Cindy Black to lead ministry for adult faith formation

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Cindy Black has been appointed the director of adult faith formation for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Black told Today’s Catholic one of the keys to adult faith formation is evangelization, “that continual growing in faith, nurturing that relationship and the need of constant evangelization throughout our lives.”

“The role of the laity in evangelizing the world in adult faith formation will hopefully help laypeople to know how needed their gifts are,” Black said, “and equip

Mary Keefer retires as principal of Bishop Luers High School

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — At the end of this academic year the staff and students of Bishop Luers High School will bid a fond farewell to Principal Mary Keefer as she retires.

For the past 18 years, Bishop Luers, on the south side of Fort Wayne, has been home for Keefer whose heartfelt wisdom and exceptional leadership has helped build character and form the academic and religious education of thousands of graduates.

“It’s the best job,” Keefer proclaims of her administration position at Luers, “I wish everyone in the whole wide world could experience the joy it is! I’ve been so lucky!”

A native of Fort Wayne, Keefer, who was educated in the Catholic school system, holds a master’s degree in education and another in administration, both from Indiana University-Purdue University in Fort Wayne.

Her teaching career began in East Allen County Schools. She and her husband Steve were married in 1971 and after three-and-a-half years of teaching second grade she became a stay-at-home mom following the birth of their daughter, Jennifer. In due time she returned to teaching at St. John the Baptist
By Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles who were assembled in prayer in the upper room with Mary and the first community of Christ’s disciples. We can speak of this event as “the birth of the Church.” The Church had her origins in Christ’s death on the cross and was manifested to the world on Pentecost. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the apostles became capable of fulfilling the mission Christ entrusted to them. They became ready to bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ. The Holy Spirit made them missionaries. From Pentecost on, the Church remains in a state of mission, going out like the apostles on Pentecost to share the truth, joy, and beauty of the Gospel. The Holy Spirit moves us out of ourselves and drives us to communicate the joy of our faith to others.

Pope Francis speaks about “the delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing.” He teaches that “egoism makes us bitter, sad, and depresses us. Evangelizing uplifts us.” The Holy Spirit gives us the zeal, energy, and courage for our mission of evangelization.

How do we evangelize? How do we communicate the faith to others? The most important thing is our witness. This involves living our faith in everyday life, witnessing to Christ through love in our families, in our work, and in our communities. Let us remember Jesus’ words: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). Can people tell that we are disciples of Jesus by our speech and conduct? Do we allow the Holy Spirit to shape our lives with His gift of counsel and right judgment? Do we speak the Gospel by living our faith with consistency?

We hear in this Sunday’s Gospel the mandate of Jesus to go and make disciples of all nations. This is the Church’s mission. It is not just the mission of the clergy. We are all called to be Christ’s witnesses by proclaiming and living the Gospel. To do so, we must open ourselves to the gifts of the Holy Spirit we received in Baptism and Confirmation. This happens especially through prayer. The Apostles prayed with Mary for nine days in the upper room and then received the fire of the Holy Spirit who helped and inspired them for mission.

Do you ever pray to the Holy Spirit? Last year, at a general audience, Pope Francis asked the crowd “How many of you pray every day to the Holy Spirit?” The Holy Father invited them to pray every day to the Holy Spirit to open their hearts to Jesus. He gave this same prayer: “Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God. Make my heart open to goodness. Make my heart open to the beauty of God every day.” When we call on the Holy Spirit to guide us on the path of discipleship, He helps us and strengthens us to go forth from our comfort zone, to live our faith with conviction, and to go out to others in need of the light of the Gospel.

The Church is missionary from its very beginning. We need spiritual energy for the new evangelization, what our Holy Father calls “a renewed missionary impulse.” There are many difficulties and challenges in the world today. Throughout the history of the Church, there have been times of darkness and evil. The light of Christ can always illumine the darkness and the power of the Holy Spirit can overcome all evil. Easter and Pentecost are not merely events of the past. They are present realities in the life of the Church.

May the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, help us, guide us, and direct us to live our faith with conviction, to bear witness to the love of Christ, and to go out like the apostles at Pentecost to make disciples of all nations and right here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend!

Jesus in heaven still holds our hand, shows us the way

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although Christ ascended into heaven, he remains present in a new form through the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit in order to accompany and guide people in their daily lives, Pope Francis said.

Because “by ourselves, without Jesus, we can’t do anything,” he said at his Regina Coeli address to those gathered in St. Peter’s Square on June 1, the day the feast of the Ascension was celebrated in Italy and many other countries.

The feast day comes 40 days after Easter and commemorates Jesus’ ascension into heaven to be seated at the right hand of God. But some countries, like Italy, observe the feast the day following Sunday.

Pope Francis said Jesus returns to heaven to open the way and “show us that the destination of our journey is the Father.”

But Jesus still “remains present and operates in human history with the power and gifts of His Spirit,” He is by the side of each one of us; even if we don’t see Him with our eyes,” he said.

“He is here! He accompanies us, guides us. He takes us by the hand and lifts us back up when we fall,” giving special attention and support to those who are persecuted and discriminated against because of their faith, the pope said.

After leading the “Regina Coeli” prayer, the pope also appealed for dialogue and peace in Ukraine and in the Central African Republic.

While Ukraine has been facing aggression by pro-Russian separatists, thousands of people in the Central African Republic have died and up to 1.5 million people have been displaced by violence since December 2012. Arab-speaking Muslims, known as Seleka, have been clashing with groups from a mostly Christian militia, known as Anti-Balaka, despite the deployment of thousands of French and African peacekeepers.

Pope Francis renewed his appeal for all sides involved in the conflicts to “overcome misunderstandings and patiently seek dialogue and peace.”

As the pope told them, “God is love. And we head toward the light to find God’s love,” he also quizzed the children often during their quick and informal exchange.

“Is God’s love inside us even during those dark moments? Is it still there, hiding?” he asked.

After their affirmative shouts, he added, “Yes, always! God’s love never leaves us. He is always with us, always trust in this love, OK?”

He reminded them that the only way to build a better world was with love, not hate, and to do so together and side by side with Jesus.

As the pope told them, “God is love. And we head toward the light to find God’s love.”

The pope told them, “Is God’s love inside us even during those dark moments? Is it still there, hiding?” he asked.

After their affirmative shouts, he added, “Yes, always! God’s love never leaves us. He is always with us. Always trust in this love, OK?”

When people go forward in life with God’s love, “everything will be all right,” he said.
Peace isn’t mass-produced but handcrafted by ordinary people

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis called on the world’s Christians to pray with him for peace in the Middle East, help convince governments to come to the aid of refugees and pray for Christian unity.

While peace is a gift from God, it is also built out of the day-to-day handiwork of individuals: true ‘artisans of peace,’ who are capable of crafting fraternity and reconciliation with people of all cultures and religions, he said during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square May 28.

Reviewing his May 24-26 trip to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories, the pope told the tens of thousands of people in the square that his visit to the Holy Land, “that blessed land,” was a great gift of grace for the Church and himself.

He said he had gone to “bring a word of hope, but I received one in return, too,” meeting people who still hope “against hope,” enduring much suffering, “like those who fled their own country because of conflict,” or facing discrimination and persecution “because of their faith in Christ.”

“During the pilgrimages,” he said, “I encouraged authorities to continue efforts to diffuse the tensions in the Middle East region, above all in martyred Syria, as well as to continue to seek a fair solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

That is why, he said, he invited Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas — “both men of peace and builders of peace” — to come to the Vatican to pray together with me for peace.

As the people in the square applauded, the pope told them, “Please, I ask all of you not to abandon us; pray hard so that the Lord gives us peace in that blessed land. I am counting on your prayers — pray hard, and a lot, so that peace may come.”

The Vatican announced the next day that the “prayer for peace” encounter would be held at the Vatican June 8 — Pentecost Sunday.

“There are no industries of peace” — outside, super-entities that can magically mass-produce a world free of conflict — the pope told the crowd. “No, ‘peace is created day-by-day, handcrafted’ by individuals whose hearts are open to God’s gift of peace.

“That’s why I urged Christians to let themselves be anointed by the Holy Spirit, so they may always be “ever more capable of gestures of humility, fraternity and reconciliation” in their interactions with people of different cultures and religions.

During his trip, he said, he encouraged everyone to work for peace. “Each time I did it as a pilgrim, in the name of God and mankind, carrying in my heart great compassion for the children” of the Holy Land, which “has lived with war for too long and has the right to finally know days of peace.”

The pope said he was truly “struck by the generosity of the Jordanian people for welcoming refugees.” He said he thanked the country’s leaders and people for their humanitarian efforts, “which merit and require constant support from the international community.”

He asked that God bless not only the refugees, but those who come to their aid, and he called on people to “ask all international bodies to help” Jordan in its efforts.

Despite the importance of fostering peace in the Middle East, the pope said the main aim of his trip was to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a historic encounter between Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras.

“That prophetic gesture marked a ‘milestone’ in what has been “an arduous, but promising journey, toward unity for all Christians,” Pope Francis said.

Meeting with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople — a “beloved brother in Christ” — was “the high point” of the visit, the pope said. Together with leaders of other Christian communities, they held an ecumenical prayer service at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher — the site of Jesus’ burial and resurrection. The event was seen as historic since the Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian communities normally observe strict separation when they worship in the church.

Just as that sacred place echoed the joy of Christ’s resurrection, the pope said, “we also sensed all the bitterness and suffering of the divisions that still exist among Christ’s disciples.”

Such divisions are “truly harmful,” especially when evident at the very spot where Jesus’ resurrection was proclaimed.

During the celebration, the pope said, “we heard loud and clear the voice of the risen Good Shepherd who wants all His sheep to be of one flock.”

Pope Francis said that, “as popes before me have done, I ask forgiveness for what we have done to foster these divisions and I asked the Holy Spirit to help us heal the wounds that we inflicted on our other brothers and sisters. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ,” he said.

The pope had special words of thanks for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, responsible for preserving the sites commemorating the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, as well as welcoming pilgrims and helping those in need.

“These Franciscans are amazing! Their work is wonderful, the things they do!” he said.

He thanked all the government officials, “Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian, who welcomed me with so much courtesy and, I dare say, with friendship, too.”

He said counsel, another gift, helps believers “find our way through situations.”

“It is the quiet voice of the Spirit speaking to us to say: ‘This is what you should be doing; this is the better way to act; this is the right way,’”

In his May 7 audience talk, Pope Francis similarly noted that counsel comes through prayer.

“We have to give room to the Holy Spirit so that He can counsel us. And giving Him room means praying, praying that He come and always help us.”

Prayer is very important,” he said, and “never forget to pray, never!”

The pope stressed that prayer can take place anywhere because “nobody can tell when we are praying on the bus, on the road, we pray in silence, with the heart.”

He also urged the crowd not to just recite prayers they know from childhood but to use their own words to ask for specific direction and guidance.

Cardinal Wuerl said he tells young people at Confirmation: “The Church is going to give you everything you’ll ever need to make your way through life staying close to God. You have to use the gifts.”

And this message is not just for youth.

The cardinal pointed out that the Church today is in a “moment of a new Pentecost.”

“We need to present our faith in a way that’s fresh and new; that’s what new Pentecost is all about.”

He said the local and universal Church is tapping into gifts of the Holy Spirit through special gatherings or synods. For the past two years, the Archdiocese of Washington prepared for and held a synod; the final session will be this Pentecost. The synod has been evaluating where various ministries have been successful and where more work is needed as the archdiocese celebrates its 75th anniversary.

He said the local synod, much like the Oct. 5-19 extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican, has involved a process of prayer, reflection and listening. He said the impetus behind the archdiocesan synod process has been to determine “if we really are being the best Church we are supposed to be.”

The synod on the family, similarly, is a way for the Church to understand how people are living the faith which in turn, he said, should “bring about a new commitment to live it.”

PENTECOST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He noted that believers hear the Word of God not just with their ears but their hearts.

“That’s why prayer is such an important part of the Christian experience of the Holy Spirit,” he said, noting the significance of spending quiet time prayerfully reading Scripture and “letting God’s spirit fill us with the meaning of those words.”

He said counsel, another gift, helps believers “find our way through situations.”

“It is the quiet voice of the Spirit speaking to us to say: ‘This is what you should be doing; this is the better way to act; this is the right way.’”

In his May 7 audience talk, Pope Francis similarly noted that counsel comes through prayer.

“We have to give room to the Holy Spirit so that He can counsel us. And giving Him room means praying, praying that He come and always help us.”

Prayer is very important,” he said, and “never forget to pray, never!”

The pope stressed that prayer can take place anywhere because “nobody can tell when we are praying on the bus, on the road, we pray in silence, with the heart.”

He also urged the crowd not to just recite prayers they know from childhood but to use their own words to ask for specific direction and guidance.

Cardinal Wuerl said he tells young people at Confirmation: “The Church is going to give you everything you’ll ever need to make your way through life staying close to God. You have to use the gifts.”

And this message is not just for youth.

The cardinal pointed out that the Church today is in a “moment of a new Pentecost.”

“We need to present our faith in a way that’s fresh and new; that’s what new Pentecost is all about.”

He said the local and universal Church is tapping into gifts of the Holy Spirit through special gatherings or synods. For the past two years, the Archdiocese of Washington prepared for and held a synod; the final session will be this Pentecost. The synod has been evaluating where various ministries have been successful and where more work is needed as the archdiocese celebrates its 75th anniversary.

He said the local synod, much like the Oct. 5-19 extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican, has involved a process of prayer, reflection and listening. He said the impetus behind the archdiocesan synod process has been to determine “if we really are being the best Church we are supposed to be.”

The synod on the family, similarly, is a way for the Church to understand how people are living the faith which in turn, he said, should “bring about a new commitment to live it.”
Events mark the final day of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School

BY CORRINE ERLANDSON

FORT WAYNE — May 30 marked the final day of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School, which operated for 16 years as a joint school for both St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishes and families. An all school Mass celebrated at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, prayer service and an evening celebration and supper marked the last day.

“Some might be happy, because it’s the last day of school,” said Father Jim Shafer said in his homily during Mass. “Some might be sad because today marks the closing of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. But really, our hearts should be full of gratitude for the many blessings of our 16 years as a joint school.”

An evening celebration at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish marked the closing of the joint school and the opening of two new schools, St. Joseph School and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Father Shafer, Principal Lois Widner, joint school principal, and incoming St. Joseph School Principal Cristy Jordan, assisted with a prayer service. Father Wrozek and Father Shafer blessed two donated dogwood trees that will be planted at both St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishes as a symbol of new life and new growth with the opening of the two new schools.

“We have been an awesome school for the past 16 years — two campuses joined together with one vision,” said Lois Widner, who was administrator of the joint school and now principal of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. “We now have an excellent opportunity to serve our community and provide two excellent schools for a quality Catholic education. We are spreading the Good News of St. Joseph School and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. A gift of a Vera Bradley bag and a travel gift certificate was presented to Connett on behalf of the school community.

During the celebration, fourth-grade teacher Anna Cunningham Gray spoke words of appreciation for her teacher’s aide, fellow teachers, administrators and students as she retired from her classroom post to join her family’s business.

A hot dog supper, along with cake, popcorn, cotton candy and music provided by a deejay rounded out the evening’s celebration.

“Some might be happy, because today marks the final day of school,” said Lois Widner, principal of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, sits for supper with children from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School at the celebration marking the final day of the joint school on May 30.

Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, speaks during the evening prayer service on May 30 marking the final day of the joint school alongside Cristy Jordan, left, principal of St. Joseph School, Lois Widner, principal of St. Elizabeth School and Father Shafer of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, right.

A fond farewell was also bid to Marianne Connett, school secretary, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service at both the previous St. Joseph School and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. A gift of a Vera Bradley bag and a travel gift certificate was presented to Connett on behalf of the school community.

During the celebration, fourth-grade teacher Anna Cunningham Gray spoke words of appreciation for her teacher’s aide, fellow teachers, administrators and students as she retired from her classroom post to join her family’s business.

A hot dog supper, along with cake, popcorn, cotton candy and music provided by a deejay rounded out the evening’s celebration.

FATHER JIM SHAFER, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, sits for supper with children from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School at the celebration marking the final day of the joint school on May 30.

Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, speaks during the evening prayer service on May 30 marking the final day of the joint school alongside Cristy Jordan, left, principal of St. Joseph School, Lois Widner, principal of St. Elizabeth School and Father Shafer of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, right.

A fond farewell was also bid to Marianne Connett, school secretary, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service at both the previous St. Joseph School and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. A gift of a Vera Bradley bag and a travel gift certificate was presented to Connett on behalf of the school community.

During the celebration, fourth-grade teacher Anna Cunningham Gray spoke words of appreciation for her teacher’s aide, fellow teachers, administrators and students as she retired from her classroom post to join her family’s business.

A hot dog supper, along with cake, popcorn, cotton candy and music provided by a deejay rounded out the evening’s celebration.

FATHER JIM SHAFER, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, sits for supper with children from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School at the celebration marking the final day of the joint school on May 30.

Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, speaks during the evening prayer service on May 30 marking the final day of the joint school alongside Cristy Jordan, left, principal of St. Joseph School, Lois Widner, principal of St. Elizabeth School and Father Shafer of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, right.

A fond farewell was also bid to Marianne Connett, school secretary, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service at both the previous St. Joseph School and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. A gift of a Vera Bradley bag and a travel gift certificate was presented to Connett on behalf of the school community.

During the celebration, fourth-grade teacher Anna Cunningham Gray spoke words of appreciation for her teacher’s aide, fellow teachers, administrators and students as she retired from her classroom post to join her family’s business.

A hot dog supper, along with cake, popcorn, cotton candy and music provided by a deejay rounded out the evening’s celebration.

FATHER JIM SHAFER, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, sits for supper with children from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School at the celebration marking the final day of the joint school on May 30.

Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, speaks during the evening prayer service on May 30 marking the final day of the joint school alongside Cristy Jordan, left, principal of St. Joseph School, Lois Widner, principal of St. Elizabeth School and Father Shafer of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, right.

A fond farewell was also bid to Marianne Connett, school secretary, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service at both

---

PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SOCIETY OF FORESTERS

Home Office: Mt. Prospect, IL

CALL TODAY! 260.338.1249

IRAs and Roth Non-Qualified and Qualified

1. Annuities
1

4.15% 3.65%

1st Yr Interest Rate, 10-Yr Surrender Charge1 1/2L Min Guaranteed Interest

1st Yr Interest Rate, 7-Yr Surrender Charge1 1/2L Min Guaranteed Interest

1st Yr Interest Rate, 4-Yr Surrender Charge1 1/2L Min Guaranteed Interest

Visit us at www.villaofthewoods.com 260-745-7039

Villa of the Woods

Senior Residential Living

Our affordable rates include:

• Furnished Room • Home Cooked Meals • 24 Hour staff
• Weekly Housekeeping Services • Laundry Service • Activities
• Free Cable TV • Medication Reminders • Free Medication Set

Financial Assistance for housing costs currently available through RCAP program.

Glen Ford
President
Our Lady of Good Hope
Parish
2420 N. Coliseum Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805
Phone: (260) 486-5626 x 232
After Hours: (260) 310-5569
www.aspenmortgageco.com

Aspen Mortgage

Locally Owned and Operated since 1995

HFA* VA* USDA CONVENTIONAL*

AAA

BBB

Advocate Financial

Operations since 1995

FHA* VA* USDA CONVENTIONAL*

AAA

BBB

Advocate Financial

Operations since 1995

FHA* VA* USDA CONVENTIONAL*

AAA

BBB

Advocate Financial

Operations since 1995

High Quality • Not High Cost

A hot dog supper, along with cake, popcorn, cotton candy and music provided by a deejay rounded out the evening’s celebration.

FATHER JIM SHAFER, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, sits for supper with children from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School at the celebration marking the final day of the joint school on May 30.

Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, speaks during the evening prayer service on May 30 marking the final day of the joint school alongside Cristy Jordan, left, principal of St. Joseph School, Lois Widner, principal of St. Elizabeth School and Father Shafer of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, right.

A fond farewell was also bid to Marianne Connett, school secretary, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service at both the previous St. Joseph School and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. A gift of a Vera Bradley bag and a travel gift certificate was presented to Connett on behalf of the school community.

During the celebration, fourth-grade teacher Anna Cunningham Gray spoke words of appreciation for her teacher’s aide, fellow teachers, administrators and students as she retired from her classroom post to join her family’s business.

A hot dog supper, along with cake, popcorn, cotton candy and music provided by a deejay rounded out the evening’s celebration.

FATHER JIM SHAFER, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, sits for supper with children from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School at the celebration marking the final day of the joint school on May 30.

Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, speaks during the evening prayer service on May 30 marking the final day of the joint school alongside Cristy Jordan, left, principal of St. Joseph School, Lois Widner, principal of St. Elizabeth School and Father Shafer of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, right.

A fond farewell was also bid to Marianne Connett, school secretary, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service at both the previous St. Joseph School and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. A gift of a Vera Bradley bag and a travel gift certificate was presented to Connett on behalf of the school community.

During the celebration, fourth-grade teacher Anna Cunningham Gray spoke words of appreciation for her teacher’s aide, fellow teachers, administrators and students as she retired from her classroom post to join her family’s business.

A hot dog supper, along with cake, popcorn, cotton candy and music provided by a deejay rounded out the evening’s celebration.

FATHER JIM SHAFER, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, sits for supper with children from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School at the celebration marking the final day of the joint school on May 30.

Father Tim Wrozek, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, speaks during the evening prayer service on May 30 marking the final day of the joint school alongside Cristy Jordan, left, principal of St. Joseph School, Lois Widner, principal of St. Elizabeth School and Father Shafer of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, right.

A fond farewell was also bid to Marianne Connett, school secretary, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service at both the previous St. Joseph School and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. A gift of a Vera Bradley bag and a travel gift certificate was presented to Connett on behalf of the school community.

During the celebration, fourth-grade teacher Anna Cunningham Gray spoke words of appreciation for her teacher’s aide, fellow teachers, administrators and students as she retired from her classroom post to join her family’s business.

A hot dog supper, along with cake, popcorn, cotton candy and music provided by a deejay rounded out the evening’s celebration.

FATHER JIM SHAFER, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, sits for supper with children from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School at the celebration marking the final day of the joint school on May 30.
Competition for resources fuels religious conflict in Myanmar

Change has come to Myanmar as the previously authoritarian government has allowed elections and some political, economic and social reforms. Many political prisoners have been released, including Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Investment is flowing into this country. But under restrictions on marriage, number of children, residence, access to education, health care, employment and face expel them. The government has denied citizenship who compete for scarce resources, and would like to Rakhine Buddhists view Muslims as Bengali migrants migration from modern-day Bangladesh swelled during the 135 ethnic groups that make up the country, claim Rohingya and want to be considered just another of the most attention. Those Muslims, who call themselves the Rakhine ethnic group in the west has garnered the most attention. Those Muslims, who call themselves Rohingya and want to be considered just another of the 135 ethnic groups that make up the country, claim to have come to Myanmar centuries ago although migration from modern-day Bangladesh swelled during the British colonial period. On the other hand, the Rakhine Buddhists view Muslims as Bengali migrants who generally live along the borders, and the Burmese majority who occupy the central plain. In this time of transition, marginalized groups are trying to make their voice heard.

The conflict between Muslims and Buddhists from the Rakhine ethnic group in the west has garnered the most attention. Those Muslims, who call themselves Rohingya and want to be considered just another of the 135 ethnic groups that make up the country, claim to have come to Myanmar centuries ago although migration from modern-day Bangladesh swelled during the British colonial period. On the other hand, the Rakhine Buddhists view Muslims as Bengali migrants who generally live along the borders, and the Burmese majority who occupy the central plain. In this time of transition, marginalized groups are trying to make their voice heard. The conflict between Muslims and Buddhists from the Rakhine ethnic group in the west has garnered the most attention. Those Muslims, who call themselves Rohingya and want to be considered just another of the 135 ethnic groups that make up the country, claim to have come to Myanmar centuries ago although migration from modern-day Bangladesh swelled during the British colonial period. On the other hand, the Rakhine Buddhists view Muslims as Bengali migrants who generally live along the borders, and the Burmese majority who occupy the central plain. In this time of transition, marginalized groups are trying to make their voice heard.

In addition to the conflict between Buddhists and Muslims, there are other decades-long struggles that have taken on religious overtones. The Kachin in the north, who are 95 percent Christian, had been fighting for years with the government for their rights over land and rich resources (timbers, gems) found in the region. In 2011, about 100,000 fled their homes, many going into China, only to be eventually forced back across the border to live in camps. Other ethnic groups, e.g. Kayah, Shan and Chin (many of whom are also Christian), live in border buffer zones where they have often been persecuted and forced into labor for the military. They have been fighting for equality, justice and freedom since 1948, resisting the loss of their language and culture by “Burmunnanism.”

Many religious leaders voiced concern that despite the current religious overtones, the violence is motivated by forces that want to slow the pace of reforms. The Catholic Church has been very active in advocating for dialogue between Buddhists and Muslims to resolve conflicts and is also providing substantial humanitarian assistance and social services to ethnic tribal populations.

Redefining marriage and the threat to religious liberty

WASHINGTON (USCCB) — The Catholic Church teaches, “Marriage and the family are institutions that must be promoted and defended from every possible misrepresentation of their true nature, since whatever is injurious to them is injurious to society itself.” “Sacramentum Caritatis,” 29. As the following examples illustrate, efforts to redefine marriage are harming our religious liberties:

New Mexico (2013) — The owners of a photography studio would not take the pictures of a same-sex “commitment ceremony” because they did not want to participate in behavior contrary to their religious beliefs. In 2013, the New Mexico Supreme Court denied the owners’ appeal, affirming the lower court opinion that the studio violated the state Human Rights Act. The owners of the studio have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

Colorado (2013) — Two men “married” in Massachusetts requested a Denver bakery make a “wedding” cake for their wedding reception in Denver. For religious reasons, the owners of the bakery declined to make the cake. The two men filed a complaint with the Colorado Division of Civil Rights, which found that the bakery violated that law. After this finding, the Colorado Attorney General’s office filed a complaint against the bakery, resulting in an administrative law judge deciding against the bakery.

Washington (2013) — A florist who declined to provide flowers for a same-sex “wedding” was sued by the state Attorney General.

Maine (2012) — The State of Maine has informed all notaries public (approximately 25,000) that regardless of religious objections, they must “wed” same-sex “couples,” if they wed opposite-sex couples. Otherwise, these notaries could be subject to a claim of discrimination. In the words of one notary: “I’m a Catholic and under no circumstances would I do a same-sex marriage.” He added, “I’m concerned that if I refused to perform a same-sex marriage, I could be challenged legally.”

Vermont (2012) — For allegedly not hosting a “wedding” reception for a same-sex “couple,” Catholic owners of a bed and breakfast settled a discrimination lawsuit, requiring them to (1) pay a $10,000 civil penalty, (2) pay $20,000 to a charitable trust, and (3) not host wedding receptions of any kind. Upon settling the lawsuit, the owners of the bed and breakfast said, “But no one can force us to abandon our deeply held beliefs about marriage.”

New Jersey (2012) — The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights found that a Methodist organization that they did not promote a “wedding” at its wedding reception band at its wedding reception and a “wedding” reception for a same-sex “couple.”


What can you do to ensure the protection of religious freedom at home and abroad?

The U.S. Bishops have called for a Fortnight for Freedom from June 21 to July 4. Visit www.fortnight4freedom.org for more information on this important time of prayer, education and action in support of religious freedom.
TODAY'S CATHOLIC

NEWS BRIEFS

Mass on Capitol Hill sends bishops off to lobby on immigration

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As a half-dozen bishops celebrated Mass at a church on Capitol Hill before beginning a day of lobbying members of Congress on immigration reform, the event itself gave a sense of the many layers of effort they were undertaking.

“Protest songs were led by a multicultu-
ral choir in a half-dozen languages. The preaching was in English. The congregation consisted largely of people who work for organizations involved in advocacy for immigration reform and included three high-
level White House staff members. And the majority of reporters at a news conference afterward were from religious or Spanish-language media.

The bishops were scheduled to meet with House members from their home districts, among others, and to conclude their day with House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Boehner has said he would not bring an immigration reform bill up for a vote this year amid opposition from his Republican colleagues and said that he would not bring it to the floor for a vote until he had the support of a majority of Republicans. Advocates believe there are enough Republican sup-
porters of the bill for it to pass, so those along with the votes of nearly all House Democrats, although there is not the majority Boehner seeks within the Republican caucus on its own.

In his homily, Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski compared the current immigration law to the British taxation that led patriots to resist the law that required her to give up her bus seat to a white man; and to Jesus’ response to those who accused him of breaking Jewish law by healing a woman on the Sabbath. “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath,” Jesus said, according to the Gospel of Mark.

“When laws fail to adapt the common good, they can and should be changed,” Archbishop Wenski said.

“Outdated laws, ill adapted to the increasing interdependence of our world and the globalization of labor, are bad laws,” he said. But, he warned, substitutes for bad laws are no improvement if they fail to take into account both human dignity and national interest.

Archbishop Wenski further com-
pared the immigration situation to what in Victor Hugo’s 19th-century novel “Les Miserables,” which tells, the archbishop said, “how pride and neglect of mercy represented in the bitterly zealous legalism of Inspector Javert ultimately destroys him. Today, modern-day Javerts, on radio and TV talk shows, fan flames of resentment against supposed law breakers, equating them with terror-
ists intent on hurting us.”

He continued: “However, those poor only ask for the opportunity to become legal and have a chance for citizenship — to come out of the shadows where they live in fear of a knock on their door, a knock on their door at night or an immigrationraid to their work place.”

The Mass at St. Peter Catholic Church, a couple of blocks away from the Capitol, was concelebrated by six bishops and another half-
dozen priests. Most of the bishops had participated in a Mass at the Mexican border in April, held in support of immigration reform, in memory of migrants who have died, and in solidarity with families torn apart by deportations and immigra-
tion policies. A news conference after the Mass, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, talked about the content of the lesson the bishops learned from their visit to the border and what they would communicate to the members of Congress they were to meet.

In addition to the Mass at the border fence in Nogales, in Bishop Kicanas’ diocese, where they were in Arizona the bishops walked through the desert on a route used by migrants. They also met with the Border Patrol, served dinner at a soup kitchen for people who’ve been denied asylum, and visited women in a shelter in Mexico and toured the office of the Pima County medical examiner who tries to iden-
tify the bodies found in the desert.

“The morality of the bishops’ approach to immigration comes from the fact that it is a moral issue,” Archbishop Wenski said. “It is a stranger and you welcomed me,” he quoted Jesus saying. “The prudential part comes in how we act on that.”

Though paths to Priesthood vary, desire for ordination is constant

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite varying paths to the Priesthood, the burning desire for ordination and the culmination of their discernment over a vocation is the one constant among many in the current group of men being ordained as priests.

At just 25 years old, Father Brad Zamora, ordained May 17 for the Archdiocese of Chicago, is a bit of an anomaly. For many men, the first new priests were his age. This year the median age is 32. Two priests at his home parish in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood, for example, had been in the seminary for 12 years before they were accepted as candidates for the priesthood.

“People who work for organizations involved in advocacy for immigration reform and included three high-level White House staff members. And the majority of reporters at a news conference afterward were from religious or Spanish-language media.

The bishops were scheduled to meet with House members from their home districts, among others, and to conclude their day with House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Boehner has said he would not bring an immigration reform bill up for a vote this year amid opposition from his Republican colleagues and said that he would not bring it to the floor for a vote until he had the support of a majority of Republicans. Advocates believe there are enough Republican sup-
porters of the bill for it to pass, so those along with the votes of nearly all House Democrats, although there is not the majority Boehner seeks within the Republican caucus on its own.

In his homily, Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski compared the current immigration law to the British taxation that led patriots to resist the law that required her to give up her bus seat to a white man; and to Jesus’ response to those who accused him of breaking Jewish law by healing a woman on the Sabbath. “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath,” Jesus said, according to the Gospel of Mark.

“When laws fail to adapt the common good, they can and should be changed,” Archbishop Wenski said.

“Outdated laws, ill adapted to the increasing interdependence of our world and the globalization of labor, are bad laws,” he said. But, he warned, substitutes for bad laws are no improvement if they fail to take into account both human dignity and national interest.

Archbishop Wenski further com-
pared the immigration situation to what in Victor Hugo’s 19th-century novel “Les Miserables,” which tells, the archbishop said, “how pride and neglect of mercy represented in the bitterly zealous legalism of Inspector Javert ultimately destroys him. Today, modern-day Javerts, on radio and TV talk shows, fan flames of resentment against supposed law breakers, equating them with terror-
ists intent on hurting us.”

He continued: “However, those poor only ask for the opportunity to become legal and have a chance for citizenship — to come out of the shadows where they live in fear of a knock on their door, a knock on their door at night or an immigrationraid to their work place.”

The Mass at St. Peter Catholic Church, a couple of blocks away from the Capitol, was concelebrated by six bishops and another half-
dozen priests. Most of the bishops had participated in a Mass at the Mexican border in April, held in support of immigration reform, in memory of migrants who have died, and in solidarity with families torn apart by deportations and immigra-
tion policies. A news conference after the Mass, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, talked about the content of the lesson the bishops learned from their visit to the border and what they would communicate to the members of Congress they were to meet.

In addition to the Mass at the border fence in Nogales, in Bishop Kicanas’ diocese, where they were in Arizona the bishops walked through the desert on a route used by migrants. They also met with the Border Patrol, served dinner at a soup kitchen for people who’ve been denied asylum, and visited women in a shelter in Mexico and toured the office of the Pima County medical examiner who tries to iden-
tify the bodies found in the desert.

“The morality of the bishops’ approach to immigration comes from the fact that it is a moral issue,” Archbishop Wenski said. “It is a stranger and you welcomed me,” he quoted Jesus saying. “The prudential part comes in how we act on that.”

Though paths to Priesthood vary, desire for ordination is constant

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite varying paths to the Priesthood, the burning desire for ordination and the culmination of their discernment over a vocation is the one constant among many in the current group of men being ordained as priests.

At just 25 years old, Father Brad Zamora, ordained May 17 for the Archdiocese of Chicago, is a bit of an anomaly. For many men, the first new priests were his age. This year the median age is 32. Two priests at his home parish in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood, for example, had been in the seminary for 12 years before they were accepted as candidates for the priesthood.

“People who work for organizations involved in advocacy for immigration reform and included three high-level White House staff members. And the majority of reporters at a news conference afterward were from religious or Spanish-language media.

The bishops were scheduled to meet with House members from their home districts, among others, and to conclude their day with House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Boehner has said he would not bring an immigration reform bill up for a vote this year amid opposition from his Republican colleagues and said that he would not bring it to the floor for a vote until he had the support of a majority of Republicans. Advocates believe there are enough Republican sup-
porters of the bill for it to pass, so those along with the votes of nearly all House Democrats, although there is not the majority Boehner seeks within the Republican caucus on its own.

In his homily, Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski compared the current immigration law to the British taxation that led patriots to resist the law that required her to give up her bus seat to a white man; and to Jesus’ response to those who accused him of breaking Jewish law by healing a woman on the Sabbath. “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath,” Jesus said, according to the Gospel of Mark.

“When laws fail to adapt the common good, they can and should be changed,” Archbishop Wenski said.

“Outdated laws, ill adapted to the increasing interdependence of our world and the globalization of labor, are bad laws,” he said. But, he warned, substitutes for bad laws are no improvement if they fail to take into account both human dignity and national interest.

Archbishop Wenski further com-
pared the immigration situation to what in Victor Hugo’s 19th-century novel “Les Miserables,” which tells, the archbishop said, “how pride and neglect of mercy represented in the bitterly zealous legalism of Inspector Javert ultimately destroys him. Today, modern-day Javerts, on radio and TV talk shows, fan flames of resentment against supposed law breakers, equating them with terror-
ists intent on hurting us.”

He continued: “However, those poor only ask for the opportunity to become legal and have a chance for citizenship — to come out of the shadows where they live in fear of a knock on their door, a knock on their door at night or an immigrationraid to their work place.”

The Mass at St. Peter Catholic Church, a couple of blocks away from the Capitol, was concelebrated by six bishops and another half-
dozen priests. Most of the bishops had participated in a Mass at the Mexican border in April, held in support of immigration reform, in memory of migrants who have died, and in solidarity with families torn apart by deportations and immigra-
tion policies. A news conference after the Mass, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, talked about the content of the lesson the bishops learned from their visit to the border and what they would communicate to the members of Congress they were to meet.

In addition to the Mass at the

Four friars of the Franciscan Brothers Minor will reside at the hermitage, which is located in rural Decatur.

Through the Bible,” by Sarah Christmyer and Jeff Cavins. It takes a chronological walk through the Bible story in a way that reveals God’s plan for His Creation, what went wrong at the beginning and how God worked through history to reconcile His lost children to Himself while building His kingdom. It provides attendees a framework to understand how major people, places, events and themes of the story fit together within the central story woven throughout Scripture. Father Derrick Sneyd, pastor of the parish, will facilitate.

Immaculate Conception is presenting the study and related course materials free of charge to those who register by June 15. For more information or to sign up, email Cindy Busch at envisioncab@sbcglobal.net or call the parish office at 260-925-3930. The registration form may also be found online at iccauburn.org.

USF group donates funds for second Haiti well

FORT WAYNE — The student-led Formula for Life group of the University of Saint Francis delivered $1,800 to a Haitian orphanage directed by teachers.

The funds were raised through the university’s H2O Project, in which faculty, staff and students made water their only beverage for a designated time and then donated the money saved to an organization providing clean water to developing countries.

The well is the second well provided by USF to Father André Sylvestre, director of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage in northern Haiti. Formula for Life students witnessed the drilling of the 100-foot well to serve the people, livestock and crops in the area.

Formula for Life was founded by USF student Courtney Shepard in 2007 after she encountered a starving infant on a medical mission trip, and the student-led organization has been providing food, wells for clean water and, most recently, funds to build a new orphanage as the event has grown. Last year, the organization raised $75,000 for a facility for children left parentless by disaster, poverty, disease or abandonment. Construction is in progress on 15 acres of land.

For more information on USF’s Formula for Life, contact Dr. Amy Ohringer at 260-399-7700, ext. 8210.

Notre Dame’s ACE welcomes 21st class of teachers

NOTRE DAME — The Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) has announced the members of its newest cohort of teaching fellows—a group of 95 recent college graduates whose record of academic achievement, dedication to serving marginalized communities and zeal for empowering children through Catholic schools was described by the program’s founder, Holy Cross Father Timothy Scully, as “a truly extraordinary sign of hope.”

Father Scully, who also serves as a fellow of the university and a professor of political science, notes that this class, ACE’s 21st, was selected from one of the most competitive applicant pools in the program’s history.

ACE 21 includes graduates from colleges and universities throughout the United States and abroad. Through their two-year teaching fellowship, each member will earn a fully-funded graduate degree from Notre Dame while serving as a classroom teacher in one of ACE’s partner schools and living in international community with other ACE teachers.

Students from St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne, have six pieces of artwork displayed at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne. The theme of the drawings, done in chalk, is “Get Healthy, Stay Positive” which is bringing many smiles to patients and medical staff at the hospital. The student artists include: Catie Hamrick, sixth grade; Amanda Weber, sixth grade; Elizabeth Davis, seventh grade; Kaylee Sheehan, seventh grade; Mary Simcox, seventh grade; Rebecca Weber, seventh grade; Kit Schumacher, eighth grade; Skylar Charleston, seventh grade; and Kendall Willwerth, seventh grade.

ST. VINCENT JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS CREATE ARTWORK FOR DUPONT

Students from St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne, have six pieces of artwork displayed at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne. The theme of the drawings, done in chalk, is “Get Healthy, Stay Positive” which is bringing many smiles to patients and medical staff at the hospital. The student artists include: Catie Hamrick, sixth grade; Amanda Weber, sixth grade; Elizabeth Davis, seventh grade; Kaylee Sheehan, seventh grade; Mary Simcox, seventh grade; Rebecca Weber, seventh grade; Kit Schumacher, eighth grade; Skylar Charleston, seventh grade; and Kendall Willwerth, seventh grade.

JERRY KESSENS

HARRIET SIMCOX

PROVIDED BY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL

JERRY KESSENS

PROVIDED BY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL
Father Paul Miller observes 70th jubilee of Priesthood

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Father Paul D. Miller was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop John F. Noll at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on June 3, 1944. Father Miller is observing his 70th jubilee of ordination.

Young Paul was born on Oct. 3, 1916, in Huntington. His parents were Mary E. (McNulty) and Ira O. Miller. He attended St. Mary School in Huntington for both his primary and high school education.

With the intention of becoming a priest on his mind since the eighth grade, he enrolled at St. Joseph College, Rensselaer, and completed his seminary training at St. Meinrad.

Two days after he was ordained, Father Miller assumed his initial assignment as an assistant at St. Patrick Parish, Lagro, and St. Robert Bellarmine Mission Church, North Manchester, on June 1, 1963. On Aug. 16 of that year, he was appointed pastor of St. Michael Church, Waterloo. Other pastoral assignments included St. Rose of Lima Church, Monroe, on July 1, 1970; St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven, on Feb. 2, 1972; and St. Rose of Lima Church for the second time on June 6, 1978.

Serving parishes as pastor was one of the most enjoyable experiences of his Priesthood, he said. Father Miller also said he loves music — as evidenced by his vast collection of CDs — and “in his younger days” he enjoyed chanting the prayers of the Mass.

Father Miller also was known for his thorough homilies, especially covering the lives of the saints. When a saint’s feast day occurred in the liturgy, Father Miller, with his clear and very audible voice would relate many interesting details of the life of the particular saint, usually with no notes from which to refer.

Between assignments in 1972 in New Haven and in 1978 in Monroe, on May 20, 1974, Father Miller was appointed spiritual director of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, an activity he enjoyed.

In 1988, Father Miller was named an associate pastor at Holy Family Parish, South Bend. “I really enjoyed my time there,” he added. Father Miller retired on Oct. 1, 1992, and currently resides at St. Anne Home and Retirement Community, Fort Wayne, where he concelebrates Mass daily. Father Miller is looking forward to observing his 98th birthday on Oct. 3.

Father Walter Bly celebrates 50 years of Priesthood

BY LISA KOCZANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — Father Walter Bly always wanted to be a priest in his youth but New York, his home, had an abundance of priests. He was told to “Go West” because there was a shortage of priests in the Midwest and that is how he became a prominent member of the Michiana community.

Father Bly was born in Yonkers, N.Y., to Andrew and Elizabeth Ann Bly. His family moved to Bronxville where he finished high school. After high school he entered Fordham University as a day student in the ROTC program. Upon graduation, he joined the armed forces, serving in the U.S. Army.

Fulfilling his calling to the Priesthood, Father Bly attended Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Norwood, Ohio, and was ordained to the Priesthood on May 30, 1964.

Father Bly attended Saint Joseph High School home football game at Father Bly field at the Leighton Stadium. He is a constant supporter of the football team and coached the freshman team for many years.
Father Chrobot’s 50 years bring memories of service and a special saint

By Karen Clifford

SOUTH BEND — In reminiscing about his 50 years as a priest, Father Leonard Chrobot recalls a very special moment when he and his mother greeted Pope John Paul II in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican.

Although Father Chrobot had met then Archbishop Karol Jozef Wojtyla of Krakow several years earlier, he was in awe of the pope’s ability to remember him.

“John Paul II to me is one of the greatest figures of the 20th century. When I met him at St. Peter’s Square he gave me his full attention even with 10,000 people around. That was a remarkable gift that he had,” Father Chrobot recalls.

Father Chrobot’s journey to the Priesthood started at St. Adalbert School in South Bend. Since Saint Joseph High School had not yet been built, and South Bend Catholic was in its last year, he attended St. Mary’s Preparatory in Orchard Lake outside of Detroit. It was a Catholic school for those considering the Priesthood.

“I spent high school, college and seminary in Orchard Lake, Mich.,” says Father Chrobot.

As Father Leonard Chrobot approaches his 50th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on May 30, 1964 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne by Bishop Leo A. Pursley, he attended summer school at the University of Notre Dame. For the next three years, Father Chrobot held assignments in the Fort Wayne area, first as a teacher at Bishop Dwenger High School, then an assistant to the pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Parish and St. Hycinth Parish.

In 1969, Bishop Pursley released Father Chrobot from the docket for five years to accept a teaching assignment at Orchard Lake Seminary. That assignment was extended another 17 years and it was at the seminary that Father Chrobot first met Archbishop Karol Jozef Wojtyla of Krakow.

At a lecture presented to Archbishop Wojtyla and other visiting Polish bishops, Father Chrobot explained his perspective on Polish Americans.

“My lecture to the Polish bishops was that Poland was wiped off the map in 1795 and did not exist again until 1918. My ancestors, who were very Polish, came from Prussia because there was no Poland. The Polish bishops defined anyone who spoke the Polish language as a member of the Polish nation.

When I lectured to the bishops I said I did not consider myself a member of the Polish nation, but of the American nation,” says Father Chrobot.

While very proud of his Polish ancestry, Father Chrobot knew that his statements shocked some of the older Polish bishops. But approximately two weeks later, Archbishop Wojtyla gave a lecture at The Kosciesza Foundation in New York and noted that the “priest sociologist at Orchard Lake” (Father Chrobot) whom he had met was correct in his assessment of Polish Americans.

Archbishop Wojtyla reiterated those at the conference that Americans of Polish ancestry were indeed members of the American nation, not the Polish nation. But he charged that they had a responsibility to know the price paid by their ancestors and to help Americans understand the role of Poland in World War II. The archbishop emphasized that while many people know that 6 million Jewish people died, 6 million Polish citizens also died, 5 million were Jewish and 3 million were Gentiles.

From 1989 to 2001, Father Chrobot served respectively as a pastor at St. Mary of the Lake in Culver, and St. Adalbert, St. Hedwig and St. Patrick parishes in South Bend. He is currently retired and enjoying the celebration of his 50th anniversary as a priest with friends and colleagues.

Three Conventual Franciscans celebrate 50th anniversary of ordination

ANGOLA — Conventual Franciscans Father Fred Pasche, Father Bernie Zajdel and Father Joe Kiene are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood this year. All three entered the novitiate together in 1964, and were ordained together on May 4.

Father Pasche and Father Zajdel have both served as pastors of St. Anthony of Padua, Angola. While Father Zajdel was pastor in the 1980s he undertook a building project that resulted in building space to house classes for religious education, offices for administrative services, a parish hall church activities and a chapel, which is used for small liturgical celebrations, daily Mass and Adoration of the Eucharist.

Under the leadership of Father Pasche a capital campaign entitled “Connecting in Faith and Fellowship” was begun with the goal of replacing the temporary church built in the 1950s. The new church was dedicated in 2010.

While Father Kiene has never been assigned to St. Anthony, Angola, he has retired from serving as chaplain for hospitals and military servicemen and their families and will be taking up residence in the friary located on the St. Anthony of Padua campus in Angola.

Father Pasche was born Feb. 1, 1937 to Marcus and Beatrice Pasche, and was christened Kenneth Joseph Pasche at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Lansing, Mich. His family includes three brothers and two sisters. He followed in the footsteps of his older brother and entered Mount St. Francis Seminary in Indiana graduating in 1955.

Upon entering the novitiate in 1955, in compliance with Franciscan tradition, Father chose the name Frederick after St. Frederick, a bishop in Germany, and adopted Fred as his legal name.

Father Pasche’s assignments have taken him to Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. He has served as pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in Angola since 1997.

Father Pasche points out that in his 50 years in the Priesthood he developed a pattern of every other assignment being at a parish named in honor of St. Anthony of Padua. He describes every assignment as being filled with good and welcoming people.

Throughout his life as a priest, Father Fred holds administering the sacraments most dear. He describes celebrating Mass as an “awesome privilege.”

Edward John Zajdel was born on March 13, 1937, in Rochelle, Ill. His father, Stanley and Sophie Zajdel, has three siblings. It was at the age of 12 while at the altar serving daily Mass at St. Joseph the Worker Parish that Father Zajdel heard the call and decided to pursue a vocation to the Priesthood.

Father took the name of Bernard in honor of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, a French abbot of a Cistercian monastery and the last doctor of the Church.

Father Zajdel names his greatest priestly joy as celebrating Mass. His ministry assignments have taken him to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana.

He currently serves as parochial vicar of St. Anthony of Padua in Angola and administrator of St. Paul Chapel at Clear Lake.

Father Zajdel hopes his legacy will be one of being “a follower of Jesus Christ, who called me to pastor people and assist them to be faithful Catholics, who administered the sacraments to them and reminded them to ‘Smile, God Loves You.’” Father Bernie enjoys telling jokes and humorous stories to help people relax and listen to the homily. No gathering at St. Anthony of Padua, Angola, would be complete without his “Taste of Humor” presentations.

Father Kiene was born Joseph Kiene on March 18, 1937, to Louis and Pearl Kiene. He took the name of Joachim, the father of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when entering the seminary and kept it as his religious name until he later changed back to his baptismal name.

He states that the majority of his ordained life he has been closely connected with hospitals and people who were in need of support. He anticipates being at St. Anthony, Angola, will be a major change from the primary chaplain duties from which he has recently retired.

His service has taken him to Michigan, New Mexico, California, Okinawa, Guam, Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana. He retired as chaplain of the Indianapolis Metro Police Department in 2013 and will reside in the friary located on the St. Anthony of Padua campus in Angola.

Father Kiene says working with the military is among his fondest memories. He has served both the members of the armed services separated from family and friends while serving their country and their loved ones who were left at home while their partner was away on duty.

In his service as chaplain of the Indianapolis Police Department he counseled families who were in sorrow due to tragedy.
Msgr. Bill Schooler celebrates 40 years of priestly ministry

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

GRANGER — Msgr. Bill Schooler, the current pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Granger, celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination on May 25 and remarked on a life of joy filled with service to both parishioners and students throughout the diocesan community.

He enthusiastically spoke of his 40 years as “a wonderful life of ministry that has taken me to a deeper faith and to a much deeper understanding of both my vocation and the ways in which I am called to serve the Church.”

Preferring to be known simply as “Father Bill,” although his official ecclesiastical title is “monsignor,” he is seen by both parishioners and colleagues as a man of great humility and hospitality, whose pastoral nature is consistently displayed through the heartfelt compassion and outreach he offers as the priestly shepherd of his people.

From the beginning, he viewed his mission as one of fostering the kingdom of God and building relationships. He remarked that in his first Mass he preached, “he would not build buildings, but would build communities of his people.”

“One of the biggest things I’ve learned is how these projects truly enhance the community in ways I didn’t quite foresee during that first Mass.”

In reflecting on the past 40 years, Father Bill shared that his greatest joys have been celebrating the sacraments and being able to lead others to experience closer unity with Christ. During that time, he has served under four bishops, being ordained by Bishop Leo A. Pursley in 1974. He has also been called to minister throughout the diocese, being appointed during his tenure to the parishes of St. Matthew, St. Monica, St. Paul of the Cross, St. Jude, Fort Wayne, and St. Pius X, where he has been pastor since 2001. In addition, he has also taught and served as chaplain at Saint Joseph and Marian high schools in South Bend and Mishawaka.

Not everything has been easy throughout the last 40 years. Father Bill admits, “I learned the hard way how to choose the right people to do the tasks I am weak at or do not have a gift for.” However, after much trial and error, he is confident in his current pastoral role and is optimistic about the future. Father Bill also expressed tremendous gratefulness for the support of those around him and to all who have sacrificed and assisted him throughout his Priesthood to build the Church and lead souls closer to God.

Father Bill indicated that his greatest hope for the future is that “we continue to evangelize and continue to draw people to Christ.” He also added that for young men who are discerning a call to the Priesthood or religious life, “to not be afraid, that it really is a wonderful life!”

In celebration of this wonderful life and in Thanksgiving to God for 40 years of Priesthood, Father Bill will soon be embarking on a 1,500 mile bike trip with 13 family members and friends, including fellow St. Pius X priest Father Terry Coonan. Together they will journey in 19 stages from England to Rome, beginning in Canterbury on June 10 and ending at the Vatican on June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Glenmary Father Dennis Holly celebrates 50 years of Priesthood

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Glenmary Father Dennis Holly, a native of Fort Wayne, is celebrating 50 years of Priesthood this year. He is the son Jeremiah and Loretta Holly and a former member of St. Peter Church in Fort Wayne.

He entered Glenmary in 1951, took his First Oath on May 13, 1960 and was ordained on June 6, 1964.

During his years as a priest he has served as associate pastor of Glenmary missions in North Carolina and Tennessee and as pastor of missions in Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky, completing the pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago twice, as well as riding nearly 3,000 miles over the course of last summer.

However, this being the longest single trip he has ventured on, he revealed that he is a little nervous and has asked that the group be remembered in the prayers of the parish and diocesan community during their venture.

Glenmary’s Cincinnati Headquarters In addition he spent almost 20 years as director/consultant of Glenmary’s Department of Pastoral Services, (now the Department of Pastoral Ministers and Pastoral Services) a support ministry that aims to, among other things, promote effective evangelization efforts in Glenmary missions.

For almost 10 of those 20 years, he served as first vice president on Glenmary’s Executive Council. Father Holly’s last assignment was as pastor of two missions in two different states and dioceses. He served Holy Family mission in Lafayette, Tenn., and Christ the King mission in Scottsville, Ky., until 2012 when he retired from assigned ministry and became a Glenmary senior member.

He currently resides at Glenmary’s Cincinnati Headquarters and plans to celebrate his golden jubilee with a June Mass for family, friends and his fellow Glenmaryans at St. Matthias Church in Forest Park, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati.
18 Holy Cross priests celebrate jubilees


Those who have served in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend include the following:

Father George C. Bernard celebrates 65 years of priestly service. Ordained in 1949 his assignments took him to the University of Notre Dame and subsequently to Holy Cross College.

Father Edwin J. Kazdzielawski celebrates 65 years of Priesthood, being ordained on June 8, 1949. He has served as associate pastor at St. Hedwig Parish in South Bend and now resides at Holy Cross House at Notre Dame in his retirement.

Father Robert S. Pelton also celebrates his 60th anniversary of priestly ordination and served at the University of Notre Dame as well as Saint Mary College and assisted in Hispanic Ministry.

Father Richard A. Laurick celebrates 60 years of Priesthood after spending many years in the military and served at St. Stephen Parish, South Bend, as well as long-time chaplain at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.

Father Michael T. Belinsky celebrates his 25th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood and served as associate pastor after his ordination in 1989 at Holy Cross Parish and Christ the King Parish in South Bend. He was assigned to Holy Cross Parish again as pastor and subsequently served as pastor of Little Flower Parish. Currently he serves as associate pastor of Christ the King Parish.

Father Robert J. Loughery celebrates 25 years as priest and currently serves as rector of Sorin Hall at the University of Notre Dame.

Father Stephen P. Newton celebrates his 25th anniversary to the Priesthood and served at the University of Notre Dame.

Father Martin L. Nguyen celebrates 25 years as priest and has served the Vietnamese ministry at St. Patrick, Fort Wayne, and in South Bend, as well as at the University of Notre Dame.

Father Bly’s first appointment was to work at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Fort Wayne. He also ministered at Bishop Dwenger High School for one year.

In 1966, Father Bly was appointed an assistant at Our Lady of Hungary in South Bend, while teaching a course in religion at Saint Joseph High School. He remained part of the Saint Joseph family for over 40 years as a teacher, freshman football coach and friend to thousands of students.

Father Bly taught and coached with consistency and challenged the imagination of his students. He will always be synonymous with the Old Testament course and freshman football at Saint Joseph High School.

“As a student, especially as a freshman football player, one of the first memories of being at Saint Joseph High School is meeting Father Bly,” said Bret Bajdek, former student and current coach at Saint Joseph High School. “His pre-football game homilies were something that really stuck with the students. The way he took events from his life and could tie them together with the Gospel reading and then with some sort of lesson about football was uncanny.”

Bajdek added, “In the classroom, so many students had such a deep respect for Father Bly that they did not want to do poorly on his tests and let him down. I can still remember people in the hallways getting one last look at the study sheet before an infamous Father Bly test.”

BLY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

1964 by Bishop Leo A. Pusldre at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Father Bly’s first appointment was to work at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Fort Wayne. He also ministered at Bishop Dwenger High School for one year.

Maryknoll Missionary Father Robert (“Bob”) McCahill was born in Goshen recently for a visit and to celebrate his 50th anniversary of Priesthood. He visited the children at St. John the Evangelist School and gave them a slide presentation of where he lives and the people to whom he ministers. The children raised $950 for his mission by holding penny wars during Lent and presented him with a check.

Missionary home in Goshen for visit

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — Maryknoll Missionary Father Robert (“Bob”) McCahill was born in Goshen recently for a visit and to celebrate his 50th anniversary of Priesthood. He visited the children at St. John the Evangelist School and gave them a slide presentation of where he lives and the people to whom he ministers. The children raised $950 for his mission by holding penny wars during Lent and presented him with a check.

Father Robert T. McCahill celebrates 50 years as Missioner

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. — Father Robert T. McCahill, of Goshen, will celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination as a Maryknoll priest on Sunday, June 29. He is one of 31 Maryknollers to commemorate his ordination to the Priesthood or Final Oath as a brother in ceremonies to be held at the Maryknoll Mission Center in Ossining, N.Y.

After ordination on June 13, 1964, Father McCahill was assigned to the Philippines. After Visayan language study, he served for three years as assistant parish priest in Cateel, Mindoro and Lupon. He then transferred to the easternmost part of the island, moving from place to place building Church-communities.

In 1975, after 11 years in the Philippines, Father McCahill and four other Maryknoll priests were assigned to open a new mission in Bangladesh. After Bengali language study at the Oriental Institute in Barisal (1976), the group took up residence in Tangail, where they lived in community serving the Muslim and Hindu poor.

In 1986, Father McCahill moved on alone, living in Kishorganj, a town 100 miles east of Tangail, and without residents or missionaries. He has moved to a different district every third year, living among the poor and riding a bicycle to seek people seriously in need of medical or surgical attention.

“By serving the poor in their serious health needs and gladly living among them,” wrote Father McCahill, “the basic mission is accomplished — giving Muslims good reasons to trust their Christian neighbors.”

At first, Muslim neighbors viewed him with suspicion but they gradually become accustomed to his presence among them.

“The core of Christian witness is the acts of love we perform for others,” said Father McCahill. “Nothing illustrates our faith in God so clearly as our service to strangers in their need.”


Father McCahill was born on June 21, 1937, in Des Moines, Iowa. He then moved with his family to Goshen, where he attended West Goshen Elementary School (1943-1949) and graduated from Goshen High School (1955). Father McCahill holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy (1959) from Maryknoll College in Glen Ellyn, Ill., and a master’s degree in religious education (1964) from Maryknoll Seminary in Ossining.

A jubilee Mass will be celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Church, 114 East Monroe St., Goshen.

Follow Maryknoll fathers and brothers on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MaryknollNews and Facebook at www.facebook.com/maryknoll-society.
The witches’ sabbath

The Harvard Extension Cultural Studies Club and the Satanic Temple of New York caused a stir in May by planning a “black mass” in Harvard’s Memorial Hall. At the last moment, the local protest grew so large that the club withdrew its sponsorship. A Satanic temple spokesman said the event was held off campus at a Chinese restaurant in Harvard Square.

Press reports struggled to fit the dispute into familiar categories. Catholics and their allies described the event as discriminatory. C.J. Doyle, the head of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts, said it showed that anti-Catholicism “remains a respectable prejudice.”

Terry Donlon, spokesman for the Boston Archdiocese, called the event “offensive to Catholics and people of good will.” The former president of Harvard’s Catholic Students Association called the Satanists’ efforts “hateful.”

Drew Faust, Harvard’s president, invoked principles of free speech, calling the event the “abhorrent” but said she would let it go ahead because “vigorous and open discussion and debate are essential to the pursuit of knowledge.”

The Harvard Extension club used the same free speech trope: “We are disappointed by the self-righteousness of those who contrive to silence others simply because they claim offense.”

I share the sentiment that this sacrilege is offensive. But more importantly, as the official archdiocesan statement noted, it is evil. Thomas Aquinas said that blasphemy is in one sense a greater sin than murder because it is committed directly against God, whereas murder is a sin against one’s neighbor.

How the son of a president proved himself

Being the son of an American president comes with many privileges as it does challenges, especially when you’re his first boy and you bear his name.

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., felt that his dad, President Teddy Roosevelt, demanded more of him than of his three younger brothers. The boyhood legacy expressed in his broad Howdy-Doody smile, tanned skin and light eyes was never fully unfurled from the weight of expectation.

One day when Ted Jr. was about nine, his dad gave him a rifle. When he asked if it was real, it’s father showed him a sword and shot a bullet into the ceiling.

It wasn’t long before the family faced the glare of the national spotlight. Teddy Roosevelt had resigned his vice presidency the day after Ted Jr.’s 14th birthday.

Ted wasn’t the academic type, but he attended his dad’s alma mater, Harvard, and plodded along. After college Ted worked in the steel and carpet business and then became a branch manager of an investment bank. He was making good money and, it seemed, a name for himself, yet he was badgered by questions of legacy and leaderhood. The thoughts of the renegade who walked softly and carried a big stick.

When World War I began, Ted felt compelled to leave his job and volunteer for service. He fought in several major battles and reached the rank of lieutenant colonel. The war refined the young father of three, fitting him with newfound purpose.

Back home, Ted enjoyed considerable political success until World War II beckoned and the Six-Yearold returned to active duty. He was soon promoted and eventually became known as a general who often visited the front lines. When D-Day neared, Ted was not assigned to the front lines, which he argued several times and then formally petitioned, writing: “I believe I can contribute materially ... by going in with the assault companies. Furthermore, I personally know both officers and men of these advance units better than most officers, and I believe them to know that I am with them.”

At 56, Ted became the oldest man in the Normandy invasion. He was the only general on D-Day to land by sea with the first wave of troops. He was also the only man to serve with his son on D-Day.

Ted was one of the first soldiers off his landing craft at Utah Beach early on that first Thursday in June. He skillfully redirected his officers when he realized they had landed more than a mile south of their target, maneuvering the beach with a cane and a pistol. He didn’t appear deterred by his arthritis and heart troubles when he declared, “We’ll start the war from right here!”

As June pressed on, Ted guided his troops and kept them calm, reciting poetry and sharing stories about his father. He died of a heart attack five weeks after D-Day, shortly after being captured by Germans.

I think of his story this month, as we mark D-Day’s 70th anniversary. I imagine the Hall Marys chanted as 20-year-old men neared Normandy, feeling the spray of the English Channel. They responded to the terror in their hearts with prayer.

“I am not a religious man,” Lt. Col. Robert Lee Wolrton said his battalion hours before the D-Day parachute dropped them behind enemy lines. “But I am going to ask you to pray with me for the success of the mission before us. And while we pray, let us get on our knees and look up but with faces raised to the sky so that we can see God and ask His blessing in what we are about to do.”

Seven decades later we salute these men. At the heart of their bravery was belief. We honor their memory, and we look up.

Christina Capcechi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and editor of SisterStory.org, the official website of National Catholic Sisters Week.

The Church is Mystical Body of Christ

The Son is the image so often used for God in the Old Testament associations. The Holy Spirit, promised and sent by Jesus is committed directly against God, whereas murder is a sin against one’s neighbor.

The process reveals the divinity of Jesus, and the perfect union of the Holy Trinity not just in essence or being, but also in mission.

Important in this reading is the obvious community of the Apostles and of believers with them. Together, as one, they received the power of the Holy Spirit, promised and sent by Christ.

The Holy Spirit comes as God. The imagery is strong with Old Testament associations. The divine Spirit comes as fire, an image so often used for God in the Scriptures.

Strengths given by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles have divine power itself. They are without fear. Fortified too are all the members of the community. Forming the community were people from every place. Salvation is offered to all who love God.

First Corinthians furnishes the second reading. This reading clearly states that belief in Jesus as Lord belongs only to the humble and faithful. Without humility, without faith, humans are confused and seriously subject to their own limitations.

St. John’s Gospel provides the last reading. It is a Resurrection Narrative. The Risen Lord appears before the Apostles, the specially chosen and commissioned, and the special students. He is God, possessing the power to bring death and life. He is the Holy Spirit, able to give the Apostles, specifically vesting them with the most divine of powers, the power to forgive sins.

Reflection

The Church concludes its brilliant story of the sacrifice and then Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is the savior. It was to give all people a place with God, and eternal life in God, that God providentially ordered the world salvation in Jesus.

Thus, the story of salvation has one central figure. This figure is Jesus the Lord. He lived a human life. God in every sense, Jesus was human. It is the mystery and miracle of the Incarnation.

Jesus ascended to heaven. Jesus did not desert us, however. To continue salvation, Jesus called the Apostles. Specially taught, prepared when no one else was present, they had unique lessons, revelations, from the Lord.

Their task was to assist us in overcoming our human limitations and in understanding the Gospel.

The community of believers is not a happenstance of people standing side by side. In the Spirit they share one source of life. They must perfect themselves in communion — ideally.

Pope Pius XII, three generations ago, masterfully told us that the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, no mere human institution. Holiness is not automatic, however, for its members. They must perfect themselves to be in fact part of this Mystical Body.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 21:11 Ps 104:1, 24, 29, 31, 34 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 Jn 20:19-23

Monday: 1 Kgs 17:1-6 Ps 121:1-8 Matt 5:33-48

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 17:1-6 Ps 42-5, 7b-8 Mt 5:13-16


Thursday: 1 Kgs 18:41-46 Ps 65:10-11 13b-14 Mt 5:20-26

Friday: 1 Kgs 19:1-21 Ps 27-9, 13-14 Mt 5:27-32

Saturday: 1 Kgs 19:1-21 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-10 Mt 5:33-37

Blessed Jolenta of Poland

c. 1235 - 1298

feast: June 12

The daughter of King Béla IV of Hungary and granddaughter of the emperor of Constantinople, this medieval princess was raised by her elder sister, Kunigunde, queen of Poland. Their family tree included other saints: Hedwig, Elizabeth of Hungary and Margaret of Hungary. Jolenta married a Polish duke whose charitable works earned him the popular name Boleslaus the Pious. After his death in 1279 and the marriage of two daughters, Jolenta, Kunigunde, also now widowed, and Jolenta’s youngest daughter entered a Poor Clares convent. Jolenta later became abbess of a convent she had founded with her husband. Also known as Helen of Poland and Yolanda of Poland, Jolenta was beatified in 1827.
basketball team, was recently caught on tape asking his girlfriend to stop bringing African Americans to basketball games, and to stop posing with them in photographs. It was an outrage — an instant national news story. Sterling was banned for life from attending NBA games, fined $2.5 million by the NBA, and may be forced to sell his interest in the team. He has become a national pariah.

This goes to show that even our contemporary popular culture, which often seems to pride itself on holding nothing sacred, understands that some things really are sacred. That doesn’t include unpopular ideas like the Catholic commitment to creating a culture of life. But the vigorous community reaction to the “black mass” can provide us with some consolation. The protest against this mockery and desecration included a Eucharistic procession through Cambridge attended by thousands, followed by a standing-room-only crowd for Adoration at St. Paul’s Church.

The result was a small victory against blasphemy at Harvard, and an opportunity to talk about the real presence in the Blessed Sacrament, for a large local and national media audience.

God lets us do evil, even to Him, but He also brings good out of it.

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

To serve the people, in Christ’s name

H is name was Father Frans Van der Lugt, a Dutch priest. Father Frans, they called him. A Jesuit, like the pope. And a missionary, which is really the point of the enterprise. Father Van der Lugt was 75 years old, and he had been in Syria since 1966, or nearly 50 years. You don’t hear much about priests like him these days. What a shame. There’s a scandal, to be sure, and it’s trumpeted all over the front page. That’s as it should be, I suppose, because a priest who fails to play by the rules is still an exception. Still, you wish that more attention might be paid to priests like Father Van der Lugt, because his story makes him a hero for our times and for all time.

Father Frans came to Syria to help the poor, and he found plenty of poverty among the people with whom he worked. In recent years the poverty was compounded by the inimaginable violence, as a seemingly endless civil war devastated the country. A coalition of rebel forces is waging a no-holds-barred campaign against the government, and that government has responded in kind. The fighting has claimed an estimated 150,000 lives, and, as we said, no end is in sight.

Little of the ideology of war mattered to Father Van der Lugt. He was there, as he declared, to help both Christians and Muslims, anyone in need. He was there to help Syrians. He did most of his work in Homrs, in the Old City, and there was more than enough to be done. Helping to supervise the evacuation of some 1,500 refugees from Homrs in February, he pleaded for those who were starving to death, especially the children. He asked for aid to the besieged city in a memorable YouTube clip.

Concerned about the danger he faced every day, not to mention his age, Father Frans’ Jesuit superiors offered him a safe haven. He would have none of it. As he told Catholic News Service by telephone, Fr. F. “there has been no food. People are hungry and waiting for help.” For some, that help never came and, sadly, their number would include Father Frans. He left us in April.

Accounts of his death varied slightly. One version had him by a masked man; another said a man had taken the priest outside, to the street, and killed him with two bullets to the head. The method mattered little; the fact was that Father Frans, the missionary priest, was dead.

The Jesuits mourned the brutal assassination of the man who “dedicated his life to the poorest and neediest, and did not want to abandon them even at times of great danger.” Their statement continued: “He always spoke of peace and reconciliation and he failed to play by the rules is still an exception. Still, you wish that more attention might be paid to priests like Father Van der Lugt, because his story makes him a hero for our times and for all time.

Father Frans came to Syria to help the poor, and he found plenty of poverty among the people with whom he worked. In recent years the poverty was compounded by the inimaginable violence, as a seemingly endless civil war devastated the country. A coalition of rebel forces is waging a no-holds-barred campaign against the government, and that government has responded in kind. The fighting has claimed an estimated 150,000 lives, and, as we said, no end is in sight.

Little of the ideology of war mattered to Father Van der Lugt. He was there, as he declared, to help both Christians and Muslims, anyone in need. He was there to help Syrians. He did most of his work in Homrs, in the Old City, and there was more than enough to be done. Helping to supervise the evacuation of some 1,500 refugees from Homrs in February, he pleaded for those who were starving to death, especially the children. He asked for aid to the besieged city in a memorable YouTube clip.

Concerned about the danger he faced every day, not to mention his age, Father Frans’ Jesuit superiors offered him a safe haven. He would have none of it. As he told Catholic News Service by telephone, Fr. F. “there has been no food. People are hungry and waiting for help.” For some, that help never came and, sadly, their number would include Father Frans. He left us in April.

Accounts of his death varied slightly. One version had him by a masked man; another said a man had taken the priest outside, to the street, and killed him with two bullets to the head. The method mattered little; the fact was that Father Frans, the missionary priest, was dead.

The Jesuits mourned the brutal assassination of the man who “dedicated his life to the poorest and neediest, and did not want to abandon them even at times of great danger.” Their statement continued: “He always spoke of peace and reconciliation and he opened his doors to all those asking help without distinction of race or religion. ‘I don’t see Muslims or non-Muslims,’ he used to say, ‘but only human beings.’”

In the end, a man giving his life to serve the people, in Christ’s name. And in one short sentence, that’s the essence of the Priesthood. That’s what it means to be a priest.

**SCORPION SEARCH**

Gospel for June 8, 2014

Acts 2:1-11

Following is a word search based on the first reading for Pentecost Sunday: about the first Pentecost, in Jerusalem. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

S UDDENLY

TONGUES

D I F F E R E N T

G A L I E A N S

M E D E S

P O N T U S

C Y R E N E

W I N D

A S O F I R E

D E V O U T

N A T I V E

E L A M I T E S

E G Y P T

R O M E

J U D E A

L I B Y A

J E W S

N A T I V E T O S P E A K

E V E R Y N A T I O N

P A R T H I A N S

F R E R I F F O S A V H

© 2014 Tri-C-A Publications www.tri-c-a-publications.com

**NATIVE TONGUES**

T O E L L A E V I T A N

J G L W I S E U G N O T

T C A K D B D E D I P O

N Y M L I N Y E T Y A S

E R I F I L J A G H R P

R E T W E L N E A M T E

E N E W I Y E E P E H A

F E S F R M D A O D I K

F E T E O U D A N E A C

I I V R J O U N T S N H

D E V O U T S A U G S O

F R E R I F F O S A V H

© 2014 Tri-C-A Publications www.tri-c-a-publications.com
Sports

DWENGER ATHLETES WIN CONFERENCE TITLES Bishop Dwenger won Fort Wayne Summit Athletic Conference titles recently in baseball, softball and golf. At Brookwood, the linksters were led by a one-two finish from Callahan Elzey and Spencer Gillig. The girls’ tennis team also was victorious 4-1 over Concordia to claim a sectional crown. The Saints’ Abbie Grace Lee remained undefeated at No. 1 and the No. 1 doubles team of Audrey Range and Lynelle Lee also won in the final. — Michelle Castleman

St. Jude girls, St. Charles boys crowned CYO track-and-field champions

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — At the much-anticipated Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) track and field city meet, St. Jude edged out St. Charles, 108-101, to be crowned the girls’ team champions. St. Charles won the boys’ meet with St. Vincent placing second and St. Jude third. Held at Bishop Luers High School on May 21, the meet was the final 2014 showdown between the best of the best from the six CYO teams.

In the girls’ events, the winning Eagles dominated in the field events with Rachel Landstoffer winning the high jump and Olivia Ray claiming both the shot put and discus. Stephanie Newell was victorious in the 200-meter dash and was part of the winning relay team along with Allison Gerbers, Marcie Stoots and Samantha Weldon.

Coach Mary Palmer was very pleased with her squad this year, “We had excellent leadership from our junior high runners. They had a hard work ethic and really helped the younger girls learn about track.”

Other first-place finishes from St. Charles were Faith Taylor (800-meter run) and Alice Talarico (long jump, 100-meter dash), while St. Vincent won the short relay and Julianna Stureman won both the hurdles and 400-meter dash and Julia Broerman from St. John the Baptist, New Haven, claimed the mile run.

For the boys, St. Vincent won both relays at the city meet and Panthers’ speedster Colin Stroud claimed individual medals in the sprints. St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth won the long jump thanks to a winning leap from Zack Wood and St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, claimed the hurdles title after the first-place effort from Paul Braun. St. Aloysius’ Will Schroeder came in first in the 400-meter dash and Emmett Delaney of St. Jude won the 1,600-meter run. The winning Cardinals got 10 points from Luke Bessson in the discus, Isaac Blume in the shot put and Patrick Finley in the high jump and the 800-meter run. Assistant coach Rita Sordelet summarized, “Our boys had a stellar season.”

Ten Bishop Dwenger softball players received All-SAC Conference Honors. They are First-Team First Pitcher All-SAC: Jordan Schneider; First Team All-SAC: Ali Irvine, Ali Dennie and Kristina Burkhardt; Second Team All-SAC Pitcher: Demitra Burns; Second Team All-SAC: Holly Weber, Sierra Fisher, Stephanie Hanic; Honorable Mention All-SAC: Amanda Miller, Bailey Rupley.

All Alumni, Parents & Friends of the Dwenger Family are invited to join us for the 19th Annual Saints Open Golf Outing

Friday, June 13, 2014
Cherry Hill Golf Club
12:00 pm registration
1:00 pm shotgun start

Men, women & mixed teams welcomed

Proceeds will benefit Bishop Dwenger’s Endowed Scholarship Funds

If you’d like to sponsor, donate raffle items or door prizes, or play in the outing, please visit www.bishopdwenger.com or call 260-496-4775

Three key athletes in the Cardinals winning formula this season were eighth-graders Adam Lightner, Isaac Blume and Bradley Black. Shown here holding the CYO team trophy, Lightner was also honored with the St. Charles Kettman Scholarship for his excellent leadership, determination and character in scholastic work and athletics. At the city meet, he placed in the shot put and discus and was part of the runner-up relay team.

The St. Jude track squad is show after a successful 2014 season. The girls’ team was crowned champions at the CYO city meet and the boys’ squad finished third.

St. John the Baptist, New Haven, eighth-grader Nora Painter clears the high jump bar at the CYO city meet. Painter finished second in the event and fourth in the hurdles.
Spaghetti dinner planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263, 3502 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, June 12, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $5.50 for children 5-12. Proceeds will benefit diocesan seminarians.

RoyalFest
Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish, 1600 W. State Blvd., will have RoyalFest Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. There will be carnival games, inflatables and prizes, pizza and hot dogs, family games and karaoke. Silent auction all day. All-day wristbands $7 for inflatables. Tickets for $1 for games and food.

Rummage sale planned
Fort Wayne – St. Therese Parish, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., will have a rummage sale on Thursday, June 12, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, June 13, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, June 14, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast
Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 are planning a pancake breakfast Sunday, June 8, after the 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses in the auxiliary gym at St. Pius X Parish. Adults $6, children ages 6-10 $3 and children under five eat free.

Knights to host bus to ballgame
Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will host a bus trip to Chicago for the Chicago Cubs vs. the L.A. Dodgers baseball game on Friday, Sept. 19. Cost is $50 per person, adults only. Bus leaves St. Pius X Church parking lot at Fir Road and State Road 23 at 10 a.m. For tickets send check with full names of those attending.

Are you passionate about the mission and vision of Bishop Dwenger High School? We are looking for an exceptional Development & Events Coordinator to join the Development Office Team. This full-time position is responsible for building relationships that will ensure successful funding of the school, primarily through Saints Alive! events and other special occasions (which often occur during the weekends and evenings). Ideal candidates will have ultimate relationship building skills; excellent attention to detail; extraordinary written and oral communication; critical thinking skills; general accounting skills and strong computer experience. We are looking for a college graduate, with five or more years of professional experience, who is a motivated, efficient individual who thrives in a fast-paced environment.

Qualified applicants may submit their credentials to Bishop Dwenger High School; Attn: Development & Events Coordinator; 1300 E. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825. Or submit electronically to saints@bishopdwenger.com

St. Adalbert Parish in South Bend, Indiana seeks a full-time Director of Religious Education.

Responsibilities include:

• Managing a two-year, bilingual First Communion program with approximately 200 children.
• Managing a two-year English confirmation program with approximately 100 youth.
• Teaching one of the Confirmation classes.
• Planning and supervising volunteer catechists, who are drawn from approximately 100 youth.
• Teaching one of the First Communion and Confirmation.
• Preparing girls for their quinceañeras.
• Recruiting, training and supervising volunteer catechists, who are drawn from approximately 100 youth.

Requirements include: Roman Catholic; Master’s degree in Liturgy or equivalent; four years of professional experience in religious education preferred. Must have pastoral music skills, including a proficiency in choral direction and keyboard accompaniment. Other requirements include computer literacy, administrative ability to work with a team, supervise others, and maintain a flexible work schedule.

Inquiries, resumes and cover letter may be sent to the Pastor, Rev. Peter J. Pacini, C.S.C., at pacini.csc@gmail.com
School, this time in seventh and eighth grades. After being blessed, some 10 years after the birth of their daughter, with the adoption of their son, Nick, Keefer accepted a position at Bishop Luers teaching theology, all the while studying to earn her master’s degrees and caring for her daughter and infant son. Eventually she held an assistant principal position at Bellmont High School where her husband Steve taught and transitioned to Bishop Luers as principal in 1996.

Of her administration, Keefer feels she has brought, “absolute love and passion for these kids. I love getting to know them and their families and stories.” She notes that, “it’s a good place for kids. Our kids are happy here.”

“We’re not perfect, I know that,” Keefer admits. “But the size of our school enables us to know our kids and care deeply for them.” Bishop Luers has a current enrollment of 600 students in grades 9-12.

Of the strengths of the school, Keefer reports first and foremost is the remarkable staff. “We have an incredibly professional staff. They are all very dedicated,” she says, adding that her successful longevity is due in part to, “surrounding myself with people who do phenomenal work!”

Another strength involves the growth in the school’s diversity, which has changed the landscape of the student body over the years. “That’s critical in the 21st century,” she notes. “That’s critical in the 21st century,” she notes. “The truth, we practice our faith and to walk around here with an iPad instead of paper and pen.”

It helps to know that she leaves the school in good shape. Keefer feels Bishop Luers is currently a “healthy school — healthy academically, spiritually, financially and socially.” “It’s just a go time,” she notes.

Though she admits she will miss the students and staff at Bishop Luers, Keefer has a varied list of plans. In her retirement she hopes to “read a 1,000 books,” fish on a quiet lake and continue to play mah-jongg, an ancient tile game, with her friends. She also dreams of finding part-time work that would start after noon and “I pick the days,” she chuckles, perhaps teaching adult reading or reading to the blind.

Her husband Steve, who is retired but coaches freshman football at Bishop Luers, and the soon-to-be retired Keefer also plan to spend more time with their five delightful grandchildren.

Principal Mary Keefer, center, poses with the third-period chamber ensemble students at Bishop Luers High School on May 7. Keefer will retire on June 30 after 18 years at the administrative helm and is grateful to have played a role in the lives of the over 2,500 students she has known over her tenure.

Black continued from page 1

them to be disciples of Christ and to become passionate about serving Jesus and our neighbors.”

Under the tutelage of the Secretary of Evangelization and Special Ministries, Black will begin her directorship on July 1, but she is already preparing for her new role by researching NCEA Best Practices, ARISE programs or other similar parish-based programs for adults, and small Christian and small faith communities.

“Center to our continued growth as Catholic Christians we must seek new ways of understanding and articulating our faith,” she told Today’s Catholic. “Adult formation, which is basically a commitment to deepen our relationship with Christ and with each other, offers us all abundant opportunities to know Christ and to see Christ in our world. This knowledge and personal experience of Christ equips us to be bold in our trust and belief in Christ and in the teachings of our faith.”

Blackwell said, “Cindy brings wisdom, experience and passion to this new position. She possesses a deep understanding of human nature and a profound sense of compassion for those who struggle with the challenges of living a life faithful to the teachings of our Church. A deeply spiritual woman, it takes only a few minutes in her presence to know she is led by her love of Christ and a passionate and robust desire to share this love!”

“Cindy has the heart of a servant,” Blackwell added. “We will all benefit from her work and dedication in this new position.”

Black said, “When we think of adult faith formation it’s not just catechesis — that we are in continual need in renewing our relationship and our commitment to follow Christ.”

Prayer has to be a big part of that,” Black said. “I am amazed in my own friendships and conversations with people that many adults do not know how to pray. They try and they want to become comfortable in prayer, but it is just something they have not ever been taught how to do, or even when it comes to contemplation.”

“As Catholics we’re good at those memorized prayers even when we move into spontaneous prayer, but it is not spoken prayer. God, asking for forgiveness, giving intentions and even thanksgiving,” she said. “I would love to see more Catholic adults really learn how to just sit in the quiet and just be with Jesus in contemplation. Let Him fill our hearts with the love He has for us. I think it is that love which comes from being connected to Him. That’s what is going to allow us to be people of joy even with the cross and the crucifixion of our life.”

Black said she has been reading a great deal on Adult Faith Formation and will base her approach on the USCCB document “Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States,” which outlines three major goals to guide and direct efforts in adult faith formation: 1) Invite and enable ongoing conversion to Jesus in holiness, and through this convert others; 2) promote active membership in the Christian community; 3) call and prepare adults to act as disciples in mission to the world.

She continued, “In order to do this in our diocese, parishes and schools we should be intentionally incorporating adult faith formation for us and with the joy and passion of the time we gather should foster our relationship with Jesus and each other as His body. And following the lead of our Holy Father Pope Francis, we need to meet adults where they are and journey with them toward God.”

Much of her time has been spent working with the adults who work with young people. “The training I do is for the adults who work or volunteer in the parish,” she said. “I’ve been doing adult faith formation but geared to adults who work in youth ministry.”

Black completed her master’s in theology from the University of Notre Dame and feels she has a lot to share. She feels blessed to have learned the richness of the faith, “not only the catechesis, but also about liturgy and evangelization through my classwork.”

A director of youth ministry will be announced in the near future.