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**Palm Sunday Prayer Vigil to recall faith, courage of Christian martyrs**

**BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS**

SOUTH BEND — “At the end of the second millennium, the Church has once again become a Church of martyrs. … The witness to Christ borne even to the shedding of blood has become a common inheritance of Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants.” These words from St. John Paul II, who experienced firsthand many of the violent atrocities committed during the 20th century, recalls the living witness of those who have courageously laid down their lives for the Gospel throughout the world. The examples seen on an almost daily basis of men, women and children choosing to stand firm in Christian faith, even at the expense of their own lives, has strengthened the Body of Christ and served as reminder that the kingdom of God is not of this world.

The Community of Sant’Egidio, an international public lay association of the Church, understands this message well. Originally founded by Andrea Riccardi in 1968, with the purpose of encouraging laypeople to take seriously the call of the Gospel, the community now includes over 50,000 members dedicated to serving the Church in a variety of apostolates. As an organization dedicated to prayer, evangelization, ecumenism and friendship with people of every faith and culture, the Community understands that the body of Christ is strengthened and defended at the expense of its members. As an organization dedicated to prayer, evangelization, ecumenism and friendship with people of every faith and culture, the Community understands that the Body of Christ is strengthened and defended at the expense of its members.

Given the purpose of this organization, in recent years have been called to testify to the Gospel with the offering of their lives. Afterwards, he commissioned Andrea Riccardi to write a book detailing the stories of many of these individuals, and officially dedicated the Basilica of St. Bartholomew in Rome to the Sant’Egidio Community as a perpetual memory of all recent Christian martyrs. This basilica includes many side altars, some of which are dedicated to Christians on specific continents, while others attest to the atrocities committed against Christians at the hands of Nazi and Communist regimes.

Since 2000, the Community has held prayer services at this basilica every Holy Week to celebrate the memory of those who in recent years have been called to testify to their faith with the offering of their life. In global solidarity, Sant’Egidio communities throughout the world each hold similar memorials to celebrate the lives of these martyrs.

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**Sankofa Day of Reflection looks back, looks forward**

Laughter, African drums, dancers, joy, devotion, song, fellowship and liturgical celebration: “Sankofa”

**BY KATHLEEN A. KERSHNER**

SOUTH BEND — Inspired with the “audacity to look back at history and the prudence to look forward” to the future, the diocesan Black Catholic Advisory Board hosted “Sankofa — A Day of Reflection” at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend on March 14. A West African word meaning, “go back and fetch,” Sankofa led members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to remember with pride and admiration the past achievements of African American Catholics in U.S. history while considering the sobering realities of current racial tensions both within the Catholic Church as well as in society at large.

Keynote speaker, Vince Guider, of Old St. Patrick Church in Chicago, commiserated with the multiracial audience of lay, religious, educators and community organizers as they paused to consider the chants of racist slurs on the lips of University of Oklahoma college football fans.
The Agony in the Garden

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHODES

As we approach Holy Week, I invite you to reflect on the sorrowful mystery of Jesus’ agony in the garden of Gethsemane. In the second reading this Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we read: “In the days when Christ was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (Hebrews 5:7-9). This passage recalls the agony of Jesus in Gethsemane.

Often in devotion to the passion of Christ, we consider the physical aspect of Jesus’ suffering. We meditate on His scourging at the pillar and His crowning with thorns. We think about the physical pain He suffered carrying the cross, the pain He felt being stripped of His garments, the excruciating pain of being nailed to the cross. These sufferings were our Lord’s offering of the most horrid physical torment Jesus underwent for love of us. Reflecting on these aspects of the passion moves our hearts, helps us to appreciate the depth of God’s love for us. They also provide us with a feeling of Christ’s union with us when we experience physical pain and illness. But I’d like to reflect with you on the interior or spiritual aspect of Jesus’ passion which had its culminating moment in Jesus’ agony in the garden.

This important episode in the mystery of Christ’s passion is described in all four Gospels as well as the mention in this Sunday’s reading from the letter to the Hebrews. I believe that, together with Jesus hanging on the cross, the mystery of the agony in the garden is the most profound mystery to contemplate in the whole story of the passion, in the event of our redemption. There in the garden, Jesus Himself expressed in words the intensity of His agony: “my soul is sorrowful even to death. Or another translation: My soul is ready to die with sorrow.” The evangelists tell us that Jesus was greatly distressed and troubled. This was Jesus’ spiritual agony, something even more painful than His physical agony.

What was happening in Gethsemane? What was the torment going on inside Jesus? Some of the great mystic saints describe a similar experience, what they call the “black night of the soul.” Our soul can be filled with great sorrow, fear, even desperation when God allows us to see clearly our own sinfulness. But Jesus was without sin. Yet, he experienced the terrible horror of sin since He was about to carry all the sins of mankind. He had not committed them, but He bore them. In the first letter of Peter, we read: “He himself bore our sins in his body.” St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that for our sakes, God made “Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” St. Paul wrote to the Galatians that “I am the handmaid of the Lord, and I have help from the Lord, who saved me from utter destruction.”

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At Lenten penance service, pope announces Holy Year of Mercy

BY CINDY WOODDEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis announced an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church’s “mission to be a witness of mercy.”

“No one can be excluded from God’s mercy,” the pope said March 13, marking the second anniversary of his pontificate by leading a Lenten penance service in St. Peter’s Basilica.

“I frequently have thought about how the Church can make more evident its mission to be a witness of mercy,” he said during his homily; that is why he decided to call a special Holy Year, which will be celebrated from Dec. 8, 2015, until Nov. 20, 2016.

The biblical theme of the year, he said, will be “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful,” an admonition that applies especially to confessors,” the pope said with a smile.

Traditionally, every 25 years the popes proclaim a holy year, which features special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the offer of special opportunities to experience God’s grace through the sacraments, especially Confession. Extraordinary holy years, like the Holy Year of Mercy, are less frequent, but offer the same opportunities for spiritual growth.

The doors of the Church “are wide open so that all those who are touched by grace can find the certainty of forgiveness,” Pope Francis said at the penance service, which featured individual confessions. It was part of a worldwide celebration of “24 Hours for the Lord,” in which Catholic churches were staying open for prayer. Eucharistic Adoration and Confession.

At each of the dozens of confessions in St. Peter’s Basilica, as well as in simple chairs scattered along the walls, priests welcomed people to the sacrament. The pope removed his liturgical vestments and went to Confession before putting on a purple stole for the service.

“God never ceases to demonstrate the richness of His mercy over the course of centuries,” the pope said in his homily, which preceded the confessions. He said God touches people’s hearts with His grace, filling them with repentance and a desire to “experience His love.”

“Being touched by the tender- ness of His Hand,” people should not be afraid to approach a priest and confess their sins, he said. In the confessional, one has “the certainty of being welcomed in the name of God and understood, despite our misery.”

“The greater the sin, the greater the love, which the Church must express toward those who convert,” Pope Francis said.

The Gospel reading at the penance service was the story of the sinful woman who washed Jesus’ feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. Every time one goes to Confession, the pope said, “we feel the same compassionate gaze of Jesus” that she did.

“Love and forgiveness are simultaneous” in the story of each person, just as in the story of the sinful woman, he said. “God forgave her for much — for everything — because He loved her much.”

“Being touched by the tender- ness of His Hand,” people should not be afraid to approach a priest and confess their sins, he said. In the confessional, one has “the certainty of being welcomed in the name of God and understood, despite our misery.”

“Through Jesus, the pope said, God took the woman’s sins and “threw them over His shoulder. He no longer remembers them.”

Jesus’ encounter with the woman took place in the home of a Pharisee named Simon.

Unlike the woman, the pope said, Simon “isn’t able to find the path of love. He remains stopped at the threshold of formality. He is not able to take the next step to encounter Jesus, who brings salvation.”

The Pharisee is concerned only with following God’s law, with justice, which is a mistake, the pope said. “His judgment of the woman distances him from the truth and prevents him from understanding who his guest is.”

Jesus scolds Simon, pointing out how the “sinful woman” has shown nothing but love and repentance, the pope said. “Jesus’ rebuke pushes each of us to never stop at the surface of things, especially when dealing with a person. We are called to look deeper, to focus on the heart in order to see how much generosity the personal is capable of.”

Pope Francis said he asked the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization to coordinate preparations for the Holy Year so that it would be “a new stage in the Church’s journey in fulfilling its mission of bringing the Gospel of mercy to each person.”
Disability Board promotes relationship

BY KAY COZAD

As the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend continues its efforts to reach out to all its faithful, the Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries is seeking ways to better serve those with varying abilities. In recent years a diocesan Disabilities Advisory Board has been established inviting those of diverse abilities and backgrounds to its membership.

In its quest for bold new evangelization initiatives, the Disabilities Advisory Board is extending an invitation to anyone in the diocese interested in working with its members to further the growth of this ministry. A meet-and-greet opportunity will be presented in South Bend at the St. John Paul II Center from 6:30-8 p.m. on April 16 and in Fort Wayne at the Archbishop Noll Center from 6:30-8 p.m. on April 23 for those interested.

Mary Glowaski, director of the Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries, says the board would like to focus its efforts on assisting parishies in inviting people with all abilities to come to church. She adds that a concerted and determined effort is being made to invite anyone with a disability or with a child with a disability, who has not received the sacraments, to connect with their parish priest, Jane Sandor from the Office of Catechesis, or the Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries.

“Our goal is to get most parishes involved in inspiring the people in the pews to invite those they know who are challenged with disabilities to come to our parishes,” says Glowaski, adding, “Many are on the periphery. They don’t have a voice. They don’t have a face.”

Reaching out can be as simple as taking the Eucharist to the homebound or providing transportation to Mass. “Evangelization is about ‘feet on the ground,’” says Glowaski.

Though there may be an element of fear at the parish level about whether it has what it takes to serve those with disabilities, Glowaski says, God is in charge and has given His people all they need. “We want to inspire pastors and pastoral staff and their people to focus on what is possible and trust God instead of looking at why it can’t be done,” she says.

Discipleship, she says, must be intentional. “We must be willing to get into the messiness of their lives, walk with them, be open to hearing and receiving their stories. Then thank them and say ‘please come.’ It’s like inviting someone to dinner,” says Glowaski. “You want to make them feel welcome and comfortable. It’s the same at church.

Glowaski is grateful for the generosity of other faiths in sharing their wisdom and training with her office. The focus, she says, is not on any particular program but on building relationships.

We focus on relationship and getting people of all ages and abilities to be part of the parish,” she says. “It can’t happen if the people in the pews aren’t willing to claim their identity as disciples of Jesus Christ and building relationships.”

An additional goal of the ministry is to become a resource center to the pastors and others in the diocese. Currently the Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries is developing a letter to all pastors that will include resources for parishes to reach out and care for those struggling with mental illnesses for Mental Health Awareness Month in May.

Another meaningful parish outreach is the annual disabilities retreat held at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. The retreat welcomes those 18 and older with any disability on April 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This year featured speakers will be Mary Hilger and Father Jacob Meyer. Register by calling 260-489-3537, follow the link on St. Vincent de Paul’s website or contact Jane Sandor for information at 260-399-1450 or jsandor@diocesesfw.org.

“Needs are always individual, but with a blanket of love we can welcome the disabled and be enriched and challenged by them,” says Glowaski. “We are not inviting people to be like us but for us to be transformed by them and their love and experience of Jesus Christ.”

For more information on diocesan efforts to build relationship with persons with disabilities contact Mary Glowaski at mglowaski@diocesesfw.org.
STATEHOUSE — Hoosier children stand to benefit in two ways from a boost to two existing school choice programs contained in the state budget bill.

House Bill 1001, the state budget bill, passed the House in late February and received a hearing in the Senate School Funding Subcommittee, March 10. The school choice portion of the bill removes the choice scholarship cap set at $4,800 per child in grades 1-8. The bill also increases the maximum allowable amount of tax credits from $7.5 million to $12.5 million for donors who give to a Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs).

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), said that the choice scholarship program offers low to moderate-income families an opportunity to attend a public or nonpublic school of the parents’ choice. Currently 29,000 students statewide are receiving a choice scholarship.

Tebbets said another program, which assists low-income families, is the tax credit scholarship program. These scholarships are privately funded by donors who receive a 50 percent tax credit for each dollar donated. For the school year 2013-2014, approximately 11,000 students were awarded the privately-funded tax credit scholarships administered by SGO’s. Tebbe said the average tax credit scholarship per student was $1,000. The tax credit scholarship is a line item provision in the state budget that limits Indiana to only a certain amount of tax credits per fiscal year. The current limit is set at $7.5 million. School choice advocates are requesting an $5 million increase. Tebbe said donations last year almost reached $15 million, which would have exhausted the tax credit.

Under Indiana law, a choice scholarship awarded a child will always cost the state less than educating the same child in a traditional public school. In grades 1-8, the choice scholarship amount is capped at the lesser of these amounts: tuition at the school, 90 percent or 50 percent, based on family income, of the per-pupil funding the child would have received to attend their neighborhood public school or $4,800.

Caitlin Gamble, representing Hoosiers for Quality Education, shared an example of the inequity in state funding between students entering a traditional public school, compared to students in a public charter school, and students entering a nonpublic school who gets a choice scholarship. She told the Senate School Funding Subcommittee, that a child in a traditional public school in East Chicago gets $8,500 from the state, a near-by public charter school, the student gets $7,500 from the state, and a third student attending a near-by non-public school, getting a choice scholarship, gets a maximum of $4,800 from the state, Gamble said, “No matter where that student chooses to go to school, that family’s income didn’t change, the only thing that changed was the school building that kid walks into each morning.”

Andrew Currier, principal of St. Adalbert Catholic School in South Bend, testifying before the Senate panel said he supports the governor’s proposal to eliminate the $4,800 choice scholarship cap. Currier said out of his 225 students, over 90 percent of the families are below the poverty line and 97 percent are of Latino descent. He said, many of his Latino students struggle with English language learning needs. Currier said that through their “hard work, no shortcuts” approach, their school has had success stories that have garnered national attention as a school that can defy academic odds. “Our students benefit from super-efficient use of extremely limited resources.”

John Elcesser, executive director for the Indiana Non-Public School Education Association (INPEA) who also testified in support of HB 1001, which removes the $4,800 choice scholarship cap, said, “One of the benefits of this job is I get to travel around the state and talk to families who are benefiting from this program. These lives have been changed by this program.”

Stewart said she is a product of the Gary public school system. She had her own children in both public and private schools. The school community where she serves as principal, the families have a median income of less than $25,000. She said that parents would not be able to select a private school because it was not for the choice scholarships.

House Bill 1001 is expected to pass the Senate before the end of April. Tebbe is hopeful the school choice portions of the bill will remain intact and become law before the April 29th adjournment deadline of the Indiana General Assembly.
Catholic doctor brings healing, hope to the poor with help from Cross Catholic Outreach

“People grow by giving. Everybody has something to give, whether it’s their time, their knowledge, or their resources,” says Dr. Maria Teresa Losada Monsalve, a woman whose life revolves around giving. In her case, she’s giving medical care to the poor. Maria Teresa recently provided care for Jerry, an 18-year-old street dweller and drug addict, at a clinic in downtown Cochabamba. Operated through a Franciscan ministry called the San Lucas Foundation, the clinic provides medical care for poor street dwellers, most often in desperate need of immediate care.

Jerry was brutally beaten in the streets and no hospital would treat his life-threatening head injuries. After letting Jerry’s pain the best she could, and with his very life in the balance, Maria Teresa took him from hospital to hospital throughout the city until one yielded to her pleas and provided Jerry with the critical surgery he needed.

Even though the San Lucas Foundation paid for the care, Maria Teresa said the problem is that sometimes people like Jerry aren’t valued by society.

“Jerry is a drug addict and has serious health problems. When he broke his head and was limping, a lot of people said, ‘Why bother? Why help him? Why not just let him die?’ They see some people as disposable — they don’t see their value to society. I think there’s a divine presence in every human being and those who believe have the duty to care for a person like Jerry, just like they have the duty to care for their own children,” Maria Teresa said.

A devout Catholic and the long-time director of a network of clinics operated by the San Lucas Foundation, Maria Teresa says she sees her work as “a way to practice our Catholic beliefs and knowledge.”

“The presence of crucified Jesus didn’t stay behind 2,000 years ago,” she said. “Christ lives today in those who give and those who receive.”

Jim Cavarn, president of a Catholic humanitarian aid organization called Cross Catholic Outreach that supports San Lucas Foundation, says Catholic lay missionaries like Maria Teresa are bringing physical and spiritual healing to the poor.

“The book of Matthew says, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ As Catholics, we know it’s not enough to provide care for the body only — we have to care for the soul as well, and that’s what our partner Maria Teresa and the San Lucas Foundation is doing,” he said.

According to Cavarn, it’s the kind of Christ-inspired aid American Catholics are eager to support.

“Our generous Catholic benefactors who help us support Maria Teresa understand that she’s responding the way Christ himself would want us to respond — with love, compassion, and the Gospel. American Catholics find heavenly value in that, and I know they’ll continue supporting Cross Catholic as we lift up these brave missionaries of Christ like Maria Teresa,” Cavarn said.

To support the worldwide outreaches of Cross Catholic Outreach, look for the ministry brochure enclosed in this issue of the paper or mail your donation to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00142, PO Box 9558, Wilton, NH 03086-9558. All contributions to the ministry are tax deductible.

Cross Catholic Now Endorsed by More Than 90 Bishops, Archbishops

As Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) continues its range of relief work to help the poor overseas, its efforts are being recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received an impressive number of endorsements from Bishops and Archbishops — more than 90 at last count,” explained Jim Cavarn, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “They’re impressed by the fact that we’ve done outreaches in almost 40 countries and that we undertake a variety of projects; everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor.”

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

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

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

CCO president Jim Cavarn explained the significance of this connection.

“Our collaboration with Cor Unum allows us to fund outreaches in virtually any area of the world, and we have used that method in special cases — to help the victims of natural disasters, for example,” he said. “It only represents a small part of our overall ministry, but it can be a very important benefit in those situations.”
Cross Catholic Outreach helps bring medical care to the rural, urban poor

Donata Juarez’s youngest son, Jose Angel, 3, has the ruddy cheeks and dark eyes of a child raised high in Bolivia’s arid mountains. He’s a healthy, vibrant boy who smiles easily but becomes solemn and serious when approached by strangers.

“My children give me strength. They keep me going and help me keep working,” said Donata, a widow now raising two children alone. She works long hours as a mountain farm laborer to support her family, and her face and hands bear the lines of years of exposure to sun, wind and soil.

Things like electricity and running water are public services that have not yet made their way into most homes in Sapanani Alto. In this village where Donata and her sons live, most homes, like Donata’s, are made of clay bricks; others have crumbling earthen walls with dirt floors. Families survive through subsistence farming on land most acknowledge is no longer very fruitful.

subsistence farming on land most

Prenatal care and medically-supervised childbirth. Basic immunizations against childhood diseases. Regular check-ups from caring doctors. These are just a few of the services families in Sapanani Alto and other rural Bolivian communities enjoy now through a network of Catholic clinics operated by the San Lucas Foundation.

“Those clinics are having a tremendous impact on the health of the poor, especially children like Jose Angel,” said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. The San Lucas Foundation relies heavily on Cross Catholic to financially support its clinics.

Cross Catholic Outreach has even helped the network of clinics expand into previously unreached areas. The ministry has also helped a sister clinic increase its services in downtown Cochabamba, where homeless street dwellers can receive quality medical care.

According to Cavnar, Catholic medical ministries like the San Lucas Foundation are worthy of support because they vastly improve the lives of impoverished families around the world.

“In developing countries, children only far-reaching, but also in line with Catholic teachings.

“Christ’s life serves as a prime example of how we should treat the poor,” Cavnar said. “He healed them, he restored them and he uplifted them. We aspire to the same approach in our work. We want to serve the poor in a way that preserves their dignity.”

As an example, Cavnar told the story of John, a partially paralyzed street dweller who lived a life of misery on the streets of Cochabamba. The San Lucas Foundation regularly sends its volunteers to search for street dwellers needing medical care. When the ministry discovered John, who is unable to walk and was supporting himself only through begging, they immediately brought him to their downtown clinic where they treated his wounds, bathed him and admitted him into their physical therapy facility.

All the while, Cavnar says, the doctors and staff of the San Lucas Foundation treated John as they would have treated Christ: with respect, dignity and love.

“John was literally lying in the streets — he can’t stand or walk on his own — and people were passing him by as if he wasn’t there. He was hungry, sick and in great need of Christ. There was no one to help him, but these compassionate Catholics stepped in as Christ would have,” Cavnar said. “That’s the type of medical ministry God is calling all of us to support.”

Based on the response Cross Catholic has gotten to medical appeals, American Catholics seem to agree.

“I thank God every day for the ‘army’ of American Catholics who give generously to our medical projects. Because of them, we’ve been able to help our ministry partners save thousands of lives all over the world. That’s a feat only Christ and his faith-filled followers could accomplish,” Cavnar said.

Cavnar says he’s confident American Catholics will continue to stand for what is right.

“In 1 John 3:18 it says, ‘Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.’ Being a Catholic myself, I know American Catholics understand what this means when it comes to helping their poor brothers and sisters in Christ. I know they will continue to bring life-saving care to the poor — it’s what they do,” Cavnar said.

It is what they did for Donata and her sons. The rural clinic in Sapanani Alto has helped Donata in many ways: staff there provided prenatal care, they delivered both of her children, they monitored the children’s health, they immunized them, and they provided psychological counseling when her husband passed away.

“It has helped my children be healthy — and helped me be healthy too. That means more than I can say,” Donata said.

How to Help:

Your help is needed for Cross Catholic Outreach to bring Christ’s mercy to the poorest of the poor. To make a donation, use the enclosed postage-paid brochure or mail a gift to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01142, PO Box 9558, Wilton, NH 03086-9558.
Pueri Cantores Festival brings to liturgy a beatific sound
Elite choir performs at Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival

BY KAY COZAD AND TESS STEFFEN

NOTRE DAME — With beatific voices raised, students from across the diocese gathered at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame to perform at the fifth annual Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival on March 12. The 393 musically-gifted students in grades 4 through 12, from 30 diocesan Catholic schools, and several who are homeschooled, combined as one choir and represented just a small part of the thousands of youth singers from around the world in the American Federation of Pueri Cantores Festival.

Pueri Cantores is a century-old practice established in France in 1907, when a special boys choir was formed to sing during the liturgy.

The Indiana program, which was conducted by John Robinson, director of music at St. Paul’s Church and Choir School in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts, began with a choral prelude showcasing the rich, traditional liturgical songs the choir had been rehearsing in both South Bend and Fort Wayne for the past several months. Robinson explained that personally the day was “very meaningful, and when you look at this huge crowd of young people singing so beautifully, it means that the future of Church music and worship through song is very bright indeed, and that is something we can all be very excited about.”

The students gathered early on Thursday and spent the entire day together in fellowship, song and prayer, noted Brian MacMichael, director of the diocesan Office of Worship.

The Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass, which is the centerpiece of the festival, followed the choral prelude, beginning at 3 p.m. and was celebrated by Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca, the rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, pastor of St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, were concelebrants of the Mass. The exquisitely sung sacred music was woven throughout the Mass.

Family members who were able to attend the Pueri Cantores Mass festival were also gratified and deeply moved. Rebecca Fitzmaurice, a parent with the Catholic Homeschoolers of Michiana, shared that she “loves it, and thinks it’s awesome to take part in the Church’s traditional music. It’s like heaven to hear their singing. The homeschoolers are pleased to be included each year in this diocesan event.”

The students who participated were impressed as well. Harmony Karapantos, a seventh grader from Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne, said, “It’s the most beautiful sound, and I’m excited to be back again.”

Her friend Kiya Robertson agreed, “I’ve never done it before, but I know it will be a great experience.”

Saint Joseph High School student Steve Mullaney told Today’s Catholic, “It means a lot to have everyone coming together to praise the Lord. Everyone’s voices together sound amazing!”

Our Sunday Visitor Institute was a sponsor for this year’s festival.

Almost 400 students from around the Diocese Fort Wayne/South Bend participated in the fifth annual Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival.

They are shown after the Mass with conductor John Robinson in the back of the singers.

John Robinson, director of music at St. Paul’s Church and Choir School in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts, conducts the choir singers during the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on March 12.

Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, is shown celebrating Mass. The congregation is made up of diocesan choral singers who provided sacred music during the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on March 12.

More photos are available at www.diocesefwsb.org
Pueri Cantores Festival brings to liturgy a beatific sound

PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Almost 400 students from around the Diocese Fort Wayne/South Bend participated in the fifth annual Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival.

All four Catholic diocesan high schools, plus high school-age home-schooled students, helped provide sacred music at the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival celebrated March 12. The singers were accompanied by organist Dr. Andrew McShane, director of music for the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SANKOFA

students, the violence in Ferguson, the multiple shootings of young African American men by law enforcement officials these past few months — all ironically while marking the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama. This is the type of “fearless and bold looking” that is called for by Sankofa.

The director of community development for the North Lawndale Kinship Initiative, Guider explained how his church in Chicago has implemented a collaborative partnership founded on “asset based community development.” For the last 30 years, their initiative has chosen to focus, not on what is missing, but rather, what are clearly gifts within the communities they seek to serve. “So we can enrich each other,” he explained. “This is not a charity model, but a justice model.”

He added, “We all deserve opportunity. This allows for reciprocity. Blessings flow from all directions and cross-pollinate. This is what Church must do for all its people.”

As Pope Francis has called all to an encounter with all, Guider finished his talk with the same emphasis of the New Evangelization. “We used to wonder, ‘How can we get people to come to church?’ Now we have to realize this is the time we need to find a way to have the Church come to the people.”

Igniting further pride of cultural expression and heritage, members of the Indiana University-South Bend African Dance and Drum Club entered to the song, “Siya Hamba” (“We are Marching in the Light of God”) sung intermittently in Zulu (it); to somehow affirm, inspire and move in heart to help implement the Strategic Plan for the Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Blacks in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop Rhoades commended them for such fruitful labors since their formation two years ago. Looking back with them to the transformative moments they shared at the National Black Catholic Congress in 2012, he pledged his company on the shared journey toward the future.

Deacon Mel Tardy’s acknowledgement of the strategic plan includes a prayer that those who become aware of this “will be moved in heart to help implement (it) to somehow affirm, inspire and otherwise serve the oft-forgotten descendants of Africa in our diocese and the cause of interracial harmony. Even angels will rejoice because of you.”

To read the plan in its entirety, as well as to contact members of the Black Catholic Advisory Board, visit http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Diocesan-Black-Catholic-Board around the altar for the celebration of the Mass. Guider, of Old St. Patrick Church in Chicago, speaks at the Sankofa Day of Reflection held March 14 at St. Augustine Church in South Bend.
ANCILLA COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW BUILDING

A crowd of nearly 75 dignitaries, including Plymouth Mayor Mark Senter, community members, present and past board members, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ sisters, developers, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate as the board of trustees broke ground at Ancilla College in Donaldson on March 10 for a three-story residence hall and student life dining center opening Aug. 1. The Ancilla College board of trustees voted in December to move ahead with the $6 million project financed by First Source Bank. The residence hall, which will be home for nearly 100 new students who previously could not attend the historically commuter-only college, will include a separate dining facility, fitness area, media center, two-story lobby with fireplace and prayer rooms. In addition to the building project, the school is adding an agriculture program and women’s golf and soccer teams.

Bishop Luers Future Business Leaders of America attend State Leadership Conference


Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College alumnae celebrate the 175th anniversary by ‘Planting New Seeds’

FORT WAYNE — Volunteers are needed Wednesday, April 15, from 6:30-10 a.m. to help Community Harvest Food Bank Of Northeast Indiana, Inc. for Construction®. Connect with fellow alumni, families and friends in an exciting opportunity to celebrate St. Mary-of-the-Woods College’s 175th anniversary. Other events are planned on behalf of SMWC and the Week of Service. Visit http://175.smwc.edu/Week-of-Service.html for more information or contact Ann Couze at 260-432-3602.

USF lecture to examine Vatican II

FORT WAYNE — The Department of Philosophy and Theology of the University of Saint Francis’ School of Liberal Arts and Sciences is hosting a lecture on the controversial Second Vatican Council. “The Word of God: Closing Drama of Vatican II” will be presented by Earl Kummer, Ph.D., professor of Philosophy and Theology, on Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m. at the USF North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St.

Workshop, speaker to cover abortion of death penalty

SOUTH BEND — Vicki Scheiber of the Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty will present a workshop Tuesday, March 24, from 2-4 p.m. in 200 McKenna Hall, University of Notre Dame, for students to organize a state commission to abolish capital punishment. Author of “Dead Man Walking” and founder of “Ministry Against the Death Penalty,” Sister Helen Prejean will speak at an evening of contemplation and action on the abolition of capital punishment on Tuesday, March 31, at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Road Hospitality Center, 744 S. Main St., South Bend.

Mass at Life Center to celebrate children with special needs

SOUTH BEND — A Mass in appreciation of special needs children, especially children with Down syndrome, will be celebrated at the Life Center on Ironwood Circle in South Bend on Saturday, March 21, at 8 a.m. Father Henri Vallancourt, a visiting scholar at the University of Notre Dame, will celebrate the Mass, with Holy Cross Father Ed Krause as a co-celebrant. A reception will follow the Mass.

The Mass, in honor of World Down Syndrome Day, is part of the 40 Days for Life spring campaign.
The glory of eternal life awaits us

5th Sunday of Lent
In 12:20-33

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of this Lenten weekend’s first Scriptural reading. Jeremiah ranks among the greatest of the ancient Hebrew prophets. He wrote at a very difficult time for his people.

Outside pressures had come to be so strong that the very future existence of the nation, and indeed of the Hebrew race, was at risk. Nervous and uneasy, many blamed God for all the misfortune.

Jeremiah insisted that God had not delivered the people into peril. Rather, they had decided for themselves to pursue policies and to move along paths that inevitably led to their end’s first Scriptural reading.

The second reading, the Church offers us this weekend a selection from one of the great books of the Hebrew Bible. This is a doxology, a hymn of praise, that appears to have been composed in the classical period of Hebrew poetry.

The third reading is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews. This letter, like the Gospel of the Lord today, is a reflection and response to the people of God of the inexcusable sin of unbelief.

The passage is an extended argument to show that the people of Israel did not obey the law of God as a new covenant, and if they would sin forever merciful, forgiving and life.

The people broke the covenant. God, being faithful to the new covenant, and sinning no more meant that the new covenant, and if they would sin forever merciful, forgiving and life.

The glory of eternal life awaits us.

FRED AND LISA EVERETT

FAMILY, PAGE 13

The diocesan registration for accommodations for the Theological Congress preceding the World Meeting for Families is now closed. Interested families can still register for the congress through their website (www.worldmeeting2015.org). In addition, we are looking to make relatively inexpensive accommodations available for those interested in going to the grand finale of the WFM that will culminate with a Mass with Pope Francis. Look for more information next month.

Catechism: Part Six

Two of the Church’s sacraments are unique in that they are both devoted “to the salvation of others.” Both Holy Orders and Marriage confer a special grace for a particular mission in the Church to serve and build up the people of God. In other words, often men and women need to be biological parents to radiate God’s love or take part in the “family of families” we call as the Church. The vocation to the Priesthood, or vowed religious life, has its own integrity and glory. The Church always prides itself on its religious, and parents must help all of them and daughters listen for the possibility that God might be calling them to offer their lives in this way.

Furthermore, there are many celibate lay people, with their own irreplaceable role in the Church. The Church fosters many distinct ways of practicing celibacy, but all of them are, one way or another, a call to serve the Church and foster communion in ways that are analogous with parenting. Authentic celibacy — whether lay, ordained or vowed — is oriented toward social and community life. To be a “spiritual father” or “spiritual mother” — perhaps as a member of the clergy or religious, but also as a godparent, or an adopted relative, or a catechist or teacher, or simply as a mentor and friend — is an esteemed vocation, a place that is essential for a healthy and flourishing Christian community.

St. John Paul II once reflected on the personal moral qualities of Mother Teresa, and, by extension, the fruitfulness and spiritual fertility of celibate life more generally. It is not unusual to call a religious “mother.” But this name had special intensity for Mother Teresa. A mother is recognized by her ability to give herself. Seeing Mother Teresa’s manner, attitudes, way of being, helps us understand what it meant to her, beyond the purely physical dimension, to be a mother; it helped her to go to the spiritual root of motherhood. We certainly know what her secret was; she was filled with Christ, and therefore looked at everyone with the eyes and heart of Christ. She had taken seriously His words:

“I was hungry and you gave

The glory of eternal life awaits us.

EASTER SYMBOLS

The Paschal lamb symbolizes Christ as the Paschal Victim and as our sacrifice. He is the true Paschal lamb who was slain for the redemption of humanity, and thus is the true sacrifice.

The paschal candle symbolizes the light of Christ, who came into the world to be the light of the world and to dispel the darkness.

The palm fronds symbolize the joy of the resurrection and the triumph of Christ over sin and death.

The Easter egg symbolizes the risen Christ and the empty tomb, and is a reminder of the resurrection of Jesus and the hope of eternal life.

The Easter basket is a symbol of the hope of eternal life and the joy of the risen Christ.

The white lily symbolizes the purity of Christ and the purity of the new life in Christ.

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Stephen Fry, Job and the Cross of Jesus

The British writer, actor and comedian Stephen Fry is featured in a YouTube video, which has gone viral: over 5 million views as of this moment. As you may know, Fry is, like his British counterparts Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins, a fairly ferocious atheist, who has made a name for himself in recent years as a very public debunker of all things religious.

In the video in question, he articulates precisely what he would say to God, if upon arriving at the pearly gates, he discovered that he was mistaken in his atheism. Fry says that he would ask God why He made a universe in which children get bone cancer, a universe in which human beings suffer horribly and without justification. If such a monstrous, self-absorbed and callous God exists, Fry insists, he would decidedly not want to spend eternity with Him. Now there is much more to Fry’s rant — but you get the drift.

To those who feel that Stephen Fry has delivered a devastating blow to religious belief, let me say simply: this is nothing new to Christians. St. Paul, Origen, Augustine, C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton and many, many other Christian theologians up and down the centuries have dealt with it. In fact, St. Thomas Aquinas formulated one of the pithiest expressions of the problem in the 13th century.

The great Catholic philosopher argued that if one of two contraries be infinite, the other would be altogether destroyed. Yet God is called infinitely good. Therefore, if God exists, there should be no evil.

But there is evil. Thus it certainly called infinitely good. Therefore, if God is the providential Lord of all of the world, even death itself, is of final significance. Is it terrible that innocent children die of wasting diseases? Well of course. But is it finally and irreversibly terrible? Is it nothing but terrible? By no means! It might in fact be construed as an avenue to something unsurpassably good.

In the last analysis, the best rejoinder to Fry’s objection is a distinctive Christian one, one that Christians refer to the day on which Jesus was unjustly condemned, abandoned by His friends, brutally scourged, paraded like an animal to an instrument of torture and left to die as “Good Friday.” To understand “that is to have the ultimate answer to Job — and to Stephen Fry.

Father Robert Barron is the founder of Word on Fire, and the rector and president of Mundelein Seminary, visit www.WordOnFire.org.

FAMILY

Continued from page 12

me food,...” She therefore had no trouble in “adopting” her poor as children. Her love was concrete and ill. She incarnated the love of God, which is the distinctive mark of His disciples: “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Church offers marriage as a vocation, a possibility, therefore not a law or requirement for a flourishing Catholic life. It follows, then, that celibacy needs to exist in the Church’s social life in order for marriage to be a matter of freedom rather than compulsion. Celibacy is the alternative if there is indeed more than one way to order one’s sexual life, one’s maleness or femaleness, to heaven. “Family life is the vocation that God inscribed into the nature of man and woman, and there is another vocation which is complementarily to marriage: the call to celibacy and virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. It is the vocation that Jesus Himself lived...”

In the case of marriage, when husbands and wives give themselves to one another, with a love that imitates Jesus, their gift of self to each other is part of the work of Christ, joining in the same spirit of Jesus’ own gift of Himself for the Church. When the spouses exchange their vows in church at their wedding liturgy, Christ receives their nuptial love and makes it part of His own Eucharistic gift of self for the Church and the Father who, pleased by the offering of the Son, gives the Holy Spirit the spouses to seal their union.

Nuptial fruitfulness, then, is first of all the gift and the task of the sacramental bond. This is exactly why St. Paul John Paul II beautifully said that the nuptial bond that the spouses have been given to enjoy and live makes them “the permanent reminder to the Church of what happened on the Cross; they are for one another and for the children witnesses to the salvation in which the sacrament makes them sharers.”

Fred and Lisa Everett are co-directors of the Office of Family Life.

WORD ON FIRE

FATHER ROBERT BARRON

upon that simple paragraph. Would it not be the height of arrogance and presumption for that person to declare that those words made not a lick of sense? Would one not be akl to someone, utterly ignorant of higher mathematics, declaring that a complex algebraic formula, coherent in itself but opaque to him, is nothing but gibberish? Given our impossibly narrow point of view, how could any of us ever presume to pronounce on the “mathematics” of what happens in the world?

A third basic observation I would make to Mr. Fry is this: once we grant that God exists, we hold to the very real possibility of a life beyond this one. But this implies that no evil in this world, even death itself, is of final significance. Is it terrible that innocent children die of wasting diseases? Well of course. But is it finally and irreversibly terrible? Is it nothing but terrible? By no means! It might in fact be construed as an avenue to something unsurpassably good.

In the last analysis, the best rejoinder to Fry’s objection is a distinctive Christian one, one that Christians refer to the day on which Jesus was unjustly condemned, abandoned by His friends, brutally scourged, paraded like an animal to an instrument of torture and left to die as “Good Friday.” To understand “that is to have the ultimate answer to Job — and to Stephen Fry.

Father Robert Barron is the founder of Word on Fire, and the rector and president of Mundelein Seminary, visit www.WordOnFire.org.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 22, 2015

John 12:20-33

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: the Gospel is being prepared to spread to the world. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BETHsaida

HOUR

DIES

TROUBLED

HEAVEN

SPOKEN

DRIVEN OUT

GALILEE

GLORIIFIED

WHOEVER

SAVE ME

CROWD

JUDGMENT

DRAW

SEE JESUS

WHATE

MY SERVANT

A VOICE

HEARD IT

WORLD

DEATH

GREGG

TAE H W J O C H O NA

O G D H E A R D I T N A

M T L K W O R L D S O B

G N D O W K M D E I J E

A A E D R I V E N O U T

L V H K T I J S W H D H

I R O H O E F E H T G S

L E U I S P K I O D A M A

E S R U C M S D E E E I

E Y S A V E M E V D N D

L M E R N E V A E H T A

L A D E L B U O R T M B

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March 22, 2015

C O M M E N T A R Y

47 Teen disease

46 Epoch

45 Former USSR’s

44 45 46

43 Preened

42 Club rule

41 Become bigger

40 Mound

39 Health club

38 Club rule

37 Russian ruler

36 A pearl of great price is

35 Become bigger

34 Mount where Jesus

33 At the name of Jesus

32 33 34

31 Filthy film

30 Nun makes forever

29 Save me a voice

28 Father

27 Prophet of tears

26 Did not shield

25 Judas was one

24 Bubbling

23 "Remember their... no more"

22 Reporter’s question

21 Words per minute

20 Extremely high frequency

19 Son of...

18 Father

17 ___ in Peace

16 ___ in Peace

15 ___, by whom all unto myself

14 Expert

13 Santa call (2 wds.)

12 Space ship builders

11 Sloppy

10 ___ in Peace

9 Father

8 Prophet of tears

7 St. Simon’s symbol

6 Russian ruler

5 Diamond weight unit

4 Epoch

3 Russian ruler

2 Did not shield

19 Reporter’s question

13 Santa call (2 wds.)

18 St. Benedict the...
Job opportunities
St. Vincent de Paul School

Full-time custodian: Year-round, full benefits, daily maintenance and cleaning of school. Start date is June 1. Open until filled.

6th Grade Teacher with middle school Language Arts certification for the 2015-2016 school year. Open until filled.

Part-time Music Teacher (also open to teaching band) for the 2015-2016 school year. Open until filled.

Send resume/application to: t.gropp@svcelkhart.org or hard copy to
1114 South Main Street, Elkhart, Indiana, 46516

Application deadline April 17

Director of Development
Redeemer Radio, a 501(C)(3) non-profit is seeking a full-time Director of Development. The Director of Development (DD) is chiefly responsible for enhancing and maintaining donor revenue to achieve Redeemer Radio's financial needs.

The DD must have a passion for Redeemer Radio with the ability to build and develop long-term relationships with supporters and volunteers. The chosen candidate will be an organized team player with attention to detail, big picture thinking and have strong verbal and written communication skills. He or she should be comfortable asking individuals for financial support and guide other volunteers who assist in this effort. A self-motivated individual with a servant leadership style is essential.

Responsibilities include:
• Lead and direct all strategies and activities for donor cultivation, solicitation and communication
• Create and improve existing development programs to support the annual budget
• Lead and guide development volunteers who assist Redeemer Radio
• Responsible for donor communications Requirements include:
• Practicing Catholic in full communion with the church
• Four-year Bachelor's degree in an aligned field of study
• Demonstrated volunteer experience in parish activities
• Strong communication and computer skills
• Previous public speaking experience
• Previous development or non-profit experience a plus

Interested candidates should send resume, references, salary history, and salary requirements (necessary for consideration) to:
Redeemer Radio
Attn: Executive Director
4618 East State Blvd. Ste. 200
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

You may also choose to email all of the above information to: jobs@RedeemerRadio.com

As a religious broadcaster, Fort Wayne Catholic Radio Group (Redeemer Radio) has established a religious qualification for all employee positions. In accordance with all FCC rules and EEO Program compliance measures, Redeemer Radio makes reasonable, good faith efforts to recruit and hire applicants without regard to race, color, national origin or gender, among those who are qualified for employment based on their religious belief or affiliation.

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The Catholic Schools Office is accepting applications for
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Phone: 260-422-4611 Fax: 260-426-3077
Applications available online at www.diocesefwsb.org/Administrative-Application
Completed application deadline: MARCH 31, 2015

St Vincent’s Elementary School
Located at 1720 East Wallen Rd, Fort Wayne, IN
http://www.saintv.org/school/

BUILDING A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST
FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Visit todayscatholicnews.org
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

FISH FRIES
Holy Name Society fish fry
New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 20, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $8, children 5-12 $4.50 and children under 5 free.

Knights of Columbus to host fish fry
Plymouth — The Knights of Columbus Council 7519 will have a fish dinner on Friday, March 27, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 901 E. Jefferson, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are $8.50 for adults, $4 for children 5-10 and children under 4 free. The fish will be prepared by Tyner Oddfellows. Proceeds will benefit local charitable organizations.

Fish fry at PB
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, corner of Spring and Barthold, will host a fish fry on Friday, March 20, in the school gymnasium from 4-7 p.m. Adults dinners are $9, children 6-12 are $5 and a donation is appreciated for children ages 5 and under. Cheese pizza also available. Carry-out and drive-through will be available.

ANNIVERSARY KNIGHT

Fish fried by Tyner at Sacred Heart
South Bend — Sacred Heart of Jesus, 65368 U.S. 31-South will have a Lenten fish fry Friday, March 20, from 4-7 p.m. (carry out/drive through closes at 6:30 p.m.) Tickets are $9 for adults and all carry-outs, $4 for children ages 6 through 12 and children 5 and under free. Call 574-291-3775 for more information.

Fish fry planned
Fort Wayne — The St. Therese Knights will have a fish fry on Friday, March 20, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the St. Therese Hall, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd. Tickets are adults $9, children 5-12 $5, under 5 free. Carry-out available.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
Casino night planned
Monroeville — St. Rose Parish will have a casino night/Texas hold ‘em tournament on Saturday, March 21, at the Park Pavilion, 421 Monroe St. Free admission. Must be 21. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with $30 registration at 6 p.m. Tournament begins at 7 p.m. Cash prizes for top 10 finalists. License No. 136616. Contact Tony at 260-623-6368 for information. Proceeds will benefit St. Rose of Lima School.

Abbey, Tea Party theme
Sunday, March 22, at 11:30 a.m. at St. Pius X Church, 52553 Fir Road, Granger 46530. FRIDAY, MARCH 20, from 4:30-7 p.m. (carry out meals will be available for $5. Proceeds will benefit the Bill Roth Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Card party and salad bar planned
New Carlisle — The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish will have a card party and deluxe salad bar on Sunday, March 22, at 11:30 a.m. The event will have a Downtown Abbey, Tea Party theme. Tickets are $5 purchased in advance by calling 574-654-8208. Proceeds purchase needed altar items.

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

PIANO LESSONS AND WRITING TUTORING
Local Catholic wife/mother is offering piano lessons and writing tutoring (both online and in-person) to students of all ages. Check out www.shannontalentstudio.com or contact Katie at writersblocktutor@gmail.com

See theology in a different light.

Week-long classes on a variety of topics begin June 8, 15, and 22. Visit ctu.edu/summer-institute
and Daniel Philpott, the community will participate in this worldwide tribute with a special memorial led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to acknowledge Christians of all denominations who have, in recent years, willingly laid down their lives for Christ. This service will be held at St. Matthew Cathedral at 7:15 p.m. on March 29 and is open to people of all faith traditions.

LaSalvia shared that “one of the martyrs who will be recognized is Msgr. Oscar Romero, former archbishop of San Salvador, a man of peace in a country marked by injustice and civil war, who was killed on the altar while celebrating the Eucharist on March 24, 1980.” In January, the Vatican’s Congregation for Saints’ Causes officially recognized Msgr. Oscar Romero, for whom the martyrs who will be recognized are named.

In explaining why the community seeks to unite Christians through this type of memorial event, he revealed, “From the beginning, we recognized that prayer was the first work of the community. Everything that we do starts with prayer. It is its essential and fundamental task as Christians, and in addition to educating ourselves about what is happening, it is our most important response! Prayer is the work of the whole Church, which is why Bishop Rhoades has invited the priests, religious, laity and other Christians of the diocese to participate in this prayer service.”

He also recalled the various ways in which the community has responded to the violence so often inflicted upon Christians throughout the world. “We seek to come together through what Pope Benedict called and Pope Francis is now calling an “ecumenism of blood.” The 20th and 21st centuries have been periods of incredible persecution, especially in the Middle East. There, our founder, Andrea Riccardi is currently taking action to help Christians in Aleppo, Syria, one of the cities recently bombed by all sides and where many Christians have been killed. It was there that two Syrian Orthodox bishops, close friends of the Sant’Egidio community, were kidnapped. We are currently working to find them and return them home. Riccardi has also been working on opening a humanitarian corridor in Aleppo to bring out the innocent civilians currently in hiding.”

Additionally, LaSalvia shared, “Riccardi, who also has good relations with the Coptic Church in Egypt, sent condolences to Coptic Patriarch Alexandria Tawadros II, following the brutal killing of the 21 Christians who were beheaded in Libya. He responded with grateful affection for the sympathetic words and prayed, “the Lord of Life protect us from hatred and intolerance.”

LaSalvia further remarked that Pope Francis has been very supportive of the mission of the Sant’Egidio community, sharing that when he visited its members in Rome this past June, “He encouraged them to continue to remain vigilant in their prayer, to continue going to the peripheries and serving the marginalized, and to steadfastly work to achieving worldwide peace.”

The prayer vigil is co-sponsored by the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Catholic Peace Fellowship.

PRAYER IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE GOSPEL

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015
At 7:15 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral
1701 Miami St., South Bend
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Presider

In many parts of the world, Christians do not cease to proclaim the Gospel of Christ’s peace, even at the risk of their own lives. This strong, nonviolent witness of our brothers and sisters helps us to understand the meaning of the Cross of Jesus, of his Passion and Resurrection. Continuing traditions started in Rome and encouraged by St. John Paul II, this memorial prayer remembers the faithful of all Christian traditions of the 20th and 21st centuries who have been given the grace to offer their lives for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All are invited to begin Holy Week with Bishop Rhoades by honoring the Christian martyrs of today at this event, which is hosted by the Community of Sant’Egidio.

‘At the end of the second millennium, the Church has once again become a Church of martyrs ... The witness to Christ borne even to the shedding of blood has become a common inheritance of Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants.’ — St. John Paul II, Breve Millennio Adveniente, 37

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Egidio
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