

February 7, 2010

I am very grateful to you for reading this column. I hope you take time each week reflecting upon several articles and columns in the Northwest Indiana Catholic. Its purpose is to help you make your faith relevant to your daily life by providing articles and columns from which you might derive inspiration, encouragement, and guidance in living your faith.

When finished with our diocesan paper, I encourage you to share it with others, perhaps pointing out an article or column that might light the fire of faith or warm their hearts to action for the good.

The Northwest Indiana Catholic, now in its 24th year of publication, strives to keep you informed about the Catholic Church and events in which the Catholic Church has an interest – from messages from the Holy Father on timely subjects to the moral and ethical dimensions of legislation debated in Washington and Indianapolis. You will not find the Gospel perspective on issues like capital punishment, health care reform, immigration legislation, same-sex marriage, or abortion in the secular press.

The Northwest Indiana Catholic staff has produced stories, features, and series on Lent, respect life, and the current Year for Priests. The staff has traveled from the volleyball courts of Ball State University for any of Marquette Catholic High School's many state championships to New Orleans for Katrina relief projects by local church groups, and to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life. The staff has regularly reported on local people of faith who live that faith.

In addition, the diocesan newspaper runs columnists supplied by Catholic News Service and, a favorite among many readers, columns by Father Ron

Rolheiser, OMI. These columns serve to complement the news stories by offering an inside look at the Catholic Church and its teachings.

Our newspaper also has a Web site, www.nwicatholic.com, through which it can enhance the print edition by providing news, photos, movie and book reviews, and even a study guide for use by our Catholic schools and religious education programs.

I personally have written more than 800 columns for the Northwest Indiana Catholic. Through these columns, I, as your bishop, communicate with you about our faith in the Lord Jesus, the challenges of discipleship, and the ways to develop a greater love for the Church which Jesus founded on the cross.

February is Catholic Press Month – a time to renew your subscription or to become a new subscriber. If you are already a subscriber and know of someone who would like to receive the paper but cannot afford it, consider a gift subscription especially for someone in college or in the military. Our diocesan paper is an excellent tool for evangelization. If your subscription has lapsed, please consider rejoining our readership family.