Pope Francis in Asia to promote reconciliation, recovery

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CNS) — Arriving in Sri Lanka, a country recovering from two-and-a-half decades of ethnic and religious civil war, Pope Francis said reconciliation would require its people to explore their painful recent history and accept persistent differences within their multicultural society.

“The process of healing also needs to include the pursuit of truth, not for the sake of opening old wounds, but rather as a necessary means of promoting justice, healing and unity,” the pope said Jan. 13 at an arrival ceremony at Colombo’s international airport.

Pope Francis addressed his words to Sri Lanka’s new president, Maithripala Sirisena, who was elected Jan. 8 and sworn in the next day. During his campaign, Sirisena promised an independent investigation into war crimes allegedly committed during the 26-year struggle between government forces and rebels belonging to the country’s Tamil minority.

In his remarks to the pope, Sirisena noted that during the last papal visit, by St. John Paul II in 1995, “Sri Lanka was embroiled in annihilating terrorism, following the mayhem caused by the terrorists in the daily lives of the people” — a reference to the Tamil Tigers, finally defeated in 2009 by the military under Sirisena’s predecessor, President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Priests win first Cupertino Classic basketball game

FORT WAYNE — Diocesan priests and seminarians hit the hardwood courts to make the first Cupertino Classic a “spirited” success. The priests defeated the seminarians, 41-26, on Monday afternoon, Dec. 29, at St. Vincent de Paul gymnasium in Fort Wayne.

With an estimated 400-500 in attendance, spectators filled the gymnasium’s bleachers and many more watched from the floor surrounding the court.

Donations from the classic amounted to $1,000, which will go to the diocesan Vocation Office for seminarian tuition, according to Father Andrew Curry, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in North Manchester, and organizer of the Cupertino Classic.

“Not only do we want to see some good moves on the court at the game but we also thought that the humble and prayerful St. Joseph of Cupertino would give the right spirit for the game. Not only that, he is one of the patron saints of students.”

Highlighting the game was Father Terry Coonan’s overall movement with the ball. Father Coonan, parochial vicar at St. Pius X, Granger, sported behind-the-back passes and
Christian unity: A “pipe dream?”

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHODES

In a recent discussion about ecumenism and the quest for Christian unity, someone said to me that he thought it was a “pipe dream,” in other words, an illusory hope, a fantasy, a dream that is impossible to achieve.

I responded that Christian unity is an illusory hope if we think that it can be achieved by our own human efforts, but that with the help of God’s grace, it is not a “pipe dream.” Christian unity is first and foremost a gift of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. And we are called to cooperate with His grace. That is why we celebrate each year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year it begins on Sunday, January 18th, and ends on Sunday, January 25th.

This past November marked the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Decree on Ecumenism of the Second Vatican Council. We can rejoice and give thanks that the Council’s teaching on ecumenism has been broadly received. Much healing has occurred in the relations between Catholics and other Christians. There has been much greater acceptance of one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, recognizing the profound unity we share that comes from Baptism. There has certainly been a very positive change in mentality, along with a growing commitment to fulfill the will of Jesus expressed in His prayer to the Father on the eve of His Passion “that they may all be one.”

There have been many positive fruits in our ecumenical endeavors the past 50 years. Christians of different churches and communities often pray together and also work together in the service of the needy. Pope Francis has also spoken about “the ecumenism of blood,” Christians of different churches and communities who have been persecuted and martyred for their faith. As the Holy Father has said, “Those of us who are Christ’s faithful make no differentiation between confessions: they persecute them simply because they are Christians.”

Though there has been much progress towards Christian unity in the past 50 years, the journey toward full unity is not easy. There is still significant disagreement among Christians on various doctrinal matters. One great achievement has been the Joint Declaration on the的基础 of the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation. Yet, there is still disagreement on many doctrinal matters between Catholics and Protestants of various denominations. I serve as the Catholic Co-Chair of the International Reformed-Catholic Theological Dialogue and can testify to the great challenges we face in our search for convergence on various matters. I have witnessed new disagreements in moral teachings that I find especially painful and which make our journey toward unity more complicated.

The theological dialogues between the Catholic Church and various other Christian Churches and Communion have been fruitful, yet also frustrating at times. Pope Francis says that “we must not surrender to discouragement and resignation, but continue to trust in God who plants in the hearts of Christians the seeds of love and of unity, in order to confront with renewed momentum today’s ecumenical challenges: to cultivate spiritual ecumenism, to turn to advantage the ecumenism of blood, to walk together on the path of the Gospel.” The Holy Father’s words remind me that we must constantly implore the help of God’s grace and the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. That is why the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is so important. I encourage all to remember this important intention in your prayers during the coming week.

Spiritual ecumenism is of the utmost importance. In its Decree on Ecumenism, the Second Vatican Council taught: “Change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians, should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement, and can rightly be called spiritual ecumenism.” “Ecumenism,” Pope Francis says, “is a spiritual process, one which takes place in faithful obedience to the Father, in fulfillment of the will of Christ and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

I am glad to see ecumenical initiatives in parishes and other groups throughout our diocese. It is a joy to see Catholics and other Christians working together in so many works of charity and also in prayer and discussion groups. An authentic ecumenical spirit is part of being Catholic. We desire to grow with our separated brothers and sisters in the communion which already unites us. Though that communion is imperfect, it is nonetheless real.

In a society and culture that is increasingly less concerned about God, increasingly secularized, the pursuit of full Christian unity must be a priority. The Church’s work of evangelization is hindered by the division among Christians. When Jesus prayed to the Father “that they all may be one,” He said “so that the world may believe that You have sent me.” The Second Vatican Council said that the division among Christians “openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages that most holy cause, the preaching of the Gospel to every creature.” That is why the Catholic Church’s commitment to ecumenism remains a priority.

Again, I encourage you to offer prayers for Christian unity this coming week. I also recommend to our priests the celebration of one of the Masses for the Unity of Christians contained in the Roman Missal during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The following prayer is one of the Collects of the Mass for the Unity of Christians:

Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

The octave of prayer for Christian Unity falls between the feast of St. Peter’s Chair on Jan. 18 and the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on Jan. 25. The icon of Sts. Peter and Paul is shown above.
Bishop Hying installed as fourth bishop of Diocese of Gary

BY STEVE EVINO

GARY (CNS) — Before a packed Holy Angels Cathedral and a television and online audience, Bishop Donald J. Hying was installed as the Diocese of Gary’s fourth bishop.

In what Bishop Hying called “a glorious adventure in faith together,” the 51-year-old bishop formally accepted the apostolic mandate from Pope Francis naming the former auxiliary bishop of Milwaukee as the new spiritual shepherd for 185,000 Roman Catholics in Northwest Indiana.

Msgr. Richard Zollinger, who witnessed the erection of the Gary diocese in 1957 and the consecration of its three previous bishops, said the installation of Bishop Hying June 6 represents “new life, new hope — that’s what it’s all about.”

For Father Christopher Stanish, ordained a priest in 2014, the installation of a new bishop marks “a first step in an amazing journey of discipleship, as the bishop moves us into the vision the Lord has called us to. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, the new bishop will carry the joy of the Gospel to the Diocese of Gary.”

Looking over the audience witnessing the ceremony, Bishop Hying said, “The memory of this moment will always carry me forward.”

In his homily, Bishop Hying extended an invitation to local Catholics to “never be afraid to approach me, challenge me, tell me hard truths or ask me to do things for you. I am here to serve with all of you.”

“We renew our dedication to Jesus and His Church, to the proclamation of the Good News and the service of the poor, to lives of prayer and service, to help heal this world that often seems so old and broken,” he said.

Filling in for Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the apostolic nuncio to the U.S. who could not attend because of a snowstorm, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis read the apostolic nun- ciate to the diocese in his homily, starting with his brother priests. “I look forward to coming to know, love and support you as you lead and serve this local Church,” the bishop said, adding his support to the religious of the diocese. “May you know how deeply you are valued and loved.”

Turning to deacons and their wives, Bishop Hying said, “The power and fruit of your service and love richly nourish our people. Your commitment to social ministry extends the good news of the Gospel beyond the formal borders of the Church into the hospitals, prisons, homes and hearts of so many.”

To lay ecclesiastical ministers, parish council leaders, volunteers and others from the 68 parishes in the diocese, Bishop Hying extended his greetings and love. “Your prayer, your marriages and families, the work you do, the time and treasure you give are the fire and energy that make the Church run forward in the sacred mission of Christ Jesus,” he said. “You are the presence of the Lord in the world, and the world has never needed your faith and love more than it does right now.”

Addressing the Hispanic population in their native tongue, Bishop Hying said, “Your spirituality, love for Christ and His holy mother and your devotion to family life are aspects of the gifts you offer us. I am your brother and a disciple together with you in the pilgrimage of our faith.”

The new bishop also addressed the diocese’s African-American community, Asians, the deaf and those with other challenges and abilities. “All of you are close to the heart of Christ and an integral part of our local Church,” Bishop Hying said.

Born in West Allis, Wisconsin, Bishop Hying was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee May 20, 1989. He was ordained as Milwaukee’s seventh auxiliary bishop July 20, 2011.


POPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The war divided Sri Lanka along religious as well as ethnic lines, since members of the Sinhalese majority are typically Buddhist, and Tamils for the most part Hindu. Catholics, who make up 7 percent of the country’s population, include members of both ethnic groups. Rajapaksa, who sought re-election Jan. 8, had his political base in the country’s Sinhalese-Buddhist majority. Sirisena enjoys more support among Tamils.

“Sri Lanka for many years knew the horrors of civil strife and is now seeking to consolidate peace and to heal the scars of those years,” Pope Francis said, his voice hoarse and weary-sounding after the 10-hour flight from Rome. “I am convinced that the followers of the various religious traditions have an essential role to play in the delicate process of reconciliation and rebuilding which is taking place in his country.”

That afternoon, the pope met with local Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and other Christian leaders, telling them that efforts at rapprochement and the religious and ecumenical relations take on a particular significance and urgency in Sri Lanka, “as sources of ‘healing and reconciliation after years of ‘civil strife and violence.'”

Again, he sounded a note of realism, stressing that dialogue could not eliminate cultural differences but would emphasize the need for their acceptance.

“For such dialogue and encounter to be effective, it must be grounded in a full and forthright presentation of our respective convictions. Certainly, such dialogue will accommodate the various religious and cultural beliefs, traditions and practices are. But if we are honest in presenting our convictions, we will be able to see more clearly what we hold in common,” the pope said. “Men and women do not have to forsake their identity, whether ethnic or religious, in order to live in harmony.”

The pope urged all of different religions to cooperate in social service, providing for the “material and spiritual needs of the poor, the destitute” and “to rebuild the moral foundations of society as a whole.”

At the interreligious meeting, held at a Colombo conference center, a Hindu leader, speaking the Tamil language, voiced hopes for lasting peace and draped a saffron silk shawl over Pope Francis’ shoulders.

A representative of the local Muslim community condemned “terrorism, racism, extremism, including recent killings by Islamist militants at a Paris newspaper and a military-run school in Pakistan.”

A group of local leaders representing the faith of 70 percent of Sri Lanka’s population, noted the common dedication of great religions to the values of love, self-sacrifice and peace, as well as the common susceptibility of humanity to hatred and violence.

Pope Francis’ first day in Sri Lanka started when his plane from Rome landed at 9 a.m. He was greeted by traditional dancers and drummers, a 21-gun salute and a choir of teenagers who sang a song of welcome in English, the same language the pope and Sirisena used for their remarks. Girls in white dresses and boys in neckties and shorts waved gold-and-white Vatican flags. Nearby stood 40 elephants draped in colorful fabrics, a traditional gesture of honor for distinguished guests.

The pope’s entourage, led by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, wore white socks, keeping with the ecclesiasti- cal custom in tropical climates. Temperatures were in the 80s in the bright sunshine.

The pope rode the 17-mile distance to the nuncio’s residence in an open-sided popemobile past crowds waving Vatican flags. A persistent breeze made it impossible for him to keep his zucchetto on for much of the ride. Because the pope made frequent stops to greet and bless individuals along the way, his ride took twice as long as expected, leading him to cancel a meeting with Sri Lanka’s bishops planned for early afternoon.

The day marked the start of Pope Francis’ second trip to Asia, following a visit to South Korea in August. He was scheduled to spend two full days in Sri Lanka, before flying to the Philippines Jan. 15. The highlights of the Sri Lanka leg were expected to be the Jan. 14 canonization of Blessed Joseph Vac as the country’s first saint and, later the same day, a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, which served as a sanctuary for refugees during the civil war.
Rekindle the Fire Men’s Conference set Feb. 7

SOUTH BEND — The Rekindle the Fire Men’s Conference will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Century Center in South Bend. New this year will be a young adult session.

With the theme, "Encouragement, Strength, Fellowship,” this year’s conference will include international Catholic speakers, Confession and conclude with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

The day begins at 9 a.m. with a welcome. At 9:30 a.m., Franciscan Father David Mary Engo, the founder and superior of the Franciscan Brothers Minor in Fort Wayne, will speak.

Steve Ray, a traveler, expert on the Holy Land, popular Catholic apologist, film producer, Bible teacher and author, will speak at 9:45 a.m. Ray’s enthusiasm for Catholicism has inspired and enriched the faith of thousands around the world. Ray will offer an afternoon session at 2:45 p.m.

Dr. John Wood will speak at 11:15 a.m. He is the author of “Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission: 5 Steps to Winning the War Within.” His message inspires all to embrace the universal call to holiness.

Ruben Quezada will speak at 2 p.m. Quezada is an international speaker and director for the Catholic Resource Center and St. Joseph Communications in southern California. Quezada is considered an expert on the persecution of the Catholic Church, particularly in Mexico in the 1920s, and is the author of “For Greater Glory: The True Story of Cristiada — The Cristero War and Mexico’s Struggle for Religious Freedom.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will conclude the conference with the celebration of Mass at 4 p.m.

Young adults between the ages of 18-39 are invited to a special breakout session with lunch, relevant presenters and open discussion with other young adult men seeking answers and strength.

A Hispanic Men’s Evening Session will be held Friday, Feb. 6, in Elkhart. For information, contact Tino Garcia at 574-389-6671.

Cost for the Saturday men’s conference is $35 and includes lunch. Registration is available online at rekindlethe-fire.net. A registration form may be downloaded as well.

Bus transportation from St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, is available at $20 per person. The bus leaves at 6:30 a.m.

Visit the website rekindlethe-fire.net for information or call Joe Witulski at 260-452-6875.

Pope names 15 new cardinal electors, most from global south

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Underscoring the geographical diversity of his selections, Pope Francis named 15 cardinal electors “from 14 nations of every continent, showing the inseparable link between the Church of Rome and the particular churches present in the world.”

In addition to 15 new electors, Pope Francis named five new cardinals who are over the age of 80 and, therefore, ineligible to vote in a conclave. Popes have used such nominations to honor Churchmen for their scholarship or other contributions.

The pope announced the names Jan. 4, after praying the Angelus with a crowd in St. Peter’s Square, and said he would formally induct the men into the College of Cardinals Feb. 14.

With the list, the pope continues a movement he started with his first batch of appointments a year ago, giving gradually more representation at the highest levels of the Church to poorer countries in the global South. According to the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the new cardinals will include the first in history from Cape Verde, Tonga and Myanmar.

The Feb. 14 consistory will bring the total number of cardinals under the age of 80 to 125. Until they reach their 80th birthdays, cardinals are eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. Blessed Paul VI limited the number of electors to 120, but later popes have occasionally exceeded that limit.

Three of the new cardinal electors hail from Asia, three from Latin America, two from Africa and two from Oceania.

Of the five Europeans on the list, three lead dioceses in Italy and Spain that have not traditionally had cardinals as bishops — another sign of Pope Francis’ willingness to break precedent. While giving red hats to the archbishops of Ancona-Osimo and Agrigento, Italy, the pope will one again pass over the leaders of Venice and Turin, both historically more prestigious dioceses.

None of the new cardinals hails from the U.S. or Canada. Father Lombardi noted that the numbers of cardinals from those countries have remained stable since February 2014, when Pope Francis elevated the archbishop of Quebec. The U.S. currently has 11 cardinal electors and Canada 3.

The continuing geographic shift is incremental in nature. With the new appointments, cardinals from Europe and North America will make up 56.8 percent of those eligible to elect the next pope, down from 60 percent on Jan. 4.

The shift reflects the pope’s emphasis on Africa and Asia, where the Church is growing fastest, and on his native region of Latin America, home to about 40 percent of the world’s Catholics.

A number of the selections also reflect Pope Francis’ emphasis on social justice. The new Mexican cardinal leads a diocese that has been hard hit by the current wave of drug-related violence in his country.

And one of the Italian cardinals-designate, the archbishop of Agrigento in Sicily, leads the Italian bishops’ commission on migration, an issue on which Pope Francis has placed particular importance. In July 2013, the pope visited the southern Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, a major entry point for undocumented immigrants to Europe, and mourned the many who had died attempting to cross the sea.

Announcing the appointments, Pope Francis, Italy and Mozambique, noted the eminency to induct the new cardinals will follow a two-day meeting of the entire college, Feb. 12 and 13, “to reflect on guidelines and proposals for reform of the Roman Curia.”

The pope’s nine-member Council of Cardinals is currently working on a major reform of the Vatican bureaucracy, including a new apostolic constitution for the curia.

Pope Francis said he had chosen to honor five retired bishops “distinguished for their pastoral charity in service to the Holy See and the Church,” representing “so many priests who, with the same pastoral solicitude, have given testimony of love for Christ and the people of God, whether in particular churches, the Roman Curia or the diplomatic service of the Holy See.”

The five new honorary cardinals hail from Argentina, Colombia, Germany, Italy and Mozambique. Here is the list of the new cardinals:

• French Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, prefect of the Apostolic Signature, 62.
• Portuguese Patriarch Manuel Jose Macario do Nascimento of Lisbon, 66.
• Ethiopian Archbishop Berhaneyesus Demergew Souraphiel of Addis Ababa, 66.
• New Zealand Archbishop John Dew of Wellington, 66.
• Italian Archbishop Edouardo Menichelli of Ancona-Osimo, 75.
• Vietnamese Archbishop Pierre Nguyen Van Nhon of Hanoi, 76.
• Mexican Archbishop Alberto Suarez Inda of Morelia, who turns 76 Jan. 30.
• Myanmar Archbishop Charles Bo of Yangon, 66.
• Thai Archbishop Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij of Bangkok, 65.
• Italian Archbishop Francesco Montenegro of Agrigento, 68.
• Uruguayan Archbishop Daniel Fernando Sturla Bertozzi of Montevideo, 55.
• Spanish Archbishop Ricardo Blazquez Perez of Valladolid, 72.
• Spanish-born Panamanian Bishop Jose Luis Lacunza Maestrojuan of David, 70.
• Cape Verdian Bishop Arlindo Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij of Bang, 80.
• German Archbishop Karl-Joseph Rauber, 80, a former nuncio.
• Argentine Archbishop Luis Hector Villalba, retired, of Tucuman, 80.
• Mozambican Bishop Julio Duarte, retired, of Xai-Xai, 87.
Reflection on U.S. ‘racial divide’ is personal for Illinois bishop

BELLEVILLE, Ill. (CNS) — In a 19-page reflection on the “racial divide” in the United States, Bishop Edward K. Braxton of Belleville, who is African-American, said he twice had been the victim of what he considered to be unjust police attitudes.

The episodes “made me very conscious of the fact that simply by being me, I could be the cause of suspicion and concern without doing anything wrong,” wrote Bishop Braxton in “The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015,” issued Jan. 1.

In the first episode, when Bishop Braxton was a priest, “I was simply walking a street in an apparently all-white neighborhood. A police car drove up beside me and the officer asked, ‘What are you doing in this area? Do you live around here? Where is your car? You should not be wandering about neighborhoods where you do not live.’ I never told him I was a Catholic priest, but I told him what it was I was doing to attract the attention of the officer,” he said.

“Long before I heard the expression, ‘walking white,’ I was ‘driving my car in an apparently all-white neighborhood. I passed small chairs in the back seat and a table in the partially open trunk tied with a rope. A police car with flashing lights pulled me over. The officer asked, ‘Where are you going with that table and those chairs?’ Before I could answer, he asked, ‘Where did you get them?’ Then he said, ‘We had a call about a suspicious person driving through the area with possibly stolen furniture in his trunk.’ I wondered what I was doing to make someone suspicious. Many years would pass before I would hear the expression ‘racial profiling.’”

In neither case was Bishop Braxton wearing clerical garb. Even so, “I am not a completely impartial outsider observer in the face of these events,” he said.

Bishop Braxton added to Pope Francis’ choice of theme for the 2015 World Day of Peace: “No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters.” In addition to racial bondage, the bishop said, “there are also forms of social, emotional and psychological slavery; slavery to prejudice, racism, bias, anger, frustration, rage, violence and bitterness in the face of systemic injustices. Regrettably, these forms of slavery endure in the United States and they are born from the tragedy of the European ‘slave trade.’”

Bishop Braxton wrote, “Many young students of history are surprised, even shocked, to learn that Catholic institutions and religious communities ‘owned’ human beings from West Africa as well as workers on their plantations.”

He quoted a now-deceased auxiliary bishop of Newark, New Jersey, Joseph A. Francis, who, when asked why there were so few African-American Catholics, replied, “If you had seen and heard what I have seen and heard, you would not be amazed that there are so few, you would be amazed that there are so many.”

The Belleville Diocese, headed by Bishop Braxton, is directly east of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, scene of near-constant protests over the police killing in August of unarmed African-American teenager Michael Brown in suburban Ferguson, Missouri.

The bishop concluded his reflection with 14 things Catholics could do on race matters. Among them were going to Mass at least one weekday a week to pray for guidance on ways to bridge the racial divide; praying the rosary weekly with one’s family for the intention of ending racial conflict and prejudice; examine one’s conscience monthly to acknowledge acts that reinforce racial division; initiating an effort to get to know police officers, thanking them for their service and helping young people to get to know the police and vice versa; “break the ice, start the conversation” with someone of a different racial background; and watching movies that explore racial issues.

On the topic of slavery, Bishop Braxton recommended “Twelve Years a Slave” and “The Color Purple.”

The episode “making me very conscious of the fact that simply by being me, I could be the cause of suspicion and concern without doing anything wrong,” he said, offered “a completely romanticized presentation of what the evil of slavery was actually like.”

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), the Indiana bishops’ official watchdog organization for public policy matters in Indiana, returned to its legislative home on Monday and vowed to advocate for the common good of all Hoosiers and a wide range of consistent life ethic issues.

January 6 marked the opening day for the 150 state lawmakers to begin their legislative business for 2015. State lawmakers have only one full legislative goal — to pass a two-year budget by the April 29 adjournment deadline. Many other issues will be addressed by this body where Republicans hold a supermajority in both the House and Senate.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, who serves as the chief lobbyist and spokesperson for the Catholic Church in Indiana, discussed what’s ahead for the 2015 legislative session.

The ICC has marked several issues this year as priorities. Topping the list includes support for legislation granting conscience protection and religious freedom. “Conscience and religious freedom legislation aims to allow Hoosiers the freedom to follow their conscience or religious beliefs as it relates to issues that violate a person’s moral beliefs,” said Tebbe.

The ICC will work on several issues to further protect the unborn. “Following last year’s legislation achieving positive success providing the option for burials of a miscarried child’s remains, there will be an effort to address how remains from abortions are treated,” said Tebbe. “Also, in the aftermath of a lawsuit which struck down limiting distribution of the abortifacient RU 486, the ICC will work to clarify the law to regulate the drug,” said Tebbe. Other pro-life bills include support for families to have educational choice.

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INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

Social justice concerns the ICC supports are, “over and over, to assist moderate to lower income families by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and seeking increased support for pregnant mothers and their infants.”

According to Tebbe, “The ICC tracks bills to be filed this year. The ICC monitors over 100 of those bills, maybe more, and we will take a position on as many as 30 of them, providing written and oral testimony on various issues,” said Tebbe. “A lot of times, whether legislation addresses education, hospitals and health care, family life and children, or delivering services to the poor, the Church has been intimately involved in these endeavors for centuries. We try to serve as a resource from both a secular, research perspective and from a sacred, Scriptural perspective to assist lawmakers as they discern how to best meet the needs of all Hoosiers,” said Tebbe. “Sometimes they listen, sometimes they don’t, but what is important is the Church has a moral obligation to offer our resources to benefit the common good of all people in Indiana.”

Once bills are filed, they receive a bill number and the details will be available to the public. As the ICC tracks bills, the ICC posts legislative updates via its web page. To receive legislative updates via email pushes, join the Indiana Catholic Action Network (ICAN). These and other public policy resources are available at www.indianacc.org.
Possible acceleration of Romero sainthood creates mixed emotions

BY CHAZ MUTH

NOTRE DAME (CNS) — Scholars who have studied the life of murdered Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero say a reading of the tea leaves suggests advancement of his sainthood cause is imminent.

The news is being met with jubilation by many Romero researchers and with mixed emotions by Salvadorans.

Supporters of the cause for Romero’s canonization have been frustrated for years by what they view as a stalled effort.

However, the cause now appears to have momentum, and a soon-to-come beatification or sainthood announcement “would be a great day for us,” said Damian Zynda, an Archbishop Romero researcher who is a faculty member with Christian Spirituality Program at Creighton University.

Zynda was among several scholars Catholic News Service interviewed during the annual International Conference on Archbishop Oscar Romero at the University of Notre Dame in September.

The most promising movement of the cause came Jan. 8, when the newspaper of the Italian bishops’ conference announced that a panel of theologians advising the Congregation for Saints’ Causes unanimously voted to recognize the late Salvadoran archbishop as a martyr, according to the newspaper of the Italian bishops’ conference.

“It’s so long overdue,” said Julian Filochowski, chairman of the Archbishop Romero Trust in London, which was launched in 2007 to raise awareness about the murdered justice advocate’s life and work. “I think it will give great encouragement to the Church and to those who are broad-breaking-justice-seeking Christians and Catholics around the world.”

Archbishop Romero’s sainthood cause was created by the Vatican in 1993, but was delayed for years as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith studied his writings, amid wider debate over whether he had been killed for his faith or for political reasons.

And there has been concern that he has been used as a political symbol rather than a religious symbol in El Salvador.

The martyrdom of Archbishop Romero is different than how most people traditionally see martyrs, said Michael E. Lee, associate professor of theology at Jesuit-run Fordham University.

“Many of us have notions of ancient Christian martyrs before a Roman emperor, but here is Romero, and so many others, who have given their lives for the struggle for justice and human rights, which was inspired by the Gospels’ teachings,” Lee told CNS. “These truly are martyrs and we need to understand martyrdom in a new light because of their example.”

Pope Francis has been an outspoken admirer of Archbishop Romero. He quoted him during a recent general audience at the Vatican, and when he was Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, archbishop of Buenos Aires, he reportedly said he already considered Archbishop Romero to be a saint.

Beatification and canonization of the murdered Salvadoran archbishop would provide the Church and people of Latin America a role model for peace and social justice, said Thomas M. Kelly, professor of systematic theology at Creighton University.

“It would definitely give people who take the social justice teaching of Vatican II very seriously a model and exemplar who is now a saint in a way that we do not have and have not had before,” Kelly told CNS. “It would definitely, I think, propel the agenda of Francis in many ways.”

Similarities between Pope Francis and Archbishop Romero include a deep concern for the poor, efforts to minimize the power of the wealthy and use of the pulpit to advocate for the poor and victims of societal abuses, he said.

While many Salvadorans already consider Archbishop Romero to be a saint, not everyone is convinced an official sanction of the pope is needed to elevate him.

“Let us thank the Lord for the gift of milk and let us pray for our mothers,” said Bernardi.

“Many of the people she works with in El Salvador honor and revere Archbishop Romero, they are concerned that his canonization would move him further from average people.

“We like to think that he was a good man and that he had the same opportunities to be courageous and not be courageous, and he fought for us, and we like to think that he is a man,” and not an unreachable saint, Bernardi said.

Though Zynda said she understands the sentiment, she told CNS that she does not believe the Church should allow its canonization processes to be hijacked by the politicking of some bishops.

“He also asked that people pay greater attention and listen to the Holy Spirit.

Otherwise, a Christian community that is ‘deaf to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who is urging people to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth and society, will also become a Christian and a community that is ‘mute’ and cannot speak and evangelize about Christ,” he said.

At Baptisms, pope urges prayers for moms who can’t feed their kids

BY CAROL GLATZ

At the Baptism of the Lord Mass Jan. 11, Pope Francis reminded people to pray for the world’s mothers whose poverty means they are unable to provide enough food for their children.

“We let pray and try to help these mothers,” he said during a Mass in the Sistine Chapel in which he baptized 33 babies on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 11.

The pope’s homily focused on the meaning of Baptism and the reading from the Book of Isaiah about how, like a good mother and father, God wants to give His children nourishment that truly satisfies.

God did that by offering the nourishing word of Christ, the pope said.

Parents and relatives should offer their children the word of God by always carrying with them a pocket-sized copy of the Gospel and reading a short verse from it every day, he said.

“This will be an example for the children to see a dady, mommym, godparents, grandpa, grandma, aunts and uncles reading the word of God,” he said.

Amid the cries and squeals of infants, the pope repeated the same advice he gave the previous year, telling the mothers present that if their babies “are crying because of hunger, breast-feed them, don’t worry.”

“Let us thank the Lord for the gift of milk and let us pray for those moms — and there are many unfortunately — who are in no condition to feed their own children,” he said.

The pope asked that children be taught to understand “one cannot be Christian outside the Church, one cannot follow Christ without the Church because the Church is mother and she lets us grow in Jesus Christ’s love.”

He also told everyone not to forget to pray to the Holy Spirit, who supplies the strength to keep going in life’s journey.

“Usually we pray to Jesus. When we pray the ‘Our Father’ we pray to the Father. But we don’t pray to the Holy Spirit so much,” he said.

Children need to grow in the midst of the Holy Trinity, and it is the Holy Spirit who “teaches us to keep the family going.”

Later, before praying the Angelus with those gathered in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis said the Baptism of the Lord opened up the heavens to reunite people with God.

“Sin distances us from God and breaks the bond between heaven and earth,” he said.

But when Christ was baptized, the heavens were “torn open” and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, giving everyone “the possibility of encountering the Son of God and experiencing all His love and infinite mercy,” he said.

Christ is truly present and can be encountered in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and His face can be seen in the poor, the sick, the imprisoned and the refugee, Pope Francis said.

“There is so much need today for mercy,” he said, urging Catholics to be merciful and bring mercy to others.

“Come on! We are living a time of mercy; this is a time of mercy.”

He also asked that people pay greater attention and listen to the Holy Spirit.

Otherwise, a Christian community that is “deaf to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who is urging people to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth and society, will also become a Christian and a community that is ‘mute’ and cannot speak and evangelize about Christ,” he said.
Annulation presentations to be held in Granger, Fort Wayne

GRANGER — Father Mark Guttner, judicial vicar of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, will make a presentation on annulments on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. at St. Pius X Church in Granger, and on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne.

The presentation, which will be held in the church at each location, will offer an explanation of what makes marriage null and the annulment process.

Father Guttner is the pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, and an adjunct assistant professional specialist in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame.

St. Pius X Church is located at 52553 Fir Rd., Granger.

St. Vincent de Paul Church is located at 1502 E. Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne.

No reservations are needed for the presentation.

For additional information contact Cindy Black at cbblack@diocesefw.org or 260-399-1436, or Julia Thill at jthill@saintv.org or at 260-489-3537 ext. 208.

Office of Worship posts liturgical trainings

FORT WAYNE — The Office of Worship has organized diocesan liturgical trainings in the spring for lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. There is no charge to attend a training, but advance registration is required by mail or email.

Lector trainings will be on Jan. 31 at St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne, and on Feb. 14 at St. Pius X Church in Granger. Extraordinary minister trainings will be on Feb. 21 at St. Charles Church in Fort Wayne, and on March 28 at St. Pius X Church in Granger. All trainings are scheduled to start at 9 a.m., and end by 1 p.m. More specific information, as well as the full registration form, can be found online at www.diocesefw.org/Trainings-And-Retreats.

Ancilla announces certified nursing assistant class

DONALDSON — Ancilla College is offering a Certified Nursing Assistant course in its health sciences department beginning this spring. After passing the Indiana State Health Department CNA test, Certified Nursing Assistants are state certified to become a nurse’s aid in long-term care facilities, home health and hospice groups and assisted living facilities. To qualify, one must pass a physical, a drug screen and a background check. A high school diploma is not required. The program consists of 32 hours of classroom work and 78 hours of clinical work. The course will meet Monday and Wednesday nights from 6-10 p.m. starting Feb. 2. Clinical hours take place on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. After completing the required coursework and clinical hours, students will take the state certification exam.

Beth Bailey, instructor of nursing, will teach the class.

Those interested should contact Rhonda Arvesen, at 574-936-8898, ext. 327 by Monday, Jan. 26. The class fee is $800. The state certification exam fee is $75, after completion of the program.

Father Brian Davies announced as Aquinas Symposium speaker

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College has announced that Dominican Father Brian Davies, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, is the speaker for the 2015 Symposium on St. Thomas Aquinas. The hour-long talk will be held at 7 p.m. on the saint’s feast day, Wednesday Jan. 28, in Rice Commons of the Student Center. A brief discussion and reception will follow the talk. The event is free and open to the public.

Davies’s lecture is titled “Thomas Aquinas on God and Evil.” He will explain what Aquinas thought about God and evil, while not opposing that God is a morally good agent, as many people do when discussing the topic.

“Father Brian Davies is a pre-eminent philosopher of religion and one of the foremost interpreters and expositors in the English-speaking world of the richness of St. Thomas Aquinas’s thought,” said Religious Studies Professor Joseph Incandela, the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology at Saint Mary’s College.

The Aquinas Symposium is sponsored by the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology at Saint Mary’s College.

Bishop Luers High School announces scholarship


While at Bishop Luers, Baker was involved in sports and a member of the Bishop Luers Student Council. She loved the years she spent at Bishop Luers High School and wanted her memorials to be used to support someone attending Bishop Luers. During her battle with colon cancer, Baker was hopeful that knowledge of her situation might make a positive impact on someone’s life by encouraging colon screening.

Bishop Luers High School announced freshman Casey Woodfill of St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, as the first recipient of the Julie Edwards Baker Memorial Scholarship. Woodfill was selected by the Bishop Luers faculty and staff and was awarded $1,000 for tuition assistance. Woodfill is the daughter of Amy Woodfill, Bishop Luers class of 1986 and the late Brian Woodfill, Bishop Luers class of 1986.

Individuals and organizations interested in setting up a scholarship at Bishop Luers or donating to the Julie Edwards Baker Memorial Scholarship can do so by contacting Kathy Skelly, Bishop Luers Development Director, at 260-456-1261, ext. 3142.

The Right to Life in 2015: Where Do We Stand?

BY FREDERICK EVERTT

S

ome times it can be easy to think that things are all going in the wrong direction. From judicial impositions of same-sex marriage spreading throughout the country to the recent announcement of a new campaign for a right to die in 10 different states, pro-life and pro-family efforts seem to be in retreat across the board. On the abortion front, however, things keep moving in a pro-life direction.

Let’s start with the numbers. Based on numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and the Guttmacher Institute, the total number of abortions is at an historic low. The latest figures are from 2011 and show that the number of abortions that year was about 1.05 million. Compare this to the annual abortion high in 1990 that stood at about 1.6 million abortions. In other words, in the past 25 years, the number of annual abortions has decreased by more than a third.

What are the good news on the numbers doesn’t end there. The reduction in the number of abortions is not the result of fewer pregnancies, but primarily the result of a lower rate of abortion. In the 30 years between 1981 and 2011, the abortion rate historically been the most active ones on the legislative front. Since 2011, states across the country have passed 231 pro-life laws regulating and limiting the availability of abortions. Interestingly, the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute issued a report expressing concern over the deteriorating situation. Here is an excerpt from that report:

“During the 2014 state legislative session, lawmakers introduced 335 provisions aimed at restricting access to abortion. By the end of the year, 25 states had enacted 26 new abortion restrictions. … Bucking this tide, legislators in 17 states introduced 95 measures designed to expand access to abortion, more positive measures than in any year since 1990. Of these, (only) four were signed into law. …”

In 2000, 13 states had four or five types of abortion restrictions in effect and so were considered hostile to abortion rights. In that year, no state had more than five types of abortion restrictions in effect. By 2010, 22 states were considered hostile to abortion rights; five of these had six or more restrictions. As one of these can now be considered extremely hostile to abortion rights, by 2014, 27 states had enough restrictions to be considered hostile; 18 of these can now be considered extremely hostile. …

The midterm election results provide good reason to be concerned about a renewed focus on restricting abortion in the upcoming 2015 legislative sessions. Republican legislators, who overwhelmingly oppose abortion rights, solidified their majority in states. Republicans will now control both legislative chambers in 30 states, three more than in 2014; in 23 of those states, the governor will also be Republican. Democrats will control both legislative chambers and the governor’s mansion in only seven states.

As another anniversary of Roe v Wade approaches and we recall the standards and values that forged human lives over the past four decades, it is hopeful to realize that, however slowly, things are moving in the right direction on the issue of abortion. Whether on the front lines in crisis pregnancy centers or on the floors of legislative assemblies, the hard work of countless, committed people continues to build the culture of life in our country.

Looking towards the future, the same will hopefully be said of pro-life efforts at the common moral consensus around life that they are to be released. In the end, a culture that does not support life, marriage and the family may not survive and, certainly, will not thrive. The sooner we remember this stark reality, the sooner we will commit ourselves to redoubling our efforts in building a civilization of love.

— Frederick Everett is the co-director of the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Abortion support, availability and numbers continue downward slide

Fort Wayne March for Life planned for Jan. 17

FORT WAYNE — Organizers of the Fort Wayne March for Life share plans for Jan. 22 Rally and March for Life, which is the annual March for Life, planned for Jan. 17 with a rally at the University of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A brief pro-life rally will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the downtown public library (corner of Wayne and Main), featuring Sally Williams, who will give her post-abortion testimony, along with prominent prayer leaders. The march will follow from 12-1 p.m. at the E. Ross Adair Federal Building (corner of Jefferson and Main). The prayerful witness of participants in the cold for four hours of continuous devotion and healing for all affected by abortion and use of the death penalty. Whether on the front lines in crisis pregnancy centers or on the floors of legislative assemblies, the hard work of countless, committed people continues to build the culture of life in our country.

Looking towards the future, the same will hopefully be said of pro-life efforts at the common moral consensus around life that they are to be released. In the end, a culture that does not support life, marriage and the family may not survive and, certainly, will not thrive. The sooner we remember this stark reality, the sooner we will commit ourselves to redoubling our efforts in building a civilization of love.

— Frederick Everett is the co-director of the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Pro-Life Calendar of Events …

Fort Wayne March for Life scheduled for Jan. 22

SOUTH BEND — The annual March for Life, sponsored by St. Joseph County Right to Life, will take place on Thursday, Jan. 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, in downtown South Bend. A brief pro-life rally will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the downtown public library (corner of Wayne and Main), featuring Sally Williams, who will give her post-abortion testimony, along with prominent prayer leaders. The march will follow from 12-1 p.m. at the E. Ross Adair Federal Building (corner of Jefferson and Main). The prayerful witness of participants in the cold for four hours of continuous devotion and healing for all affected by abortion and use of the death penalty.

Rally and March for Life scheduled for Jan. 22 in South Bend

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Be not afraid!

BY LISA EVERETT

Y ears ago in Magnificat magazine, a lovely line appeared that was not attributed to anyone: “I love you, O my God, who has become an Infant for me.”

During a Christmas homily Pope Benedict once made the point that God came to us small and humble as a child, so that we would not be afraid of Him. Jean Vanier, founder of L’Arche, an international network of communities for the disabled, made a similar point with these poignant words: “When you love someone, you use her language to be close to her. When you love a child, you speak and play with him as a child. That is how God relates to us. God becomes little, so that we can enter into a heart-to-heart relationship of love and communion.”

Several years ago on the eve of the feast of the Holy Family, as I was stirring the beef burgundy on the stove, for some reason the phrase crossed my mind when it hit me how many people are, in fact, afraid of a child. It was the motive behind King Herod’s murderous rampage — the slaughter of the Holy Innocents — and it is the reason for the modern holocaust of legal abortion, another anniversary of which we are about to observe.

This fear is also the driving force behind the whole “reproductive rights” agenda of contraception and sterilization and even the motivation of some couples who want to learn natural family planning: this palpable fear of a child and what he or she will be, will demand, will change. How cunning and successful Satan seems to have been in taking God’s magnanimous humility in becoming a little child, His gracious lowering of Himself so that we would not be afraid of Him — and then to twist it and tempt us to fear the arrival of a child in our own life! It is striking that in all the Gospel accounts surrounding the conception and birth of a child, the angel’s announcement begins with the words: “Be not afraid!” These words addressed to Zechariah, to Mary, to Joseph and to the shepherds serve not only as an antidote to the fear that might naturally enough arise in the presence of God’s majestic messenger. At a deeper level, these words seem to be an assurance addressed to them — and to all of us — in response to the fear that often arises at the prospect of the arrival of a child. Be not afraid!

And going deeper still, doesn’t this assurance address our deepest fear of becoming like children ourselves, letting go of our lives and trusting our heavenly Father to take care of us? Unless you become like little children, you shall not enter the Kingdom of heaven, Christ told his disciples, and He never asks anything of us that He has not already undertaken Himself. Christ can tell us to become like little children because He already became a child — helpless, humble and dependent, trusting in someone else to take care of Him.

Remember the touching scene in Scripture where Jesus walks on water across the Sea of Galilee, and His disciples in the boat see Him approach and become terrified? “But at once He spoke with them — ‘Take heart, it is I, be not afraid!’” These are reassuring words not only for those men huddled in a boat long ago battered by the wind and the waves. They are words which echo down through the ages with the power to reassure us and all those men and women today who contemplate with fear the arrival — actual or possible — of a child: Take heart, it is I, be not afraid! Whoever welcomes one such child for My sake, welcomes Me. I became an Infant out of love for you, and I identify Myself with every infant — be not afraid! In the arrival of a child I make a divine visitation, and if you welcome him or her, you welcome Me. Trust that your heavenly Father will take care of you, will take care of this little one, will take care of everything.

How grateful I am that words like these must have echoed in the hearts of our son, Tom, and daughter-in-law, Julia, when they discovered this past summer that their unborn daughter almost certainly had cystic fibrosis. Tragically, a staggeringly high percentage of babies diagnosed with CF in utero are aborted. To take one example, according to Kaiser Permanente, a managed care consortium in California, which offers prenatal testing for couples who carry CF mutations, from 2006 to 2008, of the 87 pregnant women who underwent testing, 23 were found to be carrying a child with cystic fibrosis, and 20 chose abortion.

When I hold little Nora Thérèse and realize how many other grandparents will never have the chance to behold a sweet face like hers this side of eternity, my heart aches. As yet another anniversary of Roe v Wade approaches, may our prayer be that more men and women hear God, who became an Infant for us, whisper in their hearts, “Be not afraid!”

Take my hand... not my life!

St. Stanislaus Kostka
55756 Tulp Road
New Carlisle, Indiana

Love as a heavenly gift!

SS. Peter and Paul
Huntington

“THE COMMANDMENT
‘You shall not kill!’
always requires respecting and promoting human life, from its beginning to its natural end.”

— John Paul II

“ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE FORCES OF EVIL TO WIN IN THE WORLD IS FOR ENOUGH GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING.”

— Edmund Burke

2015 South Bend March For Life
January 22, 2015
Rally at 11:30am
SB Main Public Library
March at Noon
Jefferson & Main St.
2004 Ironwood Circle, Suite 130
South Bend, IN 46635
(574) 232-LIFE (5433)
www.prolifemichiana.org
life@prolifemichiana.org
St. John the Evangelist begins 175th anniversary year

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — On the feast day of its patron saint, St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen kicked off its celebration of the parish’s 175th anniversary with a special bi-lingual Mass and brunch on Dec. 27.

Father Anthony Steinacker welcomed the congregation and visitors with these words: "With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God we have now begun our year of celebration of our 175th jubilee. From the earliest years of this great city, St. John has been a beacon of Christ’s light and has had a deep impact on the formation and founding of the city of Goshen and still does to this day."

Among the visitors were Goshen’s Mayor Allan Kauffman and his wife Carol Miller and Goshen College President Jim Brenneman and his wife Dr. Terri Plank Brenneman.

During his homily, Father Steinacker said, "Nothing by coincidence; everything by Divine Providence that the Gospel passage on this day is John 20:2-9." He said that even though John arrived at the tomb first, he waited until Peter entered; acknowledging the role Christ gave to Peter.

Father Steinacker encouraged the congregation, some with family members going back five or six generations to the beginnings of the church, to "think of those people who started this church — the great strife, persecution and sacrifice they endured as with great humility they built this church."

"God has indeed blessed this parish for 175 years from its humble beginnings in the courthouse to the difficult war years. All that time one thing has remained constant — faith in Jesus Christ," Father Steinacker said. "Let us continue to run that race, which is life."

After Mass, two members of the 175th anniversary planning committee, Nancy Glon and Veronica Gouker read (in English and then Spanish) a proclamation received from Rep. Wes Culver stating the church’s place in the early history of the city of Goshen.

The proclamation read in part, "Whereas St. John the Evangelist has been a blessing to the community of Goshen by its humble and loving service — as a member of the 119th General Assembly of the House of Representatives I want to honor and congratulate St. John the Evangelist with thanks for its service to the residents and wish it many more years of outstanding service to the city of Goshen."

St. John the Evangelist is the third oldest church in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In 1840 St. John was made a mission church of St. Augustine (now the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception) in Fort Wayne. From 1840 to 1860, St. John was served by Holy Cross Father Alex Granger, and Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin, who came from the University of Notre Dame and Father Henry V. Schafer who came from Avilla to Goshen to offer Mass for the Catholics in the Goshen area. Mass was celebrated in the old Elkhart County Courthouse and sometimes in homes until Father Schafer organized the 30 devoted families to build the first church building in 1860.

A catered brunch followed the Mass in the Deacon Art Bleau Parish Center.

Other upcoming events planned during this yearlong celebration include Friday night fellowship dinners and a second annual bi-lingual Mass and parish picnic with a quilt raffle in August. The first all-parish outdoor Mass and picnic was held this past August and a family movie night and turkey bingo was held in November.

The official celebration with anniversary Mass and dinner will be held on June 7 with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. A commemorative Altar-Rosary Society parish cookbook has been printed and an updated church history and pictorial directory are scheduled to be ready by the June celebration.
Pro-life advocate seeks to open hearts to compassion

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Allison Sturm, Project Rachel ministry coordinator of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, will be the first to tell you that she is passionately pro-life. But over the past several years she has expanded that passion to include a deeper compassion for those women and men who not only may find themselves in a crisis pregnancy situation but those who suffer from the wounds of abortion as well.

It began four years ago when Sturm was called to the Project Rachel ministry. “I was challenged to go outside my comfort zone,” she says of her need to understand why abortion was still the choice of so many when the physical reality of the procedure is painfully obvious.

That first year Sturm spent much of her time researching abortion and perusing pro-life and post-abortion websites. She attended March for Life events and stayed to listen to the poignant stories of the Silent No More witnesses. “I saw a different side of their pain,” says Sturm. “I wanted to go out there,” she says. So, in an attempt to better reach those in need, she went straight to her source — prayer. As she spent time with God she soon realized that those who feel shame and judgment about an abortion would most likely keep it secret. “They wouldn’t seek support because they think they’re out there,” she says. So, in an attempt to better reach those in need, she went straight to her source — prayer. As she spent time with God she soon realized that those who feel shame and judgment about an abortion would most likely keep it secret. “They wouldn’t seek support because they think they will be condemned,” she says, determined to find a way to educate others about compassionate support.

To that end, Sturm has developed a 30-minute presentation titled “You Can Be Both Passionately Pro-life and Compassionate Towards Those Suffering from the Wounds of Abortion” that seeks to educate audiences that she hopes will include high school and college students, teachers, Catholics in the pews and special interest groups, on pro-life issues as well as understanding the importance of showing compassion to men and women in crisis pregnancy situations or to those who suffer the aftermath of abortion. “Pro-lifers can come to the talk and see the other side,” says Sturm, adding, “People generally identify the Catholic Church with its strong pro-life stand, but few seem to understand the Church’s teaching on mercy and forgiveness.”

After sending letters of intent to all parishes of the diocese, Sturm is scheduled to speak at several parishes in the diocese and college campuses.

Her talk begins by asking the audience if they have ever done anything that they regret. She speaks to the pain of holding a secret regret and how seeking support can change lives. “Pain,” she says, “that is not transformed is transmitted.” She notes that without healing support, not only the lives of the men and women who have experienced an abortion are negatively affected, but also the lives of friends and relatives.

During her talk, Sturm encourages each audience member to think of healing and mercy. She reminds them that most would only approach another for support if they knew they would be met with compassion rather than judgment. “It starts with compassion,” she says.

Sturm hopes that her presentations will raise awareness on how to talk to someone with compassion, as Jesus would have it. “We must continue sharing the truth about abortion, but when we speak the truth in charity, we may be seen as someone who is caring, approachable and trustworthy,” she says.

For more information or to schedule the presentation call 260-422-4611 or visit diocesefwsb.org/projectRachel. The toll free confidential phone number is 855-722-4354 or email projectrachelhope@gmail.com.
THANK YOU
for choosing life!
St. Michael the Archangel
Waterloo

**Woman credits community for the confidence to be a mom**

**BY KATHY KERSHNER**

MISHAWAKA — When Emily Wohlgemuth became pregnant she was met with more than a few criticisms and difficulties. People she loved and trusted told her it was the worst mistake of her life. Friends told her it would be best for everyone if she would give the child up for adoption. Increasing tensions between herself and those with whom she was living at the time led her to believe she needed to find a “safer” place for herself and her unborn child.

A search on the Internet led her to the sanctuary she was seeking. Hannah’s House is a home in Mishawaka, which describes its mission as “a maternity home that provides a safe environment, programming and support for the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of pregnant young women.”

Completely funded by private and community donations, Hannah’s House emerged to fill the need that was found by crisis pregnancy centers for young woman to have a safe and nurturing environment during their pregnancy.

Though Wohlgemuth said she was never tempted to abort her son, she described feelings of fear and doubt that sometimes confused her. Embroiled by so much negativity surrounding her at the beginning of her pregnancy she did wonder, “What if they are right? What if I can’t do this?”

But soon after meeting with her newfound allies at Hannah’s House, her perspective changed. “Hannah’s House is a maternity home with a heart,” she explained. “That’s what is says on the sign — our slogan. The ‘house moms’ here — they care about us. They don’t want to see us fail. They really want to see us get ahead.”

Integral to the mission of Hannah’s House is a program based on expectations that residents are working toward bettering themselves. Wohlgemuth described some of the “works” that count toward the 40-hour weekly productivity requirement that all the residents agree to accomplish during their stay. Studying job skills, filling out job applications, reading articles or books on prenatal and postnatal care, contributing to the home environment through meal preparations and other domestic chores — all are considered by Wohlgemuth to be part of the way toward more fully reaching her own potential.

Director, Andrea Popielski, explained, “We require residents to attend doctor’s appointment, counseling and church as well as working on self-sufficiency skills. Those are critical pieces of what we do,” and how the women residing at Hannah’s House empower themselves while providing for themselves and their children.

“No I am in this mindset,” Wohlgemuth said. “I’m going to do this. I’m going to be a mom. It’s awesome. I have this little boy. This life is growing inside of me.”

She spoke with hope and pride of things that she has accomplished and the items that she has been able to earn, with the help of Hannah’s House and community donors for the baby that is due in April.
“A society that kills its children has lost its soul and hope.”
Servant of God, Dr. Jerome Lejeune
Discovered the cause of Down Syndrome
May God have mercy on our nation for the killing of the unborn!
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fort Wayne

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.”
- Jeremiah 1:5 -

“there is no human life that is more sacred than another”

QUOTES FROM THE ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
15 NOVEMBER 2014

“every human life is sacred”

“IT IS NOT LICIT TO ELIMINATE A HUMAN LIFE TO RESOLVE A PROBLEM”

“Thou shall not kill”

Saint Pius X Catholic Church
Respect Life Ministries
StPius.net/RespectLife

“The conflict is between a culture that affirms, cherishes, and celebrates the gift of life, and a culture that seeks to declare entire groups of human beings - the unborn, the terminally ill, the handicapped, and others considered ‘useless’ to be outside the boundaries of legal protection”

St. Louis Besancon

“In the name of God, in whose image everyone is made, may we love, cherish, and protect human life from conception to the hour of natural death! “Holy Mary, mother of the author of life, pray for us. Amen”

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel
Fort Wayne

Life
“is always a good.
This is an instinctive perception and a fact of experience, and man is called to grasp the profound reason why this is so.”
Saint John Paul II - Evangelium Vitae

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Fort Wayne

RESPECT ALL LIFE!

Human Life is Precious from Conception until Death
Always Choose Life
St. Bavo Parish Mishawaka

Praying For Life
From Conception, To Natural Death

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.

- Jeremiah 1:5 -

LIFE
God’s precious gift

St. John the Baptist parish
943 Powers Street
New Haven 46774
www.stjohnraiders.org
May our Respect Life prayers invite the Holy Spirit to visit those who mistakenly believe that their support of abortion is righteous.

Holy Family Parish South Bend

Lord, hear our prayer!

May Saint Monica, example for wives and mothers, intercede for those who seek her assistance.

St. Joseph Parish Mishawaka

Respect for life requires that science and technology should always be at the service of man and his integral development. Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person’s life.

JOHN PAUL II, Evangelium Vitae

Basilica of the Sacred Heart NOTRE DAME

“Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mothers’ wombs, belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with His own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are numbered and whose vocation is even now written in the ‘book of life’.” - Evangelium Vitae

St. Joseph Parish Mishawaka

“Babies are a gift from God

Sacred Heart Parish
125 North Harrison
WARSAW

RESPECT ALL LIFE!
I in the late 1980s I saw a young lady in her late 40s who came to the emergency room having a heart attack. I performed an emergency coronary angiogram and to my surprise she had no coronary artery blockage to cause the heart attack, but she still had a very large area of damaged heart. She gave the history of being in the middle of a very contentious divorce. Several weeks later I performed more testing and the large area of heart that I thought was irreversibly damaged had completely covered. I was perplexed. I thought that maybe, just maybe, the stress of the divorce proceedings had something to do with her presentation.

A few years later in 1991, unknown to me at the time, an article was published in a Japanese cardiology journal describing a small series of patients that presented to the hospitals in Japan with large heart attacks during emotionally stressful circumstances, but like my patient they had no coronary blockage.

The most common provoking scenario in Japan was this occurring just after an earthquake or significant tremor, which are fairly common in Japan and, of course, cause great emotional stress. They all had the very large area of the heart that appeared to be damaged (for those of you with a medical background — it’s the anterior-apical segment of the left ventricle that becomes akinetic to dyskinetic). Cardiologists in the U.S. did not really notice this relatively obscure article at that time, but in the late 1990s and early 2000s reports were published here in American cardiology journals describing this same strange phenomenon.

In Japan it became known as Takatsubo Cardiomyopathy. Dr. David Kaminskas, DOCTOR PAGE 16

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

Dr. David Kaminskas

God offers eternal life in Christ

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jn 1:35-42

T he First Book of Samuel is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Originally, First and Second Samuel were one volume. At some point in history, an editor divided them into the two volumes, and so two volumes appear in Bible translations today. As the title of these books implies, the central figure is Samuel, a prophet active centuries before Christ.

Prophets were highly revered in the ancient world, and the Old Testament is full of stories about them. They were seen as God’s special representatives, but also they personally were very holy and devoted to God. At times, prophets resisted their calling initially. Such was the case of the great prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. After all was said and done, they accommodated themselves to God’s will and accepted the call to be prophets.

These figures were admired because the call to be a prophet was seen precisely as a call, as a summons, as a commission from God, and an empowerment and emboldening. In this weekend’s reading, God calls Samuel. It is the reading for the First Epistle to the Corinthians, and it introduces the theme of the Pauline writings: the lustrous in their clear revelation of the bond between true believers and Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God, but also human, in a mystery theologians call the Incarnation. The Incarnation is a great, fundamental and essential fact of Christian belief. In this belief, committed Christians, in faith and baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, both in a shared human nature, but also in the divine life given believers by Christ.

This supernatural bond, the very Keystone of personal salvation, requires Christians not only to be spiritually faithful but also to be and faithfulness in every sense of their lives. They must reject carnal sin. Stressing this point to the Church, God foresees some of his own people will be for some to be excessive for Paul, but it should be remembered, Corinth was known near and far as a veritable capital of lewdness and vice.

St. John’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a story about the day when Jesus was by Simon, later known as Peter, and Andrew are examples. We must follow Christ, the only way to find true life and joy.

Jesus, born in Bethlehem, was divine, the Son of God, and that redemption is God’s gift for all people.

So, the Church, with the greatest joy and hope, has told us about the Lord. He is the Savior of the world! The son of Mary, Jesus is one of us! The Church tells us that we are being touched by God’s grace. God loves us. God calls us. He offers us eternal life in Christ. The Church now asks us, hearing these readings and celebrating these feasts, to ask ourselves what does Christ truly mean to each of us?

How should we react to the Lord? St. Paul gives very concrete advice. Samuel, Peter and Andrew are examples. We must follow Christ, the only way to find true life and joy.

When we ask people to make judgments one person at a time because the people they meet there, even the ones they suspect of crime, are not the enemy. A few are bad actors who belong in jail, but even are not the enemy. They are citizens of the same community as the police. They don’t wear uniforms that mark them as lawful combatants. Even when caught red-handed, they are entitled to due process of law.

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Africa’s Catholic moment

According to an old Vatican aphorism, “We think in centuries here.” Viewed through that long-distance lens, the most important Catholic event of 2014 was the dramatic moment when Africa’s bishops emerged as effective, powerful proponents of dynamic orthodoxy in the world Church.

The scene was the Extraordinary Synod of 2014, called by Pope Francis to prepare the Synod of 2015 on the theme, “Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization.” The dramatic tension was provided by northern European bishops (principally German) and the Synod secretariat, who worked hard to reframe Synod 2014 as an inquest on a question long thought settled by the rest of the Church: the question of admitting the divorced and civilly remarried to holy Communion. The subplot in the drama came from the fact that the Church in Africa — rich in evangelical energy, firmly committed to orthodoxy, but very poor — is funded in large part by German Catholic development agencies (themselves beneficiaries of the “Church tax” collected by the German federal government).

So it took considerable courage for African bishops at the 2014 Synod to challenge the Germans and their allies. It’s not a big secret that there’s a lot of racism left in Europe, where the best and the brightest are often imagined themselves beyond the “taboos” that beset Africans (as one German cardinal inelegantly put it). Nor is it a secret that African prelates are too often regarded as second-class citizens: charming, but no more than that. Their words and actions are too often dismissed, with no less unmistakable: Don’t impose Euro-decadence on us, in terms of marriage or in the pastoral care of those experiencing same-sex attraction.

When African bishops today look at Europe through the prism of a Gospel-centered, almost pentecostal experience that has seen African Catholicism grow exponentially in recent decades, they don’t see the center of world civilizational initiative, as their grandparents might have done in colonial days. Rather, they see a continent dying from the first self-induced population collapse in human history. And they ask some obvious, if challenging, questions: Does this willful infertility have something to do with selfishness? With spiritual boredom? With a loss of soul? With a loss of faith in the Lord Jesus and His life-transforming, culture-forming, power?

How could the African bishops summon up the courage to make this challenge? Because they trusted their own ecclesial experience: the New Testament-like experience of the power of evangelical Catholicism. Because they trusted what they had “seen and heard” (1 John 1:3), they could challenge those who thought of them as the untutored kids on the block (at best), or as culturally backward welfare clients who ought to defer to their betters (at worst).

U.S. Catholics who have embraced evangelical Catholicism and find themselves shaken these days might take a lesson from this.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Scripture search

Gospel for January 18, 2015

John 1:35-42

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: the meeting with the first disciples. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

George Weigel

The CrossWord

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Answer Key can be found on page 19

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Commentary

January 18, 2015
**Sports**

**ICCL kicks off year with showdown**

**BY JOE KOZINSKI**

MISHAWAKA, IN — The Inter-City Catholic League rang in the New Year with a party lead on twin pitting top teams from the St. Martin De Porres Division in a classic showdown at Marian High School.

The Mishawaka Catholic Saints and their tandem of Zach Whitfield and Renner banked in four buckets jumping out to an 8-0 early lead. It looked like it would be all Saints as they pushed the lead to 9-2 after the first quarter. Then Blazer Will Tiller knocked down a jumper and Quinn started getting to the rim, adding a couple more before Mishawaka Catholic headed into the locker room in control, 15-10.

The second half would take a different shape as the Blazers evened the tally at 15 each turning a once lopsided contest into the battle spectators were expecting.

The Saints' Renner netted a two-foot bucket only to be counter punched by Blazer Paul Cline's own power layup. The inside presence of Renner paid dividends as he had one more shot to go through as time expired in the third giving his Saints a modest two-point lead going into the final quarter.

The Saints looked like their first quarter squad as Zach Horvath got into the scorer's book by hitting a quarter squad as Zach Horvath got into the final minute. A thrilling breakaway basket by Joe Machacek with under a minute to go gave the Blazers their first lead of the game and after a Saint turn-over looked like the ball game. However, after both teams combined for a dismal 2 for 21 at the charity stripe, the Blazers missed the front end of a one and one giving the Saints an opening with under 10 seconds to go.

The Saints talented guard Horvath didn't disappoint as he hit the pressure shot with 6.6 seconds left giving Mishawaka Catholic a one-point lead. Game over? Not so fast. The Blazers pushed the ball down to the floor and the ball ended up in Quinn's hands. As the buzzer sounded, the ball, just off the finger tips, sailed towards the basket to find the bottom of the net for the unimaginable St. Matthew victory.

"Mishawaka Catholic is a good, well coached team and it is always a challenge when we play them," said St. Matthew's Justin Bartkus. "We started slow and lacked composure, we were flat and unfocused, but this team responded."

"Whitfield, who scored 12 all in the first half, gave us fits. If he wasn't scoring he was dishing off inside and we knew he was the key," remarked Bartkus. "We switched from a bigger defender to a more athletic matchup and basically picked our poison and it worked out."

"We were happy with the post play of Whitfield, but I'm very proud of Horvath. He struggled early and still knocked down a difficult shot late," explained Mishawaka Catholic Coach Greg Schultheis. "St. Matthew is a resilient team. I liked our chances going in and I thought we had this one."

In other scores, St. Pius X remained undefeated in the St. Martin De Porres Division by defeating St. Thomas, 37-22.

The two undefeated teams in the St. John Bosco Division squared off against each other. The Eagles of St. Joseph prevailed, 29-17, over the Crusaders of Holy Cross.

The Bulldogs of Our Lady of Hungary were victorious over St. Jude despite the efforts of Falcon Joe Dreinin and his 16 points.

Corpus Christi's duo of Austin Lee and Braden Kansieboth threw in a baker's dozen a piece, but that was not enough to beat the Panthers of St. Anthony and their combo of Kyrin King and Ryan Brinca to a 104-42 win over the Maron clad squad.

The older team opened with a win over Suburban Bethlem, then beat Emmanuel-St. Michael School. St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel did double duty playing in two tournaments and had to miss a Hoopfest game for their Heritage Feeder School Championship, so the Cardinals got a win by forfeit before having to beat St. Paul twice in the finals of the 10-team showdown.

In the seventh-grade girls' contest, St. Vincent had quite a tournament. The Panthers had to battle their way out of the losers' bracket and beat St. Elizabeth twice to win it all. The Panthers fell to the Pioneers in the opening round, 29-35, then won five straight.

Holy Cross Lutheran dominated the eighth-grade girls' brackets with victories over St. Vincent, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, and Wyneken Lutheran to be crowned champs.

St. Vincent lost their first round to Holy Cross, but went on to win two games over both St. Rose/St. Louis and St. Jude before incurring their second loss in the double elimination tournament to Wyneken.

Coach Dan O'Brien was pleased with his team's performance despite missing several players over the break. "Things are looking up, especially with the great play of those who are healthy," he said. "Rebecca Ruiz has really stepped up her game filling in for missing players and Alyssa Dempsey has turned on her game hitting 8-10 from the free throw line during the break."

O'Brien summarized, "We have really seen great growth in great adversity, which will only make us stronger for the rest of the season."

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**Hoopfest tournament champions announced**

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — Winter break brought the annual Hoopfest for many Fort Wayne area CYO teams with the 2014 year-end tournament bringing lots of action across the four different age group brackets.

St. Charles boys' claimed both the seventh- and eighth-grade titles. In the seventh-grade tourney, the Cardinals beat St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. John the Baptist, New Haven, before downing St. Vincent de Paul, 39-27, for the championship.

The other team opened with a win over Suburban Bethlem, then beat Emmanuel-St. Michael School.

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**Crusaders, Lions square off in ICCL barnburner**

**BY JOE KOZINSKI**

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — The Inter-City Catholic League game between the Holy Cross Crusaders and the St. Pius X Lions squared off in a duel at Saint Joseph High School last weekend.

The Crusaders played the role of a jackrabbit jumping out to an early lead behind the scoring of Miguel Zyniewicz, Tion Otbridge and their talented guard Jayden Ivy leading by double digits late in the first half.

The Lions however looked like they were stuck in quicksand for most of the stanza, but mastered enough to keep the contest interesting on buckets by David Deupuy, Johnathan Brach, William Ritten and a big three by Mark Hiestand who are healthy," he said. "Rebecca Ruiz has really stepped up her game filling in for missing players and Alyssa Dempsey has turned on her game hitting 8-10 from the free throw line during the break."

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You want to return to your normal daily activities, and Dujarie House will help make it happen as quickly as possible. Dujarie House, the skilled nursing community at Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, offers physical, occupational and speech therapies, as well as other specialized services to meet your restorative and rehabilitation needs. During your stay at Dujarie House you can enjoy daily Mass and other spiritual wellness opportunities.

Call (574) 251-3291 to schedule a tour of our warm and inviting community. Medicare accepted.
C.Y.O. Panthers off to a new season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE—After five straight wins at the Holiday Hoopfest over Christmas break, Coach Marc Munson and the seventh-grade girls from St. Vincent are off to an impressive start with an 11-3 record.

“The girls win by playing great defense and turning it into great offense off turnovers and transition offense off of rebounds,” Munson detailed.

After an opening round loss in the Hoopfest to St. Elizabeth, the Panthers beat Queen of Angels, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, and St. Jude to stay alive before putting together back-to-back wins over St. Elizabeth, 35-26, and 39-36. In the first game of the championship, Coach Marc Munson’s Panthers were down 18-10 at the half before going on a 25-0 run in the third quarter to pull off the win and force a second game. In that contest there were eight lead changes in the second half, four in the final two minutes. St. Vincent came up with four clutch free throws and won by three.

With only seven girls on the roster, the Panthers often have to borrow from another grade when illness and injury strike. However, the team’s biggest goal is to be in better shape than any other team, to play the most intense team defense and play better together through passing, personal effort and support of teammate when things don’t go their way. St. Vincent emphasizes the Play Like a Champion Today philosophy in all that they do.

The Crusaders’ leading scorer Ivy tied the ballgame at the free throw line with 4.5 seconds left in overtime. Holy Cross big man Chaz Black went to the stripe grazing the rim on his first shot but hitting the winner on his second securing a victory, 32-31, over the Lions.

Other high scorers from around the league included St. Matthew’s Coley Quinn with 22, Mishawaka Catholic’s Zach Whitfield with 21 and Hunter Renner adding 11. Our Lady of Hungary’s Christian Tate had 19, Queen of Peace’s Johnny Wang converted for 10, a duo from Holy Family Latrell Franklin and Ryan Hessey had 13 and 11 respectively and the trio of Ashton Ruskowski, Austin Lee and Brandon Kaniewski all scored in double digits.

The St. Vincent de Paul C.Y.O. seventh-grade girls’ basketball team is off to an impressive start of the season. The St. Vincent girls’ basketball team is off to an impressive start with four clutch free throws and won by three.

With only seven girls on the roster, the Panthers often have to borrow from another grade when illness and injury strike. However, the team’s biggest goal is to be in better shape than any other team, to play the most intense team defense and play better together through passing, personal effort and support of teammate when things don’t go their way. St. Vincent emphasizes the Play Like a Champion Today philosophy in all that they do. Munson concluded, “We routinely ask the girls to conduct themselves as a champion by expressing excellence in all that they do, respecting their coaches and teammates through their actions and listening, practicing like a champion by showing up to practice on time and ready, being committed to developing as a player and as a good teammate to achieve improvement and having great sportsmanship (especially when calls do not go our way or we lose a game).”
Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 16, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8.50, children 5-12 $3.50. Carry-out available.

Spaghetti dinner supports Boy Scouts
Fort Wayne — Boy Scout Troop 20 will have a spaghetti dinner Saturday, Feb. 7, from 5-7 p.m. in the Queen of Angels Activity Center, 300 W. State Blvd. Adults $8, seniors 56, students $5 and families $28. Service meat sauce, Casa salad and Ed’s ice cream.

Spaghetti supper planned
Mishawaka — The Knights of Columbus Council 1878 will have a spaghetti supper Friday, Feb. 13, from 5-7 p.m. at 114 West First St. Tickets are $8 for adults, $5 for children age 5 and above. Children under 5 years of age are free. All proceeds benefit Hannah’s House.

Theology on Tap
Fort Wayne — Theology on Tap for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married, will be held at Soups Salad and Spirits, 1915 S. Calhoun St., Thursday, Jan. 15, at 6:30 p.m. “Beauty will Save the World — Beauty and Liturgy: the First Theology,” with speaker Dr. Adam DeVille, department of Philosophy and Theology for the University of Saint Francis. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/TOT for information.

Pancake breakfast planned
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon will have a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 18, from 8:30 a.m. until noon in the parish hall. Breakfast will include pancakes and feature sausage, biscuits and gravy, milk and coffee. Cost for adults is $6, children 5-12 $4, and under 5 eat for free.

Bishop Dwenger High School to offer SAT/ACT prep course
Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger High School will offer an SAT/ACT prep course on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. beginning Tuesday, Jan. 20. Visit www.bishopdwenger.com for the registration forms.

Card and socializing party planned
Fort Wayne — Men and women 21 years of age and older are invited to a card and socializing party Saturday, Jan. 24, from 7 p.m. to midnight at Queen of Angels activity center. Cost is $10 at the door, which includes pulled pork and chicken, cole slaw, snacks, beer, pop and water. Door prizes awarded. All proceeds benefit Queen of Angels athletics. Contact Denny Jamison at 260-418-1139 for information.

New family financial aid meeting
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will have a financial aid meeting for the 2015-2016 school year on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. in room 104. All family members are encouraged to attend. The meeting will discuss the Choice program and scholarship information will be shared.

Bishop Luers Winter Homecoming
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will have a winter homecoming Friday, Feb. 6, for the varsity boys’ and girls’ basketball games beginning at 6 p.m. The alumni office will be recognizing the 1968 and the 2014 boys’ SAC championship tennis teams during halftime of the boys’ game. A Casa Knight Dinner will be from 4:30-7 p.m. in the cafe and reservations are suggested. For information contact Sarah Shank at sshank@bishopluers.org or 260-456-1261, ext. 3039.

Retreat for farmers rescheduled
Hartford City — “Restoring My Soul, The Psalm 23 Guide for the Farmer’s Imagination” retreat for farmers with Pastoral Jeffery Hawkins has been rescheduled for Jan. 23-25, at the John 23 Retreat Center. Call 888-882-1391 for information.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A Day of Reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Culver
John M. Hartsough, 56, St. Mary of the Lake
Decatur
Linda D. Kirchner, 56, St. Mary of the Assumption
Donaldson
Sister Helen Irene Watkins, PHJ, 80, Catherine Kasper Chapel
Elkhart
Eleanor D. Haney, 93, St. Vincent de Paul
Fort Wayne
Virginia R. Beery, 65, St. Joseph
Liliana V. Gastiger, 94, St. Henry
John Jack Teders, 82, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
William J. Dolan, 90, Our Lady of Good Hope
Grace I. Bench, 75, St. Vincent de Paul
Joyce Alane Gilliland, 91, St. Patrick
A. Lorraine Richards, 89, St. Jude
Magdalien M. Wuttkie, 92, St. Charles Borromeo
Nancie L. Bryson, 62, St. Jude
Teresa Marie Etiener, 56, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Helen A. Kilcoin, 92, St. John the Baptist
J. Thomas Sarvay, 77, St. Charles Borromeo
Marcella G. Gamble, 100, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel
Martha E. Long, 86, St. Jude
Aleen L. McPherson, 78, St. Jude
Sara C. Young, 88, Saint Anne Home Chapel
Goshen
Margaret M. Zimmerman, 89, St. John the Evangelist
Granger
Anna Schmidt, 88, St. Plus X
Clara M. Naspinsky, 89, St. Plus X
Huntington
Sister Grace Marie Samblanet, OLMV, 85, Victory Noll
Mishawaka
Debra R. Bauters, 59, St. Joseph
Donald M. Greene, 100, St. Monica
Josephine Filippello, 96, St. Bavo
Charlotte A. Jackson, 86, Queen of Peace
Elsie E. Wozniak, 93, St. Bavo
New Haven
George A. Berghoff, 75, St. John the Baptist
William L. Ryan, 69, St. John the Baptist
Betsy S. Wagner, 80, St. John the Baptist
Notre Dame
Father Eugene F. Gontk, CSC, 82, Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Sister M. (Margaret Ann Doran) Gabriella, CSC, 92, Our Lady of Loretto
Plymouth
Mary E. McKee, 88, St. Michael
South Bend
Wanda M. Przybysz, 84, Holy Family
Ruth J. Toth, 90, St. Anthony de Padua
Rocco Nate, 93, St. Anthony de Padua
Clifford J. Eppes Jr., 67, St. Therese Little Flower
Dorothy M. Vertesich, Our Lady of Hungary
Joseph L. Vargas Sr., 84, Our Lady of Hungary
Darlene E. Lenczewski, 76, St. Casimir
Magdaly Tats Ball, 93, St. Anthony de Padua
Zosia Vida, 85, Our Lady of Hungary
Leonard C. Falk, 91, Christ the King
Frances A. Hudyk, 88, Holy Family
Maria Piotrowski, 92, St. Hedwig
Robert F. Tryner Sr., 91, St. Anthony de Padua
Sister Lourdes Kline, 95, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister served at Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne.

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The Cupertino Classic, shown in the poster outside St. Vincent de Paul gymnasium, was inspired by St. Joseph of Cupertino, a prayerful, simple priest from the 1600s renowned for having visions from God. While sometimes in prayer, people saw the saint float off the ground. Father Andrew Curry, organizer of the classic and pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine in North Manchester, recalled a painting capturing one of those moments where it looked as if St. Joseph of Cupertino is going up for a “slam-dunk.”

CUPERTINO
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Diocesan priests and seminarians took to the hardwoods for the first Cupertino Classic basketball game on Monday, Dec. 29, at St. Vincent de Paul gymnasium in Fort Wayne. The priests defeated the seminarians, 41-26.