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Forty days after the Resurrection of the Lord, Jesus ascended into heaven, depicted in the 1929 era stained glass window found at St. Joseph Church in Garrett.
Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades

Our forty days of Lenten penance have come to an end. We sing again the joyful Alleluia.

Did you ever wonder what the word Alleluia means? Perhaps you already know. It comes from the Hebrew halal, meaning praise the Lord. We praise God with joy and gratitude, especially at Easter. We rejoice that Christ has conquered death, that He is risen from the dead. We can repeat with Saint Paul his taunt of death: “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” Death is now like a bee without a stinger. Its stinger is lodged in the body of the crucified and risen Christ. And so we sing Praise the Lord, Alleluia!

We sing Alleluia at Easter because of the new life, the divine life, we have received through Baptism. The power of Christ’s Resurrection touches us in all the sacraments, beginning with Baptism when we were buried into Christ’s death and risen up with Him, becoming new creatures, adopted children of God. At the Easter Vigil, in our diocese and in churches throughout the world, men and women (catechumens) will be incorporated into the Church through Baptism and become our brothers and sisters in Christ. And so we sing with joy, Alleluia!

Pope Francis has called us to be joyful missionary disciples of the Lord Jesus. It’s not just a matter of singing Alleluia at Mass. We need to live the joy of Easter in our lives. Regarding the mission of evangelization, our Holy Father wrote: an evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral. Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, that delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing, even when it is in tears that we must sow... (Evangelii Gaudium #10).

As believers in the Resurrection of Jesus, our hearts should be joyful. Pope Francis writes: There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter (EV 6). This exhortation to joy doesn’t mean a superficial kind of happiness, but an interior joy, the joy that is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is a joy that endures even in the midst of suffering and trials. We see this deep spiritual joy in the lives of the Church’s martyrs. They were witnesses not only of the death of Christ, but also of His Resurrection.

The faithful present the chrism oil to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades who celebrated the chrism Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on April 14. In the homily, Bishop Rhoades said, “There is an element of joy associated with the holy oils, especially the chrism. Joy and comfort, healing and grace, will be poured out on those anointed with these oils. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will be poured out on those anointed with the chrism in the three sacraments that communicate a permanent character: Baptism, Confirmation, and priestly in the episcopal ordination. Chrism evokes joy: the joy of new life, the joy of salvation, the joy of the Gospel. It has a beautiful and fragrant smell.”

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Priests from the South Bend area of the diocese renew their priestly promises at the chrism Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Monday, April 14, at St. Matthew Cathedral. Bishop Rhoades said in his homily that chrism evokes strength. He said, “God says of King David in Psalm 89, ‘With My holy oil I have anointed him, that My hand may always be with him and that My arm may make him strong.’ These words can properly be applied to our priests, men anointed and strengthened by God to be servants in His Kingdom. My brother priests, at ordination our hands were anointed with chrism, a sign of the Holy Spirit and His power! God took our hands to make them His own in the world, to make them instruments of service to His people. In the Old Testament, anointing was the sign of being taken into service. Kings, prophets and priests were anointed for God’s service. We were anointed for God’s service, to continue the mission of Jesus.”
Notre Dame awards Evangelium Vitae Medal to Chris and Marie Smith

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Congressman Chris Smith of New Jersey and his wife, Marie, were awarded the 2014 Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal at a festive banquet at the University of Notre Dame April 5.

The medal has been awarded annually since 2011 to honor individuals for affirming and defending the sanctity of human life from its earliest stages. The award was inspired by Pope John Paul II’s 1995 encyclical, “Evangelium Vitae” (“The Gospel of Life”) and is presented by the University of Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture and the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life.

The award deccree, read by Notre Dame Law Professor Carter Snead, who is director of the Center for Ethics and Culture, cited Smith for his “leadership and the full range of efforts against abortion, human trafficking and attacks on conscience.”

The citation also noted that the Smiths “had engaged with the full range of the student pro-life group. Congressman Smith has served in the House of Representatives for 32 years, 30 of which he has been chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus. Marie Smith is director of the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues and has served on the Holy See’s delegation to the United Nations.

Quoting “Evangelium Vitae,” the award citation said that Smith had fulfilled the duty of civic leaders “to build a society that recognizes the dignity of each person and protects the lives of all: “You have both the duty to seek courageous choices in support of life, especially through legislative measures” whether through the sponsor-ship and enactment of legislation or through the support, advice and counsel provided to leaders here and abroad,” the citation read. The Smiths also noted that the congressmen had engaged with the full range of life issues confronting society today: abortion, embryonic research, cloning, physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, human trafficking and attacks on religious liberty and conscience.

In her acceptance remarks, Marie Smith, the director of the Evangelium Vitae Award, said the congressman spoke of religious freedom being under “vicious assault,” something he thought he would never happen in this country. She said the present is a “difficult and challenging time,” an age of double-speak when our moral and cultural trends respect their freedom of others.

“Yet, our faith in Christ comes from the truth,” she said. “On the contrary, I believe we must be very strong. You don’t play defense on your own lives!”

Pope Francis also spoke about the importance of defending children’s right “to grow in a family with a mother and father able to create a healthy environment for their growth and affective maturity,” which includes “maturing in relationship to the masculinity and femininity of a father and a mother.”

Parents have a right to determine the appropriate “moral and religious education” of their children, he said, and should not be subject to school curriculums that are thinly veiled courses of indoctrination into whatever ideology is strongest at the moment.

One must want to take a step backward in dealing with this problem and with the sanctions that must be imposed,” the pope said. “On the contrary, I believe we must be very strong. You don’t play defense on your own lives!”

She said what cultural trends respect their right “to grow in a family with a mother and father able to create a healthy environment for their growth and affective maturity,” which includes “maturing in relationship to the masculinity and femininity of a father and a mother.”

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The pope said he wonders sometimes whether parents are “sending a child to school or a re-education camp” like those run by dictatorial governments.

Obviously, he said, children need to be corresponding to the problems and challenges contem-porary culture and the media raise. Young people can’t be kept in “glass jars,” but must be given the values that will help them evaluate what cultural trends respect their dignity and freedom and the dignity and freedom of others.
Rwandan genocide survivors find hope in faith community

SOUTH BEND — In Eastertide of 1994, within the space of 100 days, nearly 1 million Rwandans were murdered in a conflict that the world would recognize too late as genocide.

The victims were primarily Tutsis, an ethnic minority in Rwanda who had been subjected to ongoing discrimination and violence since national independence from Belgium in 1962. Extremist militias of the dominant Hutu ethnic group were responsible for carrying out the strategically planned genocide, assisted by the Hutu Power government, local officials and ordinary citizens.

About 300,000 Tutsis survived the killing spree that came to an end in July 1994. Betrayed by their own neighbors and forced to watch their family members slaughtered in front of them, they were left to pick up the pieces of their lives and attempt to move forward.

Around 2 million Hutus, both perpetrators and innocent moderates, also were displaced following the genocide, fleeing to neighboring countries to escape retaliation.

Many Rwandan refugees came to the U.S. in the years following the genocide. Currently, about 300 survivors of the genocide live in Michiana and the greater Chicago area, and in 2012 they established the Rwandan American Community of the Midwest. They have built new lives in the U.S., but the burden these survivors carry remains heavy even 20 years after the genocide.

Jean Claude Mugenzi was 24 years old when the genocide began. He remembers laying on the ground as each member of his family was shot. He sustained a gunshot wound to the arm, but was able to escape with the help of the rebels, a group known as the Rwandan Patriotic Front that eventually wrested power from the Hutu government. Mugenzi secured a job with the United Nations in Rwanda in September 1994. Though he made $300 a month, a lot of money then, he quickly realized that no salary could compensate for his loss.

“I remember that I was very sad, telling myself, ‘What’s the point of having money when I no longer have my family?’ Life had lost meaning somehow,” he says.

Mugenzi subsequently worked for several humanitarian and peace-building organizations in Rwanda and began to make documentaries about the genocide as a part of his own healing process. “Being a filmmaker gave me an opportunity to be at the service of those who could not tell their story otherwise, and this gave me a reason to go on,” he says.

Muganmira challenged the extremist media’s call for a “final solution” to the Tutsi problem. In 1994, about 90 percent of Rwandans were Christian, but “the tribe was more powerful than the Church,” says Faustin Semuhungu. Semuhungu came to the United States in 1998 on a student visa as the social situation for Tutsis in Rwanda was deteriorating. He was living with friends in Dowagiac, Mich., when he received the news. One of 15 children, Semuhungu’s parents and all seven siblings living in Rwanda at the time were killed by Hutu militia.

Despite the initial struggle to return to the Church, the survivors of the Rwandan genocide have found healing and hope in their faith.

“I came to realize that God is our comfort. There’s no way we can live without Him,” says Mukantaganira. Part of her healing process included organizing a Mass of thanksgiving for her deceased family members. As immigrants to the U.S., the survivors depend upon one another and their local parishes for emotional and spiritual nourishment, and to stand in for the family and friends they lost in the genocide.

Over the years, the Rwandan American Community has planned a commemoration of the genocide to be held on April 26, with the theme “Heal, we need support.” The commemoration will include a keynote address by Dr. James Waller, chair of Holocaust Studies at Keene State College, who has conducted research on the psychol ogy of genocide. A panel discussion and a survivor testimony will follow, and the event will conclude with an audio-visual presentation honoring those who lost their lives in the genocide.

Gaetan Gatete, president of the executive committee for the Rwandan American Community, feels that the commemoration is an opportunity for the Christian community to deepen their faith and practice solidarity through listening to the stories of the survivors.

The focus of the commemoration, the survivors say, could be summed up by the word “komeka,” a term in Kinyarwanda, the official language of Rwanda, meaning “be strong; we’re with you.”

The Rwandan American Community is made up of men and women who come from both Hutu and Tutsi backgrounds, but they have left behind the ethnic identities that brought about the atrocities of 1994. The survivors live side-by-side and bear the lingering wounds of genocide together.

“We would like the people of God to come and support us,” Mukantaganira says, “to hear our stories, to see those faded photos of the people we lost, to sit with us and cry with us, hug us or smile at us. To heal, we need support.”

The 20th Commemoration of the Genocide Against the Tutsi will be held from 2:30-6 p.m. on April 26, at McKenna Hall on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, 130 Notre Dame Ave. The event is open to the public. For more information, contact Immaculee Mukantaganira at immukantaga@gmail.com.
Pope: During Holy Week, ask which Gospel character you resemble

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Preceded by young people and clergy waving tall palm branches, Pope Francis began his Holy Week liturgies by encouraging people to ask themselves which personality in the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ Passion, Death and Resurrection they resemble most.

“Where is my heart? Which of these people do I resemble most?” Pope Francis asked April 13 as he celebrated the Palm Sunday Mass of the Lord’s Passion.

Joined by thousands of young people for the local celebration of World Youth Day, the pope set aside his prepared homily and instead urged people to adopt an exercise recommended by St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits: imagining themselves as one of the characters in the Gospel story.

Throughout the Holy Week liturgies — Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter vigil and Easter morning Mass — “it would do us good to ask one question: Who am I? Who am I before my Lord?” the pope said.

“Am I able to express my joy, to resolve everything with the sword?” the pope asked.

Am I like that disciple who wanted to resolve everything with the sword?” the pope asked.

Am I able to express my joy, to resolve everything with the sword?”

The disciples didn’t understand anything and they fell asleep while the Lord suffered,” he said. “Is my life one of sleeping?”

When Jesus was about to be arrested, one of the disciples cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant; “am I like that disciple who wanted to resolve everything with the sword?” the pope asked.

“Am I like those courageous women and like Jesus’ mom, who were there suffering in silence?” he asked.

Pope Francis did not offer explanations but asked people to let “these questions accompany us throughout the week.”

Prisoners from a jail in Sanremo, Italy, sent Pope Francis a new pastoral staff, which he used during the Mass. Carved out of olive wood, it featured a simple cross on top and the official seal of the Society of Jesus, an eight-pointed star symbolizing Mary and the spikenard flower, a symbol of St. Joseph.

At the end of Mass, turning his attention to the young people, Pope Francis presided over the transfer of World Youth Day cross from young representatives of the Archdiocese of Rio de Janeiro, site of World Youth Day 2013, to youths from the Archdiocese of Krakow, Poland, where the next international gathering with the pope will be held July 25-Aug. 1, 2016.

The hand-off of the cross marked the 30th anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s entrusting it to Catholic youths, asking them to “carry it throughout the world as a sign of Christ’s love for humanity,” Pope Francis said. Noting that he would declare Pope John Paul a saint April 27, the pope repeated an announcement made in February that St. John Paul, who began the World Youth Day celebrations, would become the gatherings’ “great patron.”

After the Mass and the recitation of the Angelus, the pope waded into gatherings’ “great patron.”

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Dioceses raise $24.5 million for Typhoon Haiyan recovery, rebuilding
WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. dioceses raised $24.5 million in the special collection taken for relief, recovery and rebuilding efforts in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan. The amount collected includes $6.4 million specifically designated for humanitarian aid, which will be sent directly to Catholic Relief Services, reported the U.S. bishops’ Office of National Collections. The bishops’ Administrative Committee agreed to divide the remaining $18.1 million equally between humanitarian aid and long-term Church reconstruction and other programs. Under the arrangement, CRS and the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines each will receive $9.05 million. “Both humanitarian and Church needs are significant,” Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Cincinnati, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on National Collections, said in press release. “When the delegation visited the Philippines in early February, they were able to see the needs firsthand.” Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the CRS board of directors, who was part of the bishops’ delegation to the Philippines, said the decision was reached to split non-designated funds because the island nation has no insurance system for Church property. “Through conversations with other Church aid agencies, it has become clear that our aid is absolutely necessary,” he said.

Faith, forgiveness marked life, death of young man killed in shooting
INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — The funeral of 24-year-old Nathan Trapuzzano — shot and killed while taking a morning walk April 1 in his Indianapolis neighborhood — emphasized a key aspect of the victim’s life: forgiveness. Nathan Trapuzzano was a man who knew from his head to his toes that he was a sinner who was loved and forgiven by God. He wanted everyone he met to know the same love and forgiveness,” said the homilist Father Christopher Roberts, administrator of St. Mary’s in Union City and St. Joseph in Winona Lake. “Nathan Trapuzzano after a man believed to be his accomplice turned himself in to police. Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church was filled to capacity for the April 5 funeral Mass, which was celebrated in Latin by Father C. Ryan McCarthy, pastor. In his homily, Father Roberts met Trapuzzano at Ball State University’s Newman Center and married Nathan and his wife, Jennifer, a year ago, said forgiveness was a major focus of Trapuzzano’s life.

The devil exists’ and doesn’t want you to follow Jesus, pope warns
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A lot of people, even Catholics, think that talking about the devil is com

Thousands of new Catholics prepare to receive the sacraments
WASHINGTON — A widower honoring his late wife and a Chinese graduate student are among the thousands of new Catholics joining the Catholic Church in the United States at Easter. All have passed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a process of conversion and study in the Catholic faith for catechumen candidates coming into full communion with the Church.

Catechumens, who have never been baptized, will receive Baptism, Confirmation and first Communion at the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil. Candidates, who have already been received in another Christian tradition whose baptism is recognized by the Catholic Church, will enter the Church through a profession of faith and reception of Confirmation and Eucharist.

David Cupp, a candidate from the Archdiocese of Detroit who admits he had not “practiced much of anything for years,” came to the Catholic Church after the sudden death of his wife of 40 years, who was a devoted Catholic. He is grateful for his new journey in the Catholic Church despite his circumstances. “What keeps you sane is that you have to believe that there is a true God,” Cupp says. He is one of 520 catechumens and 660 candidates in the archdiocese who will receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Only a few months ago, an online video of the Ave Maria moved Jian Wang, a civil engineering student at Rutgers University, to become Catholic. He is a native of China who is no stranger to hardship and poverty. At age 2, his mother left the home and while in college, he lost his father. A simple Google search got him in touch with the university’s Catholic Center where his journey to become Catholic began. Wang is among 114 catechumens and 156 candidates from the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J., looking forward to receiving the sacraments. As in many communities around the country, a growth in cultural diversity is reflected in the diocese, where some of the catechumens and candidates come from different countries. Some churches are preparing celebrations and initiations that will include languages such as Chinese, Korean and Spanish.

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston will welcome about 2,123 catechumens and 221 candidates, based on our Rite of Election numbers,” will join the Catholic Church, reports Brian MacMichael, director of the Office of Worship.

Other dioceses reporting hundreds of catechumens and candidates include: Oklahoma City (283 catechumens, 485 candidates); Austin, Texas (374 catechumens, 416 candidates); Baltimore (238 catechumens, 462 candidates); Columbus, Ohio (239 catechumens, 331 candidates); Philadelphia (309 catechumens, 386 candidates); Lansing, Mich. (295 catechumens, 351 candidates) Boston (650 new members); Milwaukee (322 new members); Denver (242 new members); Salt Lake City (283 new members); Orlando, Fla. (592 new members); Grand Rapids, Mich. (508 new members); Des Moines, Iowa. (468 new members); Omaha, Neb. (168 catechumens, 312 candidates); Lafayette, Ind. (158 catechumens, 274 candidates).

These numbers are based on participation in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, the final phase of the RCIA process celebrated at the beginning of Lent.

Not included are infant baptisms, 2,591 for the 2013 Official Catholic Directory (OCD) totaled 763,208 for the year 2012. The OCD also reported that there were 11,918 adult baptisms and 71,582 people received into full communion during the same year, the latest with complete statistical data.
St. Therese, Little Flower Parish to hold Easter season mission

SOUTH BEND — St. Therese, Little Flower Parish will hold an Easter season parish mission titled, “Three Nights To More Abundant Living!” from 7-8 p.m. on April 28-30.

On Monday, April 28, the topic will be “The Truth of Who I Am: Listening to ‘The Voice’” and on Tuesday, April 29, the topic will be “The Crime of Living Cautionedly: Steps to Living Larger!” The Wednesday, April 30, topic will be “Lazarus Come Out! Practicing Resurrection.”

Mission preacher will be Father Ben Berinti, who is a member of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood religious congregation and currently ministers in the Diocese of Orlando, Fla., as the new director of Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Central Florida. His theological interests focus on sacraments, liturgy, the intersection of art and spirituality, and faith and culture.

Father Berinti is an adjunct professor with Loyola University New Orleans Institute for Ministry, and currently teaches an Introduction to Pastoral Theology course online. He is the author of two books and contributing writer for the “Sunday Word” column for The Florida Catholic newspaper.

Father Berinti will give the homily at the weekend Masses, April 26-27, at St. Therese, Little Flower and celebrate 8:30 a.m. morning Mass each day with reflection to follow.

St. Therese, Little Flower is located at 54191 N. Ironwood Rd., South Bend.

Evening of prayer, reflection and Adoration for women set April 27

Women are invited to an evening of prayer and Adoration on Sunday, April 27, from 6-9 p.m. at one of three locations: St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend; St. John the Evangelist, Goshen; or St. Mary, Fort Wayne.

Women are welcome to arrive at 6 p.m. to enjoy coffee and dessert. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., a reflection (one spoken in English and one spoken in Spanish) will be offered on the theme “Leaving the Tomb.” After the talk, women may choose to break into small groups for discussion or move to a quiet area for silent contemplation. The evening will conclude with Eucharistic Adoration in the church. (Each location will follow the same format.)

Greeters will be on hand to welcome and assist those attending. The three locations are wheelchair accessible. Restrooms are also wheelchair accessible. Those who prefer to have a gluten-free dessert are asked to contact Allison Sturm at 260-399-1452 or asturm@diocesefwsb.org by April 25 for this accommodation. Bibles and other materials will be provided for Eucharistic Adoration or participants may bring their own.

An update from the information published in the April 6, 2014 issue of Today’s Catholic is that no formal registration is required and there is no cost to attend.

Contact Allison Sturm at 260-399-1452 or asturm@diocesefwsb.org for any questions.

Annual Retreat for Persons with Disabilities to be offered at St. Vincent de Paul

FORT WAYNE — The Annual Retreat for Persons with Disabilities will be offered Saturday, May 3, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. The retreat, with the theme “Love Will Keep Us — Celebrating the Gift of Friendship” offers a time of reflection and will focus on the many blessings received from God. Any adult with physical, mental or emotional challenges is invited and encouraged to participate in the spring retreat to be held at the St. Vincent Spiritual Center on Saturday, May 3, with doors opening at 9 a.m. The retreat runs until 2 p.m., and lunch will be served.

For more information, or to register, contact the church office at 260-489-3537, ext. 207. Registration forms may also be picked up at the information center in the gathering space. If someone would benefit from having some special time to grow in love of the Lord, please invite them to attend, or contact the church office so a special invitation can be extended to each person.

Jail ministry training ‘meet and greet’ dinner set for May 1

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is renewing its energies to accompany the incarcerated by establishing a coherent, Christian presence in the jails, entering into conversation with inmates and staff, and effectively negotiating for the spiritual needs of Catholic inmates while praying and advocating for restorative justice among their families and community members.

Those who feel called to offer their time and talents to this ministry are invited to the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center on May 1 for a 6:30 p.m. “meet and greet” dinner to learn more.

For additional information, contact Audrey Anweiler, Special Ministries and Social Justice Coordinator, at aanweiler@diocese-fwsb.org or 260-969-9146.

Dance marathon raises nearly $87,000 for children’s hospital

NOTRE DAME — What gets 400 college students to stay on their feet for 12 hours straight? Saint Mary’s women will tell you they do it for the kids. Dance Marathon, a fundraiser for Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health in Indianapolis, raised $86,765.70, bringing the total raised for Riley over the years to more than $600,000.

Saint Mary’s students raise most of the funds by pledging to stay on their feet for 12 hours and finding sponsors. University of Notre Dame students also take part.

“We stand on our feet for 12 hours and we dance for those who can’t. So many children lose their chance to be a kid when they are in the hospital, whether it be running, dancing, jumping, playing, or just enjoying the innocence of being a child,” said senior Ellen Smith, co-president of Dance Marathon. She has helped put on the event throughout her time at Saint Mary’s.

The community is always invited to attend Dance Marathon, which is held in Angela Athletic Facility and features music, games, crafts and other entertainment. Throughout the day local Riley families stop by and many share their stories. The impact that Riley has on the community is significant. Families from St. Joseph and surrounding counties turn to Riley Hospital and its regional clinics more than 5,000 times each year for the care of their children.

Bishop James Conley of the Diocese of Lincoln installed diocesan seminarians as lectors on Friday, April 4, at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. From left are David Huneck and Dennis DiBenedetto of St. de Paul de de Fort Wayne; Thomas Zehr of Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne; Bishop James Conley; Eric Burgener and Nathan MASKAL of St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne.

Diocesan seminarians were installed as acolytes at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., on Saturday, April 5, by Bishop James Conley of the Diocese of Lincoln.

From left are Craig Borchard of St. Pius X, Granger; Bishop James Conley; David Violi of St. Pius X, Granger; and Bob Garrow of St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend. Below left, Daniel Davis, who is studying at North American College in Rome, was installed as an acolyte on April 6, in the Immaculate Conception Chapel of the North American College by Archbishop Jorge Patron Wong, Vice-postulancy of Seminaries at the Congregation for Clergy.
The journey to and beyond the Easter Vigil at St. Vincent de Paul Parish

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

ELKHART — It has been a pilgrimage of discovery for St. Vincent de Paul Religious Education Director Harry Palmer, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Director Barbara Gropp, and the 18 children and 5 adults who will receive the sacraments of initiation in this year’s Easter Vigil on April 19 at the parish. Twenty-two will receive the sacrament of Baptism, giving one candidate joining the rest of the group for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Both Palmer and Gropp have been pleasantly surprised at the commitment of the group during the process. The children in religious education are catechumens/elect ages 8-14 and have impressed Palmer with their prayers and serious thought process in choosing their sponsors, and saint names.

“The saint reports some of these younger children submitted are just amazing and rival the reports of our junior high Confirmation students,” says Palmer.

With the help and guidance of their catechist, the religious education group has taken seriously the work of preparing themselves for entering the Church, Palmer notes.

“This excites me because these children have an advanced inner faith and knowledge of the faith that should be with them for the rest of their lives,” he explains.

Twelve-year-old catechumen/elect Roberto Chiquito’s initial exposure to Catholicism was from other family members. But during his time in religious education he discovered the beauty of faith and knowledge of Christ’s forgiveness.

“Sometimes people say they cannot forgive, but God forgives. I want to be like God in that way,” he says.

According to Gropp, this year’s RCIA participants are the youngest she has led with the average age of 22. She describes them as “one of the most inquisitive groups I have had the privilege to teach. Some of this year’s group have been particularly interesting in learning more about various topics. I have read extra books I have given them to fill that desire. Purposeful, profound, as well as practical inquiries, from such a young group gives me much hope for the future of our Church,” she explains.

The importance of Lenten promises were encouraged through meaningful, achievable and realistic suggestions such as praying a decade or a whole rosary, reading and contemplating Scripture passages and reading spiritual literature. But says Gropp, “a few decided to really take the sacrifice up some notches and gave up meat or decided to try to translate canon law into layman’s terms!”

Gropp emphasizes that each person comes to the RCIA process from a unique life journey. “One of the beautiful things about RCIA is we are dealing with adults, some still in their teens, who are coming from so many different back grounds, not just faiths and sometimes no faiths, but also life-styles and very heavy crosses.

This year, again, has had the most amazing group of mainly young people who have walked different, but very rough roads,” Gropp recalls.

Many in RCIA have shared personal life experiences, says Gropp. “The crosses they have bared, and, for some, continue to carry, are heart breaking, lonely and very heavy and yet, they are with us, experiencing the Lord’s mercy and excited to come to His table and share in the hope for salvation. It is a glorious process of further conversion to witness throughout the year.”

Adult catechumens/elect Lauren Burket says her pilgrimage to Catholicism has yielded many insights. She began her journey by attending Mass and “fell in love with it.” Watching the movie “The Passion of the Christ” gave her a clear understanding of Christ’s love for all mankind. Additionally, the RCIA process has given Burket insight into her personal relationship with Christ and His constant presence in her life.

Juliane Tomes, another catechumen/elect from RCIA, is looking forward with great anticipation to the Easter Vigil and being baptized. “It is excitement, joy and such a blessed feeling all in one,” she says.

But the Easter Vigil is not the end of a pilgrimage’s spiritual journey. Gropp explains that involvement in stewardship is important as the neophytes (those newly received in the Church) go forward in the parish.

St. Vincent de Paul pastor, Father Glenn Kohrman, adds that they also should come with, “a deep understanding of the Catholic’s obligation to pray for the world by coming to Mass and offering their prayers in union with the priest.” And basically, having an understanding of their role in the New Evangelization is also key, says Father Kohrman.

According to the United States Conference of Bishops website, the New Evangelization “calls each of us to deepen our faith, believe in the Gospel message and go forth to proclaim the Gospel. The focus of the New Evangelization calls all Catholics to be evangelized and then go forth to evangelize.”

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Saint Joseph High School sharpens up the sticks

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — A slow start to the season has caused frustration for coaches but optimism remains strong for the Indians’ spring sports teams.

Softball

“This season should be very exciting. We have a chance to be very good, with returning players Kelly Welsh, Anna Irons, Kaelin Cole, Maggie Gillis, Libby Peterson, Katie Sopczynski, Kaley Mrzozinski, and Allyssa Gutierrez — and the emergence of Emma Marlatt and Brooke Judy. We are young but most of these players got a lot of experience last year. If we continue to improve and mesh together as a team, we can challenge for the conference and sectional titles,” said head softball Coach Earl Keith.

The group has the strength of speed and softball intelligence on their side.

“Team chemistry is definitely a strong point! Our pitching and defense will be solid and should get better as the season progresses,” noted Keith.

Keith feels the team will need to improve their outfield play and be more aggressive on offense to take the game to the next step.

“Our goals are simple, win our conference and win a state title. To do that, we need to keep improving together, stay healthy and make sure our team chemistry remains positive,” said Keith.

Boys’ lacrosse

“We should be a much more balanced team with greater depth,” said head boys’ lacrosse Coach Mike Williams about his prediction for this year’s team.

Strength for this year is the return of several key players.

“We only graduated a small handful of seniors last year, specifically on the defensive side of the ball. Both of our varsity goalies return and all but two of our defensive seniors have varsity playing experience,” commented Williams.

Lots of changes in the sport of lacrosse will create needed learning opportunities for the upcoming season.

“Lacrosse has experienced tremendous growth in the region over the past two years, specifically at the youth level. ICLL lacrosse alone has over 250 players from grades 3-8. With this increased growth comes many new players with little experience who we have to develop into contributing members of our team,” said Williams.

The team’s goal this year is to win the Indiana Catholic Conference as well as reach at minimum an IHSLA final four.

Girls’ lacrosse

“The 2014 season is promising for our girls’ lacrosse program. We have many leaders among our 10 returning seniors, eight outstanding juniors and one talented sophomore. I predict, our team has what it takes to make it to state this season as long as we continue to buckle down and keep up the hard work,” said girls’ lacrosse head Coach Katie Neeser.

The team brings back a lot of strength and chemistry to the field.

“We have many returning players who understand the “small” things which are what decide the game. The team works well together and they have an understanding of each other. Also our speed and skilled defense are definitely helpful,” noted Neeser.

The team is still looking to develop their attack and find the big playmakers this upcoming season.

“Our goals this season are to work together as a unit, to earn respect from our opponents by having exceptional sportsmanship and showing how competitive we are and, of course, bringing home the state trophy,” said Neeser.

Boys’ golf

Coach Bret Bajdek is hoping for some sunny weather and warmer temperatures to get the golf season rolling.

“We have a lot of experience coming back ... six different guys who played in two or more varsity matches last season,” said Bajdek about the team’s strengths.

“Now that we have some experience, we need to get more consistent,” commented Bajdek about areas the team needs to work on during the season. “We have a number of guys who have shown they can post some low scores, we just need them to do it more consistently.”

Bajdek is optimistic about the season and feels the team has a good chance to be very successful.

“There are some very good teams in the NIC this season. If we give ourselves a chance to be near the top of the NIC it would be a great regular season and give us a chance to move our team beyond sectional play,” said Bajdek.

Baseball

“I predict that we will be competitive,” said Coach John Gumpf about his hopes for the season. “I think there are times we will be up and down but I want to work at being consistent.”

The team is young but mighty.

“Our strengths will be pitching and defense,” commented Gumpf.

“I have a good mixture of a few returning starters and a large group of guys who have shown they can make an impact. I think of this team as young but we have enough returners to make the team strong.”

Gumpf noted an area the team needs to work on is offense.

“Another area since we have so many young kids is to be consistent.”

“We need to work together as a team and learn to be consistent,” said Gumpf of the goal of the season.
Fort Wayne high schools prepare for spring sports

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Despite having one of the coldest winters on record with mountains of snowfall, the Fort Wayne area Catholic high schools are heating up for their 2014 spring seasons. With warmer weather just a dusting over the corner, both Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers are hopeful to be battling for league titles in the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC), as well as contending for deep runs in the post season on the courts, fields, links and track.

Bishop Luers

Golf

The Knights’ golf team is coming off a perfect 7-0 regular season conference record in 2013 — an all-Tigers Luers best and graduated stand out Joe Leja, but Coach Tom O’Brien is hopeful 2014 will be a great season. Returning varsity letterers include senior Joe Korfjen and junior Conner Nix.

Tennis

In his second season at Bishop Luers, Coach Jerry Rahrig and the girls’ tennis team are coming off an overall 13-3 record and first place finish (7-0) in the SAC from 2013. Three seniors return in seniors Natalie Rahrig (All-District, All-Conference at No. 1 singles), Maddie Brown (All-Conference at No. 2 singles) and Sabrina Streicher, for what Coach Rahrig is calling a transitional year.

“I expect Bishop Luers to again be competitive,” Coach Rahrig said. “We have some very strong returning players for 2014. As is always the case in our area, there will be some new talent entering the scene to challenge the established players.”

Senior Jessica Franke also returns.

Baseball

The Knights will try to regroup this year after losing eight seniors. Luers returns experience on the mound in sophomores Noah Harr, Brady Hesler, Diss and Logan Gallaway. Senior Austin Rybicki and junior Travis Eckert also saw time on the mound for the Knights and will be joined by newcomer Tinton Arahambula. Bishop Luers is returning five starters from last year’s team, who finished, 17-10, and lost in the sectional finals to Adams Central (regional champs): Austin Mack, Austin Rybicki, Schuyler Aghabekian, Isiah Jones and Jake Schulteis.

In his 28th season at Bishop Luers, Coach Dahee Eckert also saw time on the mound in 2014.

Along with the co-cap- tains, Coach Boz has the following returning letterman — Anthony Blum, Joe Carter, Richkie Entzien, Dylan Konwinski, Alex Mroz, Matt Rice, Noah Sizemore and John Spalding. Newcomers to the team include Matt Enright, Evin Crump, Nick Pinel, Dominic Rulli, Paul Dieringer, Jacob Imus, Dennis Christian, Collin Linner, Izayah Newborn, Michael Vac, Tim Turley, Konwinski, Crippas, Connor Glon and John Holt are also expected to contribute.

With a tough schedule ahead of them, Coach Boz hopes the team is up to the challenge. “With the help of assistant coaches Brannon Parker and Rex Morris all of our athletes will see improvement in themselves,” he said.

Bishop Dwenger

Baseball

The coaching staff may be all new in title, but the faces are familiar to the program. Bishop Dwenger has compiled 590 wins in his helm for his rookie season, replacing Coach Tone. With a mantra, “It’s Time,” he and his staff are planning to build a winning tradition behind the returning leadership of first-team all-SAC selections, Luke Palmer (outfield) and Justin Wagnerer (second base) along with second-team picks from 2013, Skylar Noll (third base) and Cody Miller (catcher). “We have special team chemistry,” explained Garrett, whose Saints have Horsting backed through some pre-season adversity.

Golf

Seniors Spencer Gillig, Drake Effert, Jake Leonard and Michael Filler return to lead the Saints this season. “We have a lot of depth and the potential to be good golfers,” explained long-time Coach Jason Draper.

Tennis

In girls’ tennis action, the Saints will have an all-SAC starting line-up, Bishop Dwenger will face foes Carroll, Bellmont and Snider early in season matchs.

Softball

Coach Beth Peters replaces the longtime leader of the decorated program, Dave Moyer, who has moved to schools to coach his daughter.

Phenomenal leadership, talent and experience of seniors Jordan Schneider (St. Joseph’s College), Sierra Fisher, Ali Irvine (University of Huntington), Allison Demeo (DePauw) and Demitria Burns (Cardinal Stritch) will lead the Saints.

Left fielder Amanda Miller and sophomore lefty Kristina Burkhardt also return. Hard work, leadership and positivity are the motto for 2014.

“We have been dedicated to the program since open field practices fall last and intense winter condi-

Spring sports finally under way at Marian High School

BY TRISH LINNER

MISHAWAKA — Just when it felt like winter was never going to give up, spring temperatures have arrived and spring sports are in full swing at Marian. While some games and matches have been postponed due to rain and freezing temperatures, coaches and athletes are now making up for lost time.

Boys’ golf

The varsity golf team is returning one senior this season and expectations are high for him to continue his outstanding high school career. Michael Macris was voted first-team All-State last season and he was named Northern Indiana Conference Player of the Year for the last two seasons. Three sophomores will be contributing to the varsity this year and Coach Brian Horvath is expecting big things from them as well.

“They’re very good players,” said Coach Horvath. “We are very fortunate to have a lot of great kids again this year on the team. We always want to try and win our conference and sectionalC’s and make it to state. I think we should be able to do it this year, God willing.”

Boys’ baseball

Coach Joe Turnock is hoping to improve on the 15-13 season from 2013. Returning varsity players Tim McMahon and Josh Turnock will lead the 2014 team as senior captains. Also returning are seniors Joe Kavanagh, Reed Lewis, Brian Mischler and Matt Royeca, junior pitchers include Jay Eggeman and J.P. Kavanagh and sophomore Nate Thomas. Joining the returning players for the 2014 Marian team who finished, 17-10, and lost in the sectional finals to Adams Central (regional champs): Austin Mack, Austin Rybicki, Schuyler Aghabekian, Isiah Jones and Jake Schulteis.

In his 28th season at Bishop Luers, Coach Dahee Eckert also saw time on the mound in 2014.

Two-thousand-thirteen was a year young team in terms of varsity experience,” said Coach Turnock. “We struggled at times in making improvements ear-

Boys’ track

Seniors Josh Turnock, a four-year varsity starter, and Reed Lewis, Matt Pingel, Dominic Catanzarite, Steven Knight, juniors J.P. Kavanagh and sophomore Tony Ernst, Tyrone Crump, Dominic Sizemore and Ronnie Archuletta. On the girls’ side, Madison Busch, Corinne Zay, Joel Jones, Takyra Merritt, Kaitlin Emmett, Amanda Rectorus, Audrey Deiser and Isabella Case are back for the Knights.

Boys’ tennis

In his 28th season at Bishop Luers, Coach Dahee Eckert also saw time on the mound in 2014.

Along with the co-cap- tains, Coach Boz has the following returning letterman — Anthony Blum, Joe Carter, Richkie Entzien, Dylan Konwinski, Alex Mroz, Matt Rice, Noah Sizemore and John Spalding. Newcomers to the team include Matt Enright, Evin Crump, Nick Pinel, Dominic Rulli, Paul Dieringer, Jacob Imus, Dennis Christian, Collin Linner, Izayah Newborn, Michael Vac, Tim Turley, Konwinski, Crippas, Connor Glon and John Holt are also expected to contribute.

With a tough schedule ahead of them, Coach Boz hopes the team is up to the challenge. “With the help of assistant coaches Brannon Parker and Rex Morris all of our athletes will see improvement in themselves,” he said.

Boys’ lacrosse

This season is the second season for boys’ lacrosse at Marian. Coach Brian Welch has high expectations after a first year successful record of 11-3.

“Last year we ended with one of the problems in the state giv-

Boys’ basketball

With a lot of lacrosse experience from last season, Coach Welch has high expectations for the 2014 season. The Marian boys’ basketball team has Scudder’s program been more about the team, “It’s a lot more fun to go to state as a team than just a few individuals like in the early years,” he added.

Tennis

In girls’ tennis action, the Saints will have a full schedule this spring season. Bishop Dwenger will face foes Carroll, Bellmont and Snider early in season matchs.

Softball

Coach Beth Peters replaces the longtime leader of the decorated program, Dave Moyer, who has moved to schools to coach his daughter.

Phenomenal leadership, talent and experience of seniors Jordan Schneider (St. Joseph’s College), Sierra Fisher, Ali Irvine (University of Huntington), Allison Demeo (DePauw) and Demitria Burns (Cardinal Stritch) will lead the Saints.

Left fielder Amanda Miller and sophomore lefty Kristina Burkhardt also return. Hard work, leadership and positivity are the motto for 2014.

“We have been dedicated to the program since open field practices fall last and intense winter condi-

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tification that has carried through into our season,” explained Peters who is a Bishop Luers graduate and played for St. Joseph’s College.

Peters concluded, “We have high goals for the team and will work hard to put ourselves as one of the top teams in the state. It will be an exciting season with many new athletes and many willing to try new events. This will be an exciting season with many young ladies who are ambitious and motivated.”

Boys’ track

The 2014 SAC indoor champs hope to continue their success outdoors this season returning several 2013 regional qualifiers in Barney Schrader, Marcus Lowe, Jr., Eric Cagnet, Matt Kraeh and Tyler Adgalanis, along with state pole vault finalist Jared Schipper (regional long jump) and state male run finalist Greg Tippmann (regional 800-meter). Of the 62 young men on the Saints’ roster, six have plans to continue their career at the college level. Loaded with talent this season, Coach Herb Widner looks ahead, “We hope to stay healthy and improve each day.”

Girls’ track

Mikalyn Hudson and Maria Bobay, both shot and discus throwers, return to represent the senior class for the Bishop Dwenger Saints this season. Others also back to provide depth and leadership on the track for 2014 are Megan Coffin (state high jump finalist), Greta Winkeljohn (shot put), Erin Kilbourn (middle distance), Mary Monper (long distance) and Abby McCraw (sprints). Coach Erin Brady also lists distance runners Abby and Megan Brelage, incoming sprinter Amy Weilbaker and returning sprinter Rachel Gibson as athletes to watch.

Brady summarized, “We have some new athletes and many willing to try new events. This will be an exciting season with many young ladies who are ambitious and motivated.”

Easter Joy

What does Easter mean to you? Maybe as a child it meant an Easter-egg hunt followed by the promise of a long, playful summer. As an adult, there are many reasons to celebrate Easter. Whatever your reason, hopefully, it means the beginning of something good.

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For incoming boys and girls grades K-8
July 7-11
Contact: Matt Kostoff, mkostoff@bishopdwenger.com

Volleyball Camp
For incoming grades 5-9
June 23-26
Contact: Tim Houser, (260) 414-8315

Cheerleading Camp
For incoming grades K-5
July 22-25
Contact: Amy Gonzagowski, (260) 496-4700

Squad Stunt & Cheer Camp
For incoming grades 6-8
July 22-25
Contact: Amy Gonzagowski, (260) 496-4700

Gymnastics Camp
For incoming grades K-8
June 17 & 19 or July 15 & 17
Contact: Rose Nix, bdgymnastics@yahoo.com

Dance Team Camp
For incoming grades K-8
July 14-18
Contact: Melanie Stise, melaniemstise@gmail.com

Summer School
June 9-27
Contact: Cindy Johnson, (260) 496-4703

Wrestling Camp
For incoming grades 5-12
June 16-18
Contact: Michael Nix, summitacademy1@yahoo.com

Driver’s Education
Session I: June 9-20
Session II: June 23 - July 7
Contact: Joanne Scully, (260) 496-4707

Additional information and registration forms are available under the Sports tab on the Bishop Dwenger website and in the front office of the school. Please check the website regularly for updates or changes.
Jesus lives in and through the Church

EASTER SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Easter Sunday
Jn 20:1-9

Rejoicing and exclaiming for joy, all who hope for humanity, the Church today celebrates Easter, the feast of the Resurrection of the Lord.

The Church’s first celebration of the Lord’s victory over earthly death occurs in the marvelous liturgy of Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil, when most parishes receive new members into the Church. In this vigil liturgy, the symbols of fire, light and water magnificently suggest the mystery, and the promise, of the Resurrection.

The readings are in Mass on Easter itself. The first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. (Indeed readings from Acts will occur again and again during the Easter Season.)

Acts is very interesting, giving us insight into the life of the first Christians. Gathered in Jerusalem, around the Apostles, with Mary among them, they lived in charity, prayer and faith. The first Christians furnish examples for us. Their reverence for the Apostles, and obvious submission to the Church, teach us even as we live in the structure of the Church today.

Readings from Acts also tell us that we are not separated from the miracle of Jesus in the world. The Apostles link us with the Lord. Led by Peter, they preached in the name of Christ. They cured the sick in the Lord’s name. They guided the people toward God, just as Jesus had guided people toward God.

Today’s reading recalls Peter’s preaching. (Notice that Peter spoke twice to the same Apostles. Scholars call this sermon “kerygmatic,” from the Greek word for message, “kerygma.”) This reading, and the others, is crisp but profound in giving the fundamental points of the Gospel. Jesus, God’s messenger, also was the Servant of the Lord and Calvary. He is the source of eternal life.

Paul’s Epistle to the Colossians provides the second reading. It emphasizes that Christians, by Baptism and by their faith, possess new life. They live because they are bonded with the living Christ. As Christ is in heaven, so the thoughts of Christians must be on heaven.

For its last reading, for its excited proclamations of the Resurrection, the Church presents to us a passage from John’s Gospel. It is an account of the first Easter morning. Mary of Magdala laid the tomb, but she found it empty. So she rushed to inform Peter. (Again, in this book of the New Testament quite separate from Acts, the importance of Peter is revealed.) Reaching Peter, she anxiously said that the Lord’s body had been taken away.

“The disciple whom Jesus loved,” traditionally thought to have been the Apostle John ten times (not once as the Gospel text identifies him as such, and Peter hurried to the tomb. The disciple arrived first, but he waited for Peter, another indication of Peter’s status.

Peter entered the tomb, saw that it was empty, but evidently did not realize that Jesus had risen. The disciple, however, realized what had occurred. Implied in this is the ducero, “take care.” It gives him permission.

REFLECTION

These readings have lessons for all people. The first is that Jesus is Lord. He triumphed over death, the most universal of human experiences aside from birth itself, and for all living things the end of earthly life. His earthly life has not ended, however. It endures. He lives! He lives in and through the Church. Easter wonderfully reassures us. Because of the Church, the Lord touches us. We hear Jesus. We meet Jesus. We share in the Lord’s everlasting life.

All this is because the Apostles formed the Church, first given the strength and life of the Holy Spirit by Jesus. They guided it in their times on earth, and they provided for successors to guide it and nourish it after they died.

READINGS


The homecoming

CHARACTER

A character in one of the great Catholic apologist G.K. Chesterton’s detective novels makes this curious observation: “I caught him, with an unseen hook and an invisible line which is long enough to let the sinner wander to the ends of the world, and still to bring him back with a twitch upon the thread.”

Many of Chesterton’s readers have long noted the power of his economical writing. In the following of this mysterious comment. One who did so was the British author Evelyn Waugh (he wrote the novel, “Brideshead Revisited,” based on that one sentence). For Waugh, the invisible line Father Brown describes is the grace of divine providence, always waiting for that moment when we recognize its presence so that it can lead us home. The “twitch upon the thread” is the moment of our realization of divine grace.

I am a cradle Catholic. My father, however, is Lutheran. When he married my (Catholic) mom, they agreed to raise their children as Catholics. So, from my infancy, the Catholic faith has infused my life.

I never remember my dad missing Sunday Mass. Our family prayed together every night, and always joined us. To anyone looking in from the outside, my dad was Catholic.

When I was in middle school, however, my dad told me why he hadn’t yet joined the Church. He had a great deal of trouble, he said, accepting the doctrine of the Resurrection. He was an agnostic. Everything else the Church taught he could accept. But the doctrine of resurrecting a dead man was the sticking point. So, at that time, I did not expect him to ever become Catholic.

Then last Easter Vigil, the day the Fisherman gently tugged His thread. A dear family friend, Mr. Scott Kovatch, approached my dad after the Mass and told him excitedly, “I was praying today at Mass, and I know that you will be up there in front of the church being confirmed next Easter Vigil.” And he offered to be my dad’s RCIA sponsor that next year.

This past fall my dad began attending RCIA classes, which went well for him. Then, for Mr. Kovatch’s actions witness to his trust in God. And as Mr. Kovatch placed his faith in God, so did my dad. Kovatch’s actions have to matter so much. Just as his words to my dad after the Easter Vigil last year were an example of his great faith, so did Mr. Kovatch’s actions witness to his trust in God. And as Mr. Kovatch placed his faith in God, so did my dad. Kovatch’s actions have witnessed to the Eucharist, and trusted in His power to accomplish even that “impossible thing” — the transubstantiation of bread and wine into Christ’s Body and Blood.

“O love, O charity beyond all measure, gave away Your Son,” proclaims the Easter Vigil Exsultet. Have mercy on us, Lord, for we are so weak and desperate that we could not live for a moment without dependence on You. We are foolish and ignorant, too; only rarely will we possess those glorious moments when we fully recognize that “twitch upon the thread” — the power of Your grace. Rather, most of the time, we will silently carry our unrecognized crosses along that mundane routine of our lives’ road. My father will learn this as she walks the journey of Catholicism for the rest of his life. The Kovatches will learn this as their lives return to normal after their wife/mother’s recovery. Therefore, have pity, Lord, and stay with them and all of us, as we trudge up the long and arduous path to the judgment seat of God.

CAROLINE PETERSON

Caroline Peterson is a teen writer from St. Pius X Parish, Granger.
Celebrating a culture of protection

The Catholic Church is working hard to protect children. Much has been accomplished, but more needs to be done. Until child sexual abuse is no longer a part of our society, the Church will continue its efforts.

The best way to protect our children and our Church is for adults to learn red flag behaviors and to report concerns to supervisors. This creates a culture of protection. In the state of Indiana, all adults are mandatory reporters of suspected abuse. Diocesan personnel must use the following guidelines when they suspect a child is a victim of abuse.

Guidelines on reporting incidents of child abuse or neglect

1. Reporting incidents
   Indiana law requires that all persons, without exception, make an immediate oral report to a local law enforcement agency or the Department of Child Services (DCS) if that person “has reason to believe” that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect (unless that person knows a report of the incident has already been made). This duty applies to all diocesan personnel including:
   • All priests, deacons and other religious personnel
   • All school and parish personnel, paid and volunteer (including counselors)
   • All other employees and volunteers of the diocese or any of its affiliated organizations.

   The diocese expects and requires that all of its priests, deacons, employees and volunteers, especially those who work in diocesan programs that are directly and indirectly involved with children, recognize and report child abuse and neglect in accordance with Indiana law.

   Where a person suspects that a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect, but is unsure whether the person has sufficient “reason to believe” to make a report, that person should always err on the side of caution and report. The key is to report rather than not report.

   Any persons required to make a report to the DCS or law enforcement agency in their capacity as diocesan employees or volunteers are also required to immediately notify their direct supervisor concerning their report to the DCS or law enforcement agency. The direct supervisor then also becomes personally responsible to report, or to cause a report to be made, to the DCS or law enforcement agency.

   If the direct supervisor of the individual making the initial report is unavailable or if the individual feels the direct supervisor has an improper or private party to contact, the employee/ volunteer should immediately notify a vicar general of the report. The phone number at the Fort Wayne Chancery is 260-422-4611.

2. Possible indicators of child abuse or neglect

   Many children who are not abused or neglected may exhibit one or more of these indicators from time to time. Children who have many of these signs or symptoms, however, may have a problem that should be reported.

   In viewing possible indicators of child abuse, it is always important to distinguish between physical contact and emotional attachment which is nurturing and supportive and that which exploits a child.

   Emotional abuse

   Be alert for a child who has a poor self-image; has slow physical, mental or emotional growth; is extremely passive or aggressive; is terrified or extremely nervous if separated from a parent or neglectful of personal hygiene; seems to be overgrown; has unusual knowledge of or interest in sex; is extremely moody; has poor peer relationships, especially with opposite sex; has a sudden onset of behavior problems; is unwilling to change or participate in physical education class; fears going home.

   Physical abuse

   Be alert for a child who has unexplained injuries or burns; does not want to tell you how an injury occurred; explains an injury differently than do other members of family; has serious injuries that are left untreated; fears going home; has bald spots (a sign of hair pulling); is fearful of being left alone; is overly passive or aggressive; is extremely passive or aggressive; is extremely nervous if parted from a parent or others; has drug or alcohol problems.

   For questions, contact Cathie Cicchillo, safe environment coordinator, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at cicchillol@diocesefwsb.org or 260-422-4611, ext. 3308 or Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org or 260-399-1548.

   The identities of persons making reports to the DCS or local law enforcement are confidential and only made available to individuals legally authorized to obtain such information. Persons making reports may be required to testify at judicial proceedings if court action becomes necessary.

   We pray for the needs of all children, especially those who have been abused—Christ, graciously hear us.

   (For full version, please see http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Safe-Environment-Policies)

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‘Rio 2’ opens the way for striking images of nature

BY JOHN MULDERIG

NEW YORK (CNS) — Despite its urban title, “Rio 2” (Fox), director Carlos Saldanha’s vibrant animated follow-up to his 2011 original, is mostly set in the wilds of the Amazon rainforest. But that turns out to be a good thing since it opens the way for striking images of nature at its most alluring and attendant warnings against ongoing human aggression toward such pristine habitats.

A positive message about marital fidelity further enhances this unobjectionable film.

Opening scenes find Blu (voice of Jesse Eisenberg) and Jewel (voice of Anne Hathaway) — the two rare birds whose romance was charted in the first movie — settled down and pursuing domestic bliss with daughters Carla (voice of Rachel Crow) and Bia (voiced by Amandla Stenberg), who initially brought Blu and Jewel together so that they could perpetuate their species, have unexpectedly discovered other members of it — i.e., Spix’s macaws — living deep in the Amazon rainforest.

Anxious to make contact with their counterparts, Blu and Jewel set out for the jungle. There Jewel is joyously reunited with her father Eduardo (voiced by Andy Garcia) and childhood friend Roberto (voice of Bruno Mars). But thoroughly domesticated Blu has problems adjusting to his new surroundings. He’s also intimidated by Eduardo and more than a little jealous of Roberto.

Another challenge for Blu arrives with the reappearance of Nigel (voice of Jemaine Clement), the villainous cockatoo who previously schemed to hand Blu and Jewel over to smugglers. Thwarted in that plan, and humiliated into the bargain, Nigel is out for revenge.

Topflight visuals and amusing send-ups of musical genres ranging from Broadway showstoppers to disco standards enliven the adventures that follow. Along the way, moviegoers are shown the resilience of Blu and Jewel’s marital bond as well as the consequences of treating the environment irresponsibly. As for the bathroom humor that seems to be a requisite feature of all Hollywood fare aimed at children these days, it’s kept to a mild minimum.

In short, “Rio 2” is a big-screen confection calculated to please young and old alike.

The film contains a couple of childish scatological references. The Catholic News Service rating is G — general audiences. All ages patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — general patronage.

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**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

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

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**Clean-up day planned**

Mishawaka — St. Joseph Cemetery will have a clean-up day Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to noon. All decorations will be removed.

**Pilgrimage to Shrine of Christ’s Passion**

Goshen — Father Tony Stegelmann, pastor of St. John the Baptist, will lead a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Christ’s Passion in St. John, Ind., on Thursday, May 15. Bus leaves after the 8 a.m. Mass and includes tour of shrine, 40 life-size statues and the Our Lady of the New Millennium statue. Full noon dinner at Dick’s restaurant and a stop at Albanese candy factory. Return by 8:30 p.m. The $56 cost excludes brief supper stop. Make reservations to Bev Stegelmann at 574-533-9418.

**Rummage sale planned for spring**

New Haven — St. Louis Academy HASA, 15535 Lincoln Highway E., will have a rummage sale April 25-26 in the parish hall. Friday from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fill a bag for $4 begins at 4 p.m. Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Fill a bag for $3 all day. A bake sale will also be featured.

**Dinner planned**

South Bend — Hungarian Goulash and Langalo Dinner will be held at Our Lady of Hungarian School, 735 W. Calvert, on Saturday, April 26, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are $8, children 6-12 $4.50 and children under 6 free. Additional Goulash $6, additional Langalo $2. Carry-out available.

**Fish fry planned**

Huntington — St. Mary Parish will have a fish fry at the church, 903 N. Jefferson St., on Friday, April 25, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. A bake sale will also be offered. Tickets are $9 for adults, ($8.50 in advance); $5 for children 6-12 and children 5 and under free.

**Fun evening fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul Society**

Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Henry/Sacred Heart will have a fundraiser on Friday, April 25, at Lester’s Banquet Hall on Bluffton Road. A donation of $30 per person includes chicken dinner, 50/50 drawing, a silent auction as well as door prizes awarded throughout the evening. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

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**BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL**

Fort Wayne, Indiana

**BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS**

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is accepting applications for PRINCIPAL AT BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Grades 9-12; Enrollment: 606; State of Indiana “A” school

LUERS SPIRIT - It’s not just motto, it’s something you can FEEL. Our diverse population benefits from a fully accredited college prep program offering AP, Honors, & Dual Credit courses with a 99% graduation rate and an 81% student/teacher ratio. Additional activities include: Academic Super Bowl nationally ranked show choir, IHSAA champion athletic teams.

We are seeking a candidate who possesses:

* A strong and vibrant Catholic faith *Secondary administrative licensing *High School teaching or administrative experience *A Commitment to strong Catholic identity *Experience in fundraising and development

**Strong leadership skills**

Receiving applications through May 10th.

Contact Rhonda Scher at: Catholic Schools Office: 260-422-4611 or rscher@diocesefwsb.org

Applications are available at: www.diocesefwsb.org

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**Elementary Principal Position**

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL**

South Bend, Indiana

• K-8 Enrollment: 300

• Candidate must be a practicing Catholic

• Administrative and Public Relations skills are essential

• Have or be eligible for Administrative License

For application, please contact: Catholic Schools Office

P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

260-422-4611

Application Deadline: June 15, 2014 • EOE

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**Parish Business Manager**

Saint Anthony Catholic Church in South Bend seeks a Business Manager.

Qualifications include accounting or business degree. Main duties include processing of payroll, receipts and disbursements, tuition management, data entry, and overall fiscal management of church and school.

Interested parties can send resume or inquiries to:

Father David Ruppert

St. Anthony Parish Office

2114 E. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend, IN 46617

574-282-2308 father@stasb.org

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**REST IN PEACE**

**Today’s Catholic**

Jeanette Palmer, 90, St. John the Baptist

Antonio L. Nino, 44, St. Therese

Anthony S. Martone, 98, St. John the Baptist

Wilmer C. Gerardot, 88, St. Therese

Dorothy E. Hartzog, 83, St. John the Baptist

Marcella Baldwin, 89, St. Joseph

Anthony S. Martone, 81, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Roger J. Huber, 89, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Ann Seton

Bradley T. Shade, 27, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Kathleen S. Fox, 45, St. Peter

Angelo Ianuccilli Jr., 82, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Garrett

Coleen Kaye Steward, 65, St. Joseph

Grange

Julia Ann McNamara, 51, St. Pius X

Goshen — Father Tony Steinacker, pastor of St. John the Baptist, will lead a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Christ’s Passion in St. John, Ind., on Thursday, May 15. Bus leaves after the 8 a.m. Mass and includes tour of shrine, 40 life-size statues and the Our Lady of the New Millennium statue. Full noon dinner at Dick’s restaurant and a stop at Albanese candy factory. Return by 8:30 p.m. The $56 cost excludes brief supper stop. Make reservations to Bev Stegelmann at 574-533-9418.

**New Haven**

Robert J. Jacquay Sr., 92, St. John the Baptist

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**The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is accepting applications for**

**HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AT MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL**

Mishawaka, Indiana

**Educational Excellence in the Catholic Tradition**

Grades 9-12; Enrollment: 750

We are:

* Consistently a State of Indiana accredited “A” school *Four Star Rating *Academically sound- 95% graduation rate, 53% Academic Honors graduates, 97% college bound *23 Varsity sports *50 Student clubs

**Strong leadership skills**

Receiving applications through April 28

Employment to begin July 1, 2014

Contact Rhonda Scher at: Catholic Schools Office: 260-422-4611 or rscher@diocesefwsb.org

Applications are available at: www.diocesefwsb.org

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**PRINCIPAL OPENING - MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD SCHOOL**

Beginning July 1, 2014

- Enrollment - 256 in PreK-8th grade

- A Christ-Centered school family

- Experienced and dedicated staff

- Core curriculum enhanced with Fine Arts, Robotics, Computer Lab, TV Studio, & SMART Board technology

**Qualified candidates must meet the following:**

- Practicing Roman Catholic able to maintain and cultivate Gospel values and Christian ethics within the community

- At least 5 years of experience in Catholic schools as teacher or administrator is preferred

- Holds an Indiana Administrator’s License

- Has exceptional communication and managerial skills

For more information, contact Rhonda Scher at the Catholic Schools Office, 260-422-4611 X3335.

Applications available at: www.diocesefwsb.org

Applications will be reviewed upon completion.
Easter Blessings

Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community
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