



Bishop of Gary

## DIOCESE OF GARY

9292 BROADWAY  
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410-7088

219-769-9292  
FAX: 219-769-2066

January 27, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I write to you concerning an alarming and serious matter that negatively impacts the Church in the United States directly, and that strikes at the fundamental right to religious liberty for all citizens of any faith. The federal government, which claims to be “of, by, and for the people,” has just dealt a heavy blow to almost a quarter of those people – the Catholic population – and to the millions more who are served by the Catholic faithful.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced last week that almost all employers, *including Catholic employers*, will be *forced* to offer their employees health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception. Almost all health insurers will be *forced* to include those “services” in the health policies they write. And almost all individuals will be *forced* to buy that coverage as a part of their policies.

In so ruling, the Administration has cast aside the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, denying to Catholics our nation’s first and most fundamental freedom, that of religious liberty. And as a result, unless the rule is overturned, we Catholics will be compelled either to violate our consciences, or to drop health coverage for our employees (and suffer the penalties for doing so). The Administration’s sole concession was to give our institutions one year to comply.

We cannot – we will not – comply with this unjust law. People of faith cannot be made second class citizens. We are already joined by our brothers and sisters of all faiths and many others of good will in this important effort to regain our religious freedom. Our parents and grandparents did not come to these shores to help build America’s cities and towns, its infrastructure and institutions, its enterprise and culture, only to have their posterity stripped of their God given rights. In generations past, the Church has always been able to count on the faithful to stand up and protect her sacred rights and duties. I hope and trust she can count on this generation of Catholics to do the same. Our children and grandchildren deserve nothing less.

And therefore, I would ask of you two things. First, as a community of faith, we must commit ourselves to prayer and fasting that wisdom and justice may prevail, and religious liberty may be restored. Without God, we can do nothing; with God, nothing is impossible. Second, I would also recommend visiting [www.usccb.org/conscience](http://www.usccb.org/conscience), to learn more about this severe assault on religious liberty, and how to contact Congress in support of legislation that would reverse the Administration’s decision.

Asking God’s blessings upon you, I am

Sincerely yours in the Lord Jesus,

Most Reverend Dale J. Melczek  
Bishop of Gary



## **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3000 • FAX 202-541-3166

# **The HHS Mandate for Contraception/Sterilization Coverage: An Attack on Rights of Conscience**

### **How important is the right of conscience in American tradition?**

It has always been of paramount importance: “No provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprises of the civil authority” (Thomas Jefferson, 1809).

### **In the past, has the federal government respected conscientious objections to procedures such as sterilization that may violate religious beliefs or moral convictions?**

Yes. For example, a law in effect since 1973 says that no individual is required to take part in “any part of a health service program or research activity funded in whole or in part under a program administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services” if it is “contrary to his religious beliefs or moral convictions” (42 USC 300a-7 (d)). Even the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, which requires most of its health plans to cover contraception, exempts religiously affiliated plans and protects the conscience rights of health professionals in the other plans. Currently no federal law requires anyone to purchase, sell, sponsor, or be covered by a private health plan that violates his or her conscience.

### **How has the Department of Health and Human Services departed from this policy?**

By issuing a mandate for coverage of sterilization and contraceptives (including long-lasting injections and implants, and “morning-after pills” that may cause an early abortion) in virtually all private health plans. In August 2011 HHS included these procedures in a list of “preventive services for women” to be required in health plans issued on or after August 1, 2012. On January 20, 2012, HHS reaffirmed its mandate while deferring enforcement against some religious employers until August 2013.

### **Is it appropriate to require coverage of these as “preventive services”?**

No. The other services on HHS’s list seek to prevent serious disease – breast cancer, lung cancer, AIDS. Pregnancy is not a disease. The Institute of Medicine committee that compiled the “preventive services” list for HHS said in its report that unintended pregnancy is “a condition for which safe and effective prevention *and treatment*” need to be more widely available – setting the stage for mandated coverage of abortion as the “treatment” when prevention fails. Note that women who suffer from infertility, which really *is* an illness, were ignored in this mandate.

### **Didn’t HHS include a religious exemption?**

Yes, an incredibly narrow “religious employer” exemption that fails to protect many, perhaps most, religious employers. To be eligible an organization must meet four strict criteria, including the requirement that it both hire *and serve* primarily people of its own faith. Catholic schools and hospitals would have to eject their non-Catholic employees, students and patients, or

purchase health coverage that violates their moral and religious teaching. Jesus and his apostles would not have been “religious enough” for the exemption, since they healed and served people of different faiths. The exemption provides no protection at all to sponsors and providers of health plans for the general public, to pro-life people who own businesses, or to individuals with a moral or religious objection to these procedures.

**Isn't this an aspect of the Administration's drive for broader access to health care for all?**

Whether or not it was intended that way, it has the opposite effect. People will *not* be free to keep the coverage they have now that respects their convictions. Organizations with many employees will have to violate their consciences or stop offering health benefits altogether. And resources needed to provide basic health care to the uninsured will be used instead to facilitate IUDs and Depo-Provera for those who already had ample coverage. This is a diversion away from universal health care.

**But won't this provide “free birth control” for American women?**

That claim is false for two reasons. First, the coverage will be mandatory, not a matter of free choice for any woman. Second, insurance companies will not be able to charge a co-pay or deductible for the coverage, so they will simply add the cost to the standard premium everyone has to pay – and among those being required to pay will be people who oppose it on conscience grounds. That is no victory for freedom.

**By objecting to this coverage, is the Catholic Church discriminating against women?**

Not at all. The Church's teaching against early abortion is based on respect for all human life, male and female. Its teaching against contraception and sterilization is based on respect for the power to help generate a new human life, a power held by both men and women – so health plans in accord with Catholic teaching do not cover male or female sterilization. It is the HHS mandate that shows disregard for women, by forcing them to purchase this coverage whether they want it or not.

**Do religious employers violate the consciences of women who want birth control, by refusing to cover it in their employee health plans?**

No, they simply decline to provide active support for procedures that violate their own consciences. If an employee disagrees, he or she can simply purchase that coverage or those procedures elsewhere.

**What solution to this dispute would be acceptable?**

Ideally, HHS can leave the law the way it has always been, so those who provide, sponsor and purchase health coverage can make their own decisions about whether to include these procedures without the federal government imposing one answer on everyone. If HHS refuses, it will be especially urgent for Congress to pass the “Respect for Rights of Conscience Act” (HR 1179/S. 1467), to prevent health care reform act from being used to violate insurers' and purchasers' moral and religious beliefs.

**Mission Statement :** *The Roman Catholic Saint Thomas More Parish Family welcomes and invites every person to join us on our journey in faith and celebration. With the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through Sacred Scripture and Tradition, we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all, especially in loving service to those in need. As part of the Universal Church, we affirm the dignity of every person. All this we do to give glory and honor to God.*

**Pastoral Staff**

Pastor ..... Reverend Michael J. Yadron, KHS; Ext. 312  
myadron@stm-church.com  
Associate Pastor ..... Reverend Richard C. Holy; Ext. 314  
rholy@stm-church.com  
Deacons ..... Mr. David Kapala, KHS  
..... Mr. Joseph Stodola, KHS  
..... Dr. Napoleon Tabion  
..... Mr. Daniel Zurawski, KHS  
Stewardship Director ..... Noreen Bickel; Ext. 330  
Pastoral Care Coordinator ..... Deacon Napoleon Tabion; Ext. 315  
Director of Religious Formation ..... Mrs. Sandra Morgan; Ext. 332

**Parish Office Staff**

**Office Hours:**

**Monday-Friday ~ 8:00 am-8:00 pm • Saturday ~ 8:00 am-4:00 pm**

Web Site ..... www.stm-church.com  
Email address ..... parish.office@stm-church.com  
Email address for bulletin ..... bulletin@stm-church.com  
Office Phone ..... 836-8610 Office Fax ..... 836-9185  
Bulletin Editor ..... Mrs. Pam Pasyk; Ext. 309  
Daytime Receptionist ..... Mrs. Susan Strain; Ext. 310  
Evening Receptionist ..... Ms. Veronica Brtos; Ext. 310

**Pastoral Ministries**

Circle of Prayer ..... Mary Jo Humpfer 836-5002  
Environment & Art ..... Jean Bados 836-8610  
Eucharistic Ministers ..... Carole Mackey 923-8816  
Hospitality Ministry ..... Ann D'Orazio 838-9343  
Lectors ..... William McDunn 922-9459  
Music Ministry ..... Miss Angie Lorandos 836-8610, Ext. 338  
Nursery ..... Kaaren A. Mashura 836-5079  
St. Vincent de Paul ..... Mrs. Bernadine Barrett 836-8610  
Vocations Committee ..... Mrs. Mary Kochis 322-7262

**2011-2012 Pastoral Council Members**

Tom Alexander, Chairperson ..... Daniel Buksa  
Timothy Etter ..... Don Kopenec  
Jackie Kovach ..... John Kovach  
Andrea Mazerik ..... Phil McIntosh  
Krystal Quagliara ..... Susan Rousseau  
Linda Stefanich ..... Joann Wleklinski

**St. Thomas More School**

**Pre-School through 8th Grade**

**Office Hours: Monday- Friday ~ 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Web Site ..... www.stm-school.com  
School Phone ..... 836-9151 School Fax ..... 836-0982  
Principal ..... Mr. Chet Nordyke, KHS; Ext. 328  
Assistant Principal ..... Mrs. Tina Boyle; Ext. 328  
School Administrative Assistant ..... Mrs. Jennifer Gonzalez; Ext. 328  
School Reception & Office Associate ..... Mrs. Sandra Steele; Ext. 329  
Home & School Association ..... Mrs. Mary Beth Ginalski; 864-0941  
Parish & School Offices Associate ..... Mrs. Mary Jo Biscan; Ext. 311  
Parish & School Offices Associate ..... Mrs. Pam Wadycki; Ext. 339

**Weis Center**

**8635 Calumet Avenue ~ Munster, IN 46321**

Phone ..... 836-2660  
Fax ..... 836-2655

**Sacramental Information**

**Confessions**

Saturdays ..... **3:30 to 4:30 p.m.**  
First Friday ..... 1/2 hour before the 6:30 a.m. Mass

**Baptisms** ..... First and Third Sundays at 1:00 p.m.  
Parents must be registered parishioners and regularly attending at least six months before the Baptism. At least one of the godparents **must** be a practicing Catholic.

**Pre Baptism Class** ..... 2nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Parents must call the Parish Office to schedule class and/or Baptism.

**Marriage** ..... Must be a registered, practicing member of the parish at least six months before beginning the six month preparation program for marriage.

**Communion calls and visits to Hospitals and Homebound:** Call the Parish Office for Sacraments at hospital or at home.

**New Parishioner Registration**

To make it as convenient as possible for you, new parishioners may register at any time in the Parish Office.

**St. Thomas More Religious Education**

**Kindergarten through 8th Grade**

**Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Religious Education Phone ..... 836-8610  
Director ..... Mrs. Sandra Morgan; Ext. 332  
Administrative Assistant ..... Carolyn McGill; Ext. 336  
Grades K through 8 ~ Wednesday or Thursday from 4:30 ~ 6:00 p.m.

**Pastoral Commissions Chairpersons**

Formation/Education ..... Mrs. Barbara Topete  
Parish Life ..... Mrs. Elaine Herrmann  
Peace & Social Justice ..... Ms. Mary Silvasi  
Spirituality & Worship ..... Mrs. Kaaren Mashura  
Stewardship ..... Mrs. Noreen Bickel

**Parish Organizations**

Altar & Rosary Society ..... Cindy Keilman 923-9862  
Elizabeth Ministry ..... Pam Domasica 838-7940  
Holy Name Society ..... Joe Adams 865-3566  
Senior Citizens ..... Joan Klein 923-5993  
Respect Life ..... Alice Wohler 836-5337  
Knights of Columbus ..... Robert Gozdecki (219) 427-6919  
Blue Army ..... Rose Marie Malburg 836-8779  
Finance ..... Barbara Shaver 838-9200  
Planned Giving ..... Ken Krupinski  
Building Maintenance ..... Bob Ray 924-6472  
Boy Scouts ..... Roger Jachna 322-0769  
Cub Scouts ..... Steve Hrinda 923-6438  
Girl Scouts ..... Julie Buksa 922-1182  
Catering/Hall Rental ..... Kathleen Pagorek 972-0539  
Moms' Group ..... Leticia Kotso 924-5732  
Ushers Club ..... Jim Marmalejo 836-1463  
Gabriel Project ..... Kathy Trotman 836-4329  
The Travelers Club ..... Lois Quinn 836-7902

## Celebrants

### Saturday, February 11

5:30 p.m. Fr. Rick Holy

### Sunday, February 12

6:30 a.m. Fr. Rick Holy

8:00 a.m. Fr. Rick Holy

10:00 a.m. Fr. Mike Yadron

12:00 Noon Fr. Mike Yadron

## Servers

### SATURDAY, February 11

8:30 am E. & V. Zaczyk

5:30 pm B. Nowak, M. & K. O'Shea, D. Owens,  
K. Paprocki  
MC ~ Greg

### SUNDAY, February 12

6:30 am M. Osmulski, B. Sikora, J. Surd

8:00 am B., J. & M. Peters, M. Pukoszek, C. Slivka  
MC ~ Noah

10:00 am E. O'Neill, D. & D. Straka, D. Zuccarelli,  
T. Beckman  
MC ~ Joey

12:00 pm G. M. & T. O'Brien  
MC ~ Alyssa



## My Two Cents

*Thoughts on Living Stewardship*

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job's cry of hopelessness stands in marked contrast to those who put their trust in Jesus, "who heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds." Good stewards are careful about what they say to those who cross their path.

The person who makes the effort to encourage another is special indeed.

## Readings for the Week of February 5, 2012

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31--11:1/Mk 1:40-45



# MASS INTENTIONS



### SUNDAY, February 5 — Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living and Deceased

8:00 am Patrick Quinn (Ann.) by Wife Lois & Family

10:00 am Carmen Garcia by Serrano Family

12:00 pm Deceased Brothers & Sisters of Joseph Neverauskas

### MONDAY, February 6 — St. Paul Miki & Companions

6:30 am Yolanda Sternberg by Michael Mercier Family

8:30 am Joseph Oblon by Robert & Virginia Gauger

### TUESDAY, February 7

6:30 am Amanda L. Serrano (Ann.) by Serrano Family

8:30 am Terry McCarthy by Jim & Carol Zaczyk & Family

10:00 am Maureen Atchey by Pam & Jeff Rataczak  
(MASS AT MED-INN CHAPEL, Group 1)

### WEDNESDAY, February 8 — St. Jerome Emiliani,

*St. Josephine Bakhita*

6:30 am Ann Dobos (Ann.) by Daughter

8:30 am Norberto Ruiz Williams by Ruiz William Family

### THURSDAY, February 9

6:30 am Intention of Leona M. Soja by Family

9:00 am Helen Onda by Gust & Kathy Georgelas

### FRIDAY, February 10 — St. Scholastica

6:30 am Intention of John Wais by Family

8:30 am Eleanor Stefanich (Ann.) by Eleanore Heggi

### SATURDAY, February 11 — Our Lady of Lourdes

8:30 am Joseph Polis (Ann.) by Mary Polis

5:30 pm Patricia S. & John J. Thomas by Maura & Michael Rowley

### SUNDAY, February 12 — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:30 am For Our Parish Family Living & Deceased

8:00 am Eugene G. Sepaniak (Ann.) by Mother Ruth Szczepaniak

10:00 am Marguerite & Leonard Grothouse by Family

12:00 pm In Thanksgiving for 60 Years of Marriage of Carmen & Maryann Cammarata

## Sacrificial Offerings for January 29, 2012

**TIME, TALENT & TREASURE** Thank you for your generosity.



Adult	\$ 24,105.00
Loose	\$ 1,728.00
Children	\$ 256.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 26,089.75</b>

## Pastoral Care Ministry

If a friend or family member would like to receive Communion at home, call the Pastoral Care Office at 836-8610, #315.

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

It was a year ago that I was in the hospital for the first time in my life. The minor surgery meant that I had to stay overnight. When it came time for the dressing change the next day, I thought that I was going to die from the intense pain. Of course my brief experience of pain was nothing compared to the chronic conditions or acute illnesses that so many people suffer each and every day. When you think of all the people in hospitals or nursing homes, and the countless others around the world who endure without any medical care, the enormity of suffering seems overwhelming.

It is no wonder then that in Jesus' time once the crowds had heard that he cured Simon's mother-in-law, they raced to bring to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. If someone could alleviate the pain, cure the sick, and cast out demons this was definitely an opportunity of which to take advantage.

While modern medicine may help us with our physical illness and psychological pain, there is still a spiritual dimension to sickness that we should not ignore. Sickness separates us. It makes us question our faith. Illness strikes at our heart as well as our body. That is why the church offers the sacrament of the anointing of the sick for any who are ill. When we are sick, we are also alone. We need the support of the community of faith. And we need their prayers. When a loved one is ill-or if you are sick yourself-don't hesitate to request the sacrament of anointing. If your illness confines you for a longer time, ask to receive Communion regularly to nurture you spiritually even as you seek to be strengthened physically. People sought out Jesus in this weekend's Gospel. When we or loved ones are ill, we can seek him out today.

*Please pray for the sick of our parish...*

Coleen Alexander  
Margaret Amatulli  
Doris Aurelio  
Maria Aurelio  
Irene Baker  
John Baker  
Cody Baldwin  
Antonio Belmonte  
Tom Bernacke  
Michael Berry  
Michael Blazevich  
Laverne Blumka  
Michael Boston  
Cheryl Bostrom  
Stephany Burney  
Dorothy Campbell  
James Campbell  
Barbara Cak  
Thomas Cak  
Al Carollo  
Carol Carollo  
Joseph Cwiok  
Jacqueline Morrow  
Christian  
Frank Coman  
James L. Coppolillo  
Vincent Corsello  
John Costa  
Mike Curtain  
Irene Dettmer  
Ann DeVoy  
MaryPat Devoy  
Irene Dickey  
Jeanine Doescher  
David Drenniak  
Charles Dybel  
Alex Eiland  
John L. Estrada  
Sherlon Evans  
Virginia Fitzgerald  
John Forde  
Phyllis Garber  
Andrea Garritano

Mary Gawlikowski  
Dorothy Gillespie  
Margaret Good  
Kyle Grady  
Howard Gralewski  
James Grunewald  
Eileen Hasse  
Amy Hayes  
Eleanore Heggi  
Marie Henke  
Evelyn Hennes  
Ray Humpfer  
Steve Izzo  
Dennis Jablonski  
Elizabeth Jacob  
Barbara Jamrose  
Stanley Jayjack  
Rosemary Jerzak-Staszal  
Debbie Kaczka  
Robert Kalka  
Margaret A. Kapala  
Carol Keilman  
Patricia Kerr  
Rev. Matthew Kish  
Josephine Knesek  
Janet Knight  
Alice Kolember  
Dorothy Kovach  
Miller Krizmanic  
Jerome Kula  
Debbie Le Monier  
Mary Leahy  
Jo Lisiniewicz  
Edward Liskiewicz  
Stanley Liskiewicz  
Maria Lovell  
Maira McShane Lukas  
Carole Mackey  
Gregory Mahoney  
Mary Manchak  
Brady Martin  
Alex Mau  
Joseph McShane

Faye Meny  
Sandi Merlo  
Stephanie Mueller  
Olga Mihaló  
Andrew Moll  
Elissa Moll  
David Moll  
Jean Narvid  
Donna Nichols  
Steven Nowaczyk  
Valerie O'Donnell  
Danny Ogren  
Irene Orzel  
Ruth Ospalski  
Audrey Ostroff  
Johanna Petrich  
Andrew Pieczyrak  
Elizabeth Pilones  
Sylvester Porras  
Kristen Rubin  
Anthony Saklaczynski  
Ann Sardella  
George Sauer  
Marie Schultz  
Marianne Schwartz  
William Schwartz  
Zachery Scriff  
James Secviar  
Renee Shehan  
Nick Skinner  
Lydia Skorupa  
Carolyn Smiley  
Deborah Stareck  
Charles Stevens  
Florence Stevens  
Georgianne Suto  
Rose Theis  
Gerardo Trevino  
Anthony Ubuano  
Julia Vrbanich  
Joyce Wadlow  
Adele Wall  
Sue Wass  
Cecilia Ziegler

## Weekly Schedule

### MONDAY, February 6

*Market Day Pick-Up in the Gym from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.*

7:00 pm Blue Army ~ Chapel  
7:00 pm Parish Life ~ Conference Room  
7:00 pm Vocations ~ Sacristy

### TUESDAY, February 7

9:15 am Eucharistic Adoration (until 6:30 pm) ~ Chapel  
1:00 pm Prayer/Vocations ~ Chapel  
6:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Chapel  
7:00 pm RCIA ~ Conference Room

### WEDNESDAY, February 8

9:30 am Bible Study ~ Conference Room  
4:30 pm Religious Education Classes (until 6:00 p.m.)  
6:30 pm St. Vincent De Paul Society ~ Conference Room  
7:00 pm SpringFest Committee ~ Solar Room

### THURSDAY, February 9

4:30 pm Religious Education Classes (until 6:00 p.m.)  
7:00 pm All Seasons Chorale ~ Church

### SATURDAY, February 11

9:30 am Oblates ~ Conference Room  
*Parish Appreciation Dinner in the Social Center at 6:30 p.m.*

## Vocations Committee

You are welcome to join us at the next Vocation meeting on Monday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacristy. We pray that the Holy Spirit guide, inspire and influence us in our discussions and decisions. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

## Respect Life Corner

Attendance at our Pro-Life Rosary on the anniversary of Roe V. Wade last Sunday was amazing, with over 50 people praying, many of whom are not part of Respect Life or the Pro-Life Rosary Association. Thank you for the wonderful turn-out and your support. Next year will be the 40th anniversary of the decision to allow abortion and we hope to overflow the Chapel.

## Senior Citizens

### Upcoming Meetings

**Saturday, February 18th**

*Pizza Party 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m.*

at the Weis Center. Everyone is asked to bring a NEW, unwrapped gift to be used for "Dirty Bingo" prizes.

## Professionals Needed

Catholic Charities is seeking part-time, contract LCSW or LMHC therapists for their Hammond, East Chicago (fluency in Spanish needed), Crown Point and Portage offices. Fax resume to: Catholic Charities HR Department at (219) 886-2428 or email cgiltz@catholic-charities.org.

**SO PROUD**

This past week was Catholic Schools Week. It was a week of celebrating the educational mission of our Church. We believe in being able to educate our children in a faith-based environment and we are privileged to be able to do so.

The week began with a special Mass at 10:00 a.m. last Sunday. At that Mass, we honored several people for their **Belief in Catholic Education, Teacher of the Year, Distinguished Graduate**, and going **Above and Beyond**. I hope that the awards impressed upon our young parishioners the great emphasis we place upon education and the great respect we have for those people committed to Catholic education.

As well as honoring some specific people, we took the time, throughout the week, to celebrate our faith and our schools with our students. The week had serious moments, yes, but it also had several very fun moments.

After all, learning can be fun.

Not only "can" it be fun; but, I am very happy to report that the principal and I agree wholeheartedly that learning should be fun.

How many times can we remember being yelled at as we were growing up in school? How many of us can report the punishments that we suffered at the hands of our teachers? I would dare say that many of us would have a story or two to tell.

Yet, as we tell those stories, how many of us remember the "lesson" that was supposed to be taught by having our knuckles whacked or kneeling on a pointer? I doubt if many of us would remember the educational lesson.

However, when students are having fun, that lesson gets impressed into their young minds and remains with them for life.

I get the biggest kick out of my former students from Bishop Noll coming up to me and recounting some of the antics that used to take place in my classroom. We laugh like mad.

And then, after the laughing has subsided, I ask, "And what was being taught while all of that was happening?" and they tell me the lesson of the day, practically verbatim.

Fun works.

I believe that is why our school works.

Do we teach facts? Yes.

Do we excel in state standardized tests? You betcha.

Do our students enjoy themselves in all that happens here at St. Thomas More? Definitely.

Thanks to all who make it happen!

*Fr. Mike*

**PLEASE GET INVOLVED**

To correct the threats to religious liberty and rights of conscience posed by PPACA, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act has been introduced in Congress (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). This measure will ensure that those who participate in the health care system "retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions." It is more important than ever that Members of Congress be urged to co-sponsor this measure. For co-sponsors, please check H.R. 1179 and S. 1467 at: [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov).

**ACTION:** Contact your U.S. Representative by e-mail, phone, or FAX letter:

Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Additional contact info can be found on Members' web sites at: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

**MESSAGE: "Please co-sponsor the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). This measure ensures that the rights of conscience of all participants in our nation's health care system will be respected."**

**WHEN:** Now is the time to build cosponsors. Please act today. Thanks.

**ON THE LIGHTER SIDE**  
*Useful Definitions*

**ADULT:** A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

**BEAUTY PARLOR :** A place where women curl up and dye.

**COMMITTEE:** A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

**DUST:** Mud with the juice squeezed out.

**MOSQUITO:** An insect that makes you like flies better.

**RAISIN:** A grape with a sunburn.

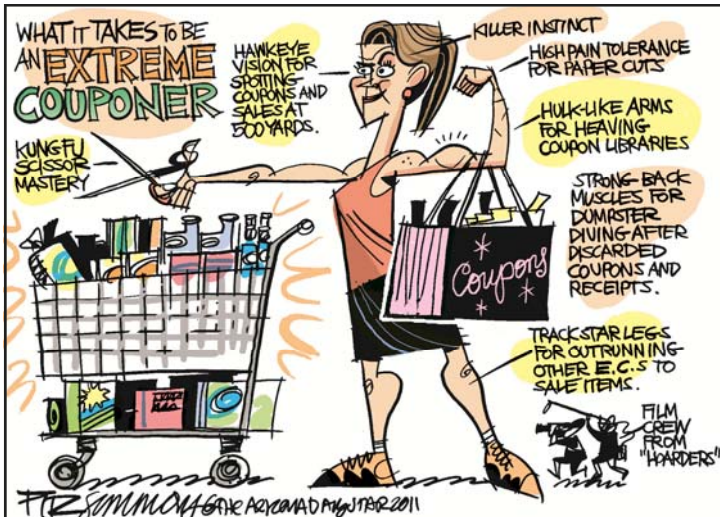
**SECRET:** Something you tell to one person at a time.



**PLEASE REMEMBER THEM**

Please pray for the priests and deacons who have served the Diocese of Gary so faithfully and whose anniversaries of death are this week:

- February 5: Rev. Vincent E. Eckert (1978)
- February 6: Deacon Alexander Saims (2008)
- February 8: Msgr. Frederick J. Westendorf (1963)  
Rev. Robert E. Emmons (1965)
- February 10: Rev. Edward Kennedy (2007)
- February 11: Rev. Louis M. Letko (1981)



# Religious Education



## Confirmation is Scheduled

*Confirmation Mass with Bishop Melczek will be Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.*

Students should arrive by 9:15 a.m.

Mandatory Confirmation Practice for sponsors and students is Friday, March 30, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

## February Schedule

- 8/9 Class
- 15/16 Class
- 18 **Sacrament of First Penance 9:30 a.m. in the Church** (students should arrive in the Church by 9:15 a.m.)
- 22/ 23 No Class— Ash Wednesday. Attend Mass to Receive Ashes. Lent Begins.
- 29 Class

## March Schedule

- 1 Class
- 7/8 Class
- 14/15 Class
- 21/22 Class
- 28/29 No Classes Spring Break
- 30 **Confirmation Practice 6:00-6:45**
- 31 **Sacrament of Confirmation Mass at 10:30 a.m.**



Mrs. Trelinski's second grade class made cards for veterans.

## Squires Circle 4101

### Basketball Game Road Trip

The STM Squires Circle 4101 is inviting everyone to join us on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> for a trip to Notre Dame to see the Fighting Irish take on the DePaul Blue Demons. The cost is \$30.00. This includes the ticket, bus ride and a light breakfast. We will be departing STM at 8:00 a.m. The game is at 12:00 p.m. The game will be over by 2:30 p.m. Once the game concludes we will take a tour of the campus as well as visit the ND Knights of Columbus Hall. We will return to STM about 6:45 p.m. Questions about the Squires? Contact [www.stmsquires4101.org](http://www.stmsquires4101.org) or Gregg Blocher at (219) 902-1171.



## Lectors for February 11 & 12

**5:30 pm Mass**  
Cal Bellamy & Joe O'Brien

**6:30 am Mass**  
Jayne Gardner & Linda Stefanich

**8:00 am Mass**  
Sue Wilson & Alice Wohler



**10:00 am Mass**  
Lou Chronowski & Theresa Kowalski

**12:00 pm Mass**  
Christopher Balbo & Michael Wadas

## Greeters for February 11 & 12



**5:30 pm Mass**  
Main: Don & Carol Kopenc  
Chapel: Rob & Dorothy Mangus  
Choir: Cathy Delgado

**6:30 am Mass**  
Chapel: John & Frances Plisky

**8:00 am Mass**  
Main: Paul & Jan Liszewski  
Chapel: Margaret Gray  
Choir: Kristie & Katie Kordeck and Cali Grzybowski

**10:00 am Mass**  
Main: Dorsey-Fleszewski Family  
Chapel: Madeleine Mikolanis  
Choir: MaryAnn & Dwight Reed

**12:00 Noon Mass**  
Chapel: The Krieg Family  
Choir: Pat Batchelder

## Holy Name Society

Our next meeting will be on  
**Monday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m.**  
**in the Solar Room.**

Come to pray the Rosary at 7:00 p.m., followed by our regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Pizza and refreshments will conclude the evening. We will discuss the annual Fish Fry on March 2, 2012 in our Parish Gym. New members are always welcome!

## Tuition Assistance Program

### Now Underway

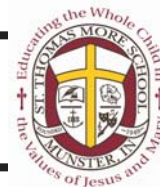
Tuition assistance application forms for the 2012/2013 school year are now available in the parish office. Catholic families who belong to a Diocese of Gary parish and have children enrolled in any diocesan school, grades 1 through 12, may apply. Kindergarten and preschool students are not eligible.

Approximately \$500,000 is distributed on the basis of need to assist Catholic parents in providing Catholic faith formation, strong academic programs and safety for their children in our Catholic schools.

**The filing deadline is Monday, February 20, 2012.** This is the date that completed applications must be returned to the pastor. Forms cannot be filed directly with the diocese or with PSAS (the processing company).

Please note that the Pastor must give a recommendation based in part upon your church attendance and your involvement at the church and school levels.

This deadline will be strictly enforced. Parents will be notified of the results in writing by April 30, 2012.

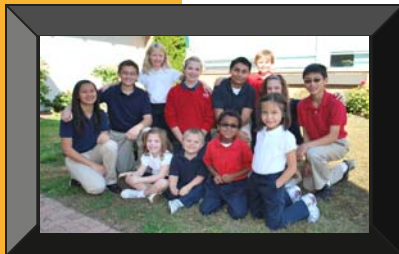


# St. Thomas More School

**There's Still One More...**

## OPEN HOUSE

**Tuesday, February 7th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**



**Main Building for Grades K thru 8**  
8435 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN  
(219) 836-9151

**Weis Center for Preschool & Pre-K**  
8635 Calumet Avenue • Munster, IN

You are invited to tour our facilities at the Main Building & the Weis Center, meet our teachers & visit classrooms.

Learn more about our outstanding academic & spiritual curriculum and the many extra-curricular activities offered to our students. See why St. Thomas More School is the happy home to over 600 successful students and their families.

# Thanks

As Catholic Schools Week 2012 comes to a close, the students and staff of **St. Thomas More School** would like to extend their most heartfelt thanks to **Fr. Mike, Fr. Rick and the Parishioners of St. Thomas More** for your continued support of our school. Thanks to your assistance, we continue to educate over 600 students spiritually and academically, forming a basis for a lifetime of lasting success as they become the community leaders of tomorrow.

## There's a World of LOVE at St. Thomas More

*Come to our Valentine Party and enjoy a morning of fun with your Pre-K pals!*

**When:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** St. Thomas More School—Main Building Gymnasium  
Please enter through the main School Office doors.

**Who:** Any preschool aged child, especially those who will be entering Kindergarten soon, who would enjoy a morning of fun activities with friends, old and new.

**RSVP:** To **Marcie Burzynski** at (219) 836-2660 or mburzynski@stm-school.com by **Monday, February 6th.**

You and your Pre-K child/ren are invited to attend a special morning of activities geared to young children who will be starting kindergarten soon. Your child will enjoy games, a snack and some fun, filled with love! Siblings are welcome to join us, too.



**St. Thomas More School**  
8435 Calumet Avenue  
Munster, IN 46321  
(219) 836-9151  
www.stm-school.com

*You're Invited to a Morning of Fun!*

# Sharing THE JOY OF Stewardship



**U**r giving to the Church should not be about giving to the needs of the Church. It should be about what we as Christian stewards need to give. As we know, all that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. These gifts are given to us for a purpose. We are the caretakers of all the gifts He has given us.

Often we are tempted to put our Church offering at the bottom of the pile of bills to be paid. Our contributions come from what is remaining, rather than what is first. How much do we spend monthly on gourmet coffee, cable, dining out, cell phone packages, etc.? If all of these items come first, we give to God from our leftovers. By putting our donation to the church first, we are acknowledging that everything we have is a gift from God and we are returning a portion to Him with gratitude.

## St. Vincent De Paul Society National Vehicle Donation Program

Your used vehicle (car, van, truck or motorcycle) can become food, rent, etc. for those in need when STM's SVDP receives the net sale proceeds from cars donated in our area (zip 46321). The average car donated to the NVDP generates over \$500 in net proceeds. Depending on its condition, your old car could provide transportation to someone in need to get to his/her job. The car will be picked up within 24 hours & tax paperwork will be sent back to you. Hurry to donate and use your tax deduction for the 2011 tax year! For info or to donate, call (800) 322-8284 or log onto: [www.svdpusacars.com](http://www.svdpusacars.com).



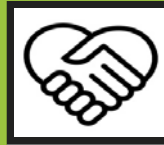
## Boy Scout Candy Bar Sale



### Just in time for Valentine's Day!

Boy Scouts Troop 542, sponsored by the St. Thomas More Holy Name Society, will be having a

**Fannie May Candy Bar Sale** in church on Feb 11 & 12. Candy bars are \$1 each and funds will help support the boys activities.



## Career Networking Group

*\* 80% of Jobs are Unadvertised  
\*75% of Jobs are Found through Networking*

### Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 16, 2012

### Roundtable Discussion

Facilitated in part by Nicholas Perkins

- *What Most Concerns You?*
- *What Can We Do To Help You?*
- *How Are You Proactive?*
- *What Are You Doing To Set Yourself Apart?*
- *How is your job search changing and shaping you?*
- *Hardest Part of A Job Search?*
- *What sustains you in your search?*
- *Suffering > Holiness*

**Where:** St. Thomas More Weis Center  
8635 Calumet Avenue, Munster, IN

**When:** 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.#

**E-Mail:** [STMCareerGroup@gmail.com](mailto:STMCareerGroup@gmail.com)

**Free. Open to All.**

For those who are unemployed (in transition), new to the job market, employed or who can offer employment opportunities through their current professional connections. Have your Cover Letter, Resume or Thank You Note critiqued by a professional.

## Elizabeth Ministry Service of Light Mass

All are invited to attend a Memorial Mass for families whose lives have been touched by the loss of a child in miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS, or any other cause of childhood death at St. Maria Goretti, 500 Northgate Drive, Dyer, IN, on Sunday, February 26 at 1:30pm. During the Mass, we will recognize by name the children who have passed away. You may also bring a photo or an item to be displayed near the altar during the Mass in remembrance of your loved one. For further information, please contact Patti at 322-6580 or Sue at 838-5755.

## Traveling Club News

Can you believe that winter is winding down already? We are looking toward spring and new travel adventures as we put together an exciting itinerary for the upcoming year. Our first outing of 2012 will be on April 19th to a dinner theater. We'll be attending the hilarious theater production of "Church Basement Ladies".

So mark your calendars now and watch the bulletin for more details to come soon.

**Get ready to travel!**

# Catholic Charities Diocese of Gary



1937 2012

## 75th Anniversary

*Providing Help, Creating Hope*

You are invited to a  
**Mass of Celebration**

on

**Sunday, February 19th ~ 11:00 a.m.**

at

**Our Lady of Consolation Parish**

to celebrate

**Catholic Charities 75 Years of Service**

to the people of Northwest Indiana

and the Diocese of Gary

Refreshments following Mass in the Parish Hall.

## Special Lenten Program

Sponsored by the

Diocesan Peace & Social Justice Commission

**Tuesday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

Our Lady of Consolation Hall at 8303 Taft in Merrillville

**Topic: “Global Hunger”**

With Speakers:

Fr. Tom Mcquaid & Fellican Randriamanantenasoa  
from Catholic Relief Services

The invitation to this Peace and Social Justice Program is  
extended to ALL parishioners. **There is no fee.**

## Attention All Council & Commission Members!

Please remember to attend one of the two Council and  
Commission Nights in February.

**Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

at St. Teresa of Avila in Valparaiso

OR

**Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

at Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Merrillville

All parishioners are welcomed at these sessions.  
If you are interested in the Pastoral Council and Commission  
structure, please attend.

## Emmaus Program 2012

The Emmaus Program is a four week adult formation for  
parishioners, teachers and catechists.

This spring the program will offer two classes:

### ***The Spirituality of Reconciliation***

Fr. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S., Presenter

Thursday Evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**February 23 and March 1, 8, & 15**

At Our Lady of Consolation Hall in Merrillville

The Christian's spiritual and moral life rests on ones faith in  
Christ. We make Christ's attitude our own and transform our  
behavior.

### ***Stages of Faith— The Journey***

Dan Lowery, Ph. D., Presenter

Thursday Evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**March 1, 8, 15 & 22**

Calumet College at 2400 New York Avenue in Whiting

**Fee: Total Cost for Each 4 Week Session is \$20**

You can find a registration form in the brochure located in the  
lobby of the Parish Office.

For additional information or to register by phone, contact  
Anne Verbeke at (219) 7659-9292, ext. 280 or by  
email: averbeke@dgary.org

## Subscribe Now to the NWI Catholic!

Make a real time connection with your faith by bringing a Catholic  
publication into your home each week. Now is the time to renew or  
begin your new subscription to the

Northwest Indiana Catholic, our Diocesan newspaper.

A one year subscription (44 issues), including our annual diocesan  
directory, is only \$26. Each week you'll read Catholic news from  
around the country, as well as the Vatican and elsewhere in the  
world. Learn how our own parishes are working to spread the  
Good News in our local communities.

Enjoy columnists, such as Bishop Dale  
J. Melczek and the nationally popular

Father Ron Rolheiser. Grow in the  
Catholic faith with articles that educate,  
inspire and encourage reflection and  
conversation for all ages. All for less  
each week than a pack of gum! Isn't it  
worth staying current with our Church?

**Subscribe February 12- March 12**

by making your check out to  
St. Thomas More in the amount of \$26  
(note it for: Northwest Indiana

Catholic) and drop it into the Sunday collection basket, or go to  
[nwcatholic.com](http://nwcatholic.com) and pay securely using your Visa, MasterCard or  
Discover debit or credit.

**Stay informed. Stay connected!**



# Events in the Area...

## Lenten Retreat

"Come to the Mountain" this Lent for a refreshing spiritual journey with a W.A.T.CH. (We Are The Church) Retreat at Our Lady of Grace Parish the weekend of March 3 & 4. For more details please contact the O.L.G. Liturgy Office at (219)838-4945 or pick up a brochure at the main entrance of O.L.G. Church. Space is limited, and registration is on a first come basis.

A free-will offering will be accepted. There is no charge.

## Couples' Valentine Retreat

Saturday, February 18th at 10:00 a.m.  
until Sunday, February 19th at  
10:00 a.m.

"What's Next?" is twenty-four hours for a couple to consider together the next ten years of their lives. It is for all couples and will be especially helpful for those just starting out in marriage, those starting a family, those experiencing the empty nest or those looking forward to retirement. Examine resources, look at priorities and explore possibilities.

Couples attending will receive a copy of the book *Who Am I?: Or How I Learned to Fly With Angels* by Silouan Green.

Facilitators: David and Diane Hogsett.

David holds a Master of Sacred Theology degree in counseling from SMU, Doctor of Ministry degree, writes weekly newspaper columns, and is a retired United Methodist minister. Diane is a mental health therapist who has a Master of Social Work degree from Indiana University. As a framework for the retreat, the story of Abraham and Sarah in the Book of Genesis will be used. Fee: \$200 per couple (includes a candlelit evening meal). Registrations may be made by calling (574) 935-1763 or visiting [www.lindenwood.org](http://www.lindenwood.org)

## Card & Bunco Party

Mark your calendar for Sunday March 4th. Fill the gap between the Super Bowl & baseball season by attending the Bunco & Card Party at Vrably Hall at St. Joseph Church, 5304 Hohman Ave. in Hammond. A light lunch, door & table prizes is included in the \$8.00 admission. Tickets available at the door. All are welcome - men and women. 12:00 Noon until 3:00 p.m.

## Pilgrimage Trip

The Franciscan Friars invite you to make a pilgrimage to the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio. We offer a place of quiet prayer and devotion on your journey to faith, hope, and healing. For more information, please call (419) 396-7107 or visit our website at [www.olcshrine.com](http://www.olcshrine.com).

## Bishop Noll Raffle

Tickets are now available in our Parish Office for the annual Warrior Winnings Raffle. Tickets are only \$10 each. Cash prizes of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500. Drawing will be held on Friday, April 27th. All benefits BNI. For complete rules, visit [www.bishopnoll.org](http://www.bishopnoll.org).

## Fun in the Sun!

St. John the Baptist's Winter Festival will warm you up!  
**Friday 6:00-10:00 p.m.** :Enjoy a Mexican dinner, pizza & nachos, Beer Garden, tip booths, crafts & bake sale and entertainment on Friday: Latin Dancers at 6:00 p.m. & the band, *Titus Rodes* at 8:00 p.m. Dessert bar, beef sandwiches, walking tacos, teen dance room, silent auction and gym filled with kids games and more!

**Saturday:** Senior day from 2-4:00 p.m., the band *Merry Notes* will perform. Traditional Slovak dinner with Slovak & ethnic baked goods. .  
Everyone else: 4:00-10:00 p.m.

**Sunday 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.:**  
Famous Panel Room Chicken Dinner at 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. (\*requires advance tickets)

**February 17, 18 & 19 at St. John the Baptist in Whiting**

Go to: [www.sjbcatholicparish.org](http://www.sjbcatholicparish.org) or call (219) 659-3042.

## Polish Women's Alliance

All members, family and friends are invited to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Polish Women's Alliance-Group 132 by attending a Polish luncheon on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 1104 Knights of Columbus Drive in East Chicago (across the street from the East Chicago South Shore Station). Doors open at 12:00 Noon and dinner will be served at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit our Scholarship Fund. Reservation deadline is February 6th. Contact Delphine Huneycutt at (219) 398-9069. Make all checks payable to: Polish Women's Alliance Group 132 (PWA Group 132). Reservations should be mailed to Mrs. Delphine Huneycutt, 4909 Baring Avenue, East Chicago, IN 46312.

## Roll'em and Hold'em

St. Casimir School is hosting a Bunco and Texas Hold'em event on February 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Casimir School Gym at 4320 Johnson Avenue in Hammond. Tickets are \$40 per person and includes entrance into one of the tournaments, dinner and all you can drink beer & wine. Get in the spirit of the evening and come in costume! Contact the school for more information at (219) 932-2686.

## Marriage Renewal & Dinner Dance

Regnum Christi is sponsoring the annual Marriage Renewal & Dinner Dance at St. Georgios Banquets in Orland Park, IL on Saturday, February 25, 2012. Guest speaker will be Fr. John Hopkins, LC from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.. Mass & Renewal of Vows at 5:00 p.m. Dinner/Dance Reception will begin at 6:30. \$140 per couple. For registration and more information, visit [marriagerenewal@wowway.com](mailto:marriagerenewal@wowway.com) or call (708) 754-5591. Deadline is February 22, 2012.

