Easter Message

BY BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

As we celebrate the feast of Easter in our Jubilee Year, we bring to mind the celebration of this feast for the past 150 years in this diocese.

In our great urban churches and small rural parishes, year after year, there was proclaimed the mystery of the risen Christ. In homilies, priests made clear to our people the truth that Christ was crucified and rose from the dead for our salvation. Once again this year, the mystery of the risen Christ is presented and we are asked to look upon him with love and faith.

In this contemplation, we note the wounds in his hands and in his side. We are aware that from the blood and water that flowed from his side came forth the graces of holiness and love.

The questions put before the apostles — and before those who preceded us in this place the past 150 years — is now put to us.

“Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these do?” (Jn 21:15)

“Thomas, blessed are those who have not seen but have believed.” (Jn 20:29)

We are invited to follow him; to follow the one who has given his life for our salvation.

Because of his sacrifice, God’s life, which we call grace, is poured into our soul, and we are able to respond with our whole heart. Indeed, we are invited, and we become able, to make a gift of ourselves to him, to return love for love. For this to take place, we must first meet the risen Christ in prayer.

Easter is a joyful time, and the joy reaches fullness in prayer. Prayer before the risen Christ as we contemplate his face, “Behold the Face of Christ” is the theme of our Jubilee Year.

As we contemplate his face, we are aware of the wound from which came forth blood and water, which has always been seen as the life of Christ poured into the world, into our hearts. As we contemplate “the Pierced One,” we are asked to give him our faith, hope and love in return. We accept the invitation to walk with him through life — to do his will and to make him known.

A blessed Easter to you all.

Bishop D’Arcy to celebrate 50th anniversary of priestly ordination on April 15

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Bishop John M. D’Arcy will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood of the Catholic Church on Sunday, April 15, with the holy sacrifice of the Mass at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne.

The public is welcome to attend. Following the anniversary Mass, a public reception and dinner will be held at the Grand Wayne Center located across from the cathedral.

Bishop D’Arcy has asked that there be no personal gifts except that of your presence. Those who are so inclined may wish to consider making a donation to the Catholic Education Fund to assist those children who could not otherwise attend our schools.

Bishop D’Arcy will observe the 50th anniversary of his ordination in the South Bend area as well. The date and location will be announced in the near future.

Today’s Catholic will have a special edition in celebration of Bishop D’Arcy’s 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood next issue, April 15.
When priests pray and are holy, their parishioners will be as well

BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

A day with our priests

We have two days of prayer with our priests every year; the first in Advent and the second in Lent. In the past 22 years, I have always chosen those who give the retreats for our priests, along with those who complete the days of recollection. I have always tried to find retreat masters who will give good content, serve as gracious confessors and also present material in an attractive and joyful way. The sanctification of his priests is certainly the most important work of a bishop. When priests pray and are holy, their parishioners will be so as well.

This was an old theme, which I read many years ago when I was in the college seminary at 18 years of age. It is from a beautiful book, a kind of classic, entitled “Soul of the Apostle,” by Abbe Chautard, a Trappist priest. I think it said something like the following: “Like pastor, like flock.”

Over these 22 years, I think I have attended every day of recollection with one exception. It seems right this year, as part of my celebration of our diocesan jubilee, to make the presentation at the Lenten day of recollection myself, as I did when I first arrived.

Priestly love

I was privileged to give two talks. The first was on pastoral love, a theme taken from the apostolic post-synodal exhortation, “Pastores Dabo Vobis” (“I Will Give You Shepherds”). Pope John Paul II spends several pages on this theme of pastoral love, or pastoral charity. It is, of course, the charity of Christ, who offered himself for our salvation. St. Augustine says the priesthood is an “officium amoris” — an office of love. After describing the nature of pastoral charity, I spent the second talk on the importance of prayer, for it is very unlikely that one will achieve pastoral love without prayer, especially prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

In between talks, four of us heard confessions. The Fort Wayne group began from that building, which provide classrooms for religious education, a special blessing. There is also an excellent faculty and a very fine department of religion here.

In addition to Carl, Marian is blessed with two priests, both part-time. Father Dan Scheidt teaches an excellent course on Catholic thinkers — an elective. Father Michael Heintz teaches a course in the Greek New Testament. Both priests have a significant effect. We also have Sister Marie Morgan, OSF, who studied theology in Rome. Having two priests and a sister is a special blessing. There is also an excellent faculty and a very fine department of philosophy.

It was a privilege to celebrate Mass with the priests. The Fort Wayne group had a small group, which was there in prayer and meditation.

St. Augustine says the priesthood is an “officium amoris” — an office of love.

Marian High School

With a visit to Marian High School, I have completed my pastoral visits to each of our four high schools. The Catholic identity at Marian High School is very evident. I take special pride in Carl Loesch. Carl is a double-doer, having received a master’s degree in biblical studies at Notre Dame. He is and wife, Marie, who met in a Catholic high school in Chicago, have three boys with a fourth child coming.

Carl taught at Bishop Dwenger High School for many years under John Gaughan and Fred Tone. He taught religion and was named teacher of the year in his second year. He could be found at the abortion place early in the morning praying the rosary with the students. Or he could be found establishing a Habitat for Humanity chapter. Carl has a picture in his office of a group of young people along with himself at the completion of such a home. I was privileged to be part of that picture as we dedicated this new residence.

In addition to Carl, Marian is blessed with two priests, part-time. Father Dan Scheidt teaches an excellent course on Catholic thinkers — an elective. Father Michael Heintz tea....
French nun says life has changed since she was healed thanks to Pope John Paul II

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France (CNS) — The French nun who believed she was healed of Parkinson’s disease thanks to Pope John Paul II said her life had “totally changed” since that night two months after the pope’s death.

Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, 46, is working again, now in Paris at a maternity hospital run by her order, the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood.

She met reporters March 30 in Aix-en-Provence during a press conference with Archbishop Claude Feidt of Aix, the archdio- cesan who took place.

“I was sick and now I am cured,” she told reporters. “I am cured, but it is up to the church to say whether it was a miracle or not.”

However, she said, she knows she is well and that she must continue her work “to serve life and to serve the family.”

Discussing Parkinson’s in 2001, she said that watching Pope John Paul deteriorate from the effects of Parkinson’s disease “made me realize that I saw myself in the years to come.”

Pope John Paul died April 2, 2005, and as Sister Marie-Simon- Pierre’s condition began to worsen, all the members of the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood in France and in Senegal began praying to God to heal her.

By June 2, the religious has said, she was struggling to write, talk and function normally.

She said she went to bed that night and woke up very early the next morning feeling completely different.

“I was sure I was healed,” she said.

A month later, Archbishop Feidt said that after hearing about the alleged healing of Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre he decided to “conduct a thorough investigation” to determine whether it might be the miracle needed for John Paul’s beatification.

In general, the church must confirm two miracles through the intercession of the saint candidate before canonisation.

Archbishop Feidt and Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre planned to attend the April 2 ceremonies in Rome marking the end of the diocesan phase of Pope John Paul’s cause and to attend the memorial Mass Pope Benedict XVI was to celebrate to mark the 10th anniversary of his predecessor’s death.

While in Rome, Archbishop Feidt will deliver all the documentation regarding the nun’s case to the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, which will conduct its own investigation into the alleged healing.

After graduation in 1999, Father Greg volunteered in the Alum Service Corps, a one-year service program in the Missouri Province of the Jesuits. He taught French and music and coached cross-country and track at DeSmet Jesuit High School in St. Louis, Mo. While at DeSmet, Father Greg met a priest who subtly pressed the vocation issue and helped him with his discernment to enter the congregation.

Father Greg graduated with a master of divinity degree from Notre Dame and, after his ordination, moved to Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish in South Bend where he has spent his deacon year.

Father Greg will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the Notre Dame campus on Sunday, April 15, at 10 a.m. He returned there for his placement as a deacon, serving as director of liturgy at the Chapel of Christ the Teacher, the director of several retreat programs, and as the pastoral associate in Villa Maria Hall.

Father Greg will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at Christ the King Parish in South Bend on Sunday, April 15, at 12:15 p.m. followed by a reception in the church basement. He will also celebrate Masses of Thanksgiving at the University of Portland in Villa Maria on Tuesday, April 17, at 10 p.m. in the Chapel of Christ the Teacher at 10:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Sunday, April 22.

During his senior year in high school, Father Greg decided to attend the University of Notre Dame. He attended the University as an intern in the Office of Campus Ministry.

Upon completion of two years of theology studies in the Notre Dame theology program, Father Greg spent a year working as a seminarian intern at Holy Redeemer Parish in Portland, Ore. He taught eighth grade religion in the parish school and assisted with liturgies in the parish.

Returning to Notre Dame, Father Greg completed his theological studies and finished his ini-
Pope Benedict: Pope John Paul II’s ministry, agony showed his love of Christ

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II’s intense pastoral ministry, his agony and the serene death of our beloved pope left all people of our age know that Jesus Christ really was his everything,” Pope Benedict XVI said.

Pope Benedict marked the second anniversary of Pope John Paul’s death by celebrating a memorial Mass the evening of April 2 in St. Peter’s Square.

The pope said his predecessor truly fit the biblical description of a “serving of God,” which is the way the church officially refers to him when it’s time to beatification quickly progresses.

Pope Benedict, who had set aside the five-year waiting period usually required before a sainthood cause begins, told tens of thousands of people in St. Peter’s Square that the initial, diocesan phase of Pope John Paul’s cause had concluded earlier in the day.

While the church has not solemnly proclaimed Pope John Paul a saint in heaven, Pope Benedict said he is certain that “our beloved John Paul II” continues to accompany the church with his prayers.

At the same time, he offered prayers that Pope John Paul, “our father, brother and friend,” would enjoy eternal rest and peace in the company of God.

The pope praised his predecessor’s ability to share with the world his faith, hope and charity, even as Parkinson’s disease gradually made it impossible for him to walk and, in his own words, to talk.

“Especially with the slow, but relentless progression of his illness, which little by little stripped him of everything, he made himself an offering to Christ, a living proclamation of his passion, in a hope and faith that defined the resurrection,” Pope Benedict said.

“He was a master, he lived his agony in prayer,” the pope said. “He died praying. Truly, he fell asleep in the Lord.”

Sitting near the front of the crowd was Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, the 46-year-old French nun who believes she was healed by Pope John Paul’s intercession.

Guy Murphy of the Chicago-based Totally Yours Pilgrimages was at the Mass with 45 pilgrims from the United States.

“We are big John Paul II fans,” he said.

Murphy said he was not concerned that the church was taking its time officially proclaiming the late pope a saint — sometimes it takes hundreds of years” — but he has no doubt that “John Paul II is one of the greatest saints ever.”

Earlier in the day, during a ceremony marked by prayers, song and formal orals in Latin, officials of the Diocese of Rome concluded the initial phase of Pope John Paul’s sainthood cause.

The process had included interviews with more than 120 people who knew Pope John Paul and a study of his ministry, the way he handled suffering and how he faced his death, said Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome.

“In the certainty of being loved by God and in the joy of responding to that love,” the late pope “found the meaning, unity and aim of his life,” Cardinal Ruini said during the prayer service in the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

The documents from the investigation were placed in five chests, latched, tied with a red ribbon, then sealed with red wax.

They will be delivered to the Congregation for Saints’ Causes for further study.

“The pope suffered in his flesh and he suffered in his spirit, finding himself increasingly obliged to reduce his commitments,” Cardinal Ruini said.

Cardinal Ruini said. His occasional “signs of impatience” were not the result of pain, but of his frustration at not being able to continue the ministry to which he felt called, the cardinal added.

Cardinal Ruini described Pope John Paul as a man of continuous, intense prayer, “concrete and radical poverty” and great freedom, which allowed him to stand up to Poland’s communist government.

His love for God was lived as love for human beings, leading the pope to be an insistent voice for peace and for the defense of human life from conception to natural death, the cardinal said.

Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, a member of the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood, was at the prayer service, as were Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Pope John Paul’s personal secretary for almost 40 years, and Polish President Lech Kaczynski.

Cardinal Dziwisz called the late pope an “extraordinary witness” of Christ.

“John Paul II was a member of the friends of Jesus, that is, the group of saints. Membership in this group was what gave meaning and direction to his life, to all he did and said,” Cardinal Dziwisz said.

“People of God clearly recognize his sanctity,” he said. Cardinal Dziwisz and others have pointed out that Pope Benedict could beatify or even canonize Pope John Paul immediately, without waiting for the Congregation for Saints’ Causes to conclude its work.

Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, congregation prefect, said that unless or until he hears otherwise from the pope the congregation will continue the process according to established church law: first, studying the documentation gathered by the Diocese of Rome and assisting with the drafting of a “positio,” or position paper, outlining how Pope John Paul heroically lived the Christian virtues.

The 15cardinals and 15 bishops who are members of the congregation will study the “positio” and forward their opinion to the pope, he told the newspaper La Repubblica.

At the same time, he said, “an ad hoc commission of experts with scientists and physicians of every religious orientation, even nonbelievers,” will be convened to study the records and testimony collected as part of Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre.

“It will be up to them to establish whether or not it is a healing that is scientifically inexplicable,” the cardinal said. “Only in the light of this scientific pronouncement will a later commission of cardinals declare whether it is a miracle that can be attributed to the intercession of Pope John Paul.”

A declaration of heroic virtues and recognition of a miracle usually are needed before beatification. In the usual process, canonization requires another miracle attributed to the candidate’s intervention after the beatification.

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Polish-American faithful hold pictures of Pope John Paul II as they attend a Mass marking the conclusion of the first phase of the process for his canonization in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome April 2.

British cardinal says government is ‘legislating for intolerance’

BY SIMON CALDWELL

LONDON (CNS) — A British cardinal has said that by sponsoring legislation for gay rights, the government is “legislating for intolerance.”

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor of Westminster also questioned “whether the threads holding together democracy have begun to unravel.”

“My fear is that, under the guise of legislating for what is said to be tolerance, we are legislating for intolerance,” he said during a March 28 lecture in London a week after the government forced through new gay rights legislation with minimal debate in the House of Commons.

“Or is it that we have begun to unravel where we see where it ends,” the cardinal said. “My fear is that in an attempt to clear the public square of what are seen as unacceptable intrusions, we weaken the pillars on which that public square is erected, and we will discover that the pillars of pluralism may not survive... that is why I have sounded the note of alarm.”

He said “what looks like liberalism is, in reality, a radical exclusion of religion from the public square.”

The cardinal said that aggressive secularism was accompanied by a cynicism of Christianity “so that Christians stand by their beliefs, they are intolerant dogmatists. When they sin, they are hypocrites.”

“When they take the side of the poor, they are soft-headed liberals,” he said. “When they seek to defend the family, they are right-wing reactionaries.”

Cardinal Murphy-O’Connor said that more attacks on the place of religion in public life could be expected in the names of toleration, equality and diversity.

“For my own part, I have no difficulty in being a proud British Catholic citizen,” said Cardinal Murphy-O’Connor. “But now it seems to me we are being asked to accept a different version of our democracy, one in which diversity and equality are held to be at odds with religion.”

The new laws are aimed at stopping businesses from discriminating against gays, but Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders say the laws will force religious believers to act against their consciences.

The gay rights laws will compel 13 Catholic adoption agencies in the United Kingdom to place children in the care of same-sex couples, a move the bishops have said would lead to the agencies’ demise.

The bishops also have expressed concern about the recent series of attacks on the curriculum of state-funded Catholic schools.

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Search for Besançon brings kinship, friendship with French ‘cousins’

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

NEW HAVEN — Georges Jeanney, an influential industrialist from the village of Besançon, France, knew there had to be a “Besançon” somewhere on the map in the United States because so many people from his area had come to America so many years ago. When his work took him to Chicago for various trade shows, he often inquired among people from the Midwest. One man told him no, that he did not know of any towns named Besançon.

Then one of his next trips in November 1997, the same man told him he had good news and that he had found a Besançon on the map in nearby Indiana. When Jeanney found out he could drive there, he postponed plans to return to France. Jeanney set out to follow up his ancestors several years ago when they migrated to America.

Later that very evening, his trail led him to the back doorsteps of St. Louis Academy where who should it be but Jane Lomont, his October 2006 visit, St. Louis Academy was an open house to gather more data for his book. In the time his book was to be completed, the student body shared their family stories with and being in the homes of the French people most. A former French teacher herself, Jane said, “I couldn’t believe how much the French language came back to me then.”

Mick said he will never forget the beauty of the countryside as they traveled by high-speed train from Paris to Besançon. “It was breathtaking.” They also attended Sunday Mass at the parish of St. Louis Academy. “Because ‘Our Cousins From America’ is completely written in French, it is hard to know its exact contents. The Lomonts brought home several copies of the book for family and friends and are in the process of having the book translated to English. However, one can piece together parts of the journey from the various chapters titles, photos, maps and timelines. The book also has a section titled “Windows of the Past,” which gives a brief description of the family names that are displayed on the stained glass windows at St. Louis Academy.

Father Steve Conlon is the current pastor at St. Louis Besançon, located just east of rural New Haven and a little west of Zulu. Its membership includes around 275 families — many of whose ancestors came to America from Besançon, France, long ago.

After the unveiling ceremony Georges Jeanney’s book, “Nos Cousins Comtés d’Amérique,” the Lomonts were presented with a medallion of the city of Besançon from its assistant mayor. Shown here from left are Bart Lomont, Georges Jeanney and Jean-Louis Comtois. Comtois refers to an area in France whose capital is Besançon. Lomont’s ancestors were natives of Lomont-sur-Crete and emigrated to the United States with others from Comtois in different periods between 1845 and 1860 totaling 20,000 pioneers.

The unveiling of Jeanney’s book, “Our Cousins from America,” took place on Saturday, March 10. Lomont was thoroughly impressed with the author’s vigor and enthusiasm — another reason he wanted to be present for this important occasion.

Lomont was asked to make a presentation at the beautiful cemetery in the grand city building in Besançon. Lomont told a little about his family. In addition to the 10 oldest attend St. Louis Academy, Lomont also met a lifelong, active member of St. Louis Besançon and has played the organ for 40 years. Their farming operation consists of about 2,000 acres of no-till beans and wheat and corn grown with minimum tillage. Lomont quoted their Swedish agricultural exchange student from the early 1970s, “Ah, good land, good machines and good people,” which he felt summed up the area around Besançon very well. "We have been truly blessed," concluded Lomont.

Jeanney was very interested in anything to do with farming and especially the concept of ‘no-till,’ which is just becoming popular in the Paris area. Julie (Pequinot) Nolan, member of the Besançon Historical Society, dined with a group hosting Jeanney and described him as “a lovely soul, very personable.” He was thrilled to receive a PBS-Channel 39 film all about The Great Black Swamp courtesy of the society. Nolan specifically recalls how Jeanney wanted to learn every-thing he could possibly find out about farming practices from the early days to present time. Before returning to France this time, Jeanney left an open invitation to the parishioners of St. Louis Besançon Parish and the surrounding community he had met to visit his village of Besançon, France, at the time his book was to be unveiled.

It was at this time that Mick Lomont decided to take Jeanney up on his offer. “It had been a lifelong dream and goal of mine to visit the place of my ancestors — Besançon,” said Lomont. Claude Francois Lomont, his great-great grandfather, came to America from Besançon, France. He and the others from Besançon held their first church services in the home of Joseph Dodane until a log cabin could be built. As the parish grew, the need for a bigger church was addressed. Each family was asked to raise a calf and the proceeds came to construct a bigger church, which was resurrected directly around the log cabin in approximately 1846.

Upon completion of the church, which still stands today, the cabin was torn down and the logs were carried out the front doors. Lomont’s father, Allen, once told him the tale of a young relative that was buried just behind the original log cabin. When helping with some plumbing repairs a few years back, Lomont wondered if he would possibly dig up some of the bones of his ancestors while working on the pipes under the church. Lomont’s great-grandfa-ther on his grandmother’s side, Jean-Pierre Mair’s name is listed on the stained glass window in the cry room of today’s present church.

Lomont, 66, did not make the journey alone. Before the March 2007 adventure, Lomont’s wife, Jane, and son, Bart, decided to join him. Months prior to the trip, Jeanney corresponded with the Lomonts almost weekly by e-mail planning a full itinerary.

Funding for the trip helped Lomont translate the story. Author Douglas Runyan, a New England attorney and painter who covered the trip and wrote a book on his experience in France, knew there had to be a “Besançon” somewhere on the map in the United States because so many people from his area had come to America so many years ago. When his work took him to Chicago for various trade shows, he often inquired among people from the Midwest. One man told him no, that he did not know of any towns named Besançon. Then one of his next trips in November 1997, the same man told him he had good news and that he had found a Besançon on the map in nearby Indiana. When Jeanney found out he could drive there, he postponed plans to return to France. Jeanney set out to follow up his ancestors several years ago when they migrated to America.

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The next morning, the local paper gave full coverage to the event with a photo of the Lomonts accepting a gift copy of the book from Jeanney. When shown the article, Douglas Runyan, a New Haven attorney and painter who has visited Paris several times, helped Lomont translate the story. In one paragraph it read, "The Lomonts are a very Catholic family and pray before every meal.”

While in Besançon, the Lomonts toured the city, characterized by a blend of modern and ancient architecture. An economic and cultural center of its region, Besançon is now a major European pole of the precision industries sector. The Lomonts saw all of the local attractions including the Citadel, a military master-
**POPE HOLDS PALM FROND DURING PALM SUNDAY MASS**

Pope Benedict XVI holds a palm frond as he celebrates Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican April 1.

**Vatican newspaper says Jesuit was right to apply Gospel to injustice**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper said Jesuit Father Jon Sobrino, whose work was recently criticized by doctrinal authorities, was right in trying to apply the truth of the Gospel to concrete situations of global injustice. Where in some cases going astray, the newspaper said, is in proposing a new type of Christian charity that seems to ignore the “Jesus of history” to the “Christ of faith” and downplays his transcendent nature. The article, published in L'Osservatore Romano on March 24, came 10 days after the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a “warning” of “erroneous or dangerous propositions” in the work of Father Sobrino leading proponents of liberation theology. The newspaper article was written by Father Antonio Stagliano, director of a theological institute in Naples, Italy.

**Notre Dame trustee awarded university’s Laetare Medal for 2007**

NOTRE DAME (CNS) — The University of Notre Dame has awarded its highest and most prestigious honor, the Laetare Medal, to the outgoing chairman of its board of trustees, Patrick F. McCartan.

A senior partner at the international law firm Jones Day, McCartan will receive the award at the university’s commencement ceremony May 20.

“Notre Dame’s auspicious institutional position as it enters a new era owes much to Pat McCartan’s strong and sure leadership,” said Holy Cross Father John J. Jenkins, university president, in a news release on the award. “We hope to convey with this, our highest honor, the gratitude Notre Dame owes him as well.” McCartan is a 1950 graduate of Notre Dame and earned his law degree from its Law School in 1959. He has served on the university’s board of trustees since 1989, and was elected board chairman and university fellow in 2000. The university established the Laetare Medal in 1883 as an annual honor for a Catholic “whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity.”

**Focolare founder praised as new collection of her writings launched**

NEW YORK (CNS) — As the end of the Lenten season approached, participants in a March 29 seminar at Fordham University reflected upon Chiara Lubich’s call to unite in the work to find Jesus’ Good Friday plea, “My God, why have you forsaken me?” Some 200 gathered at the Jesuit institution’s Manhattan law school to celebrate Lubich’s work with Focolare, a Catholic renewal movement that began in the Italian city of Trent in the midst of World War II bombings. The seminar also served as a launch for Lubich’s new book, a compilation of her writings published by New City Press. Lubich, 87, is suffering from ill health and was unable to attend the conference. But her presence at the gathering was felt nonetheless. “Christ is present now too,” Lubich said during a 2001 taped interview for Italian television screened at the seminar.

**Vatican to begin broadcasting papal events in high definition**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Keeping in step with the fast pace of communications technology, the Vatican television center is beginning to broadcast in high definition.

The first papal event to be aired using the new format will be a special April 15 Mass celebrating Pope Benedict XVI’s April 16 birthday.

“We’ve realized that if we want to continue to do a good job of broadcasting footage of the pope to other television stations, we have to be ready for the day,” when high definition is expected to become the norm in television broadcasting, said Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman and head of the Vatican television center, or CTV. CTV, which is in charge of producing, broadcasting and archiving filmed Vatican and papal events, must keep up with new technology, said Father Lombardi.

If they don’t keep up, “people won’t be able to see the pope anymore” on their television screens, he said.

**Zimbabwean bishops urge repentance, restraint amid country’s crisis**

HARARE, Zimbabwe (CNS) — Zimbabwe’s Catholic bishops have urged those responsible for the country’s crisis to “revert and listen to the cry of their citizens” and called for restraint among protest leaders.

“Many people in Zimbabwe are angry, and their anger is now erupting into open revolt in one town after another,” said the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops’ Conference.

**Knights of Columbus raise funds for families of wounded, dead Marines**

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — Knights of Columbus in the San Diego area recently joined with others around the country in providing some much-needed help to the families of U.S. Marines killed or wounded in wartime. “Although all military members have specific benefits when injured, such as free medical care, physical therapy, etc., they are not compensated to help dependents and/or immediate family to travel to their bedsides or gravesides,” said Capt. Neil May, who is currently serving in the U.S. Navy as an aviator and is former deputy grand knight of the Valley of Angels council of the Knights at San Rafael Parish in Ranchero, near San Diego. This is where the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund steps in to help. The fund provides financial assistance to Marines injured in combat and training, other service members injured while in direct support of Marine units and their families. Since its inception in May 2004, the Semper Fi Fund has provided more than 39 million in assistance to wounded heroes. More information about the fund is available online at www.semperfund.org.

**Vatican official: Governments must protect family for child’s rights**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In order to protect the rights of children, governments need to promote and protect the family, said a Vatican official. “It would be a new form of violence against children if the state were to impose a specific model of religious and moral convictions on children without taking into consideration the moral and religious convictions of the parents,” said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican’s representative to the U.N. and other international organizations in Geneva. The archbishop spoke to a session of the U.N. Human Rights Council March 23.

**Resumption of moderate violence means government must end abuse, bishop says**

COLOMBIA (CNS) — Archbishop Luis Palma, president of the Catholic bishops’ conference of Colombia, said government forces, after a pause in the killing of civilians in recent months, “are resuming their violent actions,” in a letter to Colombia’s president.

**Zimbabwean bishops urge repentance, restraint amid country’s crisis**

**Salvadoran rights champion Maria Julia Hernandez dies**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Maria Julia Hernandez, who for more than two decades led the San Salvador Archdiocese through internationally recognized human rights efforts, died of a heart attack March 30 in El Salvador. She was 87. The death came after Hernandez had been hospitalized with heart problems since March 9, suffered a heart attack March 28 before the fatal attack. Hernandez worked alongside Archbishop Oscar A. Romero, who was killed in 1980. Two years later, when San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas reorganized the archdiocesan human rights agency and established its successor, Tutela Legal, Hernandez was placed in charge. Thomas Quigley, the U.S. bishops’ adviser on Latin American affairs, called Hernandez “the most tireless, yet gentle, fighter for human rights in El Salvador” and noted that “she had worked more closely than anyone with Archbishop Romero. Like the Chilean Vicariate of Solidarity, Tutela became a model for human rights organizations throughout the hemisphere,” Quigley said April 2. “While her death is a terrible loss, her legacy will continue, and a need for monitoring violations of basic rights in El Salvador, she is at last with her beloved Monsenor Romero.”

**News Briefs**

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**News Briefs**

**Zimbabwean bishops urge repentance, restraint amid country’s crisis**

**Salvadoran rights champion Maria Julia Hernandez dies**
SOUTH BEND — Bishop John M. D’Arcy will preside at the first South Bend area-wide XLT on Friday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish in Granger.

XLT (exult) celebrates the risen Lord and will include prayer with Bishop D’Arcy, music by Frankie and the Holy Rollers and Catholic friends from the diocese. XLT is praise and worship music, reflection and time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with more praise and worship. XLT appeals to high school and college age Catholics to draw them into deep worship, but everyone is welcome and encouraged to come. Seeing the young people’s energy and enthusiasm for their faith is inspiring and even contagious.

For more information, contact Cindy Black at the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, (260) 422-4611.

Sacred Heart parishioners receive Lily scholarships

WARSAW — Both recipients this year of the Lilly Foundation Community Scholarship, announced by the Kosciusko County Community Foundation, are graduates and parishioners of Sacred Heart in Warsaw. Presentations were made to Kayla Durcholz and Danielle DeGeyer, both seniors at Warsaw Community High School.

Durcholz, the valedictorian of her class, is an active parish volunteer and a volunteer at Our Father’s House. Her essay, she said the Times-Union newspaper in Warsaw, was about a church group pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Germany. She plans to attend the University of Notre Dame.

DeGeyer is ranked in the top 2 percent of her class in the Sacred Heart youth group at Sacred Heart. Her essay was about losing a city championship basketball game when she was a student at Sacred Heart School. She plans to attend Indiana University.

Women of Grace study series meets in Auburn

AUBURN — The Women of Grace study series has started at Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn with 38 women participating. The Women of Grace study series is based on Johnnette Benkovic’s book “Full of Grace,” and is infused with sacred Scripture, magisterial teaching, church doctrine and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Women taking this study will grow in knowledge of their faith, deepen their prayer life, meet a variety of women and come to see the Blessed Virgin Mary as their exemplar.

Johnnette Benkovic is founder and president of Women of Grace, and founder and president of Living His Life Abundantly. Johnnette has been active in the field of Catholic communications since 1987. She is host of “The Abundant Life and Revision Program” (EWTN) and “Women of Grace, Live” (Catholic radio).

Author of several books, including, “Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life,” Johnette is a popular conference speaker and retreat facilitator.

Cindy Turner and Melody Rolston took this study course through the diocese at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne with Ginny Kohman facilitating in the fall. Being touched by their own growth in faith through this program, Cindy and Melody asked their parish priest, Father Babasino Fernandes, if they could bring the study to their parish here in Auburn.

Women interested in learning more about this study series or pre-registering for the program beginning in the fall are encouraged to call the Immaculate Conception Parish office at (260) 925-3930.

The lectures are all recorded by Johnnette Benkovic on DVD. The ladies are meeting once a week on Saturday mornings for nine consecutive weeks concluding on Mothers Day weekend.

Little Flower Parish to present introduction to Lectio Divina

SOUTH BEND — An Introduction to Lectio Divina Praying with Scripture will be hosted by Little Flower Parish in South Bend with seven sessions beginning Thursday, April 12. These sessions will explore and practice the powerful prayer method developed by St. Benedict and the Benedictines over time. Lectio Divina is a method of prayer in which participants will ruminate on a passage of Scripture over and over again allowing God to speak through the word. Participants can pray this method alone or in a group. Both methods will be covered.

The sessions will focus on the readings of Easter and the Resurrection. Participants will meet in Little Flower’s Parish Center 54191 N. Ironwood, in the Youth Chapel on Thursdays, starting April 12, from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. or 5:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Participants need to bring a Bible. Registration is only needed for those who need child care, which may be arranged by contacting Jay Freeland at (574) 273-9722 or through e-mail at jlfreeland@bghglobal.net.

Sister Mary Brooks recognized by Anderson health care system

ANDERSON — To recognize the kindness and leadership of Holy Cross Sister Mary Kathryn Brooks, Robert and Charlotte Austin made a major gift to Saint John’s Health System in Anderson in her honor.

Sister Mary Brooks works for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in the Office of Spiritual Development/Evangelization in South Bend. She also served as administrator of Saint John’s from 1969 to 1978. Robert Austin served a term as operating board chair in 1974 and 1975.

“I was always impressed with her kindness and her ability to guide people through the decisions and changes that needed to be made,” Austin commented in the February issues of the Partners in Mission newsletter.

As a result of the $40,000 gift, a trauma room in the new emergency room, which opened in early March, was named by Saint John’s, Kyle De Fur, Saint John’s president, said, “We are grateful to have Robert and Charlotte recognize Sister Mary Brooks in this way. Administrators depend on caring, professional volunteer leadership to make dreams reality. With this gift today, and service on the foundation board, Bob continues to help Saint John’s deliver the highest quality care.

Aquinas Symposium at Saint Mary’s College

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College holds the 10th annual Thomas Aquinas Symposium on Wednesday, April 11, at 7 p.m. in the Haggar College Center. The symposium is free and open to the public.

This year’s speaker is Jean Porter, professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame. Her talk is titled, “Reasoned Faith and Faithful Reason: Thomas Aquinas as Theologian and Philosopher.”

Thomas Aquinas, 13th century philosopher, saint and teacher of the church, is considered by many Catholics to be the church’s greatest theologian.

A reception will be held following the lecture on the mezzanine of the Haggar College Center. The Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology, held by Saint Mary’s College Religion Studies Professor Joe Incandela, sponsors the symposium with support from the Saint Mary’s College Center for Spirituality. For additional information, call (574) 284-4636.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton student named state handwriting winner

FORT WAYNE — Jonathan Koury was named the 2007 State Handwriting Contest winner in the National Handwriting Contest sponsored by Zaner-Bloser Educational Publishers. Koury is a second grader at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School.

Koury will go on to compete against state winners nationwide for the title of national winner selected for each grade level—one through eight. A grand national champion will be selected from all national winners.

For the past 16 years, Zaner-Bloser, the leading publisher of handwriting materials, has sponsored the National Handwriting Contest to emphasize the importance of developing good handwriting skills. This year, more than 157,000 students participated in the contest nationwide.

Dismas House dinner, awards and golf benefit announced

SOUTH BEND — “Putting the Pieces Back Together” is the theme of the 21st annual dinner of Dismas House to be held Thursday, April 19, at the Palais Royale in downtown South Bend.

James Smith, former correctional officer and hostage during the 1971 Attica prison riots, will be the speaker.

The annual Father Jack Hickey Award will be made to the Honorable R. W. Chambless, Jr., a judge who has dedicated himself in the South Bend area.

This award will also be presented to attorney Julie Verheyte of South Bend.

The annual benefit golf outing of Dismas House will be Saturday, May 12, at the Brookwood course in Buchanan, Mich. Reservations must be made by April 23. — EJD

Kenneth Hayes to address Knights

SOUTH BEND — Kenneth Hayes of the U.S. district attorney’s office, will address members and spouses of the Father Frewm Council, 4th Degree, Knights of Columbus, at a dinner on Thursday, April 19, at the Queen of Peace Council in Mishawaka. Hayes will speak on the various ramifications of problems that frequently occur at the district level.

Brian Zimiegowski is navigator of the assembly. Chairman of the dinner are John J. Lehner and James R. Burger. Reservations may be phoned to either men at (574) 234-4580 or (574) 935-0283. — EJD
Bill to raise Indiana’s minimum wage passes House, awaits Senate panel vote

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill to raise Indiana’s minimum wage from $5.15 to $7.50 by September 2008, passed the Indiana House (71-29) and awaits approval by a Senate panel.

House Bill 1027, authored by Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis) would raise Indiana’s minimum hourly wage in three stages. The wage would increase to $6 on Sept. 1, 2007; $6.75 on March 1, 2008; and $7.50 on Sept. 1, 2008.

Day in the letter. “An increase in the minimum wage has a real benefit for families living in poverty, which directly affects the well being of children. Twenty-two percent or 49,638 of all Hoosier workers have incomes which put them below the federal poverty level. This is simply not acceptable for working families,” said Mickelson. “What’s even more staggering and upsetting is the U.S. has the second highest child poverty rate in the world among developed nations. The only nation which has a higher child poverty rate than Mexico,” said Mickelson. “What’s even more staggering and upsetting is the U.S. has the second highest child poverty rate in the world among developed nations. The only nation which has a higher child poverty rate is Mexico,” said Mickelson.

Over a dozen groups testified in support of the minimum wage bill including a representative from the Children’s Bureau, Inc., who also testified in support of the bill said, “The Indiana Catholic Conference supports an increase in the minimum wage as a matter of justice for the worker and the family. The principle of a just wage is integral to our understanding of human work. Wages should be adequate for workers to provide for themselves and their families in dignity,” he said.

Beth Mickelson, public policy and legislative specialist for the Children’s Bureau, Inc., who also testified in support of the bill said, “An increase in the minimum wage has a real benefit for families living in poverty, which directly affects the well being of children. Twenty-two percent or 49,638 of all Hoosier workers have incomes which put them below the federal poverty level. This is simply not acceptable for working families,” said Mickelson. “What’s even more staggering and upsetting is the U.S. has the second highest child poverty rate in the world among developed nations. The only nation which has a higher child poverty rate is Mexico,” said Mickelson.

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The current federal minimum wage law covers public and private groups engaged in interstate commerce or that have sales of over $500,000 per year. Forty-three states have minimum wage laws that cover workers who are not covered under the federal minimum wage. In 2006 election, six states had raising the minimum wage on the ballot including Ohio, and all six approved the wage hike. Thirty-one states have enacted minimum wage laws that go beyond the federal minimum wage rate. Indiana has roughly 1.8 million hourly wage earners. About 2 percent or 36,000 make $5.15 or less.

Bill to raise Indiana’s minimum wage passes House, awaits Senate panel vote

Indianas Catholic Conference recommended reading on the working poor “Nickel and Dime: On (not) Getting By in America,” by Barbara Ehrenreich.

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Easter Disciples

By Ginny Kohrmann

Opening Prayer

God of mercy, you have filled us with the hope of resurrection by restoring man to his original dignity. May we resolve this mystery each year to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

Mt 28:8-15 — Mary Magdalene and the Other Mary

Mary Magdalene tells us that two women, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, were the first to see the empty tomb of Jesus and to be told by an angel, “He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.” They experienced both an earthquake and an angel of the Lord who told them “Do not be afraid!” but go tell the disciples that Jesus has risen. Either one of these events would have scared me to death!

The Scripture tells us that the two women quickly left the tomb to do as the angel had told them and that they were both “fearful and overjoyed.” They had come to the tomb ready to face sadness and death, but in a moment Jesus had called them to faith and action without fear. By loving and following Jesus, they had become believers, opening themselves to the possibility of both great joy and much pain. When Jesus appears to them as they were running, the women embrace his feet and worship him with incredible joy.

Mary and the other Mary tell us that the spiritual journey with Jesus takes a great deal of fortitude. We cannot always flee from evil, avoid or change difficult circumstances, or know what will happen in the days ahead. However, given the grace of God, we can cling to that which is good and endure horrible things without being defeated. Mary and Mary approached the tomb as the darkness of death was fading and the new light of life was dawning. They shook off their fear of despair and suffering, running to spread the good news after experiencing the presence of the Lord. Fortitude presumes that we allow ourselves to be vulnerable to death and life while remaining courageously open to the overflowing gift of God’s grace. Mary and the other Mary trembled with the virtue of fortitude.

Lk 24:13-35 — Emmaus, Cleopas and the Other Disciple

Cleopas and the other disciple, walking, talking and feeling “downcast,” encounter a visitor on their journey to Emmaus from Jerusalem. The two disciples were not only mourning the death of Jesus but also the loss of their hope that Jesus would be the one to rescue Israel. When they first encounter Jesus, they do not recognize him. As Jesus talks with them in their state of depression, he says, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke.” (Lk 24:25).

Nevertheless, Jesus, out of compassion, explains the meaning of all the ancient Scriptures and his death on the cross. In addition, he takes time to eat with them. Jesus brings meaning back into their lives and turns their darkness into light. Jesus opens their hearts and helps them to see the events of past days through his eyes.

As Christians, we, like the disciples, need the virtue of prudence. Prudence demands a clear vision, steadiness of emotion and good thoughts.

Evangelization Action Challenge

In this week following Easter, reflect on the remaining Gospel readings in the quiet of your days.

Interior Renewal:

Jn 20:11-18

Reflect on the virtues of Mary Magdalene, who continued to believe and love Jesus, even when she did not understand all that was happening. Which of her virtues do you possess or hope to obtain?

Reaching out to others:

Jn 21:14

This story of the appearance of Jesus to Peter and his disciples affirms the reality of Christ’s resurrection. Jesus tells them to cast out their nets, and the disciples catch a net full of fish. Using the virtues of prudence and fortitude, cast out your net lovingly to someone so that he or she, too, can embrace this season of hope.

Closing Prayer

“Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exalt, all creation around God’s throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!”

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As Christians we, like the disciples, need the virtue of prudence. Prudence demands clear vision, steadiness of emotion and good thoughts.
Dirt and devotion

FORT WAYNE — All miracles do not happen in faraway places. Many happen right in the backyard. And for those who love gardening, the joy of seeing life spring from dirt never gets old and never fails to be a visible reinforcement of faith and the miracle of creation.

Since medieval time, flowers have served as symbols of devotion, particularly with the Blessed Mother in arrangements known as Mary Gardens. Such traditions were circulated by itinerant preachers, mendicant friars, wandering minstrels, pilgrims and other travelers.

Floral associations made with the mysteries and virtues of Mary are the following: sunflower for Mary’s crown; forget-me-not, the eyes of Mary; impatiens, mother love and larkspur, Mary’s tears. And of course, one can see how poppies and red roses with their thorns represent the mysteries and virtues of Our Lady.

Community garden gives refugees a ‘place to call their own’

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — On a sunny morning, refugees of all ages from Somalia, Cuba, Liberia and Sudan gathered in front of the Holy Name Parish Life Center in Nashville to plant a garden.

While digging up the earth to plant vegetables, herbs and flowers, the refugees were also establishing a welcoming place of respite and purpose for their often isolated community.

Many of the refugees “don’t feel like they have a place to go outside of their home. They don’t know where they belong,” said Laurie Soileau, resources developer for Catholic Charities’ Refugee and Immigration Services in Nashville. Most newly arrived refugees live in apartment complexes with little or no access to a yard or land and have limited access to transportation.

The garden is an outlet that allows the refugees to “have some control over their environment, a place to call their own,” Soileau said.

Catholic Charities of Tennessee resettles approximately 250 refugees each year. The refugees, who flee their home countries to escape political or religious persecution, come primarily from African and Latin American nations.

The garden is especially important for the older refugee population, who are among the most isolated, Soileau said. “A lot of times, the older people are kind of forgotten.”

Much more funding and resources, such as English classes, are available to the younger refugee population who are seen to have the most potential for education and employment.

While the refugee elders may be close to retirement age, they still have the desire to work and be part of the community, Soileau said, but they don’t have the language skills.

Since she joined Catholic Charities last December, Soileau has engaged the older population in a variety of activities such as yoga, painting and the gardening project.

“A certified instructor in English as a second language, Soileau also incorporates English lessons into the seniors’ weekly meetings.

While the newly planted garden is for all refugees, Soileau wants the older refugees to take a strong leadership role with it.

Among other duties, they will attend monthly maintenance days and have the final say on harvesting and distributing the produce.

Musa Matan, a Somali Bantu elder who was resettled in Nashville through Catholic Charities three years ago, is eager to take an active role with the garden, including daily watering.

“He really likes to get his hands dirty and have a purpose,” said Kerry Marks, program coordinator with Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services.

The garden is also an opportunity for refugee elders such as Edigno Moreno, who was a farmer in his home country of Cuba, to lend their expertise to a project.

On a recent planting day, Moreno was bushily planting tomatoes and lettuce, as well as rose bushes, telling of how he grew large tomatoes and cabbages at home.

“It’s nice to have chores like in my home country,” he said through a translator. While most crops integral to the refugees’ diets are available commercially in local grocery and specialty stores, it is important to them to be able to grow their food themselves.

Laurie Soileau of Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services, helps Edigno Moreno of Cuba as he prepares to plant lettuce in the new refugee community garden at Holy Name Church in Nashville, Tenn., in late April 2006. Somali Bantu Musa Matan, left, is one of the refugee elders who is taking an active leadership role with the garden. Many older refugees are the most isolated from the community, and the garden project aims to give them a sense of purpose and a space outside their home to call their own.
Easter basket project benefits SCAN

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — No matter what the weather brings this Easter, there will be smiles on the faces of hundreds of area children currently served by SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect) who will be enjoying the spoils of the baskets assembled and donated by the Easter basket project volunteers around the area.

What began eight years ago with a desire by members of Northern Indiana Alumni Directors Consortium (NIADC) to serve those in need has taken on a life of its own. The decade-old consortium, consisting of Indiana Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW), Grace and Manchester Colleges, University of Saint Francis, Indiana Wesleyan, Ivy Tech, Indiana Tech, Taylor University-Fort Wayne, and Tri State University and Huntington University, and, according to Jennifer Bosk, director of alumni relations at IPFW, the Easter basket project was created to serve underprivileged students attending inner-city schools.

The first effort provided around 400 baskets assembled by volunteers using donated baskets, toys, and personal care items. Many of the seasonal toys are purchased after Easter on the discount rack as well as at garage sales throughout the year.

Clemmer’s group meets twice a year to create the Easter baskets assembly line style. Clemmer has participated in this project for three years and has developed quite a network of volunteers. Her initial efforts produced a dozen baskets assembled with the help of her children.

These days she gathers enough goodies to fill 200 baskets and has up to 15 volunteers gathered on each assembly night. Many of the items used, including the baskets, are donated by fellow enthusiasts. “People bring donations to my house all through the year,” remarks Clemmer, who stores the Easter baskets in her garage which is a service project of the Northern Indiana Alumni Directors Consortium (NIADC).

The volunteer effort has up to 15 families involved by donating toothbrushes and toothpaste for the baskets. Many of the seasonal toys are purchased after Easter on the discount rack as well as at garage sales throughout the year. Clemmer’s sister-in-law, Christine Jones, has been involved in the project from the beginning and says, “It’s fun doing this with Edie. I buy a lot of baskets and things at garage sales for this.”

Clemmer’s daughter Carrie enjoys volunteering on the craft projects, such as beaded bracelets for the girls’ baskets while a neighbor sews clothes for the Barbie Dolls and beaded satin purses.

One volunteer, Terena Kumfer, came this year for the first time to “give back” to the foster care system. “I was in foster homes growing up. I think it’s great that Edie does this.”

One of the oldest volunteers, Henrietta Parrot agrees, saying, “It is such a worthwhile project. She’s (Edie) so organized. It’s a joy and a thrill!”

The Clemmers’ finished basement takes on a new purpose each spring when Edie and her assistants organize and stack the toys and candy in every available space for easy access during assembly. Baskets are crowded on the pool table, stuffed animals cover the pinball machine and Barbie Dolls and jewelry line the couch.

As the excited volunteers, many of whom are returning veterans and others first-timers, enter the basement they receive introductions and instructions. Then one by one they chose a basket and visit each “station” to fill it with goodies. The process is only complete when each basket has been wrapped in cellophane and carried up the stairs. After all the baskets are filled and wrapped, volunteers are treated to snacks and the festive atmosphere is evidence that joy is at the heart of this ministry.

Clemmer works with Ed Schaab, director of alumni at University of Saint Francis, to have her baskets collected by the truck from Ivy Tech. The baskets are then delivered directly to SCAN for distribution.

Of Clemmer’s dedication Schaab says, “She’s doing a fantastic job. She’s the type of person who takes on many causes.” He, along with the rest, is encouraged by the Easter basket project that benefits the hundreds of children affected by abuse each year.
ST. ALOYSIUS PRESENTS LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Students at St. Aloysius, Yoder, wrote and acted the Living Stations of the Cross on Friday afternoon, March 30. In the photo, “Jesus meets his mother.”

BISHOP DWENGER STUDENTS PRESENT LIVING STATIONS

Every year the campus minister along with the school’s ACTS Ministry team present a living Stations of the Cross prior to Easter. In the photo, Jesus carries the cross on the journey to Calvary.

You Have Experienced
His Passion and Resurrection.
Now Come and Celebrate His Divine Mercy!

Feast Day Mass
MERCY SUNDAY
April 15, 2007
Chapel 2:30 PM
Holy Mass 3:00 PM
Confessions 2 to 3 PM
Holy Family Church
56405 Mayflower Road
South Bend
Everyone Welcome!

The 9 Day Novena to The Divine Mercy
On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus requested that St. Faustina make a special novena before the Feast of Mercy, from Good Friday through the following Saturday. He, Himself, dictated the intentions for each day. By means of a specific prayer she was to bring to His heart a different group of souls each day and thus immerse them in the ocean of His mercy, begging the Father - on the strength of Jesus’ passion - for graces for them.

(See diary of St. Faustina, 1209)

Prayers for the Novena
(Diary, 1209-1229)

The novena and chaplet is said on the rosary.

It is greatly recommended that the following novena intentions and prayers be said together with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, since Our Lord specifically asked for a novena of Chaplets, especially before the Feast of Mercy.

First Day
“Today bring to Me all mankind, especially all sinners, and immerse them in the ocean of my mercy.”
Second Day
“Today bring to Me the souls of Priests and Religious, and immerse them in My unfathomable mercy.”
Third Day
“Today bring to Me all devout and faithful souls, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy.”
Fourth Day
“Today bring to Me those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Me.”
Fifth Day
“Today bring to Me the souls of those who have separated themselves from My Church, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy.”
Sixth Day
“Today bring to Me the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children and immerse them in My mercy.”
Seventh Day
“Today bring to Me the souls who especially venerate and glorify My mercy, and immerse them in My mercy.”
Eighth Day
“Today bring to Me the souls who are detained in purgatory, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy.”
Ninth Day
“Today bring to Me the souls who have become lukewarm, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy.”

Divine Mercy Celebration - Sunday, April 15, 2007
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, Divine Mercy Chaplet
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church 500 East Seventh Street - Auburn, Indiana
2:00 PM Confessions - 3:00 PM Celebration
PASTOR: FATHER BABASINO FERNANDES
Celebrant for Divine Mercy: Father Lourdino Fernandes,
Pastor Immaculate Conception parish - Kendallville
Homemade food and refreshments provided afterward by Ladies Cenacle Prayer Group. Literature on Divine Mercy available to purchase.

CONGRATULATION TO OUR SHEPHERD
His Excellency Rt. Rev. John M. D’Arcy
On His 50th Anniversary of His Ordination to the Priesthood
Ad Multos Annos

For the Sake of Your Sorrowful Passion, Have Mercy on Us
EDITORIAL

Easter message goes out to a yearning world

This week we celebrate one of the holiest weeks of the year. Christ is risen! We receive new life in him. How wonderful that Easter falls in the spring. Nature itself reminds us of new life. Winter wheat coats the fields in a layer of green, and we barely noticed a few weeks ago. This wheat reminds us of the bread of life we receive in Communion.

We pray with excitement for those who enter new life in the church at the Easter Vigil. We pray that their lives will burst forth like the flowers that are reaching to the heavens.

Gardening with our souls

Easter reminds us of new life bursting forth. This week we feature our gardening section — with a special emphasis on shrines and grottos.

There is something to say about the spirituality of gardening. We discussed this a few years ago, but it is a message that gardeners can connect to, especially at this time of year.

We can liken a newly plowed or tilled garden to our souls at baptism. The garden is cleared of the rough debris, weeds, etc., and raked smooth is like our soul washed clean through the waters of baptism.

We plant seeds that will grow to harvest or bring beauty into our lives like the flowers. God gives each of us seeds — talents, gifts you might say — that we may use to serve him, something to nurture to a rich harvest and give selflessly to others.

The sacraments and sacramentals are like the rains, sunshine and fertilizer that allow these gifts, these seeds, to grow. God’s word enriches the soil for our souls.

Just as we keep the rows of plants from having life choked or stunted by the weeds, we must keep our souls clean from having its life choked or stunted by sin.

Weeds, rodents, unwanted bugs, fungus, floods, droughts can destroy the plants, just as secular influences that discredit the dignity of creation and God’s life can destroy our sights on God.

Fortunately, we can remove the weeds or sins of our souls through the sacrament of reconciliation giving the plants a fresh place to thrive.

The rewards of gardening include beautiful flowers, a harvest of vegetables or fruits. These are gifts that can be shared with others when we are good stewards just as the gifts we cultivate within us are meant to be used to glorify God for his kingdom.

Some seeds can be lovingly kept and used for the next season, just as we lovingly pass our faith from one generation to the next.

To all who garden and to those who appreciate the beauty of growth, we wish you a blessed season, with lots of sunshine, beneficial rains and a successful harvest.

Speaking out for what’s right

This week, an art display was slated to be exhibited at an art gallery in New York City depicting the crucifixion of Christ in chocolate. The problem with the display was that Christ was depicted naked. The exhibit included gruesome details that we won’t discuss here. Fortunately, the Catholic League learned of the situation and offered a boycott.

The Catholic League questioned what would happen if the gallery substituted the prophet Mohammed for Jesus and displayed him during Ramadan. So often, Christians do not speak out loudly enough when our values, that which we hold sacred, are trampled by the secular world, especially at this holy time of the year.

As Christianity celebrates the Risen Lord, and we hear about the early church in the daily and Sunday readings, let us not be afraid to shout the good news and defend the values that the good news leads us to follow.


COMMENTARY

Stewardship and the Eucharist

In 1992, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a Pastoral letter, Stewardship: A Disciples Response. This document is a useful guide for the Catholic Church in all aspects of living according to God’s call. It is an invitation to follow Christ who gave himself up for us. Each of us is called to serve God and neighbors and be stewards of God’s creation for the benefit of all.

Stewardship is necessary for all members of the church that each one of us recognizes what needs to be done and we know what we are going to do about it.

To understand stewardship, we must look toward the holy Eucharist and understand that it is a living-giving nourishment for the engagement in the work of the church. Holy Eucharist is the total gift of Christ to his Father.

Jesus gives us the Eucharist because of his love for us, and for our salvation. “He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.” (Jn. 13:1)

This love is not just for the Twelve present in the room, but for us, too, who receive Eucharist 2,000 years later. The Eucharist was lovingly presented by Christ, St. Luke quotes Jesus saying, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer...” (Lk 22:15)

We know this suffering in reference to Calvary as a sacrifice, and today our Eucharist is the sacramental representation of the sacrifice of Calvary — of the paschal mysteries of his suffering, death and resurrection. To participate in the Mass and to receive the Eucharist is a supreme act of worship.

Jesus not only loved us as he laid his life down for us on Calvary, but he also established this profound sacrifice and sacramental bond to be one with his beloved church. This new covenant is “a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.” — Sacrosanctum Concilium, 47.

Certainly this is a cause of thanksgiving to God and to all who garden and to those who appreciate the beauty of growth, we wish you a blessed season, with lots of sunshine, beneficial rains and a successful harvest.

Food marketers need to look at new study on TV advertising and kids

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ten years ago, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications issued a document called, simply, “Ethics in Advertising.”

The document condemned advertising oriented toward children which “intrudes upon the parent-child relationship and seeks to manipulate it to its own base ends.”

The latest case in point: A Kaiser Family Federation survey shows that food products account for half of the advertising on TV watched by minors.

The study, “Food for Thought,” examined the six (at the time) commercial broadcast networks, six cable channels and PBS.

Children ages 2-7 see an average of 12 food ads a day on TV, or 4,440 food ads a year — equivalent to 30 to 30 hours of food advertising, according to the study.

The study found that the top 21 food ads a day for children ages 8-12 — 7,600 food ads a year and more than 50 hours of TV time on food ads.

Teenagers ages 13-17 have it slightly better. They see only 17 food ads a day on average, or 6,000 food ads totaling more than 40 hours a year.

Counterbalancing all of this advertising is a woefully small number of public service announcements about fitness and nutrition. Children ages 2-7 get one hour and 25 minutes a year of PSA on the subject, while kids ages 8-12 get one hour and 15 minutes, and teenagers watch just 25 minutes a year of fitness and nutrition PSA.

The Kaiser study showed that 34 percent of the food products advertised were for candy and snacks, 28 percent for cereal, and 10 percent for fast food, while 4 percent were for dairy products and 1 percent for fruit juices.

There was no advertising for fruits and vegetables.

Does anybody wonder why there’s an epidemic of childhood obesity?

“Food for Thought” does not address the issue of whether food advertising to children on TV is going up or down, nor does it address the issue of whether such advertising influences what kids eat, or should be in any way restricted, either through voluntary industry efforts or through regulatory policy,” the Kaiser study concluded.

“What it does indicate, however, is that food marketing is a predominant part of the television advertising landscape for children, and that young people’s exposure to such messages is substantial, while their exposure to counter-vailing health messages on TV is minimal.”

Last September, a joint government-industry task force was created to look at childhood obesity and what role TV may play in it. The Kaiser study, as well as “Ethics in Advertising,” could serve as useful tools in the fight against childhood obesity.

Mark Pattison is media editor for Catholic News Service.
Tridentine Mass: Pope looks for bridge to tradition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sometime soon, Pope Benedict XVI is expected to broaden permission to use the Tridentine Mass, a long-standing request of traditionalists who favor the rite used before the Second Vatican Council.

The move is aimed at ending a liturgical dispute which has simmered for more than 20 years. In the process, it could clarify how the pope intends to implement what he once described as a “liturgical reconciliation” in the modern church.

The pope will enunciate the new policy in a document to be released after more than a year of debate and discussion at the Vatican. The Roman Curia had mixed views on expanding the use of the Tridentine rite, and so did the world’s cardinals and bishops — all of which has lent a certain dramatic to the outcome.

— all of which has caused the church to the outcome.

Of the Tridentine rite, and so did Vatican. The Roman Curia had been used before the Second Vatican Council. The pope intends to implement the pope intends to implement the pope intends to implement the pope intends to implement.

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

Even before he wrote those words, then-Cardinal Ratzinger had caused a stir when he said it made sense for the priest to celebrate Mass facing the same direction as the congregation, in the pre-Vatican II style, although he also said it would be confusing to turn the altar around once again.

Over the years, he has sharply criticized what he sees as a tendency for the worshiping community to celebrate only one Mass.

All of that led some to presume that, as pope, he would preside over a rollback of liturgical reform.

LETTER, PAGE 15

Apostles’ testimony is our avenue to knowing and meeting Christ

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Easter Jn 20:3-9

The church celebrates the Easter Vigil late in the night of Holy Saturday. These readings are those read during Masses on Easter itself.

For its first reading on this extraordinary feast of Christian faith, the church presents us with a passage from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts is in effect a continuation of St. Luke’s Gospel. Scholars say that this Gospel and Acts were the work of the same author. Beginning with the Ascension, Acts reports what life was like for the infant community of Christians in Jerusalem, and then it recalls the initial spread of Christianity.

Important in the early chapters of Acts is a series of sermons delivered by Peter. Always Peter spoke for the survivors. In this sermon, Peter briefly gives a synopsis of the life of Jesus. Sent by God, Jesus was crucified, the victim of human evil. He rose after death. He commissioned the apostles to continue the work of reconciling God and humanity. The apostles were witnesses of all that Jesus did.

The Epistle to the Colossians, the second reading, places Christ at God’s right hand. It says that Christians already have been raised because they have taken Christ into their hearts. Having given themselves to Jesus, they have died to earthly things and to earthly ideas. In the process, they have been drawn into the eternal life of the Risen Lord. True believers will live with Jesus eternally.

However, the lesson is more simply to affirm once again the church’s trust in the resurrection, actual and physical, of Christ. It calls upon us to believe. Such was the message in Colossians, the second reading. Such is the important lesson in the references to Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved. They had to believe. They had to have faith.

We are open to God ourselves. Limited and bruised by sin, we must be healed and strengthened to receive the grace of faith. Hopefully, Lenten penances these past weeks have healed and strengthened us and made us within this openness.

In the meantime, the church shares its testimony of Peter and the apostles, not just as bystanders as the mission of Jesus occurred, but rather the Lord’s especially commissioned agents to tell us about our own salvation. Their testimony, so guarded by the church, is our avenue to knowing and meeting the Risen Christ.

READINGS


Tuesday: Acts 23:41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-26, 22 in 2011-18


Thursday: Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8,2a, 5-8 Lk 24:33-48


CATEQUIZ’EM

By Dominic Campilsson

The tomb of Jesus features prominently in the Easter story, as well as having been much in the news lately due to a supposed discovery in Jerusalem. This week’s quiz looks at what we know about the tomb.

1. A particular tomb plays a key role on the acquisition of the Holy Land by the Jews.

   a. Adam’s tomb was purchased by his son Cain, showing Adam was doomed.
   b. Abraham bought a tomb for Sarah, thus owning property in the Holy Land for the first time.
   c. Joseph bought the pyramid from Set and thus had the first multi-story tomb.

2. Tombs were often used, or, in later times when unsealed caves were scarce

   a. cut out of rock
   b. made of balsa wood
   c. sealed metal boxes, modeled after the ark of the covenant

3. In Old Testament times, what types of coffins were used in Palestine amongst the Jewish?

   a. They were pine or Madera, being the only two widely available woods.
   b. Coffins could be made from any material that was not ritually impure.
   c. Coffins were not widely used, bodies were placed in sealed tombs.

4. Generally these folks were denied a proper tomb burial, instead being buried under piles of stones:

   a. women
   b. Jews
   c. criminals

5. A special box used specifically for bones is known as

   a. an ossuary
   b. a reliquary
   c. a pyx

6. In Old Testament times, what was done with the remains after a period of time?

   a. The bodies were cremated.
   b. The bones were removed to a smaller chamber and the tomb reused.
   c. The bodies were set upon the river Jordan to float into the Dead Sea.

7. What was done with the body after death?

   a. It was cremated at once due to the extreme heat.
   b. It was washed and had a cloth placed over the face.
   c. It was embalmed in oil to preserve it.

8. Why was there extra haste associated with the burial of Jesus?

   a. He had to get his body back to Galilee within the three-day limit.
   b. He had to be removed from the cross so that there would be no crucifix as a symbol.
   c. The Sabbath was fast approaching.

9. Jesus’ tomb is also known by this name:

   a. the Holy Sepulcher
   b. the Urn of Unction
   c. the Church of the Nativity and Death

10. What do the women notice about the body of Jesus in the tomb on Easter Sunday?

    a. It was pure white.
    b. It was unharmed and bears no wounds.
    c. Nothing — it is not there.

11. What do we learn about how the Resurrection took place inside the tomb?

    a. Nothing we only know it happened, not how.
    b. The heat given off suggests a fusion event.
    c. The lack of change in the tomb indicates a time continuum shift.

12. What item is thought by many to have been the winding sheet of Jesus from the tomb?

    a. the Icon of Vera
    b. the Baphomet
    c. the Shroud of Turin

13. Where are Jesus’ actual earthly remains?

    a. under the Vatican
    b. nowhere on earth; he ascended into Heaven after the Resurrection
    c. in an unknown grave somewhere near Jerusalem

ANSWERS:

1. a, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, a, 12, c, 13b

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**Divine Mercy, Sacred Heart devotions stem from private revelations**

On a recent day off occasioned by some evil thing happening in the Fasti, I was laying me temporarily low, I read Chaim Potok’s two wonderful novels, “The Chosen” and “The Promise,” the pleasures of which happily compensated for my indisposition.

“The Chosen” is a modern classic, a brilliant story of fathers-and-sons evocatively set in a disorderly Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn called Shomrei Hadasch, filled with Hasidic and Ladino characters, and a Hasidic sage — Reb Saunders. The other man who came to mind was Reb Isaac Saunders, head of a small, exclusive yeshiva in a small town in southern Poland. In 1925 she entered the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Mother God that cares for poor, morally neglected girls.

The apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima occurred from 1916 to 1917 near a field of rocks in Fatima, Portugal. In 1930 the Sunday after Easter was established as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Some of the other runs thought the visions were delusions. But the Jesuit priest Claude de la Colombiere, who lived near the spot, supported Margaret Mary. A feast of the Sacred Heart is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of June. A feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated on the second Wednesday of June.

Thus, in Sacred Heart pictures or statues, the heart of Jesus Christ, living and vivifying source of divine love, is depicted with a pale red ray representing the blood and a golden ray representing the sacred and saving grace of Jesus.

The most important thing, he said at that time, was to make sure that the liturgy does not divide the Catholic community.

With that in mind, knowledgeable Vatican sources say the pope’s new document will no doubt aim to lessen pastoral tension between the Tridentine rite and the new Mass, rather than hand out a victory to traditionalists. It was Pope John Paul who in 1984 first made it possible for groups of the faithful to worship according to the Latin-language 1962 Roman Missal, the last Vatican-imposed liturgy prior to the post-conciliar reforms.

Father Richard Hare, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka, answered this week’s question.

**Scripture Search**

**Commentary**

**First day**

**Storry**

**Dazzling**

**The Living**

**Galleon**

**Magellan**

**James**

Updated on April 8, 2007

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**The Catholic Difference**

**George Weigel**

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**Letter continued from page 14**

But the picture is not so clear cut. A Vatican papal theologian, he said he considered the new missal a “real improvement” in many respects, but that the introduction of local languages made sense.

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Father Richard Hare, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka, answered this week’s question.
Our world needs Easter people

THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Our world desperately needs the hope that only Easter brings. All we need to do is turn on the television or read the paper to be reminded of the daily suffering all around us. Hardly a day goes by when we don’t hear about car bombings, murders and other violent acts.

The situation in Iraq seems to go from bad to worse. More and more military personnel and innocent civilians are killed every day, with no end in sight. Many people live in constant fear for their lives. And just when we think we have heard about the worst that can happen, even something more evil happens.

And the war in Iraq is not the only place where there is much pain. Most of us can name other places and situations where there is tremendous suffering. Violence, hatred and revenge are all around us. Thousands of people die each day from hunger and illness caused by poverty, war and greed. Suffering runs rampant, and mercy and compassion are often scarce commodities.

But there is hope. Our faith in the Resurrection means that we believe good can come from suffering and evil; that love can conquer. This, of course, is not a popular stance in today’s environment. So many people and nations believe violence must be dealt with by force.

When the 2004 Easter season, it might be beneficial to reflect on our own attitudes. Do we feel justified by our desire to pursue evil with more violence? What are our thoughts about the death penalty (which is what Jesus received)? Do we ever pray for the conversion of our enemies? Are we able to forgive those who have hurt us or at least pray for them? Or does our anger or bitterness eat at us?

Are we willing to go deeper and discover the roots of evil and use love to conquer it? What does our celebration of Easter really mean? Hopefully it is more than new clothes and chocolate bunnies.

Do we really believe that violence can destroy evil? Has it ever really worked throughout history? Doesn’t love seem to be a better and more logical solution?

I admit it: I cry every time I watch ABC’s “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.” Something about Ty’s neighborhood rally, the dazzling redesign and the awed reactions tug on my heartstrings and tear ducts.

“She has epilepsy,” I wail between sniffles, “and now she has a princess castle in her bedroom! And her brother has a life-size Lego fort!”

“Extreme Makeover” may pack in the most drama per minute on television, but the booming business of home design, it’s in crowded company. Who doesn’t own an all-time high, our interest in not-so-humble abodes has kicked off a dizzying proliferation of reality TV, how-to books, glossy magazines and conversations at Panera.

Who doesn’t want to flip their house or trade their space? Who doesn’t crave a new look and a fresh start? And who doesn’t secretly believe in the potential of Plum Burst, the walls framed in Angel Touch purple to unleash creative genius?

We set down House Beautiful and glance at the that junct window with wistful eyes, imagining it reborn by a nautical motif, complete with life preserver and wooden ship wheel. Some favor a Tuscan look, dressed up with a terracotta urn and rustic ceramic pottery. Others flirt with Asian themes, wooed by the hip, exotic aura that somehow flows from elephant homes and bamboo.

As a 20-something, the surging popularity of home design makes me restless. My June move will mark my fifth since 2004. And my next zip code will not be my final. I’m changing jobs and dreams, putting the allure of home and family on hold. I’m exhausting myself.

So when I stroll through Pottery Barn, I have to keep my yearnings in check. I’m sticking with the cheap, lightweight and unbreakable for now. The intricate rug, artistic mirrors and fireplace décor are untouched.

Even if it’s frustrating, the young-adult nomadic lifestyle serves us well spiritually. Our Christian disposition should be marked by a sense of restlessness, impermanence and patience. We are all nomads on earth, preparing for our true home in heaven. As St. Augustine said, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee.”

Extreme makeover: Interior design that matters

If it wasn’t such a distant thought, heaven would shift our concept of interior design, compelling us to redesign an interior that’s not held up by bricks and mortar, but by bones and tendons. True interior redesign begins with a restored prayer life, one that’s doused and made more prominent. Pain and patience that’s been so flimsy for so many years. Caulk the cracks that keep letting materialism and relativism seep in. Demolish envy. Repair self-love. And reinforce the

WEIGHT-BEARING WALLS MADE OF PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

The Easter Gospel reminds us of the empty tomb Mary Magdalene discovered and the eternal home Jesus entered. The story comforts a restless soul like me. I may not have found my earthly home, but my spiritual home is all set.

Easter beckons us to reflect on heaven, that place eye has not seen and ear has not heard. Its design will astonish us. Every feature will accommodate.

There’ll be no cramped closets, junk rooms or unfinished basements — just hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings and smudge-proof windows. A divine design.

We have the resurrection of Jesus to prove that it can happen. Jesus’ life conquered sin and evil. Does God continue to bring life out of suffering?

The sisters in our retirement community used the phrase — “the power of one” — as their theme for Lent. It stemmed from the belief that every individual good act makes a difference.

Just imagine what it would be like if every person in the world would live the coming Easter season with joy for just one day. There would be no war, hatred or violence. People would ask for and offer forgiveness. The only news to report would be good. The front page of newspapers would have life-giving stories. Everyone would have plenty to eat and the whole people would share with one another. And so on and so on... Wouldn’t it be awesome?

As Christians who believe in the Resurrection, we must strive to be models of love and hope. Our good works of Lent must continue throughout the rest of the year. We have a call and a mission to make Christ known by our love. We must express our belief, even in this gloomy, dark time, God will not abandon us. God will always be faithful just as he was to his Son, Jesus by bringing him to new life. Our world needs this Easter message. Go out and proclaim it to all in your world.

And if current events make it hard for you to believe that God is somewhere in all of this, God says, “So help me, to help you to remember times when he brought you out of difficulties in your life or the life of someone you know. Imagine tells us that God never leaves us in our pain and often brings good out of evil.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

Holy Cross College is mission driven

BY ALEX SCHNEIDER

NOTRE DAME — When the leaders of Holy Cross College decided they wanted to boost their college enrollment, they took a careful look at the mission and identity upon which the college was founded. To some people it might seem counter-intuitive to focus on faith when looking to attract a larger student body, but that is precisely what those college leaders did by recruiting students for the school’s Mission Team and awarding scholarships to those selected.

Holy Cross College is recruiting students for spirituality, just as schools recruit for athletic scholarships. It is ironic that while Holy Cross looks to begin its first varsity athletic team, it has already been handing out scholarships for the Mission Team for a couple of years. Currently, Mission Team runners use the “GLORY” holy hour on Tuesday nights, which is an hour of praise and worship music in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Some serve as sacristans and liturgical assistants at six Masses per week. Others run the silent eucharistic adoration program.

Freshman Chris Ord, a student on The Mission Team, comes from Orange County, Calif.

“I’m growing a lot more since I joined it,” Ord says. “It’s good for me, to help you to remember times when he brought you out of difficulties in your life or the life of someone you know. Imagine tells us that God never leaves us in our pain and often brings good out of evil.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.
The St. Therese Lady Crusaders, shown above, earned the Blue League division championship for the regular season of CYO action. They wound up in the runner-up spot to Benoit Academy with a crushing blow in the “rubber match.”

“Fortunately, the season started on a sour note when we lost to Benoit and St. Joe-St. Elizabeth in the Thanksgiving Day Tournament at Saint Francis,” Oberley said. “We had tremendous size and talent and expectations were high of a great season,” Oberley added. “Fortunately, the season started on a sour note when we lost to Benoit and St. Joe-St. Elizabeth in the Thanksgiving Day Tournament at Saint Francis.”

The St. Therese Lady Crusaders earned the title of champions for the regular season Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball season with a “400” record — seven wins and seven losses.

Six of their wins came while playing teams in their Blue League division. Thus, they earned the title of champions for the regular season Catholic Youth League (CYO) finishing a perfect 6-0 in league action. This also grabbed them the No. 1 seed for the CYO tournament. They wound up in the runner-up spot to Benoit Academy with a crushing blow in the “rubber match.”

Oberley summed up the season as follows, “This class had high expectations of a great season with six of the 10 girls playing AAU basketball with the Bishop Luers program. Led by the post play of Kayley Clovin, who averaged 10 points per game, and Liberty McCartney, this year’s team was a force to be reckoned with under the basket. “We had tremendous size and talent and expectations were high of a great season,” Oberley said. “Unfortunately, the season started on a sour note when we lost to Benoit and St. Joe-St. Elizabeth in the Thanksgiving Day Tournament at Saint Francis.”

As the regular season began, the season starting looking better. The Crusaders won their next three games. But heading into the Christmas tournament, we again fell on hard times and went two and out for the second tournament in a row losing to Memorial Park and St. Jude. The Crusaders bounced back winning four of their remaining six games including a 33-25 win over Benoit Academy with first place in the Blue division on the line.”

In the CYO tournament, St. Therese defeat- ed Precious Blood, 45-17, in the opening round. With the tournament championship on the line, the Crusaders faced Benoit for the third time this season (each had won one) in the championship game. Giving the play-by-play, Oberley said, “The game lived up to all its hype and was a battle to the end. We took an early eight-point lead into half time. However, Benoit fought back in the third period taking a two-point lead into the final period. The teams battled back and forth with no team leading by more than four points at any time. Eventually, Benoit was able to hold off long enough and pulled out a 48-44 victory as time expired.”

Clovin and Kaityn Hofrichter each finished with 12 points to lead the red and white in their final game. The Crusader line up included 10 young ladies: five eighth graders and five seventh graders. The starters included Clovin, Hofrichter, Abby Bireley, Liberty McCartney and Audrie Luegring. Rounding out the roster were Hofrichter, Lauri Braun, Jack Hofrichter and Shannon Malone. The Crusaders were coached by Linda Hofrichter, Audrie Luegring, Lauri Braun, Jack McCartney and Oberley.

The St. Joseph Mishawaka Wildcats had several achievements this year. They were the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) Martin De Porres champions with a perfect 10-0 record. They were the St. Bavo Holiday Tournament champions and the first small-school division team to make it to the ICCL finals. They finished with an overall 17-3 record. The team consists of the following: front row, from left, Coach Jeff Deitchley, Anthony Rice, Alex Ewing, Tim Tippell, Coach Les Dant; second row, Coach Greg Schultheis, Michael Louderback, Tommy Stachowiak, Danny Eggleston, Coley Schultheis, Coach Tom Gregory; and back row, Michael Furfaro, Jacob Deitchley, Andrew O’Lena and Tim Wilson.
**‘Godspell’ benefits St. Vincent de Paul Society**

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — If you’re looking for the familiar sounds of “Godspell,” you’ll get them in the upcoming production by the Not-Quite Professional Theatre Company (NQPTC). But it comes with a little cafe-feine kick.

“It’s more thumpin’, more rock, I would say — but not real hard rock,” says Jack Pavlekovich, music director for the April 13-15 run in Bendix Theatre at Century Center. The original version of “Godspell,” in 1971, featured folk, pop, vaudeville and gospel sounds, with a circus theme weaving in and out of both the music and the drama.

NQPTC is modeling its version after more updated shows. “The young kids want the more rock and roll feel, with a punch to it,” adds Pavlekovich. “You’ll feel it in songs like ‘Bless the Lord,’ which will have a solid bass to it, and it gets into a brighter tempo. And that circusy feel, well, it’s gone.”

The show is a benefit for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County, which provides food, financial and emergency assistance to people in need. About 60 percent of those served live on the west side of South Bend. Godspell, which is the Old English spelling of Gospel, literally means good news.

The storyline comes from the book of Matthew, with its many parables. The cast for the upcoming production of Godspell works on a scene where Jesus is addressing them. All cast members are identified by their costume colors, and some of them were wearing their colors at a recent rehearsal. Standing are Sue Rozi, “Green” and Lynn Owianowski, “Black”; center, from left are Andrew Brent, Matt Fischer, Ceciel Eastman “Orange” and Rick Nimtz; front row, from left are Nikki Wilder, “Pink” and Julie Ann Merion.

Pavlekovich, who plays guitar, is by day a county policeman. But he also plays for Chantilly Lace, a local band he co-founded in 1985 and which does a lot of summer festivals.

Age 52, he remembers the original “Godspell” and, in particular, the movie version from 1973. “Each song has a message about how we should live,” he says. “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord.” “Save the People.” “All Good Gifts.” “All for the Best” and “By My Side” have become staples in church and school productions over the years.

“Day by Day” hit the singles pop chart in 1972, and the lyrics were used as a dinnertime grace, by Ben Stiller’s character in the 2000 comedy “Meet the Parents.” The Christian band DC Talk also did a cover version of it for their album “Jesus Freak.”

Lori Hutchings, director of the show, said ages of the 10 cast members run the gamut, from college students to people in their 50s. “The show is about this community that is built up over a short period of time, and it’s been very interesting to watch the cast do that, too, to see people learn to be supportive of each other.”

Playing the role of Jesus is Granger resident Steve Fay who is relatively new to local theater. He participated in “Hello Dolly” and “Forever Patsy Cline” with the South Bend Civic Theatre, last year. Professionally, he is a computer systems manager for I/N TIEK, IN KOTE.

Tickets for the show are $15 and are available at the door, or in advance by calling (574) 234-6000 or by visiting the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store at 3408 Armorel Trail, South Bend.

Show times are:
- 8 p.m. on April 13
- 2 and 8 p.m. on April 14
- 2 p.m. on April 15.

Take a Tour for a Bouquet

**MOVIE CAPSULES**

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews of movies issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office for Film and Broadcasting.

“TMNT” (Warner Bros.)

Computer-animated feature computerizes the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle franchise, as four brothers set out to defeat a villain poised to unleash 13 monsters on New York.

Writer-director Kevin Munro navigates a rather overly complicated plot with aplomb, successfully balancing action and humor while enforcing the values of solidarity and atonement. Cartoon-level combat and swtroidry, a subtle acceptance of a premarital living situation, too much of an emphasis of belching and some disrespectful banter. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

“Reign Over Me” (Columbia)

Singularly offbeat, albeit poignantly stiched, buddy film about a successful dentist (Don Cheadle) who meets up with and tries to rehabilitate his college roommate (Adam Sandler), once a dentist himself and now sadly childlike, suffering from post-traumatic disorder as a result of his wife and children perishing Sept. 11, 2001, and in the process comes to terms with some of his own emotional issues.

Writer-director Mike Binder’s dramatics are well-intentioned, and Sandler pulls off a difficult part with distinction, but the script is paradoxically original yet formulaic with often implausible character motivation, though the 9/11 theme and Sandler’s heart-wrenching character tug at the emotions.

Pervasive rough and crude language and occasional profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

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**WHAT’S HAPPENING?**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.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.

**FISH FRY**
Knaves plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 601, Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, April 6, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is $7 for adults, $3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

**MISC. HAPPENINGS**
Volunteers needed for Hospice Home
Fort Wayne — Volunteers are needed to assist the agency in a variety of roles. Duties include patient support and clerical support. Garden volunteers are also needed to maintain the Seasons of Life perennial garden. Volunteer training is being planned. Call Ann Blue at (260) 435-3235 or visit www.vnhs.org for information.

St. Joseph School plans open house, registration
Decatur — St. Joseph School will have a preschool and kindergarten open house and registration Tuesday, April 10. Preschool from 6-7 p.m. in the preschool room. Kindergarten will meet from 7-8 p.m. in the auditorium then the classrooms. New this year will be full-day kindergarten five days a week. Preschool will add a full-day kindergarten readiness class three days a week. Registration for first through eighth grades is April 6-17. Call (260) 724-2765 for information.

Breakfast at St. Peter
Fort Wayne — St. Peter Parish will have a sausage, pancake, egg casserole and fruit breakfast Sunday, April 15, from 8 to 11 a.m. in the Pavilion. Tickets are $5 for adults, $3 for children 12 to 16 and children under 12 will be free.

Dinner theater planned
Avilla — St. Mary Parish will host a dinner theater that Sat., April 28, at 6 p.m. in the Pavilion. Tickets are $25 per couple, $20 per person. Contact Mike Hudecek at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

**Alaska Cruise and Northwest Tour Including San Francisco, Lake Tahoe, and Seattle**
**15-Days from $1898**

Join your Spiritual Director Father Albert Zapf departing Friday, August 26, 2007. Father Zapf is pastor of Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church in Harwinton, CT. Mass will be celebrated most days aboard ship and some days on tour. Start in San Francisco for two nights with an included city tour. Travel through San Francisco Bay, through the Golden Gate Bridge, into Napa Valley, and along the coast to the wine country. Continue on the discovering the beauty of the lakes and towns in the British Columbia. To the majestic Canadian Rockies. To the scenic drive of the Going-to-the-Sun Road, on the western shore of Lake McDonald. Embark on the three-night cruise on the NCL Star®. Enjoy the luxury of the Star® on the 3-night cruise to Alaska. Return to Seattle, Washington, and an included city tour before flying home the next day.

For information, reservations, brochure and letter from Fr. Zapf call 7 days a week: 1-800-736-7300 America’s First Choice for travel since 1967.

**REST IN PEACE**

- Robert Egan Meyers, 93, St. Vincent de Paul
- Robert Joseph Glasper, 79, Most Precious Blood
- Pedro Reyes, 72, St. Patrick
- Angelo Portolesi, 73, St. Plus X
- Rose E. Yentes, SS. Peter and Paul
- Sister Mary Cecilia Niehaus, OLVM, 92, Victory Noll Chapel
- Sister M. Monica Clare, 105, Church of Loretto
- Sister M. Ann Francis, 97, Church of Loretto

**Perennial Gardens**

- John McShane, 72, St. Michael’s
- Transformation Garden
- The Garden of Life perennial garden.
- Gardens at St. Mary’s and St. Joseph’s

**Volunteer Training**

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God’s mercy is greater than the sins of the whole world

Mother of Mercy Messengers promote Divine Mercy through a presentation, prayer, adoration

BY DIANE FREEBY

BRISTOL — Pope John Paul II declared during the Great Jubilee Year of 2000, “From now throughout the universal church, the second Sunday of Easter will be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.”

In the early 1930s, God used a young Polish nun to convey his message of mercy to the world. Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska had only three years of formal education, yet she received extraordinary private revelations or messages from Christ. Jesus asked Sister Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled in notebooks. These notebooks, known today as “The Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska” and the words contained within, are God’s loving message of Divine Mercy.

Though the Divine Mercy message is new to the teachings of the church, Sister Faustina’s diary sparked a great movement and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Pope John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina in 2000 making her the “first saint of the new millennium.”

“Sister Faustina is the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time,” said the pope.

Continuing Jesus’ request to “tell the whole world” about his mercy, the Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM) are doing what they can to spread that message.

Dave and Joan Maroney formed MOMM in 2001, witnessing their consecration to Our Lady and dedicating themselves to spreading the message of the Divine Mercy.

“We don’t usually travel this far north in the winter,” the Texas couple told a near-capacity audience at St. Mary of the Annunciation on a cold night this past February.

“The folks in Bristol called us first, then we heard from a church in Coldwater, Mich. When we saw how close those places were to each other, we said yes. Then we saw the weather.”

Not even a midwinter snow storm kept people from attending the MOMM presentation. After giving a brief overview of St. Faustina and Divine Mercy, the Maroneys began their dramatic presentation. The couple’s narration combined with a digital photo display not only held people’s attention, it also created a meditative atmosphere.

“The feast of Mercy is proclaimed so all will know his mercy is greater than the sins of the whole world,” explained Dave Maroney, “Jesus wants us to turn to him.”

As he spoke, photos of the original image of the Divine Mercy were shown on the large screen. MOMM utilizes a reproduction of the 1934 painting by Eugene Kazimirovski in Vilnius, Lithuania. It is the only image painted under the direction of St. Faustina.

“This is not an image of an angry God,” narrated Joan Maroney. “The Lord is stepping toward us with tenderness and compassion. He wants so much to give us his mercy.”

Joan went on to talk about the relationship between Jesus and his mother, quoting the first line of Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy. Joan also talked about Pope John Paul II devoting an entire section of his encyclical to Mary as the Mother of Mercy.

“Our Lady was there on Calvary,” said Joan. “From the cross, Jesus gave us his mother. She is just waiting for us to call on her to intercede.”

St. Faustina is reported to have had several visions of Mary, who said she is here to lead us to her son. In her diary, St. Faustina wrote that Mary said, “I am Queen of heaven. I am Mother of Mercy. I am your mother.”

At the bottom of the Vilnius painting of the Divine Mercy, it reads “Jesus, I trust in you.” In her diary, St. Faustina writes, “The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive.”

Dave suggested contemplating the conversations between Jesus and five souls, which St. Faustina wrote about near the end of her diary (1485). They are the sinful soul, the despairing soul, the suffering soul, the soul striving for perfection and the soul who has attained the perfect relationship with God.

“How do we glorify God’s mercy?” asked Dave. “By placing our trust in him.”

The evening at St. Mary’s continued with time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and time for quiet prayer. As five priests dispersed to separate corners to hear confessions, people lined up 10-deep or more to wait their turn.

Along with seeking forgiveness, we are reminded to also for give.

St. Faustina wrote in her diary, “We resemble God most when we forgive our neighbors.”

As we seek God’s mercy, there are three ways we ourselves can exercise mercy. That is in deed, word and prayer.

The Maroneys offered a reflection on the Eucharist before heading into the closing benediction.

“Our Lady of Mercy to help you give your soul to receive her Son. Through holy Communion, we become more like him.”

Parishioners from area churches, including Elkhart’s St. Thomas and St. Vincent de Paul also attended the MOMM presentation. The Maroneys also made the presentation at St. Mary, Decatur.

“It was just breathtaking and inspiring,” said one woman from St. Vincent.

Father Robert Van Kempen, pastor of St. Mary agreed. “It was very inspiring ... very reflective. I am appreciative of the people from St. Mary’s, St. Thomas, St. Vincent’s and St. John’s who helped bring this program to our parish.”

Dave and Joan say they are humbled by the response. Since MOMM cannot possibly make live presentations everywhere, programs are also available on CDs and DVDs.

For more information, go to www.thedivinemercy.org/momm.