Knights of Columbus receive Evangelium Vitae Medal

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — The Knights of Columbus became the fifth recipients of the annual University of Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal at a banquet on the university campus Sunday evening, April 26.

The medal has been awarded annually since 2011 by the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture to honor individuals or organizations for outstanding work affirming and defending the sanctity of all human life. It is named for St. Pope John Paul II’s 1995 encyclical “The Gospel of Life” and the honor carries a $10,000 prize.

The medal was presented to Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, by Carter Snead, a professor in the Notre Dame School of Law and director of the Center for Ethics and Culture. In his comments before the presentation, Snead praised the Knights for their “heroic and tireless efforts” in responding to St. Pope John Paul’s call to affirm a culture of life and to protect the most vulnerable members of society.

Snead cited some of the contributions of the Knights, including tens of millions of dollars and volunteer hours donated to worthy causes and ongoing support for various pro-life initiatives.

Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight since 2000, accepted the award on behalf of the Knights of Columbus and announced that the $10,000 prize was being donated to the Notre Dame Charles E. Rice Fellowship Fund, named for the late law professor Anderson described as a good friend and “tireless advocate for life.”

Anderson spoke about the challenges to a culture of life in the United States, and cited President Barack Obama’s speech at the 2009 Notre Dame graduation. In that speech, the president said that a way to find common ground on the abortion issue was “to honor the conscience of those who disagree with abortion and draft a
Thank you, Vincentians

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades

The following is the text of a talk by Bishop Rhoades at a fund-raising dinner for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of Saint Henry and Sacred Heart Parishes, Fort Wayne, on April 24:

“God’s heart has a special place for the poor.” Pope Francis teaches us by his words and actions. Our Holy Father is calling all of us to hear the cry of the poor. He says: “Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.”

When I think about Pope Francis’ call for us to be a Church of and for the poor, I think immediately of the example and work of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in our diocese. Hundreds of the faithful, like you, in parish conferences throughout our diocese faithfully, and often quietly, day by day lovingly serve the poor, reach out to the needy, in the spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul, a great “apostle of charity” who has been called the “father of the poor.” I thank you and all the Vincentians throughout our diocese for your witness to God’s love through your works of charity.

I have always been inspired by the mission and the spirituality of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. It is much more than a philanthropic organization. It is an apostolate rooted in the Gospel. It has only one purpose, as Blessed Frederic Ozanam said: “to sanctify its members in the exercise of charity and to help the poor in their corporal and spiritual needs.”

When the founder of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Frederic Ozanam, was beatified at World Youth Day in Paris in 1997, Saint John Paul said that Blessed Frederic “believed in love, the love of God for every individual. He felt himself called to love, giving the example of a great love for God and others.

He went to all those who needed to be loved more than others, those to whom the love of God could not be revealed effectively except through the love of another person. There Ozanam discovered his vocation, the path to which Christ called him. He found his road to sanctity. And he followed it with determination.”

These words of Saint John Paul II about Blessed Frederic remind us that your vocation as Vincentians is precisely that, a vocation, a calling. It is a vocation to love, love of God and neighbor. Your love of neighbor is focused especially on those who are poor and marginalized in our society. When you serve them, you are honoring Our Lord in their persons. Remember the words of Blessed Frederic about those whom you serve: “We must fall at their feet and say to them, like the Apostle You are my Lord. You are our masters and we are your servants; you are for us the sacred images of the God whom we do not see and, not knowing how to love Him in another way, we love Him through you.”

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, as you know, was an exemplary husband and father. He is an example for the laity of living the call to holiness. As a university student in 19th century France, in an atmosphere of much anti-clerical and anti-Catholic opinion, the young Frederic defended his Christian convictions without hating those who were the Church’s adversaries. In fact, he loved them, as Jesus taught us. Blessed Frederic was a courageous believer who sought to spread the faith and renew the Church through action on behalf of the poor.

I think what he did is very instructive for us today, in the midst of our increasingly secularized culture. We are called to love the Church’s adversaries and opponents, remaining firmly faithful to the truths of our faith, while also living that faith with the love that attracts others to the truth and beauty of the Gospel.

Here in our diocese, your ministry as Vincentians is a great testimony of what Blessed Pope Paul VI called “a living Catholicism.” You don’t just serve the poor, you love them, you see them as brothers and sisters and as friends. You recognize and respect their dignity. It is not just giving material assistance to an anonymous person. You are to see in each person you serve a child of God, a brother, a sister, a unique individual whom God loves. You are to see in each individual the face of Christ.

I encourage you to read the lives of the Vincentian saints and blesseds, great models for you and for all of us: Saint Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, Saint Louise de Marillac, Blessed Rosalie Rendu, Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, and others. These holy members of the Vincentian family are great models and intercessors for you.

I have a special devotion to one of the Vincentians, Blessed Pier Giorgio. At the age of 17, when he joined the Society, he said: “Jesus visits me every morning in Holy Communion. I repay him with my poor means, visiting the poor.” He did not love the poor in general; he loved the poor individual. Blessed Pier Giorgio was a man of prayer who loved Eucharistic adoration and the rosary. He loved his friends and family.

He was a vibrant young man and outdoorsman. He died at the age of 24, Blessed Pier Giorgio is a great example for our Catholic youth, a young man of deep faith and love for Christ, a man of prayer, a man who had a passion for life, a man of great virtue who loved and served the poor through the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. I think the conferences of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in our diocese have an important task today to reach out to our young people and invite them to become members. The story of Blessed Pier Giorgio should be shared with them. It will attract them to the Vincentian vocation.

I wish to conclude by thanking you again for your dedication and commitment to your holy charism. Your ministry of aid to the needy is a vital part of the Church’s mission to bring the good news to the poor. May your service of the poor in the spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul help you to grow in holiness. Today, April 24th, is the birthday of Saint Vincent de Paul. He was born April 24, 1581 in a village of southwest France. Here we are 434 years later. May Saint Vincent de Paul, the apostle of charity and father of the poor, intercede for you and for all the Vincentians of our diocese and throughout the world!”
Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, speaks at the March for Marriage near Capitol Hill in Washington April 25. The Supreme Court will hear cases April 28 for states to honor the constitutionality of same-sex marriage.

“If that’s completely redefined across the board, it represents a sea change. And not only our preaching and our worship, but also our social services, our education, all the things we do for the common good rest on the understanding that marriage is between one man and one woman and that it’s a lot to do with bringing children in the world and their well-being,” he said.

“So (a marriage re-definition) will raise a lot of religious liberty questions. It raises the question of whether or not churches and individuals who sincerely believe this might not be penalized or denied contracts or the ability to serve the common good,” the archbishop explained.

The march came three days before the Supreme Court was scheduled to hear arguments April 28 in four cases weighing whether states that bar same-sex marriage have the power to ban such unions that are legal in other states.

Participants remained enthusiastic throughout the march despite the gloomy, cool weather as they heard from a variety of speakers. Many carried signs and voiced chants in support of traditional marriage.

Brian Brown, National Organization for Marriage president, said planners wanted to bring a diverse group of people together for the event to highlight to the Supreme Court “that people have embraced the redefinition of marriage is simply untrue.”

“Marriage is based upon the fundamental, biological reality of husband and wife, mother and father, and that the court has no authority to redefine that truth,” Brown said.

Stressing the march’s theme of religious liberty, Jennifer Marshall, vice president for the Institute for Family, Community and Opportunity at the Heritage Foundation, said standing for traditional marriage often comes with a cost. She cited recent incidents in which individuals have lost jobs and business because of their public expression of traditional marriage.

Marshall called such actions injust, saying that “marriage existed before this government or any government, and that marriage is two halves of humanity coming together for the future of humanity.”

Speakers from groups such as the Family Research Council, Central Bible Church International, the Coalition of African-American Pastors, and the American Orthodox Institute also addressed the march.

The demonstration was not without opposition. As the column of marchers reached the Supreme Court, they were met by a wall of protesters waving rainbow flags. One of the protesters told CNS he questioned “what God (the marchers) are serving.” Another said, “This is the United States of America. You should be able to marry whomever you want.”

At the anticipation of the Supreme Court arguments, a large coalition of faith leaders, several of whom were at the march, penned an open letter April 23 to elected officials and people in public service.

“As religious leaders from various faith communities, we acknowledge that marriage is the foundation of the family where children are raised by a mother and a father together,” the letter said.

5,000 join March for Marriage three days before Supreme Court arguments

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called same-sex marriage “the greatest social experiment of our time” and said that “children do not need experiments,” but rather the love of a mother and father at the third annual March for Marriage rally supporting traditional marriage on Capitol Hill.

Addressing a crowd April 25 estimated at 5,000 by the National Organization for Marriage, march sponsors, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, described traditional marriage between one man and one woman as a “beautiful truth,” saying its protection is necessary to “protect the children.”

When asked afterward to elaborate on his statement, Archbishop Kurtz told Catholic News Service that “basically, every child comes into the world through a mother and a father. That child not only deserves to know, but to be loved by the mother and father. Children flourish when they are able to be loved and raised by their mothers and fathers.”

A pre-march rally began with a prayer from Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, in which he thanked God for “the diversity” of the group present and asked for the protection of religious freedom in the United States.

When asked about the religious liberty language in his prayer, Archbishop Lori told CNS that “the word marriage appears hundreds of thousands of times in federal, state and local laws.”
Diocese disperses parishes-in-need grants

The Annual Bishop’s Appeal of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend includes a funding program to assist less affluent parishes. A Parishes-in-Need Fund Committee met recently to review parish requests for financial assistance of church projects. The committee recommended a total of $182,530.50 be granted to 10 parishes for 16 essential projects, enabling them to arrive at a more stable existence.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades approved the grants.

“No, we can’t meet every request submitted by the parishes,” said Msgr. Robert C. Schulte, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese. “We carefully consider the nature of each request in light of the total needs and financial resources of the parish as well as the other parishes in the diocese requesting funding assistance.”

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

Some funds usually remain in the account for use throughout the year by parishes when a new need arises, Msgr. Schulte indicated.

If all the money is not used in 2015, however, it will be carried over and allocated to next year’s Parishes-in-Need fund.

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

This year’s allocation of Parishes-in-Need funds brings the amount granted to $5,827,921 from the Annual Bishop’s Appeal to parishes in need during the 28 years of the Annual Bishop’s Appeal.

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

South Bend

- Holy Cross — $12,730 to repair leaks on the addition of the Holy Cross School gymnasium and offices.
- St. Adalbert — $40,000 for major repairs on the school roof and boiler room roof.
- St. Anthony — $6,000 to upgrade the intercom system for the school.
- St. John the Baptist $7,140 to replace a window.
- St. Patrick — $2,680 to replace backflow device, which is failing and no longer meets code requirements, in the school's water system.
- St. Patrick — $8,854 to replace 56-year-old sewage ejector pump in Parish Center basement.
- St. Patrick — $13,688 to replace failing boiler system in the church.
- St. Patrick — $2,066 to replace 56-year-old sewage ejector pump in Parish Center basement.
- St. Monica — $15,800 to replace the current HVAC system.
- St. Monica, Mishawaka — $6,950 to replace church and school drinking fountains.
- St. Monica, Mishawaka — $4,106 to replace eight restroom stalls and toilet seats.
- St. Monica, Mishawaka — $13,142 to replace carpeting in the school

Fort Wayne

- Queen of Angels — $10,000 to paint the walls and ceilings in the church, school and activity center.
- St. John the Baptist — $6,642 to replace fireproof stairwell doors and main entry door in the school.

Fort Wayne area

- St. Catherine, Nix, Columbia City — $24,085 to repair roof and seal remaining three outer walls of the church.
- St. John the Baptist — $15,800 to replace roof and seal remaining three outer walls of the church.

All Saints Religious Goods

8808 Coldwater Road • Fort Wayne
In Coldwater Centre at Wallen Road, 1.5 miles north of I-69
260-490-7506

• First Communion Gifts
• Confirmation Gifts
• Baptismal Gifts & Gowns
• Church Supplies

Thanks for your Support

Shareathon 2015

Redeemer Radio
106.3 FM • 95.7 FM • 89.9 FM
Listen worldwide at RedeemerRadio.com

Contact or provide financial support at info@redeemerradio.com
4618 E. State Blvd., Suite 205 • Fort Wayne, IN 46801 • 260.436.9598

Support your school. Use All Saints SCRIP!
INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), the Indiana bishops’ official watch¬dog organization for public policy matters in Indiana, worked to pro¬mote the consistent life ethic and the common good during 2015 session of the Indiana General Assembly, which adjourned dur¬ing the final week of April.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, who serves as the chief lobbyist and spokesperson for the Catholic Church in Indiana, said his efforts of bringing the Church’s teaching of the consistent life ethic and the common good to the Statehouse took “many forms” this year.

According to Tebbe, the consist¬ent life ethic encompasses a com¬prehensive pro-life message, which goes beyond the traditional sense of being exclusively anti-abortion. “The consistent life ethic includes the whole person from conception to natural death, and all the stages in between,” said Tebbe. “Within this consistent life ethic, the ICC works to forward it though the legislative channels.”

The ICC marked dozens of bills as priorities. The following are some of the ICC’s legislative successes.

Legislation to allow growth in availability for school choice scholarships opportunities passed in the state budget bill HB 1001. The scholarship opportunities passed as priorities. The following are some channels to forward it though the legislative process.

The consistent life ethic reaches beyond the issue of being exclusively anti-abortion. The consistent life ethic, said Tebbe. “While discrimination was neither the intent nor the legal application of existing RFRA’s across the country for 20 years, it is still unclear if the new RFRA language, which Indiana lawmakers adopted, will provide religious liberty in its application or practice as it relates to the free exercise of religion. Unlike the original RFRA language, the new RFRA language has not been tested or applied,” said Tebbe. “While the ICC is supportive of the principle of religious freedom, it is unclear at this point if Indiana’s new law will accomplish its intended goal.”

The ICC supported legislation to protect the unborn and those in infancy. Legislation passed to expand Indiana’s safe haven law. The newborn incubator bill, HB 1016, aims to help reduce infant mortality by expanding the safe haven law through creating a baby drop box for mothers to surrender their unwanted baby, rather than abandoning it in unsafe conditions. Lawmakers also passed, HB 1093, which creates resources through the Indiana Department of Health for parents who get a pre-born diagnosis of a disabled child, thus providing parents needed information and support systems to carry the child to term rather than aborting the child. Preborn infants will benefit from this legislation, dubbed the safety pin bill, HB 1004, which passed. The bill helps provide funding for better prenatal care for low-income families. The RU 486 clarification bill, SB 546, which passed, allows for regulation of the drug to take place after it was held up in court last year. The human egg transfer bill, SB 208, which aimed to expand the use of human eggs from out of state entities was opposed by the ICC and was defeated.

In the area of death and dying, the ICC opposed two bills, which would have allowed the human remains to be dissolved through the alkaline hydrolysis process after death. Tebbe said, “The ICC opposed the bills because the process of dissolving the body and having it run down into the sewer system was not deemed a respectful way to dispose of a human being. The bill was defeated.

The aborted fetal remains bill also passed. The legislation, SB 329, recognized the right of a woman, who has an abortion, to direct the final disposal including a proper burial of the remains of her aborted fetus.

While the ICC supported a bill to ban the death penalty, the bill did not get a hearing this year and died.

The ICC also supported a bill to increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to help families. While provisions of the EITC passed in the House, agreement could not be made during the conference committee phase and the legislation died. Tebbe said he expects the version of the EITC to return again next year and will continue to work toward its passage. To view the details of legislative action and bill summaries in the final days of the Indiana General Assembly go to www.indianacc.org.

The annual Retreat for Persons with Disabilities was held at St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne on April 25, where over 25 persons with varying ages and abilities gathered at the event titled “Hearts of Fire.” The retreat offered prayer, song and inspiring talks and crafts. Those in attend¬ance were entertained by the Soul Brothers and Soul Sisters Premier Dance Company whose members all live with Down syndrome, and an encouraging talk on how to live with hearts on fire by Father Jacob Meyer, parochial vicar at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, with discussion follow¬ing. After lunch provided by retired St. Vincent School cook Rosie Munson, the attendees were inspired by Mary Hilger’s chalk drawing of the face of Jesus, shown above, which she donated to the church. Crafttime was followed by the reading of the Gospel story of Emmaus and closing prayer. The St. Vincent de Paul Boy Scout Troop 2 provided general assistance for the retreat.

Salute the Class of 2015!

Send best wishes to your graduate in Today’s Catholic’s special graduation section to be in homes on May 24, 2015

This 4" x 2" “grad-ad” costs $50.00

“grad-ad” sizes and prices:

- 1 inches wide x 2 inches deep - $50
- 1 1/8 inches x 4 inches x $100
- 1 1/4 inches wide x and 5 inches deep - $150
- 1 1/2 inches x 10 1/2 inches wide x 6.5 inches deep - $300

Deadline for ads is May 13, 2015

For information or to place your ad, please call: Tess Steffen (260) 399-1457 email: Tsteffen@diocesefwsb.org

Prepare your own congratulatory ad... according to sizes shown. Preferred format is PDF. We cannot accept Microsoft Publisher Files (On request, Today’s Catholic advertising department will prepare your ad at no additional charge) All ads will appear in black and white.

Mary Smith

Congratulations Mary, on your hard work for the past 12 years... and best wishes at Harvard!

Mom and Dad
POPE FRANCIS CELEBRATES ORDINATION MASS FOR 19 NEW PRIESTS IN ST. PETER'S BASILICA AT VATICAN

POPE FRANCIS ORDER STANDS MANDATE ENFORCEMENT AGAINST TWO DIOCESES TEMPORARILY

PITTSBURGH (CNS) – Officials in the Pittsburgh and Erie dioceses hailed a decision by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito to temporarily halt enforcement of the federal contraceptive mandate against Catholic Charities and other social service agencies in the dioceses. The U.S. government was ordered to file a response by April 20. “This stay is a welcome but interim step in the long legal battle against the Obama administration’s assault on our ability to fulfill our mission and continue serving our citizens,” Pittsburgh Cardinal Donald Wuerl said

Pope Francis celebrates ordination mass for 19 new priests at St. Peter’s Basilica at Vatican

Cardinal George touched nation, world with his intellect, leadership

CHICAGO (CNS) – To say that Cardinal Francis E. George was an intellectual would be an understatement. To try to quantify his impact on the Catholic Church in the United States and in the world would be an understatement. “He’s the closest thing in recent American Church history to what you would think of as sort of the all-star European cardinal intellectualist,” veteran Vatican journalist John L. Allen Jr. told the Catholic New World, Chicago’s diocesan newspaper, in December 2013. “Prior to George in Chicago, the American Catholic Church has never really produced such a thing?”

Parents of slain child oppose death penalty for Boston Marathon bomber

BOSTON (CNS) — The parents of Martin Richard, the youngest victim killed in the Boston Marathon bombings two years ago, are asking that the death penalty be taken “off the table” for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. On April 8, Tsarnaev was found guilty on all 30 counts related to the attack that killed three people and severely injured 267 others at the finish line of the 2013 marathon. The penalty phase of the trial began April 21 at the U.S. District Court in Boston and was expected to last about four weeks. Julianne and Bill and Denise Richard asked that the Department of Justice bring the case to a close. “We are in favor of an appeal,” Julien Richard wrote.

Cardinal George offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida

Pope offers prayers for Texas, Louisiana and Florida
Academic All Stars named

INDIANAPOLIS — Forty high school seniors from throughout Indiana have been named 2015 Indiana Academic All-Stars, a program of the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP), and were honored at a luncheon Wednesday, April 15, at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in Indianapolis. In addition, 34 other students were recognized as Academic All-Star Regional Honorees.

The students were selected from a field of 250 outstanding nominees from the state’s private and public accredited schools. Each public and private high school accredited by the Indiana Department of Education may nominate one senior for consideration as an Indiana Academic All-Star.

Thomas Roessler, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, was recognized as 2015 Indiana Academic All-Stars and Nolan Liu, Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, and Merisa Middlestadt, Marian High School, Mishawaka, were recognized as Regional Academic All-Stars.

From these nominees, a selection committee chose the regional winners (representing five regions in Indiana) and the 40 Indiana Academic All-Stars. Selection of the school’s nominee is based upon the following considerations: A mathematical formula that combines the SAT or ACT composite score and the seven-semitude grade-point average; academic achievements and honors; academic courses and academic extracurricular activities; and other extracurricular activities, community service and leadership qualities.

The Indiana Association of School Principals, with support provided by Franklin College, Marian University, Indiana University, Bloomington, and Purdue University, along with corporate partners Herff Jones, IndyStar.com, and Inter-State Studio and Publishing Co. produces the program.

Bishop Luers Academic Super Bowl teams earn first place in Class C

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School Academic Super Bowl teams competed in the Area Academic Super Bowl Match held at Leo High School on April 21. Bishop Luers placed first in fine arts, English, math and social studies; second in science and interdisciplinary.

As a whole team, Bishop Luers earned first place in Class C by beating Adams Central, Bluffton, Churubusco and Garrett high schools.

Team members are Julia Andorfer, Jen Baum, Gabrielle Bearman, Eileen Bond, Margaret Cicciello, Grace Everett, Isaiah Fisher, Carolina Garcia, Jon Gladding, Chris Heiny, Katie Justice, Isaiah Klotz, Jacob Schall, Luke Scheer, Andrew Schenkel, Sebastian Skordos, James Slocom, Jimmy Sturm, Erik Woeenker and Makenna Zwick. Bishop Luers’ math team will compete at State on May 9 at Purdue University.

Teams earn top awards at Destination Imagination State Finals

FORT WAYNE — Two middle school teams from St. Jude School, Fort Wayne, and St. John the Baptist, New Haven, competed in the Indiana Destination Imagination State Finals held at Hamilton Southeastern-Riverside Junior High School in Fishers on April 18, after earning first and second place during the Northern Regional Tournament in March.

Both teams earned the first and second place in their challenge and category, earning an opportunity to compete at Global Finals 2015.

Destination Imagination (DI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering students’ curiosity, courage and creativity through open-ended STEM, fine arts and service-learning challenges. It is an educational non-profit that teaches the creative process to 200,000 students each year from pre-K to university level. The program takes place across 48 states and more than 30 countries including Canada, Turkey, Korea, Guatemala, Poland, China, Qatar, Brazil and Singapore.

Students win Rooney Family Entrepreneurial Scholarships

FORT WAYNE — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School announced the awarding of four scholarships from the Rooney Family Entrepreneurial Scholarships to the following students: Annie Thoma, Jacob Schroeder, Ben Hoffman and Alexis Miguel.

Annie Thoma and Alexis Miguel were awarded $1,000 each, and Ben Hoffman and Jacob Schroeder were awarded $500 each. The scholarship awards will be applied to tuition for the 2015-2016 school year.

The criteria for winning the scholarships were St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School middle school students writing essays answering questions about achieving future success through entrepreneurial values as well as Christian values. The students submitted their essays to a selection committee who read the essays not knowing who each student writer was.

This is the seventh year that the Rooney Family Entrepreneurial Scholarship has been offered to middle school students. Previously, it was offered to fifth, sixth and seventh graders of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Catholic School. This year it was opened to middle school students of the stand-alone St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School.

Tim Rooney, an entrepreneur himself, said that the essay questions have changed every year. He said he was impressed by this year’s student winners who submitted essays. When the students were asked who will be the biggest influence in their success in their future life’s work, the students often said it was up to themselves to uphold entrepreneurial and Christian values as they work to achieve success in their life’s work.

Seminarians instituted in the Office of Acolyte

Seminarians from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend were instituted in the office of acolyte on Saturday, April 18, at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Shown, from left, are seminarians Dennis Di Benedetto, Nathan Maska and Eric Burgener, Bishop Ronald Gainer of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and seminarians Thomas Zehr and David Huneck.
University of Saint Francis offers heritage of academic excellence

A group of devoted and faith-driven women from Germany with a passion for education and serving their community founded a school in Lafayette, Indiana, in 1890. It is thanks to their strength and commitment to Catholic higher education that the University of Saint Francis has been able to accomplish so much.
Catholic education

University of Saint Francis today

We’ve grown. We’ve changed, but some things will always be fundamentally part of the University of Saint Francis’ heritage.

A USF education — and the way it inspires through both faith and reason — helps our students create memories and explore their passions. There is something remarkable in watching those passions manifest into vocation in the classroom and in the community, and all over the world. In Fort Wayne, in Crown Point, Indiana — even online — our students continually reach beyond the limits of their education as leaders in their field, and in service to one another.

For 125 years of students, alumni, staff and professors, coming to USF feels like coming home, because it’s more than learning. It’s more than a degree. The conversations between our professors and students encourage deeper and more meaningful relationships. University of Saint Francis excellence makes a lasting impact.

Founded in 1890 as a comprehensive university in the Catholic Franciscan tradition, USF offers more than 80 undergraduate and graduate programs through the School of Health Sciences, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership and School of Creative Arts. In addition to its traditional programs, the university designs focused curricula for working adults in Fort Wayne, Crown Point and online. Currently, 2,300 students from a broad geographic region attend USF for its academic excellence.

— Robert Hines, director of University Communications

USF announces downtown campus expansion

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will hold a celebration May 6 at 9 a.m. announcing an expansion to its downtown campus. The USF Downtown Campus project kick-off will include brief comments, a “wall-breaking” and guided tours following the ceremony.

This event will officially begin the conversion of the former Chamber building into the new home of the USF Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership. The university’s signature project-based learning program, META, will also be located in the building. In addition, work will be done to four floors of the West Annex of the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center (former Scottish Rite) to house the School of Creative Arts Music Technology program.

USF President Franciscan Sister M. Elise Kriss, Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry and others will speak followed by a ceremony to help “knock down” a commemorative wall.

The event will be held at the future USF Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership (former Chamber of Commerce building) at 826 Ewing St.
Readers respond, send kindness to Kentucky

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — In the 2014 Christmas issue of Today's Catholic, an article titled “Blight Christmas” described two Catholic parishes on hard times in the hills of Kentucky and how, three years ago, their pastor, Father Joe Koury, showed up at Sunday Mass at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel in Fort Wayne and organized aid to the parish. Father Joe Koury was the appeal for aid for his parishioners.

His plea was heard by parishioners David and Sue Kistner, so Dorothy and his son Michael visited Kentucky and returned to Fort Wayne and organized aid to the area in the form of four truckloads a year of used household goods ranging from pots and pans to kitchen appliances all donated by St. Joseph parishioners. In describing what was needed, Dave Kistner asked for “anything you use yourself.”

One of the heart tugging reactions was the joy of girls who had never before had a prom dress and now had the thrill of seeing themselves in frills and flowers.

Today’s Catholic readers responded with typical generosity and Dave Kistner’s donor base expanded suddenly throughout Fort Wayne to Lexington and the gas to get there is the nearest outreach programs are still with us, guiding and encouraging us that war was not what Christians thought of preparing his own soup and bread. The old gentle- man shed tears of appreciation at the thought of preparing his own soup and bread for every meal. Dorothy Day said, “It was a separate problem. It’s where Father Joe becomes ‘Father’ to all faiths in the community and beyond with his self-styled Queen of All Saints outreach to everyone as he distributes ‘Hunger is a Universal Cassel’ supplies and low denomination Wal-Mart gift cards redeemable at a Wal-Mart 20 miles from Beattyville.

Catholics are a rare tribe in these

A 26-foot truckload of household goods and personal items donated by generous souls in Warsaw, Mishawaka, South Bend and Fort Wayne is unloaded at Queen of All Saints Parish in Beattyville, Kentucky. The cargo was in response to an article in Today’s Catholic describing the needs brought about by unemployment and hard times in a remote area of the state.

In his talk, Ellsberg will discuss the spiritual practice and vision of Dorothy Day: “She’s a holy New World.”

Vogt said, “I’m drawn to Dorothy Day because she embodies all that’s great about Catholic life. She was faithful to the Church’s liturgical life, committing to daily Mass, the rosary and the liturgy of the hours. She was also faithful to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. She mastered both the interior and exterior life, making her an example of the great ‘both/and’ of Catholicism.”

Lopez said, “Blessed Dorothy Day truly impacted me, Lopez said. ‘She’s a writer who was no wallflower when it came to politics. I’ve been at National Review — the conserva- tive magazine founded by William F. Buckley Jr. Many might think we’d have little in common, but that’s a poverty — that she’s been seen as more of a left- wing figure than a woman who worked to radically live the Gospel. She went to the Blessed Sacrament often for answers. More conversa- tion between Pope Francis and the media should start somewhere like that.”

Dorothy Day “realized a saint for our time,” said Lopez, “Like Pope Francis does today, she embraced people who might otherwise have been forgotten or ignored. And talk about a close encounter with mercy!”

May 3, 2015TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Catholicism.” Her life embodied the recent call of Pope Francis to build “a poor Church for the poor” — and her combination of political radical- ism and Christian apologetics had the potential to lead the Church beyond the categories of “liberal” and “conservative” in its engagement with American culture and politics.

Part of the 125th anniversary of the university’s celebration plans, University of Saint Francis con- ference leaders report, “This conference will explore Dorothy Day’s life, lega- cy and contemporary significance for the Church. Paper and session pro- posals are welcomed from academics and others familiar with the work of Dorothy Day.”

Registration for the conference is available at dorothyday.usf.edu. Onsite registration is $300. A limited num- ber of reduced registrations ($100) are available to members of Catholic Worker houses or full-time students. Besides Archbishop Joseph P. Naumann, the conference will bring to Fort Wayne’s USF campus a roster of nationally-recognized speakers whose lives have been impacted by Dorothy Day.

Robert Ellsberg, the publisher and editor of Orbs Books, the publish- ing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, and the editor of Dorothy Day’s diaries and letters, “At Home with Dorothy Day: Saint for Our Time,” said, "I was part of the Catholic Worker community New York from 1975-80, arriving at the age of 19. As such, I worked with Dorothy Day for the last five years of her life, including two years as managing editor of The Catholic Worker newspaper.”

“It was during this time that I formed a deep connection with Catholicism,” he said. “That encounter was the decisive event of my life. After Dorothy’s death I edited her selected writings. In this book project, I was appointed to edit her personal writings, her diaries and letters. As publisher of Orbs I have published many books by and about her. I was one of those who made up the group of Day’s associates whom Cardinal O’Connor consulted prior to introducing Dorothy Day to the Catholic Church. That dialogue and some have contributed in every way I can to promote her story and her mes- sage.”

In his talk, Ellsberg will discuss the spiritual practice and vision that underlay Day’s public witness, “drawing on my memories as well as my work on her writings,” he noted. “Through this I hope to show why I think she is an important saint for our time.”

KATHRYN JEAN LOPUE

Dorothy Day was a writer and speaker Brandon Vogt said, “I first dis- covered Dorothy was a Protestant, while I was exploring the Catholic Church. I had befriended several local homeless men and became passionate about fixing social injustices, but I didn’t see the same passion among Catholics at the nearby parish. But then a friend handed me Jim Forest’s biography of Dorothy Day and I found a kindred soul: someone deeply committed to the Catholic Church yet who also cared about the Church’s social mis- sion.”

Vogt said, “I’m drawn to Dorothy Day because she embodies all that’s great about Catholic life. She was faithful to the Church’s spiritual life, committing to daily Mass, the rosary and the liturgy of the hours. She was also faithful to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. She mastered both the interior and exterior life, making her an example of the great ‘both/and’ of Catholicism.”

Vogt will talk about how Dorothy Day embodied Catholic social teaching, particularly the seven major themes of Catholic social teaching as defined by the U.S. bish- ops. These include things like the life and dignity of the human person, the dignity of work and the rights and workers, and solidarity.


The cross. Having walked modern- day stories of thankfulness for Father Joe Koury.

563, Beattyville, KY 41311, Attn: Father Joe Koury.


The cross. Having walked modern- day stories of thankfulness for Father Joe Koury.


The cross. Having walked modern- day stories of thankfulness for Father Joe Koury.

Weathering everything

Yesterday, I was sitting on my bed, wrapped in my “cancer quilt” (a quilt made for me by friends when I fought the disease 10 years ago), complaining to my hus-
band after a challenging day. I was frustrated and feeling old. It started with a couple of small things — hav-
ing to purchase 2.25 magnification reading glasses (up from 1.25 in just a few months), and while listening to
songs on the radio on my drive home, it hit me that the pop singers were my children’s ages. My pre-
nature, bone-on-bone, knee arthritis (yikes — that’s what grandmothers
wind blew. And, it was raining.
around me outside tightly as the
winter coat, yes, winter coat in April,
to the house. At the moment, I had
for a few months), and while listening
with a couple of small things — hav-
frustrated and feeling old. It started
years ago), complaining to my hus-
friends when I fought the disease 10
May 3, 2015
T

SUNDAY GOSPEL

5th Sunday of Easter
Jn 15:1-8

The Acts of the Apostles, once again, furnishes the first reading for the liturgy in the season of Easter.
This week’s reading is about Paul and Barnabas. In the story Paul, who was converted on the road to Damarus, and who then spent much time learning about Jesus, attempts to join the Christian community in Jerusalem. The com-
munity fears him — not without cause. After all, Paul had been a very strident opponent of the
Christian Gospel, and he indeed had persecuted Jerusalem’s Christians.

Understandably these same Christians must have wondered what dark purpose lay beneath Paul’s wish to enter their com-
munity. Was he looking for ways to entrap Christians, or lingering ammunition to attack them before the authorities?

Barnabas, already part of the community, spoke up in favor of Paul’s admission into the commu-
nity. Eventually Paul was accepted. Paul remained in Jerusalem, helping the Christians as best he could, and then left. His work there Paul used the beautiful image of the Good Shepherd. Our head. He guides us away from danger.
This week’s image is no less telling and descriptive. Jesus is the vine. We believers are the branches. This image is as imme-
indicates in its message to the first hear-
ers of the Good Shepherd. The society in
which Jesus lived was agrarian. Viticulture was popular. Everyone knew about vines, and everyone
knew what vine growers did for a living.

Reflection
In last weekend’s Gospel, Jesus appeared as our guide and protec-
tor. In this weekend’s text, we see the link between believers and Jesus is revealed. His life is within believ-
ers. He is bonded with believers, an integral part of God, an inseparable part of God. In Christ, they can live forever.

The key to this wonderful relationship is our willingness to love the Lord. His love for us is uncom-
promising, constant and complete. Our love requires absolute trust and commitment.
Achieving this supreme level of love means recognizing the Lord and spending nothing above our desire to be disciples. Paul is a good model. After despising Jesus, he changed his heart, completely, totally.

The Church is frank this weekend in giving us these details about loving God absolutely. It is more than a question of good intentions or personal conviction. Christ lives in the Church, and we must spiritu-
ally incorporate ourselves into the Church to be connected to the Lord’s presence in the Church, which is part of God’s living reality as we know it.

To look again to Paul as a model, he indeed was converted.

The process was not instantaneous. Elsewhere Acts speaks of his intense study and reflection as he sought to learn about Jesus. For him, disciple ship was a solitary experience. He wanted to be part of the Church.
A secondary lesson is about evangelization. Barnabas reached out to him to bring him into the community.

In Christ, we can live forever.

Ruben trapped in his mind flroex (like the
wind, of course) toward nostalgia.
I used to spend hours trying to
inspire and motivate my children.
I used to draw pictures, first on
the second-hand chalkboard in our
schoolroom, then on the whiteboard
in our kitchen, of ripples from
thrown pebbles in a roughly sketched
pond to illustrate a point.
“See? This can be you!” I’d tell

READINGS
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-13b, 21 Jn 427:31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6 Ps 122:1-5 Jn 15:8
Thursday: Acts 15:22-21 Ps 96:1-3, 10 Jn 15:31
Friday: Acts 15:22-31 Ps 57:8-10, 12 Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10 Ps 100:16-2, 3, 5 Jn 15:18-21

Debunking myths behind the ‘new cosmology’

NOTRE DAME — Advances in cosmology — the science of the origin and development of the universe — over the past century have revolutionized our ideas about the beginning of the uni-
verse. Some of these advances are the work of Catholic cosmolo-
gists; for example, a Catholic priest, Georges Lemaitre, was the principal architect of the Big Bang theory. Others, such as Stephen Barr, use new scientific discoveries to revalue medi-
eval proofs for the existence of God. Theologians like Pierre
Feillard de Chardin used the new cosmology to understand in con-
temporary terms the full cosmic significance of God’s revelation in Christ.

Unfortunately, other less responsible uses of the new cosmology have emerged at the popular level. In this context the phrase “the new cosmology” refers to a loosely connected network of spiritualities that gratuitously use advances in scientific cosmology to undercut major doctrines of the Christian faith. I say “gratuitously” because there is no actual warrant from new cosmological theories to undercut these doctrines, and because all the critical moves against Christian doctrine were actually made long before the 20th century discoveries, which are invoked as the basis for the critique.

Removing God

The most fundamental move of the new cosmological spirituality is to de-personalize God and to reconcile the divine as a kind of “energy” permeating the cosmos. There is no “meant to be” in this spirituality, no one with any will or intention to create, to form, to have something as a part of the cosmos rather than transcendent of it. This “Divine Presence,” as author Michael O’Murchu calls it, is “It’s Time: Challenges to the Doctrine of the Faith” (Kelmor Publishing), is “everywhere, ‘charging’ and holding everything in existence,” a feature of the universe itself, “the capacity to self-organize,” a pervasive mystery in the universe which “reveals itself in the ‘patterns of operation discernible in the unfolding of the universe and in the development of life on earth.” As God is depersonalized, the universe itself seems symbolic. For example, the Incarnation, the “myth” of Jesus is no longer possible. The biblical God, “too tied to images of the earth as the center of the universe and of heaven as God’s dwelling place above the earth,” must be rejected.

The world of the Bible is the world of myth, and cannot be accepted by enlightened 21st century minds. The author says, “This includes the Incarnation, an idea that arises from the “faulty worldview” of a mythical sky- God who descends to earth. The resurrection of Jesus is an equally “mythical story.” If these “myths” have any meaning at all, they are not ours. For example, the death and resurrection of Jesus is symbolic of the evolutionary pattern that “die to the self small in order to give way to a... raised awareness — even in death,” according to O’Murchu — though how that can happen is not explained...

Apart from its symbolic meaning, Jesus’ death is “meaningless,” Morwood states. It is not redeemable, because there is no original sin requiring redemption. There is nothing unique about Jesus, Morwood writes, since “the human species has already lived and died into the Divine Presence.” Jesus embodies “Divine Presence” no more than everyone else does. He just happened to be more fully aware of it and so directs us to find it in ourselves. It is the kernel of truth at the heart of the “myth” of the Incarnation. This is

GUEST COMMENTARY

JOHN CAVADINI

“The universe (and God) knows what it’s about,” O’Murchu says. Symbolic. For example, the death and resurrection of Jesus is an equally “mythical story.” If these “myths” have any meaning at all, they are not ours. For example, the death and resurrection of Jesus is symbolic of the evolutionary pattern that “die to the self small in order to give way to a... raised awareness — even in death,” according to O’Murchu — though how that can happen is not explained...

Apart from its symbolic meaning, Jesus’ death is “meaningless,” Morwood states. It is not redeemable, because there is no original sin requiring redemption. There is nothing unique about Jesus, Morwood writes, since “the human species has already lived and died into the Divine Presence.” Jesus embodies “Divine Presence” no more than everyone else does. He just happened to be more fully aware of it and so directs us to find it in ourselves. It is the kernel of truth at the heart of the “myth” of the Incarnation. This is
reminiscent of nothing so much as ancient gnosticism. Third, though the word “faith” is still used, there is no room for faith in the classical sense of the response to revelation. Faith is in effect replaced by reason, since there is nothing “revealed” apart from what is inferred from empirical observation of the patterns of the universe. “It is time,” Morwood writes, “to insist that faith be built on the response to revelation. Faith for faith in the classical sense of ancient gnosticism.”

Finding perspective

How to assess this spirituality? The appeal to the scientific cosmology of the 21st century only serves to disguise the fact that there is absolutely nothing new here but a simplification and oversimplification of earlier varieties of gnosticism, pantheism (such as we find in the works of 17th century Dutch philosopher Benedict de Spinoza), materialism (Stoic teaching about “spirit”), and both second- and 19th-century critiques alike of Christianity as a naïve myth” (think Celsus in the second century and David Strauss in the 19th). Dabbling in their own version of neopaganism, caricaturing fundamental Christian doctrines as they go, these authors leave in limbo some of the most precious commitments the doctrines represent. Rejecting the doctrine of an utterly transparent God whose free act of creation is the source of all else, they strip all reality of freedom, including human beings. By leaving behind the doctrine of an utterly free and transcendent creator, they also leave behind the doctrine that such a creator could, in an equally free act, transcend His own transcendence, as it were, and empty Himself to come among us as one of us. As, the Word of Creation incarnate, is not a myth but the mystery of divine love expressed in history. When Jesus is raised after giving His life out of love, it is this love that is vindicated and triumphant and that calls all creation to live and to grow in its freedom. Though the language of love may remain as a residue of Christian doctrine in the new cosmology, it no longer has any grounding, because there is no one left, in the new cosmology, who can make the free, loving sacrifice in which the world is both created and redeemed. The new cosmology gives up the very truths that are the only basis for proclaiming that, far from an impersonal force that uses creation for its own needs for self-awareness, God is love, and love reigns as the ultimate mystery of love and freedom in the cosmos, now and forever.

Jesus, as the Word of Creation incarnate, is not a myth but the mystery of divine love expressed in history. When Jesus is raised after giving His life out of love, it is this love that is vindicated and triumphant and that calls all creation to live and to grow in its freedom. Though the language of love may remain as a residue of Christian doctrine in the new cosmology, it no longer has any grounding, because there is no one left, in the new cosmology, who can make the free, loving sacrifice in which the world is both created and redeemed. The new cosmology gives up the very truths that are the only basis for proclaiming that, far from an impersonal force that uses creation for its own needs for self-awareness, God is love, and love reigns as the ultimate mystery of love and freedom in the cosmos, now and forever.

"What is important," we said, "is what you do, with honor and integrity. Be the best you can be and try to set the example."
BISHOP LUERS’ ‘RUN WITH THE KNIGHTS’ 5K AND 10K RUN SLATED  Bishop Luers will host “Run with the Knights!” 10K Run and 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, May 9, at Foster Park, 3900 Old Mill Rd. Pre-registration is $15/person, and after Friday, May 8, registration is $20 per person. Race start time is 9 a.m. Day of the race registration will begin at 8 a.m. at Foster Park. Packet pickup will be Friday, May 8, from 4-6 p.m. in the front lobby of Bishop Luers High School or at Foster Park on the day of the race from 8-9 a.m. To register by credit card, visit www.bishopluers.org. Race registration forms can be found at www.bishopluers.org. For more information, contact Sarah Shank at 260-456-1261, ext. 3039.

Bishop Luers golf team takes top honors at Woodlan Invite

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — For the first time in over a decade, the Bishop Luers golf team took top honors in a golf tournament with a sizzling team score of 312. Whispering Creek Golf Club in New Haven was the course where Coach Tom O’Brien’s Knights claimed their victory in the Woodlan High School Invite on Saturday, April 18.

Luers boasted three linksters in the tourney’s top five. Junior Ben Reuille shot a career low even par 72 round, which included six birdies to take medalist honors. Luers’ top golfer, Conner Nix, fired a 73 for the second best score of the day, while Caleb Kroft fired a solid 80. A pleased O’Brien explained, “It was a great day for the Bishop Luers golf program.”

Rounding out the top five for the Knights were Andy Mauch and Andrew Schenkels. Bishop Luers beat out runner-up, Blackhawk Christian (328), by an impressive 16 strokes.

St. Vincent Panthers’ golf club off to a strong start

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent golf club is off to a strong start this season, boasting a 3-0 record. The Panthers have a deep roster this year with several talented golfers.

Leading the team are eighth-graders Jenny Filler and Lucy Wagner. Both plan to continue their golf career at the high school level at Bishop Dwenger. Also posting very strong scores this year are seventh-graders Ariel DeLuna, Corey Ryan and John Smeltzley.

The Panthers have 10 matches scheduled for the spring season, weather permitting. Shoaff Park Golf Course will serve as the club’s home course.

“Even though it’s a par three course, it challenges our opponents and gives our team work on their short game,” Coach Cindy Wagner explains. St. Vincent will face Southwest Allen Golf Club, Northwest Allen Golf Club, Angola, Leo, Crestview, Huntington Catholic and Canterbury this season. DJ Wagner and John Ryan join Wagner on the coaching staff.
Religious values, gentle sensibility pervade ‘Little Boy’

BY JOHN MULDERIG

NEW YORK (CNS) — Religious values and a gentle sensibility pervade the family-friendly drama “Little Boy” (Open Road).

Yet, while suitable for a wide audience, director Alejandro Monteverde’s good-hearted, nostalgic parable, set in 1940s coastal California, is not without its occasional aesthetic lapses.

At its best, this tale of an undersized, bullied lad named Pepper (Jakob Salvati) who sets out to prove his faith in God by performing a series of good works is reminiscent of the 1983 holiday-themed classic “A Christmas Story.”

Whereas the protagonist of that film had no more exalted goal in mind than to receive a B.B. gun as a Christmas present, however, Pepper is angling for his beloved father, James (Michael Rapaport), a GI taken prisoner by the Japanese. Early scenes narrated by the adult Pepper (voice of Barry Ford) show us the touching bond between the youthful outcast and his sympathetic, resolutely supportive dad.

Under James’ guidance and inspired by the example of his favorite comic-book and serial movie hero, Ben Eagle (Ben Chaplin), diminutive Pepper comes to believe in his own potential. Thus he’s able to give a positive response to his father’s repeated question: “Do you believe we can do this?”

In the wake of James’ emotionally wrenching departure for the war, Pepper’s kindly parish priest, Father Oliver (Tom Wilkinson), tries to help the 7-year-old recognize the difference between mere wish-fulfillment and trust in a divinely guided release of his beloved father.

He presents Pepper with a list of the corporal works of mercy, and encourages the boy to carry them out as a tangible demonstration of his pious devotion.

Along with the more familiar tasks of feeding the hungry and visiting the sick, Father Oliver also requires Pepper to cleanse his mind of hatred by befriending a fellow outsider, Japanese-American widower Hashimoto (Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa). Since his discharge from a government-run detention camp, Hashimoto has been ostracized by the local community — and threatened by some of its more hotheaded citizens.

Pepper’s older brother London (David Henrie) has been among those targeting Hashimoto.

Though Pepper himself gradually overcomes his antipathy toward the repressive stranger, London shows little inclination to greater tolerance. Their compassionate mother Emma (Emily Watson), by contrast, proves more open-minded.

With its lessons about persistence in belief and the need to overcome prejudice, “Little Boy” will be particularly welcomed by viewers of faith. Even those who appreciate its numerous assets, however, may note moments of forced plotting.

James, for instance, is portrayed as having essentially no choice but to take London’s place in the ranks after the latter, an eager volunteer, turns out to be flat-footed — and therefore medically unfit to serve.

There are also interludes of undeniable sentimentality. Yet this plucky and positive tale, with its affirmative presentation of the Priesthood — and of Catholic life in general — makes for winning entertainment that’s well-suited to all but the youngest potential moviegoers.

The film contains scenes of combat with minimal gore and a couple of crass terms.
What’s Happening?

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, May 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $20 and includes lunch. Register by May 1 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-5427.

Youth group to sponsor rummage sale
South Bend — A rummage sale will be Saturday, May 16, in the Our Lady of Hungary School, 375 W. Calvert, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Donation drop-off day is Friday, May 15, from 2-8 p.m. To arrange another drop-off time, call 574-878-9496. Proceeds benefit the OLY youth group.

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, May 14, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $2.50 for children 5-12.

Music director sought
Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, May 1, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $8, children 5-12 $4.50 and children under five free. The Holy Name Society will meet Sunday, May 3, in the Community Center at 7 p.m.

Rosary Society plans rummage sale
New Haven — A presentation by Dr. John Sehorn will be Sunday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Mohr Hall. Tickets are $40 per person, $2,000. Tickets are $5 apiece or $250 per $500. St. John the Baptist Parish will raffle off a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe with proceeds to benefit the building fund. The statue is of marble dust, coated in silver and approximately 19 inches tall. The value of the statue from Italy is over $2,000. Tickets are $5 apiece or five for $20. For information call the rectory at 260-447-4100.

Special Olympics
Plymouth — St. Michael Parish will have a spaghetti dinner Wednesday, May 20, from 5-6:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Special Olympics.

Holy Name Society fish fry
New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, May 1, from 4-7 p.m. Adults $8, children 5-12 $4.50 and children under five free. The Holy Name Society will meet Sunday, May 3, in the Community Center at 7 p.m.

Spaghetti dinner planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, May 14, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $2.50 for children 5-12.

Stature of Our Lady of Guadalupe to be raffled
Fort Wayne — St. Henry Church will raffle off a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe with proceeds to benefit the building fund. The statue is of marble dust, coated in silver and approximately 19 inches tall. The value of the statue from Italy is over $2,000. Tickets are $5 apiece or five for $20. For information call the rectory at 260-447-4100.

50th annual Lourdes Ball planned
South Bend — The Lourdes Ball, hosted by the Knights Council 555, will be Saturday, May 2, at 5 p.m. at 553 Washington St. Admission is $40 per person, $220 for a table of six, and $290 for a table of eight. Dancing to the music of the Mike Vaszari Combo. Reservations to Toni Pocius at pocman2000@aol.com.

Rosary Society plans rummage sale
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1515 Barthold St., will have a rummage and bake sale April 30 and May 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Mohr Hall.

In the footsteps of St. Peter and St. Paul
New Haven — A presentation by Dr. John Sehorn will be Sunday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Geddes Hall. Tickets are $9 and include presentation, door prize and pizza dinner. Childcare offered on request. Free parking available east of the Hesburgh Library. Contact Patricia Bellin at 574-631-1379 or at proclaim@nd.edu for information.

Harvest House announces spring festival
New Haven — A spring harvest house festival will be Wednesday, May 13, at St. Louis Besancon Church at 10 a.m. Rosary at 10:30 a.m., Mass and lunch will follow. Tickets are $10 by reservation to Bev Kline at 260-623-3979 by May 1. No tickets sold at the door.

Delightful Home to Share
Wanted: M/F to share a beautiful, elegant home. Located half-way between Ivy Tech/IPFW and St. Jude church. Fully furnished, all utilities including cable, central a/c, great grill, private full bath, wonderful porch, garage, and nice quiet neighborhood. $475.00 per month. Christopher 773 576 0346
Pope offers catechesis on difference and complementarity of men and women

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God’s plan for fruitful, everlasting unions between a man and woman has been lost in a world filled with skepticism, distrust and hostility, Pope Francis said.

A culture that does not value “the stable and life-giving covenant of man and woman, he said April 22 during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

But much also must be done to return respect and dignity to women, who are often exploited, objectified and understandably skeptical of the possibility of harmony between men and women, he said.

The pope continued his catechesis about the family with the second of two talks on the complementary nature of men and women.

The Book of Genesis shows how God created the heavens and earth, and then a special creature made in His likeness to care and watch over the earth. Even though man was “the culmination” of God’s creation, still “something was missing,” the pope said.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam “is free, is master, but he is alone and God sees that this is not good.” It’s like a lack of communion, a communion is lacking, a lack of fullness,” he said.

God, therefore, creates a woman whom Adam instinctively and “joyfully” recognizes as “part of him: ‘bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.’” Finally there is a mirrored reflection, a reciprocity,” the pope said.

As an example, he said it is like extending a hand to greet someone, but no one is there. “That’s how man was, something was missing in order for him to reach his fullness and he was missing reciprocity.”

Eve was not an exact “replica” of man, he said, but was made by another original creative act by God. The image of a woman being made from a man’s rib “does not at all express inferiority or subordination, but on the contrary, that man and woman are made of the same substance and are complementary,” Pope Francis said.

In fact, he said, it is significant that God formed the woman while man slept to “underline exactly how she is not in any way a creature of man, but a new creation.”

Speaking off-the-cuff, the pope said it also shows the secret to encountering a woman as well as love: “to find the woman, man must first dream about her and then he will find her,” he said to applause.

While God generously entrusts the relationship of the body to humans, the evil one “introduces suspicion, disbelief, distrust in their minds,” which leads to their disobedience, he said.

“They fall into that delirium of omnipotence that pollutes everything and destroys harmony and we, too, feel that inside lots of times — all of us,” he said.

“Sin generates difference and division between man and woman. Their relationship will be undermined by thousands of forms of abuse of power and subjugation, of deceptive seduction and humiliating arrogance,” he said.

People can still see traces of “the negative excesses of patriarchal cultures” and chauvinism, which view women as second-class citizens, he said.

Other lingering effects of this original sin can be seen in “the exploitation and commercialization of the female body in today’s media,” as well as in “the recent epidemic of distrust, skepticism and even hostility that has spread in our culture — in particular starting from an understandable skepticism by women — concerning the covenant between man and woman being able to perfect the intimacy of communion while at the same time safeguarding the dignity of differences.”

“If people cannot ‘jump-start’ a renewed focus for God’s intended covenant of communion and harmony, protecting young people from ‘mis-trust and indifference, then children will come to this man and woman uprooted from this covenant) starting from the mother’s womb,” he said.

Pope Francis said the Church has an important task in safeguarding this covenant even if men and women are “sinners and wounded, confused and humiliated, discouraged and unused.”

In fact, the Book of Genesis shows how even after Adam and Eve disobeyed and sinned, God reached out to alleviate their sudden shame of being naked and “made for the man garments of skin with which he clothed them.”

“It is an image of tenderness toward this sinning couple that leaves us dazed and overwhelmed fully God’s tenderness for the man and woman. It is an image of fatherly protection of the human couple. God Himself takes care of and protects His masterpiece,” he said.

In the pope’s audience on April 15, the pope said elucidating male and female identities does nothing to solve the problem of unfair or disrespectful treatment based on people’s gender.

“Getting rid of the difference is the problem, not the solution,” he said during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

The right way to solve the problems and conflicts in male-female relations is to have men and women “talk to each other more, listen to each other more, know each other better, care more for each other,” he said.

In his main audience talk, Pope Francis said that when God created humanity in His image, He did so for man and woman together, “as a couple,” in a state of sharing and harmony.

Sexual differentiation, therefore, exists not for creating conflict or a situation of subordination, but for reciprocity and fruitfulness — “for communion and generation, always in the image and likeness of God,” the pope said.

“We are made to listen to each other and help each other,” he said. “I can say that without mutual enrichment in this relationship — in thinking and action, in feelings and work, even in faith — the two can be hollow. It is understandable to us — deflecting us with resignation, skepticism and cynicism — may not be linked to this crisis of the covenant between men and women.”