



# Around Our Diocese

Issue #115

The Diocese of Northern Indiana

May 2010

*A Passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
A Willingness to do Whatever it Takes*

*A Heart for the Lost  
A Commitment to One Another*

## A Letter from the Bishop

Dear brothers and sisters,

Like thousands – perhaps tens of thousands – of clergy, I preached this Easter Eve at Trinity Church, Michigan City, on Romans 6:3-4: *“Do you not know that who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”* And so, I said, plunging into the water of baptism and then emerging from its watery grave is a powerful sign of Jesus’ plunge into the tomb on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter morning. We die and rise with Jesus, and now Jesus invites us to share death and resurrection with him every day.

A few miles to the east, at St. Paul’s, Mishawaka, this text took on far more than symbolic meaning. St. Paul’s, as you may know, is located on the bank of the St. Joseph River, which flows just feet from the north end of the church building. As the Rev. Susan Haynes, rector of St. Paul’s, was preparing for a rehearsal of the Easter Vigil, a Department of Natural Resources officer appeared at her office door and said that he needed to make a 911 call – he had just spotted a girl in the river. The officer made the call. Mother Susan describes what happened next:

“As he hung up, I came around the desk and said, ‘We have to go help her.’ He and the assisting priest [The Rev. Michael Cover] followed me out of the back door of my office and down the steps descending into the Memorial Garden. In the garden I encountered my husband, who was laying the kindling for the Paschal Fire. I motioned to him to follow me, suspecting that his past life as an EMT would help us. My eyes scanned the waters as I ran to the river bank. I saw nothing. Fear rose within me. The current was swift, and it had been just a couple of weeks since the river had ice on it. The dam was only a few blocks away. Anyone in the water would be quickly overcome by hypothermia and swept over the dam.

“‘There she is’ yelled the DNR man behind me and pointed the far corner of our property. Then I saw her – she was holding onto the trunk of a tree that had fallen from the river bank into the river. Lying flat on the trunk and straddling it, she was trying to pull herself up the trunk onto the bank. I sprinted toward her, taking in instantly her struggle to pull herself up the trunk and the fact that she was dangling precariously over the swirling, swiftly flowing waters. . . . In that moment, she saw me. What I saw when our eyes met will forever remain burned into my memory – utter despair and resignation. I knew she was on the brink of letting go of the trunk and allowing the current to carry her away.

“‘Hang on!’ I cried. ‘Help is coming! Don’t let go! Help is on the way!’ I scrambled down the bank, slogging in my cassock, through mud and ice cold water. ‘What’s your name?’ I yelled out, trying to keep her engaged and attentive on my approach. ‘Rachel,’ she said. ‘Hi Rachel,’ I replied. ‘My name is Susan. Hold on. We’re going to get you out of there.’ In a burst of speed, the DNR man, not hindered by a cassock, sprinted past me and reached her first. He hooked his arms under hers and began dragging her toward the river bank. When I reached her, I extended my hand, which she immediately grabbed. Cold, wet – bone cold. By then my husband and Fr. Michael had reached us. Together the four of us supported her and walked her to a nearby bench in the garden. . . .

“‘We need to make her warm,’ I said. Fr. Michael quickly wrapped his suit jacket around her . . . Then he and my husband ran into the church and came back with a plastic tote full of warm fleece blankets which on Sunday mornings swaddled our church babies in the nursery. By the time the paramedics and police arrived, we had Rachel completely swaddled as well.”

When Rachel had been taken to the hospital, the Easter Vigil began – in the same garden area where Rachel had been brought from death to life. “A few minutes later,” Mother Susan says, “still in my muddy, wet cassock, now covered by alb and stole, the fire was kindled, the Paschal candle lit and the words proclaimed: *‘Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church*

*invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.”*

I will never celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter without thinking of Rachel. I will never hear Romans 6:3-4 without remembering a profound moment when biblical truth took flesh and transformed hearts.

Yours in Christ,

**+Ed**

### **Youth Game Night**

St. Anne's, Warsaw invites youth in the diocese in grades 7 to 12 to a Game Night on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM (EDT). The cost is \$10.00. Please bring a game to share. For more information and the necessary permission forms, please visit the diocesan website. You may also call Carol Bianchini at (574) 551-3087.

### **Summer Camps**

Materials are now available on the diocesan website for both summer camps. This year's camp for children in grades 3 to 9 is entitled "Water World" and the camp for youth in grades 10 to 12 is entitled "The Good Samaritan".

### **Scholarships Available**

Applications for the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women Memorial Fund Scholarship are now available. The scholarship assists women within the diocese in furthering their education in areas that will serve as a ministry. Please contact your parish ECW representative or Mrs. Dolores Bada at [badaone@verizon.net](mailto:badaone@verizon.net) for more information. One scholarship will be awarded this year. The granting process will take place in June, so please do not delay.

### **Gethsemane, Marion Assists Taylor Students' Project**

Gethsemane, Marion recently partnered with a group of students from Taylor University on their Spring Break mission trip. The parish served as the base for 15 students to do work at the St. Martin Community Center and the Marion Inner City Outreach Center. To read the full article by Courtney Flynn from the Marion Chronicle-Tribute, please look under "Latest News" on the diocesan website.

### **Fr. Larry Receives an Award**

The Rev. Larry Biller, priest-in-charge at both All Saints', Syracuse and St. James', Goshen, recently received an award Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators

Association for his service to Goshen High School as a volunteer judge, scorer, and official for over 40 years. Congratulations and thank you for your service, Fr. Larry!

### **Bishop & Diocesan Calendar for May 2010**

April 30- May 2, 2010

Northern Indiana School of Theology Colloquy

May 2, 2010 – Easter Day

Visitation to Trinity, Fort Wayne

May 3, 2010 – Easter Day

Howe Military School Board of Trustees

May 5, 2010

12:05 PM (EDT) Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral

May 7-8, 2010

Church Development Institute at Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center, Donaldson, IN

May 7-8, 2010

Youth Game Night at St. Anne's, Warsaw

May 9, 2010 – Easter Day

Visitation to St. Anne's, Warsaw

May 11, 2010

11:00 AM (EDT) Property & Loan Committee

May 12-13, 2010

Seabury-Western Board of Trustees

May 13, 2010

7:00 PM (EDT) Ascension Day service with Lutherans at St. Michael & All Angels, South Bend

May 14-16, 2010

Clergy Spouse Retreat at Lake Wawasee

May 16, 2010

Visitation to St. Mark's, Geneva, IL  
(*Delegated Episcopal Oversight*)

May 17-19, 2010

Spring Clergy Conference at Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center, Donaldson, IN

May 21, 2010

12:05 PM (EDT) Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral

May 21, 2010

6:00 PM (EDT) Deacons' Social Event

May 23, 2010

Visitation to St. Thomas, Plymouth

May 25, 2010

12:00 PM (EDT) Standing Committee

May 25, 2010

2:00 PM (EDT) Ministry Models Committee

May 29, 2010

Howe Military School Commencement

May 30, 2010

Visitation to Trinity, Logansport

*Around Our Diocese is published monthly. Please send stories, articles, and images by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to:*

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