

BISHOP APPOINTS PASTORAL LEADERS

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following pastoral leadership appointments:

• **Father Robert Gaudio** to pastor, St. Christopher, North Chili, from pastor, St. Anne, Palmyra, and St. Gregory, Marion, effective Feb. 2.

• **Billie J. Dietrich** to temporary pastoral administrator, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Hamlin, effective Feb. 24 through June 29.

• **Father Bernard Munjal** to sacramental minister, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Hamlin, effective Feb. 2 through June 29.

• **Donna Fitch** to temporary pastoral administrator, St. Anne, Palmyra, and St. Gregory, Marion, effective Feb. 2 through June 29.

• **Father Steven Kung'u** to sacramental minister, St. Anne, Palmyra, and St. Gregory, Marion, effective Feb. 2 through June 29.

• **Father Michael R. Brown** to priest administrator, St. Thomas Aquinas, Leicester, and St. Lucy, Retsof, with concurrent duties as pastor, Catholic Community of Mt. Morris and Nunda, effective Jan. 1 through June 29.

IRAQI ADVOCATES WANT WOMEN TO HAVE RIGHTS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A coalition of Iraqi advocates said a new Iraqi constitution should guarantee rights for women and minority religions.

Speakers at a Feb. 12 Capitol Hill press conference said Resolution 137, approved by the Iraqi governing council, would abolish any legal rights for women and further marginalize minority religions.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sun., Feb. 22: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Psalms 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38.

Mon., Feb. 23: James 3:13-18; Psalms 19:8-10, 15; Mark 9:14-29.

Tue., Feb. 24: James 4:1-10; Psalms 55:7-11, 23; Mark 9:30-37.

Wed., Feb. 25: Joel 2:12-18; Psalms 51:3-6A, 12-14, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.

Thu., Feb. 26: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalms 1:1-4, 6; Luke 9:22-25.

Fri., Feb. 27: Isaiah 58:1-9A; Psalms 51:3-6A, 18-19; Matthew 9:14-15.

Sat., Feb. 28: Isaiah 58:9B-14; Psalms 86:1-6; Luke 5:27-32.

'Passion' spurs discussion

Jennifer Burke/Catholic Courier

Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of the Christ," won't be released in theaters until Ash Wednesday (Feb. 25), but it has already stirred up a firestorm of discussion and debate.

According to Catholic News Service reports, Gibson's cinematic interpretation of the Passion and death of Jesus has come under fire for including what some claim are anti-Semitic elements, portraying the Jews as scapegoats for his death. The film has also attracted attention because of its graphic violence, which earned it an R rating from the Motion Picture Association of America.

St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, Temple B'rith Kodesh and the *Catholic Courier* are teaming up to present a discussion series aimed at helping people prepare for and better understand the film. During the first installment of the series, which will be held at St. Bernard's on Feb. 26, local Catholic and Jewish scholars who have seen the film will respond to the question: Can a film fairly depict the death of Christ without invoking anti-Semitism? The scholars will also provide the public with background information to better understand the film, the historical significance of its events and the implications the movie may have for Christian-Jewish relations.

Father Sebastian Falcone, professor of biblical studies at St. Bernard's, will discuss whether the Passion accounts found in the Gospels should be taken literally, while Rabbi Laurence A. Kotok, senior rabbi at Temple B'rith Kodesh, will address Jewish concerns about possible anti-Semitic images in the film. Rabbi Alison B. Kobey, associate rabbi and director of lifelong Jewish learning, will present a checklist of critical motifs in the film, and Damian Zynda, professor of Christian spirituality at St. Bernard's, will explain how to develop a healthy spirituality of Jesus' death.

A March 11 follow-up discussion at



Icon Distribution/CNS

Mel Gibson directs Jim Caviezel during filming of "The Passion of the Christ."

St. Bernard's will give participants a chance to discuss their reactions to the film and to ask questions of the experts.

Deacon Thomas Driscoll, director of community education at St. Bernard's, said it's important to bring together people of both Jewish and Christian faiths to discuss "The Passion of the Christ."

"St. Bernard's wants to help people to think on several sides of the issue," Deacon Driscoll said. "Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ' movie is two movies. For Christians, it's an opportunity to reflect on the absolute center of our faith — the death and resurrection of Christ. For Jews, the movie may bring up historical prejudice ... They (Jews) need to understand our viewpoint and the profound effect this movie will have ... and we need to hear if there are things in there that come across as anti-Semitic, and be sensitive to that."

Karen M. Franz, the *Courier's* general manager and editor in chief, agreed that it is vital for the community to have a forum in which to discuss issues raised by the film. The *Courier's* involvement in the series is an outgrowth of the discussion forum it provides in its pages each issue, Franz said.

"We felt that this was a tailor-made topic, given the proximity of the film's release to Lent, Passover and Easter," Franz said. "It's certainly a subject that merits a thorough and sensitive approach, and we really wanted to get people thinking about the issues involved. We're taking (the discussion) beyond the pages of the *Courier* and into the community. We'll be doing more of that sort of thing in the future as part of reinventing the *Courier*."

The first issue of the *Catholic Courier Monthly*, which will be published April 7, will contain essays written in response to the film by various religious scholars and key members of the local interfaith community.

"We want to carry this conversation beyond Feb. 26, into March and April, as we move through Lent and into Holy Week," Franz said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Feb. 26 and March 11 discussions begin at 7 p.m. and are free and open to the public. A suggested donation of \$5 will support Jewish-Christian lifelong learning through the Rochester Kollel and St. Bernard's. For more information or to pre-register, contact Deacon Tom Driscoll at tdriscoll@stbernards.edu or 585/271-3657, ext. 292.

Leaked report says 11,000 kids abused by priests

WASHINGTON (CNS) — CNN reported Feb. 16 that, according to a draft report it obtained on sexual abuse of minors by U.S. Catholic priests and deacons, roughly 4,450 clergy allegedly abused 11,000 minors between 1950 and 2002.

"Whatever they reported is premature," said James Levine, dean of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, which last year conducted a nationwide study of

Catholic clergy sexual abuse of minors and plans to release its report Feb. 27. "We're still finalizing our report."

Levine told Catholic News Service that a final portion of the CNN news story, reporting underlying causes of abuse, simply did not come from a draft of the John Jay study. CNN cited that study as its source for the causes as well as the figures it gave.

"We are not dealing with causes.

We are dealing with scope and incidence. ... That's not verbiage from us," Levine said.

Illinois Appellate Court Justice Anne M. Burke, acting chair of the bishops' all-lay National Review Board — which commissioned the John Jay report and plans to issue its own report Feb. 27 on the causes and context of the abuse — told CNS Feb. 16 she had no idea what was the source of the CNN report on causes.