

"When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."

Psalm 104:30

Northwest Indiana Catholic

May 23, 2010

SERVING THE COUNTIES OF LAKE, LAPORTE, PORTER AND STARKE • VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 20 • 75 CENTS

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Embrace technology, but set boundaries

MERRILLVILLE — Whether you're a parent, a teacher, or a weekend catechist, when it comes to your kids and social networking, there's only one thing you can say: yes. However, as an adult you have a right and responsibility to set limits and boundaries for connecting with others through today's technology.

That was the message at a program on social networking sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adults and Higher Ground Creative Media, an electronic media firm.

While nothing can or should replace face-to-face communication, when it comes to social media, "it's here, it's here to stay, and your youth are using it," said Joe Kern of Higher Ground.

The numbers alone prove it. Kern, also a youth minister at Our Lady of Consolation, Merrillville, said Facebook, currently the most popular social networking medium, has more than 400 million active users, with one-half of those

(See Tech, Page 4)



Pope Benedict XVI prays in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima during a candlelight vigil at the Marian shrine of Fatima in central Portugal May 12. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

P o p e i n P o r t u g a l

a missionary in a modern world

PORTO, Portugal (CNS) — On a four-day visit to Portugal, Pope Benedict XVI turned the church's attention to Fatima and offered a new perspective on the continuing relevance of Mary's appearances and messages there.

But the larger purpose of his May 11-14 trip, a point enunciated at each of his three stops, was to prod Catholics to adopt a more forceful and direct way of evangelizing in a largely secularized society.

In talk after talk, the pope spoke about how to be a missionary in the modern world, challenging Portugal's Catholic majority — and

(See Modern, Page 9)

CALUMET COLLEGE OF ST. JOSEPH

Grads urged to cultivate wisdom during transition period

HAMMOND — Rita Blake picked up an associate degree in religious studies 22 years ago. One husband, five children, and one stepgrandchild later, she earned a bachelor's degree in general studies from Calumet College of St. Joseph May 15.

Soon to retire as a special education paraprofessional, Blake said that after her husband and all her children received college degrees, "I wanted to get my degree. I'm the first member of my own family to graduate from college."

A member of Assumption BVM, New Chicago, Blake believed, as Bishop Dale J. Melczek

said at the CCSJ baccalaureate Mass, that this is a time of transition for graduates. It is also a time to share what they have learned in college with others.

The day's readings deal with people in transition, including Jesus and St. Paul. Just as Jesus tells the apostles that he will not leave them orphans, "that whatever they ask the Father in his name, the Father will give them."

The bishop noted, "These are mighty comforting words for you as you transition from this point in your life to whatever the future holds."

Victor Lozano, who

earned degrees in business management and communications, said the college prepared him for the real world, "not only knowledge, but spiritually this school helped me a lot."

A member of St. Mary, East Chicago, Lozano called his graduation "a gift to my family. Everything from my parents has been my platform. They challenged me."

Bishop Melczek expressed his hope that the graduates have gained not only knowledge to guide them personally and professionally but that the college provided them with

(See Grads, Page 13)



Calumet College of St. Joseph graduate Nettie J. Collins looks for family members during the CCSJ commencement exercises at Bishop Noll Institute, Hammond, May 15. (Tim Hunt)