana.org or 574-232-LIFE (5433).

Panel to discuss addiction to pornography

NOTRE DAME — A presentation that discusses the addiction to pornography will be held on March 31, at 7:30 p.m. in the William J. Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library at the University of Notre Dame.

Addiction to pornography is a growing problem, especially among young people. To allow for meaningful discussion on this topic, The Institute for Church Life and the Gender Relations Center at the University of Notre Dame are hosting a four-person panel presentation titled, “Porn: On Both Sides of the Screen.”

The panel, consisting of a former porn star, a former porn producer and a married couple who had to deal with the husband’s devasting addiction, hopes to highlight this growing problem and to offer hope and guidance to those whose lives have been affected by it.

While direct consumption of pornography most likely affects men more than women, this event will also allow for conversations about the impact of pornography on relationships in addition to the cultures of commodification (macro and micro) that pornography creates and on which it depends.

The event is free and open to the public. For further information, visit the website at http://icl.nd.edu/icl-events.

SAINT JOSEPH-HESSEN CASSEL STUDENT HEADS TO STATE GEOGRAPHY BEE COMPETITION

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne, sixth-grader Mary Braun has qualified to represent her school at the state level of competition for the National Geography Bee. Braun, who is an athlete and honor roll student, competed along with tens of thousands of students and landed in the top 100 in Indiana, ranking her in the top 1 percent of the nation’s fourth through eighth graders in geography. The state bee will be held on Friday, April 4, at the Indiana University-Purdue University campus in Indianapolis. The bee is sponsored by Google Earth and Plum Creek Timber Company.

Mary Braun

Restorative justice conference presented

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The South Side Catholic Singers recently wrapped up their first middle school show choir season. The group is comprised of fifth- through eighth-grade students from the schools of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth; St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; St. John the Baptist, New Haven; Most Precious Blood; St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel and Huntington Catholic. The South Side Catholic Singers performed at the Homestead High School Show Choir Invitational, the Bishop Luers Midwest Show Choir Invitational and the Carroll High School Classic Invitational. Katie Slee directed the South Side Catholic Singers. The group is shown performing at the Carroll High School Classic Invitational on March 14.
Dress Drive helps women be the belles of the ball

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — “I got involved with the dress drive because I wanted to help the girls feel special. Just as we feel special when we go to prom or midwinter, I wanted to help give them a special day, just as we have our own,” said Saint Joseph High School student Rita Pillai, co-organizer of a Dress Drive recently held at the school.

Students Rita Pillai and Lexi Harmacinski have been collecting dresses for Hannah’s Belles, a project to collect and distribute dresses to girls and women with different abilities for Hannah and Friends.

Hannah and Friends, founded by Maura and Charlie Weis, improves the quality of life for children and adults with special needs.

“We are collecting gently used dresses, all sizes (girls, juniors, misses, women’s) and all occasions (sundresses, cocktail, prom, bridesmaid, etc.) and then distributing them to girls and women with different abilities. Girls and women of all abilities deserve the opportunity to become the belle of the ball — and our hope is to not only provide a dress, but provide a great experience and remind the ladies of how beautiful they each are,” said Katie Teitgen, director of operations with Hannah and Friends.

Teitgen said, “Girls and women with different abilities were invited to Hannah and Friends on March 1 to come try on dresses and pick out a dress at no cost. There was also a craft for the guests and a photo opportunity. Several volunteers from Saint Mary’s College were present, as well as some volunteers from Kohl’s to help make it a wonderful day for the guests.”

Teitgen added, “We specifically have some fun events planned this spring for the ladies to dress up — the Indiana Miss Amazing Pageant is hosted at Hannah and Friends in March and we’re planning a Rock the Red Carpet Prom for May, but it is also a chance to give all of these girls/women the opportunity to feel beautiful and confident, come shop and pick out a dress at no cost, and have fun! We aren’t just collecting fancy dresses, we are looking for all occasions and sizes. Some of our ladies would love a dress to wear to church, for a nice lunch or maybe a summer party.”

According to co-organizer Lexi Harmacinski, the girls worked very hard to get the word out to students to donate their dresses including going on the morning announcements and having male students model dresses.

“It means a lot to me. We are helping girls who might not feel important enough. They all deserve to look and feel beautiful,” said Harmacinski.

Both girls are active volunteers for Hannah and Friends.

“At Saint Joe we are taught to go out and serve just as Christ did. When I go to do service hours I am not doing it to write the number of hours down, I am doing the hours to help the kids. As I help the kids, they help me grow closer to God and grow as a person to be kinder to those around me and be more open to peoples of different abilities,” said Pillai. “The residents, and kids, are very special, by volunteering there, I have learned to be patient, and compassionate towards everyone.”

In the photo, from left to right, are Rita Pillai and Lexi Harmacinski, organizers of the Dress Drive at Saint Joseph High School for Hannah and Friends.
Why Blessed ‘Little Margaret’ of Castello is so great

BY DAVID MCLAMROCK

Blessed Margaret of Castello, 1287-1320, has been proposed as the “patroness of the unwanted,” because her rich, proud parents abandoned her. Merely because she had a few birth defects — blind, lame and hunch-backed — they thought she was too short and ugly. And her parents desired a boy.

Margaret was pious and kind-hearted and highly intelligent — in fact brilliant — but that didn’t count with her parents. What they wanted was a strong, handsome boy to follow in his noble father’s footsteps, and they were terrified that people would discover what they got instead.

This was in the comparatively enlightened 13th century, when people were no longer supposed to dump their deformed babies out to die as in pagan times. Even Margaret’s parents must have thought it would be going a bit too far to kill her. They did the next worst thing — they “buried” her alive.” When she was six years old, they put her in a little room next to the parish church, nearly all. “Little Margaret” is among lawyers. But that’s not “unwanted” in this world.

Margaret was pious and kind-hearted, and ugly. And her parents desired a boy. They walled up the doorway so Margaret’s parents must have thought it would be going a bit too far to kill her. They did the next worst thing — they “buried” her alive.” When she was six years old, they put her in a little room next to the parish church, nearly all. “Little Margaret” is among lawyers. But that’s not “unwanted” in this world.

Margaret was pious and kind-hearted, and ugly. And her parents desired a boy. They walled up the doorway so that some people did want her. The story of Blessed Margaret of Castello is an unforgettable obvious demonstration of the value of a human life, whether “wanted” or “unwanted” in this world.

Margaret is as great among the unwanted as St. Thomas More is among the wanted. But that isn’t nearly all. “Little Margaret” is also a good patron for the following:

• Shut-ins. Even think you were going to go “stir-crazy” if you didn’t get out of your house, or out of your workplace, a hospital room or other place of confinement? Blessed Margaret has been there. She turned her horrible imprisonment, for no crime of her own, into an opportunity to grow ever closer to God through prayer, penance and learning.

• Students. St. Thomas Aquinas is a great patron saint of students, and rightly so, but they can also get some valuable help from Margaret, who couldn’t read, write or even see. Margaret loved to learn and found it very easy to learn. With divine assistance, sometimes she learned things she’d never studied.

• Ordinary families struggling to get along together and make a living. After being an innocent prisoner and then a homeless beggar, Margaret found that some people did want her after all — the poor families of Citta di Castello, the city where her parents abandoned her. The poor families had to do something for little Margaret. They turned her staying in their homes or at least near their homes. An especially great privilege for Margaret was getting to sleep in a stable, because then she could be more like the baby Jesus and meditate more vividly on His love. There is no more religious too. They attributed it to the prayers of Margaret.

• People with unsatisfactory bosses and coworkers. Margaret’s parents were not the only ones who didn’t want her. After living on the streets and in poor people’s homes, Margaret received a chance to join the convent. It didn’t work out. Margaret wanted to be a good nun and follow the rule — but her life seemed like a silent reproach to the many who didn’t want to do the same, including the mother superior, so she was asked to leave.

• Laypeople seeking holiness. Margaret may have looked like a nun because she wore the Dominican habit, but she wasn’t. She ended up as a “Mantellata,” a Third Order lay Dominican. Unlike the convent experience, this worked out well.

With the exception of the convent and the little room by the church, Margaret lived all her life among laypeople — the humble and modest, the poor and the rich — and it didn’t stop her from living always for love of God and her neighbors.

• People in need of healing. Margaret herself was never cured of her physical defects — except for ugliness. People said she became beautiful when she was levitating, and she reportedly did some remarkable things to help other people with physical problems. Once she cured a lady who was going blind, after the lady failed to accept Margaret’s assurance that it was OK to be blind.

Even after Margaret’s death, people brought her a girl who couldn’t walk or talk, and begged her to cure the girl. Margaret wasn’t going to let a little thing like death prevent her from helping. People saw Margaret’s arm reach out and touch the girl. The girl got up and then people heard the girl cry out, “I have been cured through Margaret’s prayers!”

One hears a lot about human dignity, the value of every human life, and the supreme importance of one’s soul — made in the image and likeness of God — and too much of it may go in one ear and out the other. The life of Blessed Margaret of Castello conveys it all.

You can “see” it — the hidden treasure of a priceless soul, buried alive in prison, in poverty, in rejection, and seemingly buried at birth in a tiny, twisted, sightless body, but winning out over it all by the power of God. That’s why “Little Margaret,” ignored and rejected by the powerful in this world, is so great.


David McLamrock is a writer who has a devotion to Blessed Margaret of Castello.

Teams invited to build catapults

DONALDSON — MoonTree Studios and Veteran’s Therapeutic Art Center (VTAC) have announced the return of a popular intergenerational experience to the MoonTree Wood Shop this spring. It’s a time-honored adventure: designing and building a working catapult. Teams are once again invited to conceive, plan and build a working wooden machine to heave golf balls and seed balls for distance and accuracy.

Commonly known as catapults, trebuchets, onragers or balistae, these types of machines were invented about 339 B.C. and are broadly described as machines that store energy, quickly releasing that energy to fire a projectile. Catapults originated as “siege machines,” devised to defend the castle; revered engineer- ing feats with fearsome names like “the Ogre.” Even Leonardo Da Vinci designed an elegant kinetic-energy-powered catapult.

Even today, catapults are still in use. For instance, catapult mechanisms are used to launch aircraft from aircraft carriers because the ship’s launch pad is too short. And small catapults, referred to as traps, are still widely used to launch clay targets into the air in the sport of skeet shooting.

The “Build a Catapult Experience” is open to the public as well as VTAC members. This would be a great team-building exercise, as teams can work one-on-one and get guidelines and tips to design, construct and test their catapult machine with an experienced MoonTree Wood Shop Facilitator. If you like, this experience will culminate with a Contest of Catapult Prowess and Launch of Life on the prairie surrounding MoonTree Studios on Saturday, April 26, the culmination of Earth Week at The Center at Donaldson. Catapults will compete for distance, accuracy, originality of design and decoration, use of recycled material, and even historical accuracy and team insignia or costume.

To learn more about the Build a Catapult experience, or to register and get a copy of the contest rules, call MoonTree Studios at 574-935-1712 or visit moontreestudios.org.

Visit saintmarys.edu/camps to register online.
For more information, email camps@saintmarys.edu or call (574) 284-4778.
VICTORIA, Kan. (CNS)—Capuchin Father Jeff Ernst’s voice leapt with emotion when he heard the news: St. Fidelis Church in Victoria would be named a minor basilica.

“It’s exciting,” he said from his office at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Lawrence. “The state of Kansas doesn’t have any” basilicas.

Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger of Salina received the news from the Vatican in early March that it had granted the diocese’s application to have St. Fidelis designated a minor basilica. He will dedicate the church as a minor basilica June 7.

“This is a great day for the people of Victoria but an equally great day for the people of the Diocese of Salina,” the bishop said. “St. Fidelis Church has long been a place of pilgrimage and prayer. Indeed, many have been drawn to the mystery and love of God by spending time in this inspiring church.”

Worldwide, there are more than 1,600 minor basilicas; only 78 of them are in the United States.

The Catholic Church has four major basilicas: St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City and the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls and Basilica of St. Mary Major, all in Rome.

A church designated as a minor basilica must be a center of active pastoral liturgy with a vibrant Catholic community and may have unique historical, artistic or religious importance.

Father Ernst recalled that one day when he was walking through the front doors of St. Fidelis he said to himself: “This could become a minor basilica.”

“I thought about it for a few days and then ran it by the bishop, and he really liked the idea,” the priest told The Register, the newspaper of the Salina Diocese.

After receiving permission from his Capuchin provincial to proceed, he contacted people at the most recently named minor basilica in the United States at the time, the Basilica of St. John the Baptist in Canton, Ohio, to inquire about how to do it.

It was the spring of 2012 and Bishop Weisenburger had just been named to head the Salina Diocese. He told Father Ernst that when he traveled to Rome with the region’s other bishops to meet with now-retired Pope Benedict XVI, he would check with Vatican officials about the process.

“He found out they were discouraging applications,” Father Ernst said, but when the bishop sometime later met with other U.S. bishops, they encouraged him to proceed.

The Capuchin priest had only been at the Victoria parish since September 2013, it was on its way complete the application — which included a lot of pictures. It was then sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for approval. By September 2013, it was on its way to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Shortly before that Father Ernst’s order transferred him to the Lawrence parish. He was succeeded in Victoria by Capuchin Father John Schneider, who was excited to hear the news about the application.

“The people really do take great pride in the church and its upkeep,” he said. “I think it’s because of their love for the church and all that it stands for.

It took him about six months to complete the application — which included a lot of pictures. It was then sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for approval. By September 2013, it was on its way to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

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“The people really do take great pride in the church and its upkeep,” he said. “I think it’s because of their love for the church and all that it stands for.

Being created a basilica, for them, I think, will elevate the sanctity and holiness of the church and help them to know that even better,” he added.

It’s likely to increase the number of people visiting the church, as well.

The church’s 141-foot twin towers are easily seen from nearby Interstate 70, and about 16,000 people visit each year.

Many, of course, are tourists, but for Catholics, visiting a basilica can provide them with a plenary indulgence — remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven.

Victoria was founded in 1873 by English farmers. German Catholics from the Volga River region of Russia began arriving in 1876.

The first Catholic church was a 40-by-20-foot addition built onto a settler’s home. As the number of Catholics grew, larger churches were built 1878 and again in 1884.

In 1904, plans were announced for an imposing new structure. It is constructed of limestone quarried about seven miles south of town. Parishioners also learned to dress the stone. The old church was dismantled and the stone set aside for the new inner walls.

The resulting Romanesque structure is 220 feet long, 110 feet wide at the transepts, 75 feet tall and seats 1,100. At the time of its dedication in 1911, it was considered the largest church in the state. Colored-glass windows made in Munich were installed in 1916, and stations of the cross were imported from Austria in 1917.

The cost to build the church and furnish it totaled more than $95,000.
I n January, The Chronicle of Higher Education ran a special issue about a federal program to promote healthy marriages, run by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The “HHS family of agencies,” as it likes to call itself, comprises 11 operating divisions and 10 regional offices. One of these is the Office of Family Assistance, which runs (among other things) the Healthy Marriage Initiative. It’s hard to say exactly how much the initiative costs, but it has about $60 million in grants outstanding.

Here’s how it works. Recruiters seek out poor parents, in places like hospitals and food-stamp offices, and offer them money and other inducements to attend 13 weeks of relationship education. Everyone agrees that children are better off with doting parents who love each other. The program aims to create families like this. A mere $60 million is small potatoes for an agency like HHS, but it comes to about $11,000 per couple for the program participants.

The results have been quite disappointing. A three-year study of eight grantees found that couples who took part were no more likely than those who did not to stay together or get married than the control group. Fathers did not spend more time with children. Children were not more emotionally secure. Some programs actually showed negative outcomes, which is to say, the control group did better. The article in the Chronicle asks, “So what isn’t working? The plan?” It doesn’t seem unreasonable to spend money to encourage young parents to marry and stay married. However, if this program has been, it does focus on a principal cause of the ill that afflict children and families. Consider the much-discussed problem of growing economic inequality. A new study by Harvard economist Raj Chetty indicates that the best predictor of economic mobility is the percent-age of children who live in intact families.

The program’s failure is more disappointing still because it is that rare solution that can claim bipartisan support. Presidents CARVEY, PAGE 12

Catholic Relief Services and Malawi

Malawi, a country in southeastern Africa, is one of the world’s least developed and densely populated countries. Slightly smaller than Pennsylvania, it is home to over 16 million people, with almost 45 percent of the population between the ages of 0 and 14 years old. More than half the people in Malawi live on less than $1 per day.

In Malawi, the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is guided by the belief in the dignity of work and the rights of workers. This principle emphasizes the right of all people to work to earn a living. It advocates also for the right to a fair wage, for the right of workers to organize and for the right to a safe workplace.

Farming is the main activity in Malawi, with 80 percent of the rural population relying on food that they grow for a large part of their diet. When droughts occur, the food supply dries up. A majority of farmers then need to take up different work. The work they take up is often day labor, which is unpredictable and low paying.

CRS runs an agriculture program in Malawi that helps farmers to grow chili peppers, which can grow without much water. The program trains participants and allows them to join together into groups. These groups decide how much each crop should cost. This helps farmers predict how much money they will be able to bring home to their families. More than 25,000 farmers are involved in CRS’ marketing groups, and 10,000 of those are pepper farmers.

This week, challenge yourself and your family to pray, fast and give alms for the people of Malawi. You could fast from a food that you particularly enjoy or less seasoning on your food to unite yourself with those who do not have a variety of food available to them. You could give 25 cents to your Rice Bowl for each kind of fruit and vegetable that you have in your home.

Pope Francis reminds us to make conscious choices in our consumption of food in light of those who go without because of poverty. On June 7, 2013, our Holy Father tweeted, “Consumerism has accustomed us to waste. But throwing food away is like stealing it from the poor and hungry.” This week, try this outgrown prayer of the words of Pope Francis when making choices about food.

MELISSA WHEELER is the director for Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese of Harrisburg. She can be reached at mwheeler@bishopdwenger.com.
As we forgive...

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

There are some common prayers that I pray by heart, such as the Hail Mary, the Our Father and the Glory Be. They come to my mind automatically because I have prayed them so many times and I have them memorized. This is probably true for most Catholics.

Recently, at Mass we heard the Gospel account of Jesus teaching the Lord’s Prayer to His disciples and other followers. Because I usually prepare for the liturgy by praying the daily Scripture readings, “Give us this day our daily bread,” “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,” really jumped out at me.

The last part of the sentence is something to check ourselves on. For some of us these words merely flow off our tongues, and we often don’t think about what we are saying. Can we forgive those who have hurt us or do we hold grudges and have resentments against others?

Lent is a good time to examine ourselves and reflect on those people in our lives who may be in that category.

Really forgiving someone who has betrayed us or hurt us in any way is not easy, but this is a big part of being a follower of Jesus, and we cannot take it lightly. To love is to forgive and have right relationships with everyone who touches our lives. We all know people (maybe ourselves) who hold deep resentments or hurts that need God’s healing. Sometimes people nurse their grudges and anger toward someone else for years. Some might not even remember what originally happened to cause the problem.

Every time we pray the Our Father we are asking God to forgive us as we forgive others. He didn’t say to forgive only those who ask for pardon, but everyone. At times we must initiate the conversation and take the first step toward reconciliation. To ask for pardon or to say, “I forgive you,” and really mean it, is difficult. Often our pride gets in the way or we fear the reaction of the other person. Even so, the act of being reconciled with another can free us.

Reconciliation is needed, not only in our individual lives, but also in our communities and other organizations. There can be no lasting peace unless people are willing to ask for and to give forgiveness.

I truly believe that if we can make right our individual relationships that there will be less war and violence in our world. God’s forgiveness for us was measured by how we offer forgiveness in our lives. The next time you pray the Our Father slow down and think about who you are really reconciling. As followers of Christ we must take those words seriously.
Lady Cougars track down NAIA National Championship

SIoux City, Iowa — Putting perfection into words was almost as hard as the achievement for the University of Saint Francis women’s team after the No. 1-ranked Lady Cougars won their first NAIA Division II Women’s National Championship title with a 75-68 win over College of the Ozarks (COO) on March 18 at Tyson Events Center.

USF senior guard Skylarr Shurn scored 30 points and was named NAIA Championship Most-Valuable-Player. Teammate Brooke Ridley posted a double-double on one good ankle — 14 rebounds, 13 points — and was named to the all-championship first team while senior teammate Jenelle Wilson scored 19 points and was named to the all-championship second team.

On Wednesday, while on the bus returning to Fort Wayne, NAIA named Shurn NAIA Division II Player of the Year. Ridley, a Bishop Luers High School graduate, was also named NAIA First-Team All-America and Wilson was an All-America Honorable Mention selection.

NAIA Top 25 No. 1 USF led 37-36 at halftime and outscored the unranked Bobcats, 38-32, in the second half.

“I still don’t think it’s sunk in yet,” a smiling Shurn said while holding the MVP award. “I’m kind of speechless. To finish my senior year 38-0 with a championship, there’s really no better way to go out. I don’t know what else to say. It’s great.”

“Words really can’t describe it,” Wilson said. “Amazing … finally, my fourth year, we did it and it feels amazing. 38-0. … My freshman year we made the long trip and lost. Then we didn’t even make it the next year. Last year we had a tough loss. I don’t even know what to say about it. Nobody at USF has ever done it before, so to be a part of it is really special.”

“That’s the thing about this team, they never panicked,” USF Head Coach Gary Andrews said after accepting the Phyllis Holmes Coach of the Year Award. “You get out here to nationals, there are so many good teams, you just never know, but we kept getting better and more confident. We were also focused on the team we were playing. Nobody ever talked about the next game until it was time. I am so proud of this team and how whenever there was a challenge or some adversity, they pulled together to solve whatever came our way.”

“I don’t know if we could have done it without Brooke,” Shurn said. “She was so clutch for us tonight playing one good ankle.”

“I just tried not to think about it and once I got loose, it really didn’t bother me much,” the 2012 Luers grad said matter-of-factly. After rolling her ankle with about 11 minutes to play in the 68-64 win over Cardinal Stritch University (Wis.) in the Fab Four semifinal game, Ridley hobbled out of TEC in a boot and on crutches on Monday night.

“I’ve got to give our trainer Casey (Costa) and Kalah’s dad Joe (Baer) credit for doing all they knew to get my ankle playable,” Ridley added.

COO hit three 3-pointers in the final 1:05 to keep things interesting, but USF countered the late Bobcats bombardment by connecting on seven of eight free throws to keep the Bobcats at bay. Jeana Raper drew COO within five, 73-68, with just 11 seconds to play, but Shurn assured the USF win hitting two free throws with 10 seconds to play.

College of the Ozarks, which falls to 0-5 all-time in the national championship final, was led in scoring by Heinzler’s 22 points. The freshman ended the game 8-for-20 from the field, including a 4-for-11 effort from 3-point range. Emily Walker also scored in double-digits with 11 points.

The Bobcats ended the night shooting 40.7 percent (24-for-59) from the field. College of the Ozarks ended the season with a 27-10 record.

USF finished shooting .455 for the game. .385 in the second half on 10-for-26 shooting. The Lady Cougars shot .250 from 3-point (2 for 8) and USF shot .742 from the free-throw line (.23 for 31). USF shot 8-for-10 at the free-throw line hitting 17-of-21 shots in the second half. USF outscored COO 36-28, 8-5 in fastbreak points.

Baer finished with six points. Montgomery four and senior Jessica Harrison two points on a rebound basket and a blocked shot.

Most Valuable Player Skylarr Shurn, left, a USF senior guard, applies pressure for a College of the Ozarks turnover as the University of Saint Francis captures the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II national women’s basketball championship March 18, in Sioux City, Iowa. Teammates, from left, senior Jessica Harrison, sophomore Brooke Ridley and senior Jenelle Wilson assist. Phot by the University of Saint Francis
Inspire the journey with Catholic books

BY KAY COZAD

The following are recently published books that have been sent to Today’s Catholic that can capture the fancy of Catholic and non-Catholic readers alike. Each book is reviewed using publishing house press releases and includes publisher name and ISBN number for ease of purchase at your local Catholic bookstore.

“A Prayer Book for Widows,” by Kay Cozad, has been reissued and offers a multitude of heartfelt prayers for the many occasions widows and widowers face on their journey through grief. The prayers are based on the author’s own experience of loss and personal reflection on issues from facing death and the funeral to special occasions and changes. Chapters include Scripture references and prayers. Our Sunday Visitor, ISBN: 978-1-9276-145-6.


“John Paul II: A Short Biography,” by Kerry Walters highlights this pope’s early years, his lifelong devotion to Mary, his outreach to young people and his role as intercessor in seeking reconciliation with institutions and peoples alienated from the Church. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-749-7.

“Penny Prayers: True Stories of Change,” by award-winning journalist Marion Aberg is a collection of true stories of lives changed by discovering a penny and praying this simple act of faith — “In God, we trust.” Liguori Publications, No. 82923.

“The Last Words of Jesus: A Meditation on Love and Suffering,” by Franciscan Friar Daniel P. Horan brings a fresh perspective to the last seven words Jesus spoke from the cross. Horan challenges readers to look at themselves through the lens of Jesus’ suffering and death and asks them to reach out to the poor and marginalized. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-409-0.


“Christ Our Compass: Making Moral Choices,” by Alfred McBride employs Scripture and Church teaching as a compass for truth as it covers topics such as moral sense and sin, family values, war, honesty and much more. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-711-4.

“Finding Happiness Through Faith: Reflections on Christian Spirituality,” by Karl Josef Wallner speaks from his experiences of the crisis in faith found in Europe, to open the eyes of the reader to the mysteries of the faith and the beautiful of Catholic piety. Change is urgent, he writes, and knowledge of the faith is important in order to understand its joys. Liguori, No. 824128.


“Divergent” (Summit) In post-apocalyptic Chicago, independent will is eliminated, and each person is assigned, at age 16, to a social faction with a specific duty. One shy young woman (Shailene Woodley), however, discovers that she has a rare gift: she is a “Divergent,” capable of adapting to any group she pleases. Since such versatility is seen as a threat to the status quo by the evil administrator of the system (Kate Winslet), the malleable lass is forced to hide her secret by leaving the altruistic loc in which she was raised and joining the very different section of the populace responsible for security. As she undergoes rigorous, even vicious, marital arts training, she falls for her instructor (Theo James), and together they uncover a nefarious plot that jeopardizes her family. Director Neil Burger’s exposition-heavy screen version of Veronica Roth’s novel pushes the boundaries of mayhem to the limit, placing the film squarely outside the proper reach of younger teens. Intense violence, including scenes of torture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

“Muppets Most Wanted” (Disney) Another slyly musical outing for the beloved puppet ensemble created by Jim Henson, this time hinging on the most unlikely of plot twists: Kermit the Frog’s (voice of Steve Whitmire) confinement in a Siberian gulag. His imprisonment comes courtesy of a Russian gangster lookalike (voice of Matt Vogel) — “the world’s most dangerous frog” — who, aided by a human confederate (Ricky Gervais), is out to take Kermit’s place on a Muppet world tour as part of his plans for a daring jewel heist. Director and co-writer James Bobin’s follow-up to his 2011 re-launch “The Muppets” — which also features a hilarious Tina Fey as Kermit’s principal jailer — combines singing, dancing, innocent humor and entertaining cameos. The res ulting treat is then topped off with an endearing message about loyalty to friends. Some slapstick violence. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.
Assistant Principal

St. Jude Catholic School in Fort Wayne has an opening for an Assistant Principal. This is a full-time position. Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Active and practicing Catholic
- Administrative license in education or in process of obtaining
- Experience in a classroom teaching

Duties include working with the pastor, principal, teachers, students and parents.

For more information please contact Sister Kathleen Kuenne at 260-484-4611 or srkathleen@stjudefw.org.
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The St. Louis stained-glass window is now visible for the first time. In the homily, Bishop Rhoades noted, “This holy French king of the 13th century is a great model and intercessor. King Louis IX led an amazing life renowned for his great justice, his devout prayer life, and his charitable works and loving service of the poor. He was canonized a saint in the year 1297, just 27 years after his death. We can sum up St. Louis’ character in the words he gave to his son before he died: ‘Love God, do justice and serve the poor.’ That was his life. May St. Louis intercede for you as you work as a parish to extend God’s kingdom in this portion of the vineyard of the Lord.”

BESANCON

Denny and Ruth Miesle, Jerry and Laura Gerardot and Paul and Beth Kline wipe the table of the altar after it has been dedicated, anointed and incensed.

The St. Louis choir closed with “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” resounding from the newly blessed parish walls. Parishioner John Rorick said the song brought back memories of his youth. “All I could think about was walking out of Mass or Holy Hour as a young boy to the same tune,” he fondly recalled.

Organist of nearly 30 years, Jane Lomont, could not have been more pleased with the choir at the celebration. “The newly tuned organ and acoustics are just heavenly,” she beamed.

As Father Colchin and Bishop Rhoades greeted parishioners after Mass, the emotional comments of the breathtaking beauty of the building and moving celebration seemed to be unanimously positive from young and old alike. “I cried through the whole Mass,” admitted LuAnn Kennerk. Second-grader Ella Beery simply stated, “It was awesome!”

Countless others echoed the same sentiments as they filed over to the parish hall for a potluck dinner. Hundreds gathered for food and fellowship in the same space that had served as their place of worship for the past nine months.

When asked if he ever thought this day would come, Denny Miesle smiled and the man of faith said, “Of course, I did.” Among his many duties during the project, Miesle was the chief engineer for the new altar, trim master and cabinet builder. He spent 10-12 hour days in the church for months during the process. Not willing to take due credit, Miesle summarized, “We are each given gifts and talents. I was just happy to be able to share mine for His greater honor and glory.”

Like many in attendance, 11-year-old Maggie Castleman’s ancestors came to this country from Besancon, France. When asked about her favorite parts of the dedication Mass, she detailed, “I thought it was so cool when the bishop put on the altar and anointed the new altar and I loved how Mrs. Rita (Brueggeman) sang the whole Litany of the Saints.”

All in all, it was a fitting finish for all to celebrate the completion of the historical project for the grand, little country church first built in 1871.

Bucket List 2014

- climb Mount Everest
- win Pulitzer
- bike from coast to coast
- meet Pope Francis
- attend Summer Institute at CTU!

Deepen your knowledge, sharpen your skills, and nourish your faith while studying with CTU’s renowned faculty. Summer courses are designed to fit busy schedules and varying academic interests.

CTU in Chicago is a great place to spend part of your summer!
For details, visit ctu.edu/summer-institute

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

PHOTO BY STEPHEN COLECHIN