

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## Bishop D'Arcy announces parish merger in South Bend

BY VINCE LABARBERA

SOUTH BEND — Bishop John M. D'Arcy announced at the 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in South Bend that, after extensive consultation, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, 3501 S. Locust Road, will be merged with nearby St. Jude Parish, 19704 Johnson Rd., South Bend.



ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

In announcing the merger, Bishop D'Arcy shared with the congregation his gratitude to them for the many years of worship and service at the 125-year-old St. Mary of the Assumption Parish. Bishop D'Arcy has met several times with the congregation in consultation, as required by canon law. The most recent such consultation was July 30. On Oct. 26, he met with the Diocesan Presbyteral Council for consultation regarding the parish. These are consultations required by canon law.

Bishop D'Arcy said that such mergers are necessary to strengthen the life of faith in the diocese and for better distribution of priests, taking into consideration demographic changes. In the last three years at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, there have been 11 baptisms and no marriages. The pastor is Father John Delaney, who on July 26 of this year also was appointed to serve as pastor at St. Jude Parish. Currently 140

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC FILE PHOTO

St. Jude and St. Mary of the Assumption Parishes in South Bend will be merged in 2007. Bishop D'Arcy announced the merger Sunday at St. Mary of the Assumption Church.

### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Margarita Aguayo and her children Jesse, 5, and Melissa, 9, and nephew, Ryan, 2, stand and reflect by Our Lady at the St. Dominic Parish in Bremen. The family looked in the hymnal for a prayer or a song to share. The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas, is celebrated Tuesday, Dec. 12.

## Modernity issues focus of Notre Dame's conference

### Bishop John M. D'Arcy presents paper on priesthood

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — A late fall ice storm that shut down Chicago airports prevented some travelers from reaching South Bend last weekend, but hundreds of others made their way to the University of Notre Dame for the Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 annual conference of Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture.

Festive Christmas decorations inside Notre Dame's McKenna Hall conference center matched the mood of the participants, who were professionals and university faculty from across the nation as well as Notre Dame undergraduates. They all came to the conference entitled "Modernity: Yearning For the Infinite" to discuss and contemplate the many problems of the modern age.

Those modern-age problems that engaged the conferees included topics like cultural

and moral fragmentation, rampant individualism, crimes against humanity, challenges to the family and rejection of authority. One common reference that several speakers cited to as symptomatic of the problems of modernity was the astounding proclamation by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1992 Planned Parenthood vs. Casey ruling that: "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe and of the mystery of human life."

A few scheduled speakers were absent because of weather problems, but with a program that included 15 invited papers and over 100 shorter papers, conferees still had a vast variety of sessions to choose from.

Alasdair MacIntyre, research professor of philosophy at Notre Dame opened the conference with an invited paper on "Islam, Modernity and Us." Other invited speakers presented papers on topics like "Preserving National Identity in the Global Marketplace" by Jude Dougherty, dean emeritus of the Department of Philosophy at The Catholic

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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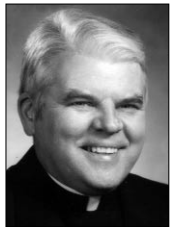
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# Bishop will celebrate Masses for Our Lady of Guadalupe



NEWS  
& NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

## A great feast coming

This Sunday I will journey to our new shrine and parish church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Warsaw. We will celebrate both the Second Sunday of Advent and the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. After that, I will head north, accompanied, I am sure, by Jim Fitzpatrick, our wonderful and hardworking diocesan master of ceremonies for a second Mass in honor of this feast day at St. Patrick, Ligonier. When Pope John Paul II visited Mexico, only a few years before his death, he declared the Lady of Guadalupe to be patroness of all the Americas. He saw all this Western Hemisphere as one. But, of course, it is among the Mexican people that she is held in great affection, for it was that country that she visited.

In Warsaw and also in Ligonier we have large numbers of Catholics who have come to us from Mexico. They cherish their relationship with Our Lady of Guadalupe as a protector and patroness, and as bishop I want to be with them and should be with them on this feast, which is so precious to them.

## A weekend to remember

I drove northwest on Saturday morning, arriving at Notre Dame in time to take my small part in a seminar put on by a component at the University of Notre Dame known as the Center for Ethics and Culture. This center is under the direction of Professor David Solomon. The overall theme was modernity. Knowing that this was a wide-ranging concept, I asked Professor Cyril O'Regan, an eminent scholar, to share with me what is meant by modernity. His help was necessary even though my talk was a reflection on the priest today in light of the document "Pastores Dabo Vobis" ("I Will Give you Shepherds") and a whole series of documents and books being brought out about the priesthood. Still, I wanted to be faithful to the background, the concept of the convocation; namely, modernity. Professor O'Regan did me one better. He wrote me a substantive, two-page essay, which explained the elusive concept of modernity through the eyes of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI. It helped me to situate my own talk.

With Professor O'Regan's help, I was able to share my own experience and also research and study, which I had done many years ago on priestly formation and link it to modernity as understood by Cardinal Ratzinger — Pope Benedict XVI.

It was a wonderful experience to be part of this event. I spoke about 45 minutes. There were some intense questions and answers. I was impressed by the young people in attendance.

## The rest of the weekend

After a talk and a visit, I was pleased to have some time with several students at the convocation. I was especially impressed by

some who are preparing for marriage and spoke about their desire and need for a solid program of marriage preparation.

Later, I was privileged to celebrate the Eucharist for the First Sunday of Advent at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. That Mass is broadcast the next day throughout the country on the Hallmark Channel.

## Twenty golden years

Can you believe that it has been 20 years since we began the live broadcast of the Mass every Sunday in both of our major cities. How well I recall Msgr. Frank McFarland. Frank was a classmate and a legendary figure from the Archdiocese of Boston. For many years, he hosted the television Mass and was the TV and radio man for Boston. He died a few years ago. He and an assistant came here during my first year, and helped us to begin this adventure. I recall Dick Rosenthal and Jerry Hammes coming with me to meet Basil O'Hagan, who was then the general manager of WNDU. And so we began. The first televised Mass was celebrated by the late, beloved Joseph Crowley. I think he loved it. Bishop Joe respected the field of commentators and served as chair of the Communications Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for many years. He was instrumental in getting approved the annual collection for communications, which has been helpful on the local and national level. I think 50 percent of that collection stays in the local diocese and has assisted us in the television Mass and in our newspaper. Many people who have helped with their generosity over the years, were present at the Mass and then we went over to Papa Vino's, a well-known South Bend restaurant for a very nice lunch hosted by Jim Fitzpatrick.

## An in-between step

Before going to lunch and shortly after celebrating Mass, I drove to St. Mary of the Assumption Church. At the conclusion of Mass, I shared with the people that, having consulted with the parish and having received the unanimous advice of the Presbyteral Council, I had made the decision to merge St. Mary Parish with St. Jude's. I had promised the parishioners when I had visited them on July 30 that I would share with them personally whatever decision was made. We were able to keep it out of the media until I came before them. At the conclusion of the 11:30 a.m. Mass, celebrated by their pastor, Father John Delaney, I presented the reasons for this necessary change: the need to better distribute our priests; the serious financial situation at St. Mary of the Assumption; the value of amalgamating parishes to make a larger worship community and to give more financial resources to the parishes and especially to our schools, so that schools like St. Jude can remain strong. I have been to this parish many times, and I know these people well. Afterward, I remained to talk with them. Many were understanding and quite gracious, others less so. I also told them that I took no joy in this and that I shared their great sense of loss. I indicated that my own beloved home parish, Our Lady of the Presentation, closed a few years ago. I told them that my parents had been married there, and it was there that I celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial for them. I celebrated my first Mass there, and my sisters and I received all our sacraments in that parish church. The other place in Brighton where I said a first Mass, was a

chapel at St. John's Seminary, Brighton, which is now a computer center. Taking a lesson from Pope John Paul II, who on his 50th jubilee prayed at the church where he was baptized, I had hoped to go to Presentation Church and say a little prayer at the scene of my baptism. Alas, it seems it will not be possible. So, I think I can honestly say that I understood and experienced the pain of these dear people.

One lady told me she lived 47 years in that parish. Another told me all their children went to school at St. Mary's and then onto Marian High School. We have gone slow on this. It is the eighth parish that has been amalgamated in my 21 years here. I took a central part in the consultation myself; both for the school of St. Mary and the parish.

The last Mass will be Jan. 28, 2007, and I think the pastor, Father Delaney, and his coworkers are preparing a procession. We will carry the Blessed Sacrament to St. Jude Church. We are considering more things for this area. Many years ago, a fine committee of priests, which included Father Bob Schulte, our vicar general, and Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC, who chaired the committee, made a number of recommendations, and this was one of them. So we will continue to move forward — slowly and steadily — always consulting closely with our people.

## Miles yet to go

The weekend was not yet finished, reminding me of the poem of the great New England poet, Robert Frost:

The woods are lovely, dark and deep  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

After a nice lunch at Papa Vino's, I turned my car through Mishawaka, down Route 331 toward Fort Wayne, for the close of a demanding, but beautiful weekend. Next was an ecumenical prayer service at the Church of the Messiah in northeast Fort Wayne. A committee of parish priests and Lutheran pastors meet regularly. This is our obligation. Ecumenism and efforts toward Christian unity are not something extra, but must be part of our lives as Catholics. Bishop James Stuck and I led the prayer service. So many beautiful Advent readings, prayers and songs — Catholic and Lutheran choirs singing together. All in all, quite a weekend.

## Not enough about Purdue

Ray, a parishioner of St. Mary of the Assumption, and a Boilermaker, shared a valid complaint, "Bishop, you always speak about Notre Dame, but you never talk about Purdue, and Purdue does very well in athletics." You are right, Ray, so I will try to speak of the beloved Boilermakers in the future, and right now they look very good in basketball.

But, above all — hats off to the Saint Francis Cougars. They are 13-0. And for the third year in a row, they are going to the National Championship of the NAIA. This game will be in Savannah, Tenn. Coach Kevin Donley and his staff have done a remarkable job. I believe they are undefeated three years in a row during the regular season. They just keep on winning, and many are local kids. Hats off to Coach Donley and to Sister Elise Kriss. And to think it has all been done at Bishop D'Arcy Stadium.

More later on the visit of a patriarch from the Armenian Orthodox Church. See you all next week.

## ETHICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

University of America; and "Owning Knowledge: Modernity and the Purposes of the Intellectual Life," by Paul Griffiths, the Schmitt Chair of Catholic Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

### Vatican II and its impact on Catholic politicians

In his invited paper on "Catholic Politicians and the Modern World," Holy Cross Father Wilson Miscamble, a history professor at Notre Dame who specializes in American history, examined case studies of some Catholic politicians to argue that the teachings of Vatican II have not been practiced by modern Catholic politicians. Rather, most modern Catholic politicians have been detached from the moral guidance and social teaching of the church, he said.

The Vatican II document "Gaudium et Spes" ("Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World") looks at how the church might engage the modern world and how all religions might work for the common good, thus providing an excellent guide for the Catholic politician, Father Miscamble said. "Gadium et Spes" makes clear that one should take the faith into the world and become a leaven in society rather than compartmentalize religion into a private sphere.

"Sadly," the first Catholic president, John F. Kennedy, took a practical approach and "succumbed to modernity's demand that religion be compartmentalized and held in the private sphere. And even more sadly, he blazed a trail that many subsequent Catholic politicians followed," Father Miscamble said.

"So the impact of the election of a Catholic rather ironically meant a further triumph of the secular in the public sphere," and the participation of Catholics in public life has been largely unnoticed because they have been guided by pragmatism rather than the teachings of the church, he contended.

"Sadly, we must conclude that the vision for how Catholic politicians might engage the world as set forth in 'Gadium et Spes' has had minimal impact at best.

### Bishop D'Arcy presents paper on priesthood

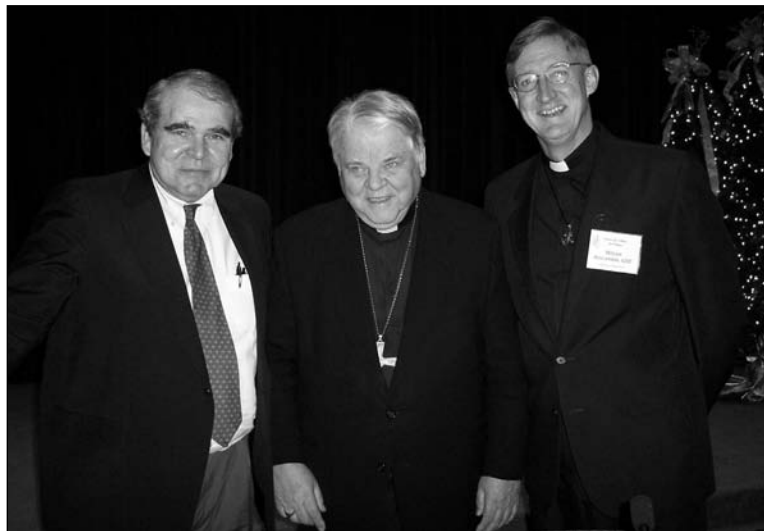
Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend presented an invited paper on "A Catholic Priest in the Present Age." He said that the sexual abuse scandals in the church were a result of a massive failure in discerning true vocations to the priesthood. He cited Pope Benedict XVI's reminder that it is God, along with the church, who calls a man to the priesthood. In a troubled period of time, the church didn't do well assisting men in determining whether they truly were called to the priesthood, he said.

This issue now is being well addressed by the U.S. bishops' new five-year program for priestly formation and through seminary



PHOTOS BY ANN CAREY

Christmas decorations inside Notre Dame's McKenna Hall were a bright contrast to the gray weather outside.



Bishop John M. D'Arcy, center, was welcomed to the annual conference of the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture by center director David Solomon, left. Holy Cross Father Wilson Miscamble, right, introduced Bishop D'Arcy for the bishop's presentation to the conference. Father Miscamble also delivered a major paper himself.

visitations, Bishop D'Arcy said. Those visitations examine the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation of seminarians, based on Pope John Paul II's 1992 apostolic exhortation "Pastores Dabo Vobis" ("I Give You Shepherds").

"I wish we had more vocations," Bishop D'Arcy said, "but the path to more vocations does not lie in lowering the bar. The path lies in raising the bar. I am convinced the road out of the severe shortage is to ordain young men of quality who will, once they're in the pulpit and in the parish rectory and the schoolyard, draw other men of quality."

Bishop D'Arcy said he already sees the dividends of this policy in the quality of the 18 seminarians studying for the priesthood for this diocese. The two most important things a bishop does, he said, are making decisions about whom he accepts to the seminary and ordains and whom he sends to a parish.

In response to an audience question about how to encourage vocations to the priesthood and

religious life, Bishop D'Arcy said that preparing for vocations begins with the family, and he stressed the importance of families fostering vocations and laity encouraging and praying for vocations. His own vocation was fostered by his father and mother, not by outside influences, he said. However, families must be catechized, he continued, noting that the church went through a period when Catholics did not know their faith.

Furthermore, it is important for young people to see priests, brothers and sisters, Bishop D'Arcy said, and so a group of priests and religious regularly visit the four diocesan high schools and are well received. Studies show that it's also critically important for the church to engage young people, and he said that an effort is being made in parishes across the diocese to do this in programs where adult lay people and priests interact with youth.

"When the youth program has prayer, instruction, community, service and vitality, vocations come from it," he said.

## Pope Benedict, master of words, shows mastery of gestures in Turkey

BY CINDY WOODEN

ISTANBUL, Turkey (CNS) — During his four-day trip to Turkey, Pope Benedict XVI, known for his precise and incisive words, showed he was also a master of the spontaneous gesture.

While his scholarly words in a September lecture in Germany offended millions of Muslims, his prayer in an Istanbul mosque surprised and delighted many of them.

For papal watchers the contrast between the tones of his reference to Muslims and violence in Germany and his silent prayer in the Blue Mosque was not the only surprise. Pope Benedict was supposed to be the pope of strong words in contrast to Pope John Paul II, the pope of strong gestures.

The silent prayer facing Mecca, the site of Islam's holiest shrine, also seemed to be in contrast to the predictions of pundits who assured the world that Pope Benedict would be more challenging than conciliatory with the world's Muslim believers.

Retired French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, a close aide to Pope John Paul and a member of Pope Benedict's entourage in Turkey, told reporters Dec. 1: "I would compare the visit of the pope to the mosque to the gesture of John Paul II at the Western Wall," the Jewish holy site in Jerusalem where Pope John Paul in 2000 deposited a prayer asking God's

forgiveness for the ways Christians had mistreated the Jews.

Pope Benedict's prayer at the mosque and Pope John Paul's prayer in Jerusalem "are two very important symbolic moments," Cardinal Etchegaray said. "In both cases, we did not expect it."

Judging simply by what Pope Benedict had said were his objectives in visiting Turkey, the trip was a success.

Setting off from Rome at the beginning of the Nov. 28-Dec. 1 visit, the pope said the point of the trip was the contacts he would make and the friendship and respect they would demonstrate.

While the pope received a warm welcome from the moment he got off the plane in Ankara, Turkey's capital, any remaining hesitation on the part of the Turkish people melted when the pope prayed in the Istanbul mosque on his last night in the country.

From the beginning, the trip was planned as an occasion for the pope to pay his respects to Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. After a prayer service, two liturgies, private meetings and a lunch, the brotherhood the pope and patriarch publicly professed also appeared publicly demonstrated.

But given the tensions present before the trip with both the Turkish government and the country's Muslim majority, Pope

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## MERGER

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families are registered at St. Mary's. The financial situation was also taken into account by Bishop D'Arcy. The parish has a debt to the diocese of \$610,669. The debt for the most recent fiscal year was \$48,000. As the diocese draws parishes together, it combines resources to keep our schools strong.

Bishop D'Arcy also indicated that, in his 21 years with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, eight parishes have been merged with other parishes, and one new parish has been established to strengthen parish life. There are 82 parishes in the diocese.

"We have gone slowly and steadily, and we have done our best to consult widely and to listen to the people," said Bishop D'Arcy.

Speaking to the people of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Bishop D'Arcy said, "My own beloved parish of St. Mary of the Presentation in Brighton has been closed. My parents met in that town and were married in that church after coming from Ireland. My sisters and I received all our sacraments there, and I celebrated my first Mass in that church. I

buried my parents from St. Mary of the Presentation. So, I share with the people the pain that is part of these changes."

Bishop D'Arcy recalled that in one of the meetings with Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, during the "ad limina" visit, which a bishop must make to Rome every five years, the cardinal said, "The church has the obligation of providing the Eucharist to all the people, but it is not its obligation to do it in every hamlet."

Nearly two years ago, Bishop D'Arcy met with St. Mary's parishioners at Mass on Feb. 27, 2005, to announce the closing of St. Mary of the Assumption School following an extensive feasibility study and careful examination of enrollment trends. The total enrollment of the school at that time was 60 students. The diocese collaborated with parish leadership to assist families in placing their children into neighboring Catholic schools. The closing of the school was the first closing since 1994 when three parish schools in Fort Wayne were consolidated into the Msgr. Julian Benoit Academy for school year 1994-1995.

The last Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007. Bishop D'Arcy will be the celebrant. There will be a Mass of welcoming announced for the new parishioners at St. Jude Parish.

# Holy Cross breaks ground for addition

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

**SOUTH BEND** — Holy Cross Crusaders from past, present and future came together through faith and love to create a \$2.4 million dollar testament to their love for the Gospel with the groundbreaking of a 14,000-square-foot addition to Holy Cross Grade School in South Bend.

After years of talking about it, school officials finally broke ground for the addition on the back side of the school building along with a renovation of around 8,000 square feet of current school space.

"The construction will be a high-school-size gym, new school offices, new kitchen, and then renovation of current auditorium to make a multipurpose room for little theater/cafeteria, new library, new music room, expanded art room and expanded computer lab," said Holy Cross principal Angie Budzinski. "The cost of the project is about \$2.3 million. Casteel Construction Corporation is doing the work, and it should take nine months to complete."

The idea has been in the hearts and minds of many for over 50 years. The Holy Cross School Strategic Plan of 2002 called for physical improvements to the current school building and that need, coupled with this lingering desire for a new gymnasium, brought about a movement called the Renaissance Campaign.

"The effort began in fall 2003 with the formation of a development committee for Holy Cross School," said Holy Cross/St. Stanislaus pastor Holy Cross

Father Michael Mathews, "Committee members included many parishioners and friends of Holy Cross School with expertise in numerous areas like fundraising and development, architecture, local politics, athletics, etc. The original group spent the next year planning and in September 2004 the official 'asking' portion of the Renaissance Campaign began."

According to Father Mathews, the name Renaissance Campaign came from the 14th-century movement in Europe that sought to revive interest in academic learning and the arts.

"Thus, the Renaissance Committee was formed to renew the parish commitment to Catholic education, strengthen Holy Cross School as an anchor institution for the near northwest neighborhood and enhance a learning environment that emphasizes faith, service and diversity," said Father Mathews.

Goals for the project are simple; to create a better educational environment for the students of Holy Cross Grade School.

"The school already had the best teachers and curriculum, and it simply was time to have the best physical facilities for the students," said Father Mathews.

"The construction will enable Holy Cross School to continue as a school that educates both the mind and heart of each student."

The renovations and addition will not only help the core curriculum, but it will enhance the extra learning that students receive.

"The goal is to reinforce all the specials classes like library, music, computer, art and physical education," said Budzinski.



LISA KOCHANOWSKI

"Where other schools over the years have decreased specials in the schools to concentrate on the basics of reading and math, we are investing in our specials because we feel this helps to educate the whole child."

This project is expected to not only help the school, but enhance the neighborhood around the school building.

"We hope the impact will be wonderful for the neighborhood. Holy Cross has been an anchor to the neighborhood over the years. We wish to invest in this neighborhood and prove to all that this is indeed a wonderful place. We hope this will convince others to invest here as well," said Budzinski.

Father Mathews said, "As a neighborhood school, Holy Cross School is an anchor for the

Father Michael Mathews, left, pastor of Holy Cross-St. Stanislaus Parish in South Bend and Angie Budzinski, right, principal of Holy Cross Grade School, are shown in front of the newly started construction site.

remember this forever."

Father Mathews said seeing the faith of so many dedicated men and women who agreed to support the project from the beginning has been overwhelming and quite memorable to him. Other moments that have made an impression include receiving a check for \$278,000 from the estate of a deceased member of the parish, receiving a check for \$100,000 from a current member of the parish who wishes to remain anonymous, having a Holy Cross School graduate and current architect out of Indianapolis donate his services for free and seeing the dedication and devotion of others who have gone the extra mile for the campaign.

Starting a construction project during the school year has been a tough undertaking, but school officials have taken every means possible to ensure safety for the students. Everyone on the school campus has to wear identification badges and special traffic routing patterns have been created around the school during the morning drop off and afternoon pickup.

It has taken a lot of planning, fundraising, hard work and dedication for the community to make the project a reality. Father Mathews and Budzinski are very grateful to all those people who have done so much to make this happen.

"The parish is the lifeblood of any parish, and hopefully the construction will attract more families to the parish who are looking for something special when it comes to education for their children, namely a sound education built upon Catholic values and a belief that tolerance and diversity are vital to the future welfare of our society," said Father Mathews.

homes surrounding Muessel Park to Lincoln Way West.

Maintaining a viable presence in urban areas reflects the mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross, a religious community dedicated to teaching the future of the church and the world."

"The most memorable moment for me was the cheer from the students when we announced that we were embarking on this journey to build onto the school," said Budzinski.

"Father Mike planned a skit to introduce, announce this building campaign. Several teachers were involved along with the associate pastor and himself. He played a grumpy pastor who shot down the idea of his young associate to build a gym. He was visited by three angels who convinced him to allow the project. When he stated that we would indeed build a gym, the students erupted in a loud, sustaining cheer. I will



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# Holy Radio begins broadcasting in South Bend on 1580 AM

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

MISHAWAKA — Catholic radio will be coming to the airwaves of South Bend area. At 12:01 a.m., Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, WHLY, 1580 AM, will go on the air using programming from EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network), a Catholic satellite television and radio network based in Birmingham, Ala.

"We've been looking for our big project, and this is it," said Robert Kloska, director of the station and a member of the board of directors for the St. Thomas More Foundation.

Kloska noted that five years ago the foundation looked into the possibility of acquiring a station in Niles, Mich. The group looked hard at the option, but decided not to go forward with it.

"Throughout this process, we are thankful for the prayers and support provided by Bishop D'Arcy, along with the people at Redeemer Radio, WLYV, 1450 AM in Fort Wayne," Kloska added. Just as Redeemer Radio in Fort Wayne, WHLY will have no business ties

with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and is a laity driven communications vehicle.

The board of directors of the St. Thomas More Foundation is developing a business plan, so as to expand the capabilities of the radio station. As Mother Angelica of EWTN proclaimed, "new Catholic radio stations are based on faith." Since we have not traveled this path before, your prayers for our success will be appreciated," noted the board in a press release.

"The station acquired has the call letters of WHLY — you look at that and it says Holy Radio. Hence the station will be called Holy Radio," said Dick Peterson, general manager who noted that this will be the station's identification.

Kloska pointed out that eventually they hope to have WHLY billboards placed at locations at the far east and west on the tollway.

"According to research, 40,000 a day people listen on the tollway and no one gets off the tollway much," said Kloska who noted that the station will help to "inspire and evangelize" all who are listening.

To start, the station's program-

ming will be strictly EWTN as currently the station is set up in an office at a board member's business. The station hopes to expand to local programming once funds are raised for a studio location. Kloska said, in order to do that, they may hold a fund-raising dinner for the station in early 2007.

The station does not have full time staff members to handle a fund-raising drive similar to Fort Wayne's Redeemer Radio Share-a-thon, but they are hoping that a volunteer coordinator will come forward to help with fund-raising efforts. Anyone who might be interested in such a volunteer position or are interested in helping WHLY financially can contact Dick Peterson at rdpdiamond@qtm.net.

"In the near future, we will require more volunteers and public and financial support," said Peterson.

"I can't say that I am any more amazed at how God works. I know it is God's work and God's will because he placed us here, but we're so overwhelmed now with getting things done," said Kloska who says that someday soon they will celebrate that a Catholic radio station broadcasts in South Bend.

## TRIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Benedict's positive encounters with Muslims stole the headlines. Even the Turkish papers, initially lukewarm to the idea of a papal visit, were impressed.

The daily *Hurriyet* reported Dec. 1: "The pope, who earned sympathy with words in the spirit of an apology to Muslims, continued to surprise the world."

The paper, like much of the world, particularly was struck by his prayer alongside a Muslim cleric in the mosque.

*Hurriyet* reported the pope "turned toward Mecca and prayed like a Muslim."

The Dec. 1 English-language *Turkish Daily News* headline read: "The pope is winning hearts and minds."

And the article described the pope's visit as "a moment of reconciliation" with the country's majority Muslim population.

As he was setting off from Rome Nov. 28, the pope had told reporters traveling with him that they should not have exaggerated expectations of such a short trip.

"The value (of the trip) I would say is symbolic, the fruit of the encounters themselves, of encoun-

ters in friendship and respect."

When the trip was over Dec. 1, one would only have to look at photographs of the pope with government officials, Muslim representatives and leaders of the Orthodox churches to see that a connection was made.

**"It seems we've gone well beyond expectations."**

FATHER FEDERICO LOMBARDI

After a 30-minute free-flowing discussion Nov. 28 with Ali Bardakoglu, the country's top Muslim official, the two appeared before reporters grasping both of each other's hands.

And after attending Patriarch Bartholomew's celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Orthodox cathedral, the two blessed a small crowd together before the patriarch took the pope's hand and held it aloft as they waved.

Even some of the obligatory gifts given during the trip seemed to conspire to carry a positive message, particularly when they were coincidentally similar, as they

were at the Blue Mosque.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, pointed out that doves — the symbol of peace — were the main feature on the blue tile Istanbul's grand mufti gave to the pope and on the mosaic Pope Benedict gave to the mufti.

And, before leaving Istanbul Dec. 1, the pope released four white doves from the courtyard of the Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

Father Lombardi told reporters late Nov. 30, "It seems we've gone well beyond expectations."

Not only were there no confrontations with Muslims over what the pope said in Germany in September, but the Germany speech seemed to give way to a new look at "the theme of relations between Christians and Muslims with serenity and depth, seeking to make important clarifications on both sides," Father Lombardi said.

"With this visit, this particular act in the mosque, I think we have taken significant steps forward," he said.



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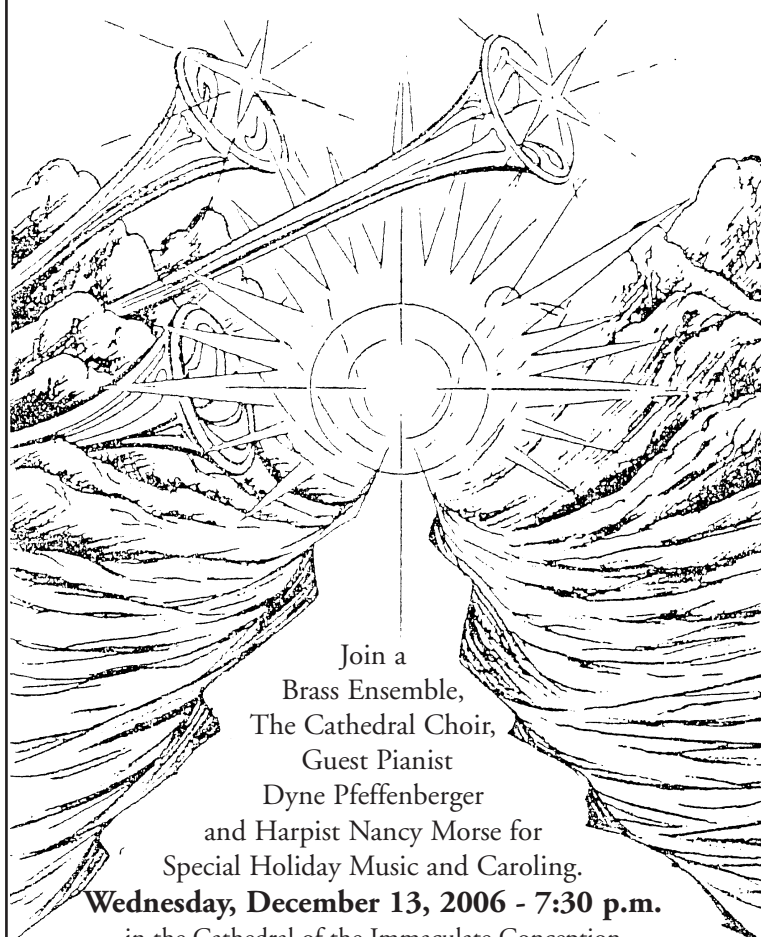
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## Vatican statement says pope saddened by illicit Chinese ordinations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI was deeply saddened by the Nov. 30 ordination of a Chinese bishop without Vatican approval, an act that can further fracture the Catholic community in mainland China, said a statement from the Vatican. In a Dec. 2 statement, the Vatican said officials found out at “the last minute” about plans to ordain Father Wang Renlei, 36, as coadjutor bishop of Xuzhou, China, at the diocese’s Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral. Still, Vatican officials did what they could “so that this act, which would have produced a new laceration in the ecclesial community, would not come about,” the statement said. “In fact, an illegitimate episcopal ordination is an act that is so objectively serious that canon law establishes severe sanctions for those who confer it and those who receive it,” the statement said. The new bishop and the bishops who ordained him face automatic excommunication if they acted of their own free will, the Vatican said.

## Vatican spokesman says pope did not ask Kissinger to be his adviser

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI does not have a foreign affairs advisory board, and he has not asked former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to become one of his advisers, the Vatican spokesman said. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi said it is true that Kissinger met privately with the pope Sept. 28 and that Mary Ann Glendon, a U.S. law professor and president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, has invited Kissinger to speak to the academy at the Vatican in late April. “Those are the only two concrete facts,” Father Lombardi told Catholic News Service. Articles in Italian and U.S. newspapers reporting that the pope had asked Kissinger to become an adviser or consultant “are without any foundation,” he said Dec. 4.

## New auxiliary bishop, youngest in U.S., ordained for Detroit

DETROIT (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Detroit professed “praise and thanks to almighty God” in his first remarks as a newly ordained bishop Nov. 29. “All gifts I have received in life, including the gift of this day, are contained in the primordial gift of Christ to the world,” he said at the end of the ordination Mass. Bishop Flores is the 25th active Hispanic bishop in the country, the first Hispanic bishop to be ordained for any Michigan diocese and, at 45, is the youngest Catholic bishop in the United States. After the ceremony, the new bishop’s mother, Lydia Flores, expressed her pride in and happiness for her son. “But, at the same time, I have mixed emotions, because I know that when I leave here tomorrow (for her home in Corpus Christi, Texas), he will be staying behind,” she said. More

# NEWS BRIEFS

## ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH AND POPE EXCHANGE GREETINGS



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Benedict XVI exchange greetings during a visit to Holy Spirit Cathedral in Istanbul, Turkey, Dec. 1.

importantly, however, her son will be serving God, and “he can’t go wrong serving God,” she said.

## Head of Vatican clergy office: Priestly celibacy not up for debate

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The new head of the Vatican’s Congregation for Clergy, Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes, clarified his recent comments about priestly celibacy, saying the question was not currently up for discussion by church authorities. In a Brazilian newspaper interview Dec. 2, Cardinal Hummes had said priestly celibacy was a disciplinary norm and not a church dogma, and was therefore open to possible change. Although Cardinal Hummes was not arguing in favor of modifying the celibacy rule, his comments stirred considerable interest in Rome. Shortly after arriving at the Vatican from Brazil Dec. 4, the cardinal issued a statement emphasizing that priestly celibacy was a long and valuable tradition in the Latin-rite church, based on strong theological and pastoral arguments. Cardinal Hummes, a Franciscan who has headed the Archdiocese of Sao Paulo, was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in October as prefect of the clergy congregation, a move widely seen as bringing a moderate Latin American voice to the Roman Curia.

## Greek Orthodox archbishop to visit pope, announces Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens, spiritual leader of the Orthodox church of Greece, will visit Pope Benedict XVI Dec. 13-

16, the Vatican announced. “The archbishop will be received with warm ecclesial brotherhood and with the honor due to his position as primate of the Orthodox church of Greece,” said the Dec. 4 announcement of the visit. During the visit, the announcement said, Pope Benedict and Archbishop Christodoulos will participate in a ceremony at Rome’s Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Pope Benedict will give the archbishop “part of the precious chain of St. Paul’s imprisonment,” which is preserved at the basilica built in his honor. The basilica is built over the traditional site of St. Paul’s burial. The chains believed to have held St. Paul during his imprisonment just before his execution are preserved in the basilica’s Chapel of the Relics.

## New York court asked to rehear case on contraceptive mandate

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Claiming that New York’s highest state court erred on several counts in upholding a state mandate that would require religious organizations to provide contraceptive prescription coverage for their employees, eight Catholic and two Protestant groups have asked the New York Court of Appeals to rehear the case. The court’s Oct. 19 decision also failed to consider that the “practical impact” of the legislation could be the opposite of the law’s intended effect, by providing an incentive for religious employers to cancel prescription coverage altogether, the groups said in a motion filed Nov. 20. “Mandating contraceptive coverage by church entities like plaintiffs if and only if those entities choose to provide their employees with prescription drug coverage at all actually undermines the objective of the law, while exempting such entities

would without question advance that objective,” the motion said.

## Patriarch urges Lebanese Christians to remain united amid crisis

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS) — The head of Lebanon’s Maronite Catholic Church has urged Christians to remain united in the face of the country’s mounting political crisis. “We are going through miserable days, but we hope they will be followed by happy days in which the Lebanese will reunite,” said Cardinal Nasrallah P. Sfeir, Maronite patriarch, Nov. 26. “We mean by that the Christians who are divided.” Cardinal Sfeir spoke days after presiding over the funeral of murdered Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel. The scion of Lebanon’s most prominent Maronite family was the sixth anti-Syrian figure to be assassinated in the past two years. Cardinal Sfeir said Lebanon’s Christians should unite since Lebanon’s “leaders are being killed one after the other.” He acknowledged that might be difficult amid the current tensions over street protests and strikes led by the militant Islamic group Hezbollah.

## Regis Philbin’s ‘Jeopardy’ win brings Bronx Catholic school \$50,000

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx has an extra \$50,000 to put into its current capital campaign, thanks to the man who is probably its best-known alumnus — and thanks to his success on the television quiz program “Jeopardy,” where information about him might appear like

this: Answer: He’s a television star and talk-show host, but he’s never forgotten his alma mater. Question: Who is Regis Philbin? Philbin was a guest on “Celebrity Jeopardy,” in which famous contestants compete to win cash for their favorite charities. Philbin chose Hayes, which he has supported in many ways over the years. He also got 10 tickets for a group from Hayes to attend the taping of the Nov. 8 show.

## Los Angeles Archdiocese settles 45 sex abuse cases for \$60 million

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — The \$60 million settlement of 45 cases in which clergy had been accused of sexual abuse is “fair and just,” Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles said Dec. 1. In a statement, the cardinal also termed the settlement “a positive step forward in the church’s efforts to promote healing and reconciliation for those who have suffered abuse by members of the clergy.” He also made a personal apology to all victims of abuse by a priest, religious or deacon in the archdiocese. “The sexual abuse of minors is both a sin and a crime, and there is no place in the priesthood for those who have abused children,” he added. The archdiocese said its share of the settlement was about \$40 million, with the remainder covered by insurance companies or religious orders. The amount of the settlement “was anticipated and set aside last year,” it added. “I want to assure you ... that no parishes will be affected as a result of this settlement,” Cardinal Mahony said.

## Iraq’s Vatican ambassador acknowledges rising toll, seeks more help

ROME (CNS) — The Iraqi ambassador to the Vatican acknowledged the increasing violence in his country, but issued a plea for international support to help stabilize the country. “We are very much concerned” about the increasing numbers of civilian deaths, said Albert Yelda in a Nov. 30 interview with Catholic News Service. But implementing democratization and stability “is a long process” and “we need multinational forces” to help “because they are doing an excellent job.” Yelda admitted ethnic cleansing is taking place in Iraq. “Christians are fearing for their lives like other minorities trapped in this policy of ethnic cleansing,” he said. The “elements of instability” are people who “lost their influence” and “lost ground” when Saddam Hussein was overthrown in the U.S.-led 2003 invasion, Yelda said. Saddam’s “regime of mass graves is still at work (though now it is) maybe behind religious dimensions,” meaning that violence, killings and threats now are based on religious divisions rather than the personal whims of a dictator. It is “very important for us” that a program of national reconciliation be carried forward and that all factions and parties “become part of the political process,” Yelda said.

## St. Jude religious education students bring Advent home

FORT WAYNE — Advent is a season in the liturgical year rich in themes: preparing the way, hopeful waiting, joyous anticipation, watchfulness and more. On the weekend of Nov. 4-5, the St. Jude religious education program in Fort Wayne invited all in the parish to focus on these four weeks preceding Christmas as an opportunity in Bringing Advent Home.

Scripture appears to highlight the idea of bringing the word home:

- The angel Gabriel came to Mary's home to pose a question, proffer a plan and promise the impossible.

- Mary consented to house the word of the Lord in her heart and in her womb.

- God desired to "pitch a tent" among his people. God wanted to be at home with the objects of his love.

If Christmas is the celebration of God making his home with us through Jesus enfleshed as God-man, then Advent ought to once again prompt us to consider how we welcome the word into our hearts and homes, noted program organizers. During the four weeks leading up to Christmas participants uncover ways of opening their homes to the word-made-flesh.

One hundred eighty-six families took part in an Advent "walk through." The purpose was to alert parishioners to the upcoming season of Advent, to encourage them to use the month of November to give some time, thought and prayer to the liturgical season and how they could bring the word home to where they live.

The parish hall was transformed into a home environment by setting up a living room, dining area and a child's play area. With soft lamp lighting and Advent music, parishioners made their way through each room or through the weeks of Advent. They saw first hand various Advent wreaths, prayer reflections and different ways to celebrate the feast days of St. Nicholas, the Immaculate Conception, Juan Diego, Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Lucy.

Parishioners were able to see a Jesse Tree with its symbols, an "O" Antiphon House as it would appear starting Dec. 17 to mark the seven messianic titles given to Christ, a Chrismon Tree with its white and gold symbolic ornaments. They saw how the family table could be set using the colors of Advent and also incorporating the parish social action theme of "Feeding the Hungry."

These pilgrims, on their way to the manger, discovered how planting narcissus bulbs at the beginning of Advent can emphasize that before Christ came into the world there was only darkness and sin. With his birth, Christ dispelled the darkness and brought light into the world. They experienced the Mexican tradition of luminaries or "little fires" as a means of marking the way to the Christ child who is the light of the world.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## VICTORY NOLL SISTERS SOLICIT NEW MEDAL DESIGN



PROVIDED BY OUR LADY OF VICTORY MISSIONARIES SISTERS

The visual arts class at Huntington University developed a new logo for Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in Huntington. The congregational symbol — the medal the sisters wear — dates from the community's origins and serves as the congregational symbol for historical or business documents. The new logo is a graphic designed to be used to convey a contemporary image of the congregation to external audiences. The four final logo designs will be voted on by the sisters over the next two months. Students from Huntington University met with the logo committee on Nov. 27. Standing in front, from left, are Sister Melanie Persche and Trista Watson. In the back are Pat Davis, Ben Hopper and Professor Ken Hopper.

## Marian students awarded Knights' scholarships

SOUTH BEND — Two Marian High School juniors were named recipients of \$1,500 scholarships awarded by the Santa Maria Council No. 553 of the Knights of Columbus whose Catholic scholarship program has been continuous for more than 50 years.

The students were Jill Conner and Kacey Schultheis, juniors at Marian.

These scholarships are awarded annually to deserving students and are named in honor of Irwin Micinski, a longtime member of the council.

The council's top scholarship program is named in honor of J. Frank Miles and Stanley Prebys. It is a four-year scholarship awarded to a son or daughter of a member of the council. The recipient has a choice of attending either Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend or Marian High School in Mishawaka. — EJD

## Christmas at Loretto rings in holiday season

NOTRE DAME — The South Bend Chamber Singers, under the direction of Saint Mary's College music professor Nancy Menk, begin their 18th concert season with their annual "Christmas at

Loretto" performance. The concert is Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto at Saint Mary's College.

The Chamber Singers with organist David Eicher will present beautiful music for the season, featuring the world premiere of *And We Shall Sing* by American composer Stephen Paulus and new works by Cary Boyce, Eleanor Daley, Jocelyn Hagen, Anne Heider, David Mooney, J. David Moore, Karen Olson, Arvo Part, and James Sclater.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, \$8 for Saint Mary's College, University of Notre Dame staff, and \$5 for students. Tickets are available through the Saint Mary's College box office by calling (574) 284-4626.

## 'The Boys of the Lough' Performs at the Moreau Center for the Arts

NOTRE DAME — The Boys of the Lough, called "one of the finest bands in Celtic traditional music" by *The New York Times*, brings its Christmas program to the Saint Mary's College Moreau Center for the Arts on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in O'Laughlin Auditorium.

The performance combines instrumentals with storytelling in the Celtic tradition. Through anec-

dotes of fairies and trolls, "The Boys of the Lough" appeals to families with tales of historical intrigue coupled with first-rate musicianship. The group has completed more than 60 tours of North America and celebrated more than 36 years as a band.

Admission is \$18 for adults, \$17 for senior citizens, \$16 for Saint Mary's College, University of Notre Dame staff, and \$15 for students. Tickets are available through the Saint Mary's College Box Office by calling (574) 284-4626. Shuttle service will be provided from the Bertrand, Clubhouse, and Science parking lots.

## Sister Deborah Walter named director of development

FOND DU LAC, Wis. — The Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes recently named Sister Deborah E. Walter as director of development.

As director, Sister Deborah, will lead fund development initiatives to support the congregation as it continues its ministries into the 21st century.

Sister Deborah, ministered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as an educator and parish minister and counselor from 1979 through 1987.

The Sisters of St. Agnes presently minister as visiting nurses and in Hospice Home, Fort Wayne, as well as serving in ministry at St. Paul of the Cross and Columbia of the Cross.

## Correction

Greg Diss' title is the pro-life chairman for the Indiana Knights of Columbus. Diss will be the host of a new program, "Knight Life," which will air on Redeemer Radio from 9 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month.

## EAGLE SCOUT HONORED IN SYRACUSE CEREMONY



PROVIDED BY THE DUSH FAMILY

Gene Dush, of Boy Scout Troop 728, was honored as an Eagle Scout Aug. 12 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Syracuse. Having earned 36 merit badges during the course of his scouting career, as well as the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood and the Arrow of Light, the highest honor earned in Cub Scouts, Dush's community service project involved remodeling a room in the Lakeland Day Care Center. He is pictured here with Don Curry, Scoutmaster Troop 728, and his parents, Mary and Leland Dush.

# Latest Antioch retreat a success

BY MIRANDA BAXTER

*'It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.'*  
— Acts 11:26b

MISHAWAKA — Ninety high school students representing eight area high schools and 16 parishes gathered at St. Bavo Church recently to make the latest Antioch retreat weekend. A team of 45 of these 90 youth had been meeting for the last two and a half months to prepare the weekend for their peers.

The retreat ran from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon Nov. 10-12, and during this time, the retreatants — both the candidates and team members — experienced various forms of prayer, and took time for reflection. They also had opportunities to receive the Eucharist and reconciliation.

Bob Kloska is director of the Antioch Youth Program.

"This retreat was successful beyond our wildest dreams," Kloska said. "I think many kids encountered Christ in a profound way this weekend."

Eric Mammolenti was the youth leader for this retreat. For Mammolenti and each team member, the two-month formation period includes writing talks, rehearsing skits and learning how to lead peers to God. The youth chose "Shine!" as the theme of the retreat, from a song by Christian rock group The Newsboys. The team said they were inspired by the lyrics:

"Shine / Let it shine before all men / let 'em see good works, and then / let 'em glorify the Lord."



SUSAN BAXTER

**Antioch Youth enjoy a break from the retreat with some good old fashioned horseplay.**

Retreatant after retreatant enthusiastically praised the weekend experience, saying that it was a lot of fun, but so much more.

"It was great," one teen said afterward. "Awesome. It's a really fun way to get in touch with the Lord."

Although the weekend closed on a joyful note (with public testimonies given by the candidates and a slide show of the weekend for candidates, parents and everyone), Kloska said Antioch weekends are carefully planned with specific objectives.

"We want candidates to become enthused about their Catholic faith," he said. "We want them to have the opportunity for sincere and vibrant prayer, and to receive reconciliation and the Eucharist."

"We want students to see that they are not alone, as they hear

the witness of the student leaders and experience the welcoming warmth of Christian fellowship," he added. "And we want them to learn some basic truths about the Catholic faith."

Kloska said the weekend was graced by surprise weekend visitors. "Among them were Sister Marie Morgan who teaches at Marian High School and Mike Hamann who teaches at Saint Joe High School," he said. "Sister Marie came to see her students and Mike Hamann gave a powerful talk about eucharistic theology, especially as found in John 6. Father Bernie Galic, Father Dan Scheidt, Father Robert Melnick, OFM Conv., and Father Mark Mannion spent several hours hearing dozens and dozens of confessions on Saturday night."

Though one of the smaller area parishes, St. Bavo administers the Antioch program and hosts the retreats. Many parish families volunteered their time and talent, and brought food to feed the teenage multitudes. And many, many Catholics prayed with and for the youth before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, in a special 24-hour hour chapel set up especially for the weekend.

Most who volunteered do not even have teenagers in their homes, but said they believe in the program.

"My kids are too young for Antioch," a St. Bavo parishioner said. "But I really want to support these youth ... their faith is truly inspiring. I really believe in this program and I want it to be around when my kids are old enough."

The enthusiasm displayed by St. Bavo families was shared by many others outside the parish, some of whom have worked with Antioch for years as facilitators, group leaders and more.

"So many volunteers from so many different parishes came together to really help out in important ways," Kloska said. "This was a team effort all the way. It's a gigantic undertaking but is well worth it when you see the results."

Antioch's kitchen coordinator has done the retreats for several years, as has the host-home coordinator, and the coordinator for 24-hour eucharistic adoration during the retreat.

Kloska said volunteers from area parishes also assisted St. Bavo in providing host families, which included picking up youth in the evenings, providing a place to sleep, and a place for small-group reflection in the evening and delivering the participants back to the retreat in time for morning prayers and a hearty breakfast. Families who volunteer follow diocesan regulations for such situations.

Teens who attended the retreat are invited to join Antioch for weekly prayer, fellowship and catechesis Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m., in a space generously provided by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration at their Mt. Alverno Convent.

These youth may also opt to join the team who will lead the next retreat, which is scheduled for April 27-29, 2007 at St. Bavo. Monthly Youth Masses at St. Bavo are also available (see schedule for all Antioch events).

A candidate from the November retreat said he planned to make Antioch — and his Catholic faith — a new priority in his life.

"I definitely want to be part of this," he said. "Definitely."

## Antioch offers opportunities for continued faith development

Bishop John M. D'Arcy once said, in a pastoral visit to Saint Mary's College, that "faith is either growing or receding. It cannot stand still. We must use our faith, or we risk losing it altogether." Members of the Antioch Youth Group enthusiastically agree with their bishop, and encourage one another to attend Mass regularly and to receive the sacraments. They keep the fire burning through:

- Weekly prayer, fellowship and catechesis on Sunday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration convent across the street from Marian High School.

- Weekly eucharistic adoration and confessions at St. Anthony from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday nights.

- Youth Mass at St. Bavo at 7 p.m. Third Sunday of every month.

- Ladies in Waiting (girls only) and E-5 Men (guys only). Each group meets alternate Tuesdays at a local coffee house; offer support to one another in challenging the culture of death.

- Antioch retreats in the Fall and the Spring. The next retreat is April 27 - 29, 2007

- Communication: [www.weadore.com](http://www.weadore.com) and [www.antiochinfo.blogspot.com](http://www.antiochinfo.blogspot.com)

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# Celebrating the Jesuits

## Order plays small, but powerful role in the diocese

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — To honor a year of significant anniversaries for the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, Bishop John M. D'Arcy invited Father Brian E. Daley, SJ, a theology professor at the University of Notre Dame and an expert on the Fathers of the Church, to celebrate Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 3. This year, the Jesuits celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Francis Xavier and St. Peter Farne, two of the first members of the order, as well as the 450th anniversary of the death of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus.

Bishop D'Arcy has noted that the presence of the Jesuit order in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is small, but significant. To name a few, Father Daley and Father Jerome Neyrey, SJ, teach at Notre Dame, and Father Tom Florek, SJ, is director of ICLM, an institute for Hispanic education and formation that is housed at Notre Dame.

"Our apostolic character is very similar to that of our brothers in Holy Cross," says Father Daley of his order's presence at Notre Dame, "and I think we complement each other very well." Also, Father Daley believes that his order's role as an outsider makes it easier for some student and faculty to seek them out for spiritual direction or counseling when they might be hesitant about speaking to someone within the university's governing structure. He suspects that a Franciscan at Georgetown or a Dominican at Boston College — both Jesuit-run institutions — would play a similar role.

Father Daley, who recalls discerning a priestly vocation from an early age, first encountered the order when he attended a Jesuit high school in New Jersey and came into contact again during his undergraduate work at Fordham in New York City and while studying for his master's degree at Oxford.

"I came to realize that the work and spirit of the Jesuits had become a central part of my desires and hope for the future," he recalls. "I had to give them at least a try if I were to take my own desire seriously." Upon returning to the United States from Oxford, he entered the community and has not regretted it for a moment.

As he reflects on the Jesuit mission, Father Daley sums up their work as letting the word of God reshape people's lives in as dynamic a way as possible, which they have done through significant contributions to education and other, more pastoral areas. The Jesuits have also played a major role in reshaping the church, as Father Karl Rahner, SJ, a leading peritus of the Second Vatican Council, is often credited as possibly the most influential Catholic theologian of the 20th century.

Despite their tremendous influence and reputation, Father Daley



MARK WEBER

**Father Brian Daley, SJ, professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame receives assistance from Conrad Vlaskamp, master of ceremonies at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Father Daley celebrated the 9:30 Mass on the first Sunday of Advent and spoke about the founding of the Jesuit Order 472 years ago.**

says he believes that the Jesuits are intended to work "behind the scenes" in the church. The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

says, "is to serve the church where she most needs to be served, without any personal ambition."

Regarding the perception by some that the Jesuits are progressives or liberals, Father Daley says that the pastoral impulse of the Jesuits has always been to be on the lookout for "the signs of the times," to notice the needs of the church and society and meet them in creative ways.

"This makes us look, perhaps, more 'progressive' than we really are,"

he notes. "We want, as a group, to be loyal representatives of the Catholic Church and the long tradition of faith, but to do that in ways that respond to the real needs around us for the word of the Gospel."

Loyola emphasize humble service focused on Christ, and Jesuits are actually forbidden to accept the office of bishop or cardinal unless expressly commanded by the pope.

"But our ideal," Father Daley

**"I came to realize that the work and spirit of the Jesuits had become a central part of my desires and hope for the future."**

FATHER BRIAN E. DALEY, SJ

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## Tippecanoe Place December Events Calendar

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Make Your Holiday Reservations - Call Early for Best Times!</b>  |   |   |   |  | Kids Cove & Elsie Rogers Tree Decorating. Suzuki Talent Education of Michiana 7 PM | Riverbend Chorus 7:00 PM   |
| Holiday Brunch with Santa Claus 9AM - 2PM Please call for reservations  | 11 Gift Cards available in any denomination                                 | 12 Be sure to visit our 8 foot Gingerbread House    | 13 Battell School Tree Decorating           | 14 Toys for Tots & Feed the Children Collection Site | 15 John Adams Swing Choir 7:00 PM  | 16 Quarter Notes & Silver Springs Quartet from Suzuki Music School 7:00 PM |
| WASSAIL BOWL  |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| Holiday Brunch with Santa Claus 9 AM - 2 PM Please call for reservations  | 17 Pet Refuge Collection Site. Join our E-Club for News, Events & Discounts | 18  | 19 Gift Cards available in any denomination | 20 VISIT www.tippe.com for Holiday Recipes           | 21 Gift Cards available in any denomination  | 22 Mishawaka Madrigal Singers 7 PM   |
| WASSAIL BOWL  |   |   |   |  |  |  |
| 24 Holiday Brunch with Santa 9AM -1:30 PM Dinner 4-8 PM Please call for reservations  | 25 Christmas Day CLOSED Merry Christmas                                     | <b>Make Your New Year's Eve Reservations Early!</b> |   |  |  |  |
| NEW YEAR'S EVE<br>Brunch 9 :00 am - 1:30 pm • Dinner 4:00 pm - 10:00 p.m.<br>NEW YEAR'S DAY (Dinner Only) 4:00 pm - 8:00 p.m. |   |   |   |  |  |  |



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**Happy Holidays**



# Providing help. Creating hope.

Poverty never takes a holiday — and neither can our commitment to those in need

BY FATHER LARRY SNYDER

The holiday season is a time for celebration, for reflection and for giving help to those who are poor and vulnerable.

Christmas is filled with traditions and symbols that remind of the need to care for the less fortunate, starting with the birth of Jesus in a stable away from the inn. Poor shepherds were the first to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, and the wise men came later with gifts.

St. Nicholas is another symbol of the season, a symbol of kindness, of humility and of charity. St. Nicholas spent his life taking care of those in need — orphans, widows and people who were persecuted — often in secret without expecting anything in return.

His work is a reminder of the critical need for an ongoing commitment and ongoing action

to help those who are poor and vulnerable.

As we enter the holiday season, a recent survey of Catholic Charities agencies across the country shows that poverty never takes a holiday. Requests for help are growing much faster than the money to provide assistance, putting continued strain on social services.

Agencies continue to see an increase in the number of working poor families and other vulnerable populations seeking just the basic needs — financial assistance to pay utilities, housing and food.

Sadly, nearly half of Catholic Charities agencies (48 percent) said it would be harder this holiday season to meet the needs of the people they serve. More than three out of four (76 percent) of Catholic Charities agencies cite the growing number of requests for services as the biggest reason that it will be harder to meet the needs of those they serve this holiday season.

I don't want to leave the impression that everything is bad, as many Catholic Charities agencies around the country have much to be thankful for this holiday season. The generous and giving spirit of Americans has continued this year following the outpouring of support for last year's hurricane victims. Our survey shows that half of the Catholic Charities agencies report that contributions and other revenue have increased or stayed the same compared to last year.

We're grateful for that support, but more is needed.

Catholic Charities agencies across the nation are working hard to give hope this holiday season, but the recent survey shows that they are worried this Christmas about whether their contributions will keep pace with the increase in requests and whether they'll have enough food, volunteers and toys.

The challenges of the working poor — those who have jobs



## Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has been providing a broad range services to thousands of northern Indiana residence since 1922.

The following is a list of services available

### Pregnancy and adoption services:

Provide birth options for those experiencing an untimely pregnancy and those wishing to enlarge their family.

### Foster care:

Provides foster home assessments and training for prospective foster parents.

### Education Creates Hope and Opportunity (ECHO) program:

Provides guidance and resources to pregnant and parenting teens to complete their high school education.

Fort Wayne: Linda McGahey at (260) 422-5625, ext. 253

South Bend: Barb Burlingham at (574) 234-3111

### Children services:

Two childcare centers provide licensed childcare to families with low incomes.

Fort Wayne: Children's Cottage Child Care Center: Toyi Ervin (260) 745-4929

South Bend: Circle of Mercy Nursery: Teresa Ledbetter (574) 287-0500

### Brief Services and Food Pantry:

Provides interim needs of food, clothing, shelter, medicines, healthcare and financial assistance.

Fort Wayne: Phyllis Mizer (260) 422-5625, ext. 235

South Bend: (574) 234-3111

### Counseling:

Provides a variety of counseling services to individuals, couples and families in addition to school-based counseling services.

Fort Wayne: Ann Smith (260) 422-5625, ext. 248

South Bend: Mary Wood (574) 234-3111, ext. 33

### Refugee and Immigration Services:

Assists individuals and families who settle in the U.S. with job placement, health and other services.

Fort Wayne: Lisa Young (260) 422-5625

South Bend: Monica Newcomer (574) 234-3111

### Senior AIDES Program:

Assists older workers with gainful employment in South Bend.

Nicole Taulbee (574) 234-3111

### Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP):

Offers volunteer placement within the community for those over 55 in Elkhart County.

(574) 293-5481

### Villa of the Woods:

Provides a state-licensed residential facility for low income seniors in Fort Wayne.

Cheryl Smith (260) 745-7039

but still lack the money to make ends meet — are a growing issue for Catholic Charities and the nation. The fact is that nearly two of three families with incomes below the poverty line include at least one worker, and our survey found that 81 percent of Catholic Charities agencies reported more requests for help from the working poor.

One agency said: "We are seeing more of the working poor, many families with one or both parents employed at low income jobs and who are unable to feed and house their families on their earnings. The impact of no medical insurance associated with these low-wage jobs also has an enormous impact on family stability, as just one illness requiring an emergency room visit can cause a marginal family to lose their housing."

Catholic Charities agencies across the country are helping millions of people deal with everyday disasters such as hunger, homelessness and financial need, and this dramatic increase in requests for assistance by working families is yet another indication of how poverty is an ongoing problem that threatens the health and

well-being of our nation.

Local Catholic Charities agencies are being asked to help more and more poor people, but faith-based groups simply do

not have the resources to take on responsibilities that used to be undertaken by government. That's why Catholic Charities USA is launching a campaign to show why government policies and laws must be changed and improved to help the poor climb out of poverty.

But the immediate challenge is providing help to those who need it most this holiday season, as the survey reminds us of the need for donations to enable Catholic Charities to

serve the poor and vulnerable among us.

I invite you to remember the poor this holiday season and throughout the new year. Pray for relief of the poor; give your time and talents; and share your treasure with your local Catholic Charities.

**Father Larry Snyder** is the president of Catholic Charities USA. To learn more about CCUSA's poverty campaign, visit [catholic-charitiesusa.org/poverty](http://catholic-charitiesusa.org/poverty).

We are seeing more  
of the working poor,  
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on their earnings.

# Catholic Charities serves northern Indiana

BY KAY COZAD

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is a nonprofit organization that has been serving the needs of those in northern Indiana since 1922. The programs that provide thousands of individuals and families in need with assistance include pregnancy, adoption, and foster care, Education Creates Hope and Opportunity (ECHO), immigration and resettlement services, counseling, child care, older adult programs such as, the Senior Aides and Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and food pantry and case management-brief services, including the Gift of Warmth, where those in need are assisted with utility payments. The expenses of these programs must be met through allocated funds. As a nonprofit organization, Catholic

Charities relies on the generosity of the government and surrounding community.

Government funding makes up the largest portion of support for these programs at 46 percent, allocating over \$2 million for Catholic Charities. The organization's self-sustaining, fee-based programs, such as counseling, is another sizable source of revenue. Other revenues include the Foellinger Foundation and St. Mary's Heritage Foundation and moneys from private donor trusts. The United Way offers over 9 percent of the budget and diocesan support, including monies from parish collections and the Annual Bishop's Appeal offer financial support as well. Recent government budget and United Way funds cuts have necessitated continual grant writing at Catholic Charities to ensure financial assistance.

Each program within the diocese, whether in Allen or St. Joseph County, is tailored to meet the needs of that area. Self-sustaining, fee-based programs help absorb the costs of other services offered at no charge. Ongoing analysis of the need for each area program affords Catholic Charities the information to allocate funds appropriately each year and the organization proudly reports that less than 8 percent, or 8 cents of every dollar, is spent on administrative costs, as compared to 10-15 percent used by some other nonprofits.

Those on staff at Catholic Charities work diligently, not only to meet the needs of those requesting assistance, but to meet the expenses of the programs, as well. The following pie charts provide information on revenue sources and the program expenses of Catholic Charities.

## Revenue by source

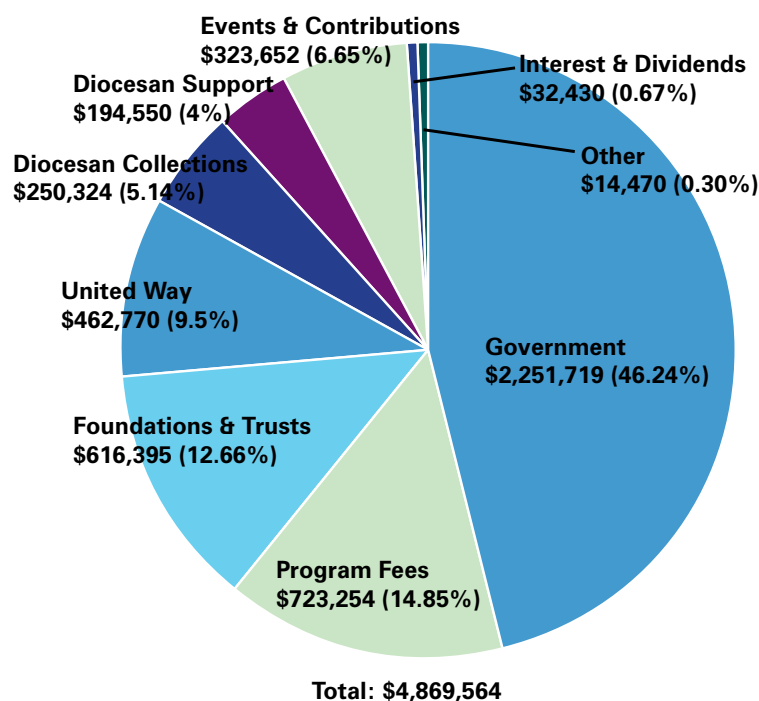
|                          |             |         |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Government               | \$2,251,719 | 46.24 % |
| Program fees             | \$723,254   | 14.85 % |
| Foundations and trust    | \$616,395   | 12.66 % |
| United Way               | \$462,770   | 9.50 %  |
| Diocesan collections     | \$250,324   | 5.14 %  |
| Diocesan support         | \$194,550   | 4.00 %  |
| Events and contributions | \$323,652   | 6.65 %  |
| Interest and dividends   | \$32,430    | .67 %   |
| Total                    | \$4,869,564 |         |

## Expenses by program

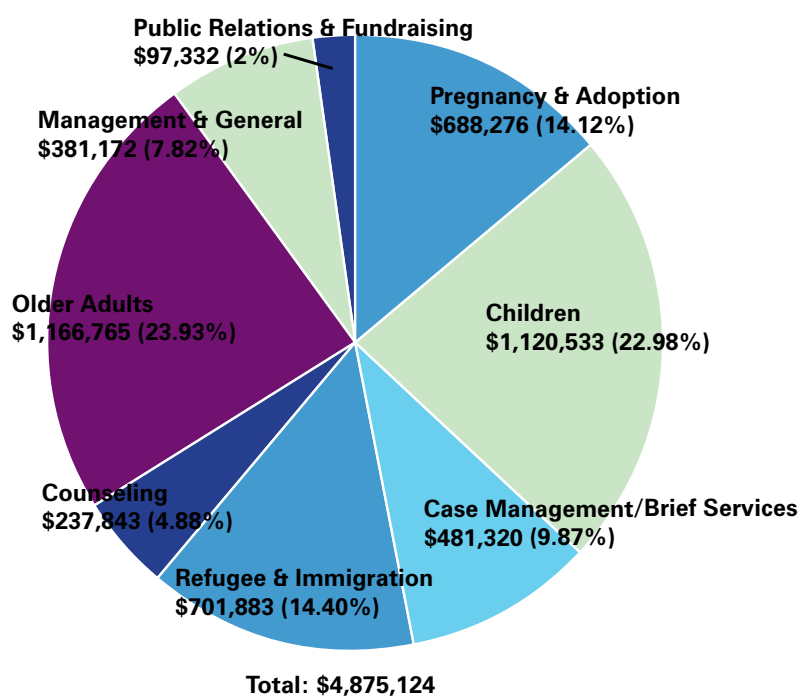
|                                |             |         |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Older Adults                   | \$1,166,765 | 23.93 % |
| Children                       | \$1,120,533 | 22.98 % |
| Refugee and Immigration        | \$701,883   | 14.40 % |
| Pregnancy and Adoption         | \$688,276   | 14.12 % |
| Case management/brief services | \$481,320   | 9.87 %  |
| Management and general         | \$381,172   | 7.82 %  |
| Counseling                     | \$237,843   | 4.88 %  |
| Public relations/fundraising   | \$97,332    | 2.00 %  |
| Total                          | \$4,875,124 |         |

For more information visit Catholic Charities Web site at [www.ccfwsb.org](http://www.ccfwsb.org).

Revenue by source



Expense by program



## Catholic Charities USA calls on President Bush, Congress, to take next step and press for comprehensive immigration reform

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Following the president signing legislation authorizing 700 miles of new fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border, Catholic Charities USA called on both President Bush and Congress on Oct. 27 to finish the job by acting swiftly to enact just and fair comprehensive immigration reform.

"Catholic Charities USA and its members call on the president to provide swift and immediate leadership to ensure that the next step results in just and fair immigration reform. We also call on you to ensure that this enforcement-only strategy does not stand alone as a solution to a broken system. We are counting on your leadership and commitment to reform immigration laws so they are comprehensive and balanced providing both national security and a system putting immigrants on a pathway to citizenship," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA.

Despite being extremely disappointed that enforcement-only is the only piece immigration reform was made into law this year, Catholic Charities USA will continue to press Congress and the administration in the weeks to come to enact comprehensive reform that:

- provides a path to lawful permanent residence and citizenship for the 11-12 million undocumented persons in the United States,
- sustains and reunites families,
- promotes the security of our nation,
- creates greater legal avenues for necessary workers to enter the United States in the future,
- integrates and promote the success of newcomers, and
- improves the economic prospects, health, labor protections, and stability of all U.S. residents, including newcomers.

# The faces of Catholic Charities

BY KAY COZAD

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has been providing assistance for those in need in northern Indiana for over 85 years. The services offered range from pregnancy and adoption to senior volunteer opportunities with emergency short-term assistance and the Food Pantry program in between. The non-profit organization is comprised of a myriad of compassionate professionals and volunteers who address the diverse needs of thousands each year. But where does it all begin?

The face of Catholic Charities is the receptionist at the front desk, who might be considered the jack of all trades. Her primary task, under any circumstance, is to cordially greet perspective clients, some in their darkest hour. That compassionate welcome only begins the process of matching those in need with the appropriate program personnel. In addition to this vital personal contact, the receptionist is also responsible for answering and directing incoming calls to appro-



JAQUEL TABRON

priate personnel, visitor log ins and receiving and recording cash payments for services.

Administrative duties fall to the gatekeeper as well, including typing, faxing, updating job boards and more. But the most fundamental element of the receptionist's mission at Catholic Charities is offering compassion and encouragement.

At the Fort Wayne Community

Service Center of Catholic Charities, located at 315 E. Washington Blvd., receptionist Jaquel Tabron came to meet the public through a temporary agency resource. Arriving in January of this year, Tabron returned to Fort Wayne from North Carolina to be near family as she awaited the birth of her daughter. She began her work at Catholic Charities in April and returned in August after a short maternity leave.

"I decided to stay on at Catholic Charities because my coworkers are very friendly ... That really means a lot to me," says Tabron. She has recently moved to a support staff position but continues to "fill-in for lunch and evening breaks" at the reception desk, where she enjoys meeting with the variety of different clients that visit the center.

She has been inspired to continue her education and says, "Working at Catholic Charities and witnessing the type of work that is done there has really appealed to me and helped me decide to pursue a career in social services."

Louise Brown represents the Catholic Charities Community



LOUISE BROWN

Service Center in South Bend, at 1817 Miami St. On the job for three years, thanks to her involvement in the Senior AIDES Program, Brown says, "I love it!"

She enjoys greeting and assisting the people who visit the office and adds, "We get a lot of people having a hard time. I give them an encouraging word."

Brown, who is mother of five, grandmother of 14 and enjoys 17

great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild, cheerfully describes herself as always wanting to make people happy. She also admits that working with the many "sad stories" that come her way sometimes cause her to feel stressed, but believes her work at Catholic Charities is a ministry.

"I talk to the people and tell them I'll pray for them. Prayer changes things," she says, adding, "Trust in God." Sound advice from a woman who delights in everything about her job, including the staff she works with. "I love everybody here. We're one big happy family."

**For information** on services available at Catholic Charities call (260) 422-5625 in Fort Wayne and (574) 234-3111 in South Bend.

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## Volunteers gut 1,000 homes, take inventory to assist Katrina victims

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — As a group of Catholic Charities volunteers from Dubuque, Iowa, gutted the 1,000th home in the continuing cleanup of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, archivists from six U.S. dioceses joined in the inventory and recovery of sacred objects in flood-ravaged parishes.

Through Catholic Charities' Operation Helping Hands program, by mid-November 6,848 volunteers had gutted 999 homes and given 178,641 hours of service. More than 3,000 volunteers were scheduled to participate through March 2007 and about 1,300 homes remained on the waiting list.

A group from the Church of the Resurrection in Dubuque worked on the 1,000th home Nov. 15. It belonged to Isaac Bolden of Gentilly, who was living in an apartment in Atlanta but traveled back to New Orleans by train to thank the volunteers.

"We started this project over Thanksgiving weekend last year and are so grateful to see how Operation Helping Hands has taken off," said Joan Diaz, project manager. "One thousand homes gutted means that 1,000 families have started to rebuild not only their homes but also their lives."

Meanwhile, six members of the Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists traveled to New Orleans Nov. 5-11 to assist

the Archdiocese of New Orleans archives in completing an inventory of sacred objects in the 26 parishes that were permanently or temporarily closed because of severe water and/or wind damage.

"The task, however, is enormous and much remains to be completed," said the association in a news release. "All of the sacred objects in these churches must be removed, in many cases cleaned, and inventoried in order to ensure the proper care, storage and provenance of the objects."

The archivists also documented the extent of the destruction and recorded the presence of immovable objects, such as stained-glass windows.

Three teams, each consisting of two volunteers and a local project supervisor, visited three churches each to document their condition, inventory their movable and immovable sacred objects, transfer their movable sacred objects and prepare a report for each church visited.

The six volunteers and their dioceses were: Brian Fahey, Charleston, S.C.; David Gray, San Diego; Margaret O'Toole, Chicago; Marianist Brother Ed Loch, San Antonio; James Neal, Phoenix; and Robert Johnson-Lally, Boston.

# Advent, a call to patient waiting



## THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

When I was a campus minister at Saint Mary's Student Parish at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, I heard something in an Advent homily that always comes back to me during this time of the church year. The homilist shared something he was doing for Advent to help him appreciate the true meaning of the season. For that Advent he would slow down and stop at every yellow light and wait patiently for it to turn green.

This little exercise would hopefully remind him of the people of God who waited so long for the messiah to come and save them.

Advent is always a good time for me to reflect upon the virtue of patience and how much I need to exercise it in my often hectic life.

Like many people in our society, waiting does not come naturally to me. Our culture promotes instant results. We want to lose 10 pounds in 10 days. We often gobble down our meals or eat on the run. Just look at the drive-thru windows at the fast food restaurants. We take medicines that promise quick relief from whatever ails us and look for the express checkout lanes in the grocery store. We upgrade our computers so they go faster and faster. Slow traffic and slow people tend to frustrate us.

Even God does not usually answer our prayers on our timeline. It boils down to the fact that many of us just do not like to wait for anything or anybody. We want to see results right away and usually on our terms.

For Catholics, Advent affords us the opportunity to exercise the virtue of patience. In the midst of the hustle bustle of this often-frenzied pre-Christmas time, the church gives us the opportunity to slow down and to reflect upon the true meaning of the season. We celebrate the coming of Jesus at his birth and the fact that he will come again, but we also celebrate the many ways he comes to us daily in our lives.

Like the Hebrew people, it takes patient waiting and a quiet spirit to discover God's presence, his coming, in our daily lives. Now,

more than ever, we need to eke out those quiet times when we can calm down and reflect upon God's activity in ourselves and in our world. Without patience and willingness to wait, we may miss his presence in our lives.

When we are constantly in a hurry we miss the beauty of nature or the twinkle in the eye of a child. When we rush from one activity to another we often do not see the people in our lives that silently cry out for our attention. When we are too busy to pray or just be with the Lord, we miss the deep peace and sense of security and trust that comes with a close relationship with our God.

Yes, Christmas is coming but so does God come every day. Let us try to slow down so we can recognize the one who loves and saves us. Say a little prayer the next time you wait for the light to turn green or are in a long line while shopping for Christmas. Use the precious time to remind you of the gift of life in Jesus that God has given to each of us. Hopefully it will become a habit.

When it comes right down to it, it is kind of weird to celebrate the birthday of a person one doesn't really know. Find ways during this time before Christmas to get to know Jesus better. Slow down, look around and



## YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

recognize him in the people and events of your life. You may even find him in the shopping mall with Santa Claus.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

# Spinach again: Gift giving reflects on heart, captures the holy

I was about to go to a food drive last week when I found myself reaching for a can of spinach. I paused, paralyzed by a sense of déjà vu: I've been giving spinach to food drives since second grade.

My willingness to give, it appears, has been limited to the things I don't like. So I grabbed a can of wild rice soup and headed out.

Soon I was listening to friends discuss their difficulties finding the right Christmas presents. "Gift cards all the way," Hilary declared.

Preparing gifts can be a source of pleasure or stress, meaning or distraction.

Today we have more options than ever, bigger bells, louder whistles. And they're all available at the click of a mouse. As a result, gift giving has become less of an art and more of a science. Less physical, more formulaic.

eBay recommends eight gifts for each of its consumer categories, based on age and gender. For "Trapped in the Past," model airplanes. For "High Maintenance," fur boots. A saxophone for "Casanova" and poker chips for "Just Impossible."

But how much fun would it be to give the product of an external equation?

My Uncle Paul and Aunt Sally delight in gift giving. They deliberate over each purchase, then they hover by each recipient, studying her reaction and celebrating her satisfaction.

Receiving presents on Christmas, clearly, is secondary to the joy they get from giving.

One year my Uncle John, who was unemployed at the time, gave my mom, an avid tea drinker, an enormous sack of tea bags. He had been sweeping a social hall, and after each night, the owner let him take a handful of tea bags. Like the widow who gave two coins, his gift carried great weight.

Gift giving can inspire generosity in others — and repay the giver in surprising ways. Last year I created a memory book for my mom's 50th birthday, asking 50 friends and relatives to write a favorite memory of her.

I ended up with more than 50 stories and an education in my mom, who had many wonderful friends and adventures, it turns out,



## TWENTY SOMETHING BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

to be king.

Young adulthood can fuel that self absorption. We don't have kids to dress or feed or clean; we don't have parents to dress or feed or clean. So we can focus on ourselves — our wardrobe, our social life, our career.

That's why being completely consumed creating a gift can be a joyful, even spiritual, release. "Every good and perfect gift,"

James 1:17 states, "is from above."

Last Christmas Eve, I could feel the stir of the Holy Spirit when I stayed up late into the night to finish a gift for my grandpa: a heritage plaque with pictures of our ancestors and

relatives. The next morning, I had drooping eyelids and a leaping heart. I couldn't wait to give grandpa his gift. And his response made my Christmas.

That same spirit stirred in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago when Jesus was born in a manger, transforming the mundane to the miraculous — the ultimate gift of God.

Christina Capecchi is a graduate student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. E-mail her at christinacap@gmail.com.

I couldn't wait to give grandpa his gift.

And his response made my Christmas.

long before I was born.

Soon a series of gifts from over the years entered my mind. Each one had a small price tag and a huge significance.

The time I was five and mom cut her favorite purple bathrobe so it would fit me. The memory box my roommate Staci created. "The Ultimate Song Mix" my friend Bill burned for me.

Small gifts, big acts of love.

We live in a culture that spoils. TiVo records shows to match our taste. iPods creates playlists to please our ears. Sleep Number beds adjust to our backs. RSS feeds adapt to our brains. We're each plunged into the center and made

# Service 101

## USF meshes community involvement, composition

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — When Dr. J. Andrew Prall joined the English faculty at the University of Saint Francis (USF) in 2005, he found that the other faculty were discussing how service learning — working community service into the curriculum of a class — was an initiative that was greatly discussed campus-wide, but had yet to find an outlet in the English department.

As it happened, Prall had experience with such a program during his time at the University of Denver. And so he shared with fellow English faculty member Dr. Steve Sullivan how he had taught a freshman composition class in which students did a required number of community service hours and then drew on those experiences for their writing assignments.

"You can learn about social issues and then write about them," explains Prall. "You can improve your writing while improving one's civic engagement at the same time."

The idea appealed to Sullivan, and the two applied for a grant from the Indiana Campus Compact, a statewide organization that promotes service learning, to put together the course.

While Prall brought the idea for the course, it was Sullivan, who has been active in the Fort Wayne community for decades, who brought another key component,

"Steve was wonderful at facilitating the contacts out in the community," says Prall. "He was able to make a lot of connections. We went out together to meet with people and explain the program. So we had a base of community organizations that were interested in hosting our student volunteers."

By the fall of 2006, the course was ready to go with Sullivan teaching one section and Prall teaching two sections of the class.

"Of course, in spite of our best efforts, many students were surprised," notes Prall. "We did have some students who saw it and intentionally signed up for a course in which they could do some volunteer service, but I did find quite a number of students ... who ended up being surprised but willing to participate in the course."

About 50 students participated in the course. Of those students, Marissa Kelker of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, was one who didn't know.

"I got here on the first day of class and was like, 'Oh no,'" recalls Kelker. "I was not looking forward to it on top of everything else."

But after starting her work at the new Women's Care Center in Fort Wayne, doing receptionist work and meeting many of the young women who are helped by the center, Kelker found that the service learning requirement was a source of firsthand learning.

"I got to sit in on one of the talks with the counselors and one of the girls that decided to keep it and not have an abortion," she recalls. "I really enjoyed that part."

"We have students for whom this has really been a transformative experience," Dr. Prall notes. "And you start to see that through their essays, when they're writing about their experience and they write about the fact that these social issues existed in Fort Wayne, and they had never thought to identify root causes of social issues homelessness or hunger. ... At its best, students have gained a powerful insight as to how writing and language ... can really be a powerful force in social change."

## EDITORIAL

## Can we talk?

As Pope Benedict XVI returns to the Vatican from his recent trip to Turkey, we share a sigh of relief that his travels were safe. The mission of the trip was dialogue — to open a serious conversation between Christianity and Islam and to bridge a gap between the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholicism.

Before closing out his pilgrimage, Pope Benedict celebrated Mass with the small Catholic population in Istanbul. Turkey is primarily a Muslim population where Christianity makes up only a small percentage of the population. He encouraged Catholics in Turkey to live in harmony with the Muslim majority.

"Brothers and sisters, your communities walk the humble path of daily companionship with those who do not share our faith, yet profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us adore the one, merciful God," the pope said in a sermon reported by Catholic News Service.

"You know well that the church wishes to impose nothing on anyone, and that she merely asks to live in freedom, in order to reveal the one whom she cannot hide, Christ Jesus," he said.

About 300 people packed into the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit for the Dec. 1 Mass.

He added, "To live by the Spirit is not to live for oneself alone, but to let oneself be conformed to Christ Jesus by becoming, like him, the servant of his brothers and sisters.

"Live in harmony, in accordance with the words of the Lord: 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another,'" he said.

The papal pilgrimage also concentrated on dialogue with the Eastern Orthodox Church. Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople attended the closing Mass and joined the pope in a final blessing.

Pope John Paul II had urged full Christian unity with the Eastern Orthodox Church at a Mass in Turkey 26 years earlier in the same cathedral. And Pope Benedict urged all Christian leaders to act for the good of all, Catholic News Service reported, "putting ecumenism at the forefront of our ecclesial concerns and not committing our respective churches and communities to decisions that could contradict or harm it."

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, this ecumenical effort was expressed last weekend at the annual Catholic-Lutheran vespers service, an ongoing sign of hope that even on the local level, Christians of different denominational backgrounds can grow together in love for one another.

## Immersed in love

As the pope reminds us, Christians show their discipleship with Jesus through their love for one another.

We are immersed into the Advent season and are reminded that the season offers an opportunity of service. Bishop John M. D'Arcy, in last week's News and Notes column in *Today's Catholic*, encouraged all families of the diocese to find a way to assist the poor of our community during Advent.

The pope encouraged Catholics in Turkey to be attentive to all those who seek justice, peace and dignity and to continue to live the faith in a humble manner with a sense of service to others. This is a spirit of love and charity that should be especially prevalent in Advent.

Just as the major religions and some denominations have invoked dialogue, perhaps it is time to initiate an olive branch to reconcile the differences we have among ourselves. How sad it is when family members squabble amongst themselves. How many years of love are lost between family members because of grudges, anger — sometimes over significant differences, but oftentimes over trivial things? What if we also spent some time this Advent making peace with others?

And how about making peace with ourselves. Our first step could be a good examination of conscience — perhaps attending a parish reconciliation service — and then welcoming the sacrament of reconciliation, God's forgiveness and healing.

What better gift could we bring to the manger than love, forgiveness, reconciliation and dialogue? What renewed hope could we offer the world if we first found peace with ourselves and those closest in our lives?

Pope Benedict's recent Sunday address addressed dialogue, peace and harmony. On the first Sunday of Advent the pope said the message of Advent is that Christ "is coming into human history, to knock at the door of every man and woman of good will, to bring the gift of brotherhood, harmony and peace to every individual, every family and every people." If we want peace, it begins with each of us.

**Today's Catholic editorial board** consists of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson, Vince LaBarbera and Msgr. J. William Lester.

## COMMENTARY

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

## If the baby is killed, we don't get to help the baby after birth

Referring to the Dec. 3 commentary, "Deconstructing voter choices," I quote, "Life does not end at birth." It is used as a copout to elect pro-abortion Democratic candidates whose leaders in 2004, Kerry and Edwards, even supported partial birth abortions — killing live babies at birth. The point here is that if the baby is killed, we don't get to help the baby after birth.

Pax Christi is mentioned as promoting this soft-on-abortion approach. I remember they opposed President Reagan's deterrence policies against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), policies which brought about the demise of the Soviet Union, thus fulfilling the prayers and prophecies of Fatima.

Furthermore, it is ironic that a recent study aired on Fox News Nov. 29, showed that Republicans give more money to charities than Democrats as a percentage of income. This, from the Democratic party that claims they are for the poor and powerless. What is more vulnerable than an unborn baby?

Charles Tychsen  
Mishawaka

## Catholic Relief Services thanks diocese

Dear Bishop D'Arcy:

I sincerely thank you for your generosity and for the thoughtfulness of the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. This letter will serve as the formal acknowledgement of your recent donation to Catholic Relief Services for the following gift from the diocese: \$42,840.32 for Operation Rice Bowl.

For over 60 years, CRS has served the poorest of the poor around the world, reaching millions of people in need, providing relief to communities affected by natural and man-made disasters and assisting people to gain independence and sustainable livelihoods. Through our work in the areas of agriculture, health, education and micro-finance, we address the root causes of poverty, promote social justice and form bonds of solidarity among the peoples of the world.

With your assistance, CRS is able to make a real difference

by bringing peace and hope to countless men, women and children. On their behalf, I thank you for your commitment to alleviating poverty, hunger, disease and hopelessness and to leading the faithful in your community to live in solidarity with those who are most in need.

May God bless you for your generosity and concern,

Ken Hackett  
President  
Catholic Relief Services

## Sister participates in protest

Sister Angeline Walczyk, OLVN, joined 19,000 persons who gathered for the annual protest of the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Ga. The school is now known as Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation and allegedly teaches methods of torture having connections to major atrocities committed in South American countries.

Searching for peaceful solutions to conflict, seven countries, including Bolivia, have withdrawn their support of the school.

Sister Angeline traveled to and from the rally with the Christian Peacemaker Team of Chicago. She carries on the commitment of the Victory Noll Sisters who have pledged to foster peace and justice among all people.

To learn more about the Victory Noll Sisters, visit their Web site at [www.olvn.org](http://www.olvn.org).

Sister Martha Wordeman, OLVN  
Huntington

## Cardinal sends thanks to diocese

Dear Bishop D'Arcy,

I wish to thank you and the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for your generous gift of \$39,475.68 to support the work of the church in Central and Eastern Europe.

Support from Catholics in the United States has been instrumental in building the pastoral capacity of the church in this critical post-communist period. From a vast region, comprising 28 countries and extending from the center of Europe all the way to the farthest reaches of the former Soviet Union, our office receives inspiring messages of gratitude and hope. They testify to a church, which is vibrant, growing and rapidly maturing. They testify to a church that still stands in great need.

Your efforts for the Eastern Europe collection support Catholics of towering faith. Thank you once again for demonstrating such strong solidarity with the universal church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Cardinal Justin Rigali  
Archbishop of Philadelphia  
Chairman, USCCB Committee to  
Aid the Church in Central and Eastern  
Europe

## Blessed Frances Schervier

1819-1876

feast — December 15

The daughter of a wealthy German manufacturer, 13-year-old Frances began running their household when her mother and older sisters died. To help the poor, she sold expensive gifts from her godfather, the Austrian emperor. She became a Franciscan tertiary, and in 1845 founded the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor. Mother Frances sent sisters to Cincinnati to assist German immigrants and ministered to wounded Civil War soldiers during a U.S. visit. Her community also cared for victims of the Franco-Prussian War.



# Learning curve: Pope Benedict's approach to media, speeches evolving

WITH THE POPE IN TURKEY (CNS) — Offering his thanks to journalists who help him get his message to the world, Pope Benedict XVI also highlighted the responsibility that goes with summarizing someone else's thoughts and words.

In part, the pope's remarks at the beginning of his Nov. 28-Dec. 1 trip to Turkey could be read as an acknowledgment that he, like many people, thought the trip to Turkey would be delicate because of somewhat tense Catholic-Muslim relations.

With that in mind, it made sense for the pope to give a little pep talk to the 69 reporters, photographers, producers and media technicians accompanying him to Turkey.

Speaking on the plane before takeoff from Rome Nov. 28, the pope told them he wanted "to express sincerely my gratitude for the work you do."

While not exactly excusing them for occasionally making mistakes, the pope told the reporters he recognized that theirs is a "difficult work, a work often done in difficult conditions."

Understanding and effectively communicating the pope's thinking in a world of 24-hour instant news is not so easy, he said.

Pope Benedict said he understood that "giving a synthesis and making the essence of what happened and what was said understandable" cannot be easy when it must be done quickly.

"All events reach humanity only through your mediation and, in that way, you really render a service of great importance, for which I am truly grateful," he said.

Journalists who hear Vatican officials complain that the media often miss the subtleties of papal statements and Catholic teaching took the pope's words as an admonition, or at least a strong caution.

Some Vatican officials said the negative reaction of so many Muslims to the pope's September speech in Germany was sparked by media reports that had taken out of context the quotation the pope used expressing concern about Islam and violence. The pope later said he did not share the quotation's criticism of Islam and that he was sorry Muslims were offended.

But media attention to the

## THE VATICAN LETTER

CINDY WOODEN

speech and to the Muslim reaction also drew greater worldwide attention to Pope Benedict's trip to Turkey and particularly to his meeting in Ankara with Muslim leaders.

In the end, the meeting went off without a hitch.

Pope Benedict and Ali Bardakoglu, director of the government office overseeing Islamic affairs, did not ignore the tensions, but they seemed genuinely pleased to have an opportunity to sit and talk and to explain their hopes and concerns to each other.

But one thing that facilitated the journalists' work in Turkey was the fact that, unlike the speech in Germany, Pope Benedict's speeches were relatively brief and were

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# We must invite the Lord into our lives



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 2nd Sunday of Advent Lk 3:1-6

Baruch is not one of the major prophets. It is relatively brief, only five chapters, certainly when the long books of Ezekiel, Isaiah and Jeremiah are considered.

It also is among the books called by Protestants scholars the Apocrypha, by Catholics the Deutero-Canonical. As such it does not appear in the King James Version of the Bible and some other translations that rely upon the thinking that led to the selection of books for inclusion in the King James edition.

It is not found in Jewish translations of the Scriptures.

One reason for its omission from these versions is that at one time it was presumed to have been written originally in Greek. It was thought that Old Testament books could not be considered authentic revelation unless composed in Hebrew. Actually, scholars now believe that Baruch first was written in Hebrew, but that only Greek translations survive.

When Baruch was written great problems beset God's people. This book encouraged the suffering, reassuring them that God would not forsake them, and that God's justice and mercy will prevail over all.

The Epistle to the Philippians furnishes the next written. A letter sent to the Christians of Philippi, an important city in the ancient Roman Empire, the epistle urges the Philippians loyal to the Lord to be steadfast in their faith, come what may, until the second coming of Jesus.

As so often found elsewhere in the New Testament, this reading strongly states that one-day, but at a time unknown, Jesus will come again in triumph and judgment.

St. Luke's Gospel centers upon Jesus, although highly visible in the reading is John the Baptist. Carefully constructed, the Gospel presents the coming of Jesus as extraordinarily, indeed uniquely, important in the course of human affairs.

The Lord's coming was so important, in fact, that preceding this coming was the proclamation of God's majesty, and of human responsibility before God, by John the Baptist.

John was a prophet and a holy man. Holiness gave persons special wisdom. God used such persons to reveal truth to other humans. Through John, God was revealing the person and mission of Christ.

So as to emphasize the importance, this Gospel takes pains in setting the presence of John, and the future coming of Christ, at an exact moment in history, namely when Tiberius was emperor, Pilate his governor in Palestine, and so on.

Finally, Jesus came as God's promised redeemer. Jesus stood in the wake of these promises, to fulfill these promises. The prophets of old had yearned for the redeemer and had predicted the coming of a savior. When this

messiah would come, all would be made right. The rough ways for people would be made smooth.

### Reflection

When Baruch was written, times were bad for the Jews. When Philippians and the Gospel of Luke were written, times were hard for Christians. In each circumstance, particular problems existed.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, the church speaks to us. Times are hard, if not in the precise conditions surrounding the composition of Baruch, Philippians or Luke.

However, despite our worries and heartaches, all will be right. All will be joy and peace, if we admit Jesus into our lives. We must invite the Lord into our lives sincerely, by reforming ourselves, by renouncing our sins, and by giving ourselves totally to God. Jesus is coming. The call of John the Baptist is to us.

### READINGS

2nd week of Advent

**Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-6 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab-14 Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Zec 2:14-17 Ps 45:11-12, 14-17 Lk 2:15-19

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10 Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13ab Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:10-13

## CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

On Dec. 4, the church remembers St. John Damascene, priest and doctor. This quiz looks at his birthplace.

### 1. Damascene simply means:

- a. follower of St. Damian
- b. demonic
- c. from Damascus

### 2. This is now the capital of:

- a. Syria
- b. Lebanon
- c. Golan

### 3. In Hebrew the name generally used for this area is:

- a. Syria
- b. Aram
- c. Edom

### 4. Which gives its name to this, used by Christ:

- a. Aramaic, a language
- b. Syrian oil, a chrism
- c. Edom stew, a red hot stew used at the Last Supper

### 5. The origin of the name Syria is "Suri," which was

- a. an area of Israel between Judah and Samaria.
- b. an area of Mesopotamia.
- c. the capital city of Suriname.

### 6. In Biblical times Syria was

- a. a variable geographic area, rather than strictly a political designation.
- b. a Roman province, encompassing all of Asia.
- c. a defined territory of 345,000 hectares in Lydia.

### 7. This Jewish King successfully subdued Syria:

- a. David
- b. Ahab the Edomite
- c. Herodia

### 8. But this king, his son, lost control of the area:

- a. Abimilech
- b. Solomon
- c. Nestor

### 9. In ancient times, Middle Eastern politics led Syria to an unlikely alliance with this kingdom, to attack Jerusalem, capital of the kingdom of Judah.

- a. Rome
- b. Macedonia
- c. Israel

### 10. Who did Jesus meet who is most often described as Syro-phoenician or Canaanite?

- a. a centurion with a sick horse
- b. a gentile woman with a sick daughter
- c. a woman caught in sin who was being stoned

### 11. In the Christian era, what nickname was first coined in Syria, in the city of Antioch?

- a. Gnostics
- b. Gentiles
- c. Christians

### 12. Who was converted while on the road to Damascus?

- a. Paul
- b. Stephen
- c. Judas

### 13. He (11 above) and Barnabas were commissioned by the church of Antioch, Syria to take the Gospel to these:

- a. The Indians
- b. The gentiles
- c. The Jews

### 14. Syriac is a language. Important examples of these are found in that language

- a. Bingo cards
- b. Old and New Testaments
- c. Sanskrit texts known as Vedas

### 15. There are communities of Syrian Catholics in the USA and Canada, but most are in these areas:

- a. Iraq, Syria and Lebanon
- b. Syria, Gaza and Saudi Arabia
- c. Turkey, Armenia and the Caucasus

### ANSWERS:

- 1.c, 2.a, 3.b, 4.a, 5.b, 6.a, 7.a, 8.b, 9.c, 10.b, 11.c, 12.a, 13.b, 14.b, 15.a

# Women take active roles in New Testament, early church

## What was the role of women in the early church?, Anonymous.

First of all, women were part of the life of Jesus. The Blessed Virgin Mary, his mother, was with Jesus throughout his life. Many scholars feel Jesus visited his grandmother St. Anne. The Bible mentions sisters of Jesus who were probably cousins or relatives. Mary, the wife of Clopas, stood at the foot of the cross of Jesus. Jesus worked many miracles for women, such as curing Peter's mother-in-law, raising the daughter of Jairus, curing the girl from Phoenicia, raising the son of the widow of Nain, and changing water into wine in Cana at the request of his mother.

Many women followed Jesus and his disciples and ministered to their needs, such as Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna, and some of these also witnessed his resurrection. Jesus also had a friendship with Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus, at Bethany and stayed overnight at their house. Jesus explained to Salome, the wife of Zebedee, that James and John should be servants. Jesus even spoke to the foreign woman

of Samaria at the well of Jacob.

Father John McKenzie mentions that, from the beginning of the early church, women appear as full members. For example, when the apostles were hiding out in the upper room before Pentecost, there were some women in their company, along with the Blessed Mother. When St. Peter escaped from prison, he fled to the house of Mary, the mother of St. Mark. Many women from Greece became converts to Christianity, such as the wealthy Lydia, a dealer in purple goods at Philippi, numerous prominent women at Thessaloniki, many influential women at Berea and Damaris at Athens.

Women took an active part in the early church by doing good works and receiving assistance. For example, Tabitha at Joppa, a seaport of Israel, constantly performed acts of charity. When she fell ill and died, St. Peter raised her from the dead. Many women helped the apostles in their ministry. For example, Phoebe, a deaconess at Cenchræe, the east harbor of Corinth in Greece, helped St. Paul. Tryphaena and Tryphosa

## THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

worked hard for Christ. The mother of Rufus was a mother to St. Paul. Julia and the sister of Nereus were avid Christians. Priscilla shared with her husband Aquila the office of instruction for Apollos, a former Jew from Alexandria in Egypt. Priscilla even had a church in her house.

During the Roman persecutions of the early church, there were many women martyrs, such as Ss. Perpetua and Felicity (d. AD 203), St. Agatha (d. AD 251), St. Agnes (d. AD 258) and St. Cecilia (d. AD 275). After the persecutions ended in AD 313, there were many more women saints. St. Helen built Christian churches in the Holy Land. St. Monica (d. AD 387) prayed 33 years for the baptism of her son. The noble St. Paula (d.

AD 404) governed a convent at Bethlehem. The wealthy St. Melania the Younger (d. AD 439) endowed monasteries in Egypt, Syria and Israel.

In the early church some women did serve as deaconesses, as mentioned by St. Paul in Romans and I Timothy. But the office of deaconess is not considered part of the sacrament of holy orders, as is the office of deacon. E. Livingstone says the deaconess devoted herself to the care of the sick and the poor of her gender. She was present at interviews of women with bishops, priests or deacons. Her most important function was the assistance at the baptism of women, at which, for reasons of propriety, many of the ceremonies could not be performed by the deacons. When adult baptisms became rare, the office of deaconess declined. The Councils of Epaon (AD 517) and Orleans

(AD 533) abrogated the office of deaconess, but it is found in other places until the 11th century. The reception of the stole and maniple by the contemplative order of Carthusian nuns at their profession may be a survival of this ancient office.

**Father Richard Hire**, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka, answered this week's question.

**Today's Catholic** welcomes questions from readers. E-mail your questions to editor@fw.diocese-fwsb.org or mail them to *Today's Catholic*, That's A Good Question, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856. Include your name, city and an e-mail address or phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

# 300 million on the way to 400 million

The 300 millionth American was born (or naturalized) last month, and the usual suspects marked the occasion with the usual hand-wringing about America's allegedly heavy "ecological footprint"; somewhere, I'm sure, Paul Ehrlich was bemoaning profligate population increases and predicting environmental and economic catastrophe just around the corner — as Dr. Ehrlich has been predicting, with dogged regularity, for almost four decades. I suggest that the 300 millionth American is cause for celebration. It's also a cause for reflection.

Celebration, because the United States is the only advanced industrial country with a growing population. India may eventually prove the other exception to the rule, but at the moment, we're it: everyone else in the global major leagues is depopulating, in some instances drastically. Demographers now estimate that, when the 400,000,000th American becomes a citizen of the Great Republic c. 2050, 60 percent of Italians won't know, from personal experience, what a brother, sister, aunt, uncle, or cousin is; the *Wall Street Journal* recently reported a survey indicating that half of Italian women age 16-24 want no children. Other European states — Germany, Greece and Spain prominent among them — are on the precipice of the demographic death-spiral, thanks to lower-than-low birth rates. This will lead, in the short term, to fiscal disaster (not enough taxpayers to fund all those guaranteed and government-sponsored European health care and pension programs). In the long run, it may lead to the Islamification of significant parts of Europe, not by conquest but by default ("Mohammad" is already the most popular name for newborn

boys in Belgium and Holland, and it's among the name-game leaders in Great Britain).

As I argued in "The Cube and the Cathedral," this extraordinary depopulation is one expression of a crisis of civilizational morale — which in turn is one byproduct of European high culture's rejection of the God of the Bible. Seems that, when you cease to believe in a world beyond this one, you can't be bothered with repopulating the world you live in. So if America is hanging in there with a replacement-level birthrate, that suggests that we're not, as a country, stuck in the European slough of despond.

That American birth rates are higher among recent immigrants suggests the challenge implicit in population growth: the challenge of assimilating and acculturating large numbers of new citizens, many of whom come from different cultural and linguistic orbits. The United States has traditionally done a good, if occasionally rough-edged, job of this. Continuing to do so requires us to strengthen civic education: the U.S. is a proposition country, and unless new American (and the children of longtime Americans) learn the "proposition" — and learn how to defend it, intellectually — fault lines will appear in our society, and we'll forget what it is we're defending. Once again, look at the canary in the mine shaft, a.k.a., Europe: Europe's failures to foster a respect for western democratic values in its late-20th century immigrants are a principal reason why numerous parts of the continent are 21st century beachheads of the Arab-Islamic world where the writ of British, French, Dutch or Belgian law does not run.

Then there is the question of language. Bilingualism is not, historically, a prescription for national solidarity: witness



GEORGE WEIGEL

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

Canada or Belgium. English-language competence is, and will remain, the entry ticket to economic success in America (some would argue that minimal English competence — can you read a ballot? — should be a prerequisite for participating in the political community by exercising the franchise, but that's another argument for another day). I'm quite comfortable with certain bishops' insistence that their new priests learn Spanish; but as I told one bishop as he headed off recently for an immersion-Spanish program, "The first thing you have to learn to say in impeccable Spanish is 'Learn English!'"

Notwithstanding the problems to be sorted out, the more important point is that America has retained the cultural and moral vitality to create the human future in the most elemental sense, by creating successor generations. Thus, a hearty welcome to Mr. or Ms. 300 million. We're glad you're here.

**George Weigel** is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for December 10, 2006

Luke 3:1-6

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle C: the calling forth of John the Baptist, to announce Jesus. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

|             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| REIGN       | TIBERIUS    | GOVERNOR    |
| JUDEA       | HEROD       | GALILEE     |
| TRACHONITIS | PRIESTHOOD  | ANNA        |
| CAIAPHAS    | WORD OF GOD | ZECHARIAH   |
| JORDAN      | BAPTISM     | FORGIVENESS |
| BOOK        | ISAIAH      | VOICE       |
| PATHS       | ROUGH       | FLESH       |

## SEE SALVATION

H G U O R O N R E V O G  
 A A K J C A I A P H A S  
 I L W P A T H S R P I S  
 R I J O D E W A E T F E  
 A L W K R E E N I F L N  
 H E J O R D A N G A E E  
 C E D O U N O A N G S V  
 E J Q J A H B F G H H I  
 Z V O I C E D H G K I G  
 J O B A P T I S M O H R  
 J P R I E S T H O O D O  
 I T I B E R I U S B F F

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## LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

not filled with footnoted references and explanations.

Pope Benedict's approach to the media traveling with him is different from the approach of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II.

Especially in the early days of his papacy — including a trip to Turkey in 1979 — whenever a flight was longer than two hours, Pope John Paul would give a press conference in the air.

Until his own trip to Turkey, Pope Benedict, on the other hand, would walk back to the journalists' section of the airplane as it was taxiing to the runway and respond briefly to two or three questions

asked by reporters in the front row.

Only those seated closest to the front would hear the answers, although the quotes would make the rounds during the flight.

The problem was solved before the flight to Turkey, with Vatican Radio installing a microphone and amplifier in the journalists' section of the plane.

However, instead of responding to questions asked by reporters, the pope made his initial remarks about the responsibility of the media, then answered questions read by Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office.

Although as a cardinal he handled the press with straight talk and even humor, Pope Benedict has yet to hold a full-blown press conference.



# Sports

## Schoolwork comes first for Benoit CYO basketball team

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Coach Paul Gerardot of Benoit Academy says he has a very special group of boys this season. And he's concerned about more than just the success of his team on the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball court.

Gerardot hopes that his players will also learn to believe in themselves while they are on his team. His team is not allowed to use the word "can't."

"I tell them the word is just not in their vocabulary. My main goals are for each player to improve each week and for each player to learn good sportsmanship," Gerardot said.

His team works on fundamental basketball — things like shooting drills, dribbling drills and pressure defense — at each practice, but more than that he wants them to have faith in themselves. Gerardot wants them to be "ambassador for themselves and for their school."

"I remind them that they are wearing the name of their school on their uniform," Gerardot said.

He also works closely with his players' classroom teachers to be sure they are keeping up on their homework and grades. Gerardot said he coordinates with them on a weekly basis and won't let a player practice if they are behind.

"Schoolwork comes first," says Gerardot. He insists his players spend practice time doing homework or getting tutoring help if their grades are behind because he believes so strongly in their academic success.

This season, the purple and gold have 14 seventh and eighth graders on the roster. Returning starters are Keven Gorman, Marquel Cooper and De'Angelo Fincher. Gerardot cited brothers, Shannon and Javious Curry, as key newcomers that will round out his starting line-up.

The speedy Phoenix won the Queen of Angels Invitational, which was held over the Thanksgiving holiday, by defeating four CYO teams in the tournament.

Marquel Cooper led the team in scoring and Kevin Gorman blocked an average of five shots each game.

The team opened the Blue League regular season play with a win over Huntington last Saturday, Dec. 2, at Queen of Angels. "If we

go on to win a Blue League championship, we will be blessed this season. But, win or lose on the scoreboard, everyone is a winner when you participate in CYO sports," concluded Gerardot.

### Scoreboard from Dec. 2 Fifth and sixth grade

St. John, Fort Wayne, 32, St. Aloysius 8  
St. John, Fort Wayne, 31, St. Charles 12  
St. Louis-St. Rose 36, St. Therese 14  
St. John, Fort Wayne, 34, St. John, New Haven, 18  
St. John, Fort Wayne, 44, St. Jude 22



### Blue League Boys

St. Therese 22, St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, 46 (S. Kiermaier 18)  
St. Louis-St. Rose 29, Precious Blood 26 (R. Spieth 8, J. Turner 13)  
Benoit 59, Huntington 14 (S. Curry 16, J. Curry 16, M. Cooper 16)

### Gold League Boys

St. Vincent 42, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth 19 (T. Springman 16, J. Torkeo 7)  
St. Jude 50, St. John, New Haven, 19 (N. Spieth 11, C. Fry 15, W. Ganga 15)

If you would like to see your CYO score here, call Michelle Castleman at (260) 623-2180 or e-mail [mmcastleman@aol.com](mailto:mmcastleman@aol.com)

### 2006-2007 CYO seventh and eighth grade boys basketball coaches

- St. Aloysius, Tony Sorg
  - St. Charles, Jeff Polhamus
  - St. John, Fort Wayne, John Fazio
  - St. John, New Haven, Tina Trabel
  - St. Joseph, Decatur, Scott Macklin
  - St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, Gary Torkeo
  - St. Joseph, Hessen Casel, Jim Knapke
  - St. Jude, Brian Wiegman
  - Most Precious Blood, Rick Myers
  - Queen of Angels, George Wright
  - St. Rose-St. Louis, Herb Widner
  - St. Therese, Mike Palmer
  - St. Vincent, Todd Martin
  - Benoit Academy, Paul Gerardot
  - Huntington, Steve Godfroy
- Seventh grade**
- St. Charles, Sean Digan
  - St. John, Fort Wayne, Paul Coy
- Coy**
- St. John, New Haven, Kevin Sovine
- Sovine**
- St. Joseph, Decatur, Eric Fuelling
- Fuelling**
- St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, Chris Yaney
- Yaney**
- St. Jude, Pat Henline
  - Queen of Angels, Herb Berg
  - St. Vincent, Gregg Markley

## ICCL teams burn the nets in opening weekend

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) opened its 61st basketball season with a flourish at Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend and Marian High School in Mishawaka as all eight divisions swung into action for the start of the 2006 half of the season.

In the John Bosco West Division, St. Joseph of Mishawaka rolled up the highest team score with 54-24 decision over St. Monica. Coley Schultheis tossed in a handful of 10 points for the victors. Derrick Henry had 14 points for St. Monica.

In a white-knuckle tussle, Holy Family nipped Christ the King, 48-46, as Colin Skodinski looped in 25 points to snare the top individual scoring performance for Holy Family. Christ the King's Max Matthews had 21 points. The lead changed hands nine times during the spirited melee.

Corpus Christi edged Holy Cross, 45-30, behind the 12-point performance of Colton Pulaski who tallied 12 points. Tate Bellegrante had 13 points for Holy Cross.

St. Bavo of Mishawaka lost to newcomer St. Pius of Granger, 33-16. Emerson Marenzi paced the victors with 10 points. St.

Bavo's Lewie Rinard also had 10 points.

In the John Bosco East Division, St. Anthony beat St. Matthew, 55-22, as Robert Mischler of St. Anthony and Hank Blum of St. Matthew burned the nets for 15 points each.

St. Joseph of South Bend defeated St. Thomas of Elkhart, 52-49, as Nick Pellegrino set the net on fire with 20 points. Taylor Krugh tossed in 11 points for St. Thomas.

In the Martin De Porres West Division, St. John the Baptist swamped St. Adalbert, 40-19, as Alex Bauters singed the draperies for 20 points for St. John's.

St. Michael of Plymouth defeated St. Jude, 32-24. Zach Bridgman looped in 12 points and Karl Faulsrich looped in 11 points for the winners.

Seven games were played in the Colors Division.

Christ the King White beat St. Matthew Black, 34-33 in double overtime; Christ the King Gold downed St. Thomas Maroon of Elkhart, 38-14; St. Anthony Gold downed St. Joseph Gold of South Bend, 26-17; Corpus Christi Blue beat Holy Cross Blue, 40-6; St. Jude Green swept over St. Pius Blue, 42-10; Holy Family Blue defeated St. Thomas White, 31-29; and St. Anthony Maroon beat St. Joseph Blue of South Bend, 38-25.

## West Region Administrator

Catholic Charities seeks a dynamic, self-starting individual to oversee the agency's operations in a five county area, based in South Bend, IN. Responsibilities involve aggressively seeking funding for programs, promoting the agency and its services, and maintaining relationships with parishes, community organizations, and community leaders. This individual will also be responsible for overseeing the Brief Services program and Food Pantry, which includes direct client service.

Qualifications include a Master's degree in Social Work, Public Administration, or related degree, with a least five years of progressively responsible supervision experience, experience in grant writing, contracting, and public speaking, practicing Catholic, knowledge of and commitment to the Catholic Church's social teachings, the ability to represent the agency in a variety of settings, proficient in Internet, word processing, spreadsheet and e-mail applications (prefer Microsoft Office), and a valid driver's license. Please send resume with salary requirements by December 23, 2006 to:

Attn: Operations Director - Catholic Charities  
315 E. Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46835  
e-mail: [dkrabach@ccfwsb.org](mailto:dkrabach@ccfwsb.org)



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# Papal books remain popular

BY YORK YOUNG

Pope books are still selling well, or, at the least, still keeping publishing houses busy. Fans of papal tomes may be interested in two recent releases.

First is "Chronicle of the Popes" (Thames & Hudson, \$24.95), an interesting, fairly detailed, encyclopedic-in-tone presentation that recounts, at least a little bit, every single pope. Written by P.G. Maxwell Stuart, a lecturer at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, we get a historical look at the papacy that is heavy on political ramifications of each pope (no doubt the driving force for many centuries, especially during the Middle Ages) and a little too light on the developments in the faith over the years.

With 300 illustrations and a tight 240 pages, each pope (there have been 265), then gets a little less than a page each. Some of the early popes, of which history is quite sketchy, are handled in one sentence. Despite the secular tone and a recounting of bad popes and some of the bad things that happened (look at the

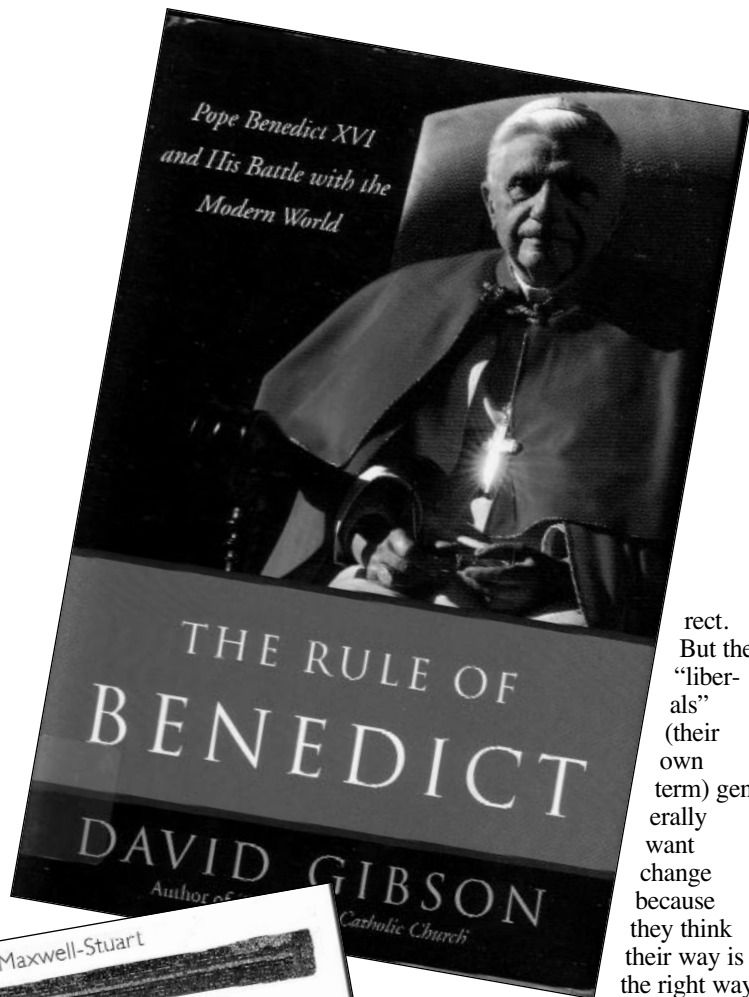
Borgias), the book does a good job of not denigrating the church. Some popes were bad people, but this book refreshingly avoids lumping the church as a whole into the bad camp.

Intermixed are some good sections that explain the construction of St. Peter's Basilica, the founding of Franciscans and Dominicans, the geographic and political rise of Islam in the seventh century and other important events related to church history. Each are brief in length and tone. Nevertheless, this would be a nice addendum to a library, especially if you like history.

Meanwhile, "The Rule of Benedict" (HarperSanFrancisco, \$24.95), penned by David Gibson, reportedly a "committed lay Catholic," according to his publisher's publicity staff, is a little less nonpartisan in its position on the Church.

"The Rule of Benedict" is a well-researched, plentifully notated work of nonfiction that endeavors to set forth what Catholics can expect under Pope Benedict XVI's tenure as leader of the largest religious body in the world. But what Gibson is "committed" to, as so many of his ilk, is criticizing and disparaging those who are not of the same opinion as he about where the Catholic Church should be going.

Surely you can tell by the title that Pope Benedict doesn't fit into his worldview of what the faith should be like. The poorly hidden



rect. But the "liberals" (their own term) generally want change because they think their way is the right way, whether it

pertains to lifting the rules for priestly celibacy, admitting women to the priesthood, having local votes for bishops, etc.

Another irony: Because the traditions and 2,000-year history of the church presents a position of strength, these contrarians try to make the church seem weak. Gibson is especially guilty of this in his conclusion: the church might "drift along"; the church "leadership still seems stuck"; without reform, "Catholicism will undergo a de facto purification." If the church is so weak, or becomes weakened, how do these reformers think their positions will sit any better with the masses.

And here's the final bit of irony — not about the positions of the author, but about the information and tone of the book: Between the opening hand-wringing of what it means that Cardinal Ratzinger, that "Iron Cardinal," who criticizes the "modern world," became pope and the conclusion about Pope John Paul's ineffectiveness in his last few years, which allowed Cardinal Ratzinger to release "heavy-handed" policy on several issues, there are some very good chapters about the history of the church and the papacy, and even some fair analysis of Ratzinger's early life.

But the negatives outweigh the good here. Gibson, as so many others who want the church to change on some of the core issues, continues to point out how disaffected Catholics across the United States are.

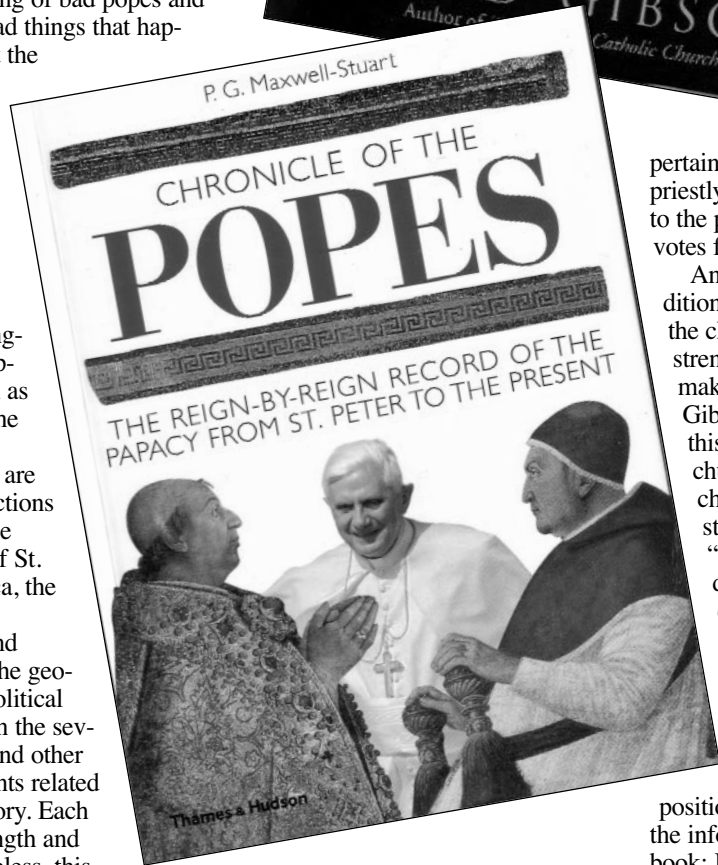
But in most parishes, among those who are faithfully trying to live Christ's call, the disaffection is not very visible. We're all too busy trying to be good Christ followers. That seems to be much more important than making the church and the papacy look weak.

message is that Pope Benedict will rule his way, and we all better be prepared to be disappointed.

So we get, in the first several pages, the following: being Catholic is "disorienting," "a cadre of elderly celibate men" run things, the church moves in its "own medieval time," Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger "was the most polarizing figure in modern Catholicism."

For readers who might be hopeful that after a year of seeing Pope Benedict make appearances that highlighted his pastoral skills, the curmudgeonly crowd that constantly complains about the former Cardinal Ratzinger's theological positions continues unabated — possibly because they can't admit they were wrong.

There are so many ironies in the way Gibson and his compatriots undermine the faith that it would be comical if it wasn't so sad. First, the role of the pontiff is cast as that of an authoritarian that only believes his way of thinking is cor-



# Actor who is Joseph in 'Nativity' film may not stay unknown for long

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Not too many people are likely to recognize Oscar Isaac, the actor who plays Joseph in the new movie "The Nativity Story." Apart from a couple of TV guest roles and a minor part in a four-year-old movie, he hasn't been seen on either the big or the small screen.

That could change after the Dec. 1 U.S. release date of "The Nativity Story."

Mary is portrayed by Keisha Castle-Hughes, who at age 12 was the youngest person to receive an Oscar nomination for best actress for her role in "Whale Rider," and Elizabeth is portrayed by Shohreh Aghdashloo, likewise Oscar-nominated for her role in "House of Sand and Fog." But aside from them the rest of the cast is virtually unknown.

"I think it was a smart move to not have people who are very recognizable in the film — which was helpful for me," Isaac said with a laugh.

Isaac agrees with the notion that a certain kind of interior uplift takes place within an actor when working on a spiritually oriented project.

"The first play I was ever in was 'Godspell,'" said the Guatemalan-born Isaac, referring to a musical derived from the Gospel According to Matthew.

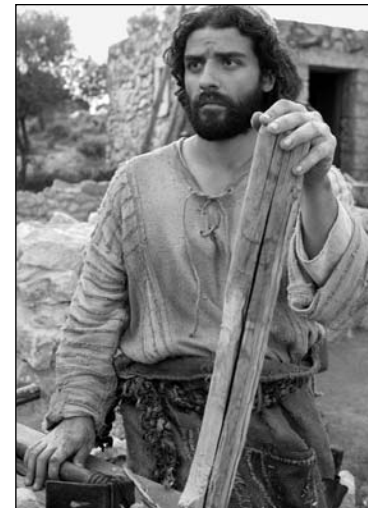
"It's important to make a film, whether it's a football movie, or a hockey movie, or one about the army, or one on race car drivers. I try to immerse myself completely in it," he told Catholic News Service during an interview in Washington. He hopes the audience connects with his character from "the opening note" of the film.

Isaac spent two months filming "The Nativity Story" in Italy and Morocco, and one month before that he was in what he called "Bible camp," learning how to work and carry himself as a Judean during the time of Augustus Caesar.

"Keisha had one (consultant) who taught her how to milk goats. I had one who taught me how to use first-century tools," Isaac said. "I was actually building that stone house in the film. So when you saw all those cuts and scrapes and bruises on my hands, that wasn't acting."

What Isaac called "the normal challenges," heat and weather, "didn't bug me," he told CNS. "The other challenge — figuring out how to make the people real — it certainly is difficult when you're playing these icons. They were flesh and blood."

The New Testament accounts of the Nativity say little about Mary and less about Joseph, posing a considerable obstacle for two actors who expected to carry the bulk of a 93-minute theatrical film. "But I'll tell you, anything I did must have been easier than Keisha having to ride a donkey for eight



CNS PHOTO/NEW LINE  
Oscar Isaac stars in a scene from the movie "The Nativity Story."

hours a day. But she's a great actor. She bore it well," Isaac said.

One unusual aspect about "The Nativity Story" was that it was given the go-ahead for production Dec. 1, 2005 — exactly one year prior to its nationwide premiere.

"That's the part that feels compressed," Isaac said, noting he had completed another film role before "The Nativity Story" and is still waiting for that movie, called "The Half Life of Timofey Berezin," to reach theaters.

Having just a year between filming and the "Nativity" release "keeps the memory of having completed the film that much closer to me," he said.

The "Nativity" film set was "a mini-United Nations," Isaac said. Castle-Hughes is from New Zealand, Aghdashloo hails from Iran, and of course Isaac was born in Guatemala though raised in the United States. Ciaran Hinds, who plays King Herod, was born in Northern Ireland.

"I remember being on the set, bedeviling him with all these questions" about how to portray a scene, Isaac said, "and he answered them all. ... The kindest people wind up being the best villains."

In real life, Isaac doesn't look much like the Joseph depicted in most artistic renderings. His hair is shorter, as is his facial hair — although he could have grown a beard for the role had he been asked.

"I have very virile facial hair. I shaved this morning — really," he said, pointing to a nascent five o'clock shadow minutes before noontime. "I played a young Fidel Castro (in a play) and I grew a full beard," he said, holding one hand several inches below his chin. A friend of Isaac's watching the play reported later that at the intermission he overheard a woman say of Isaac, "He's great, but the beard's so fake!"

"The film's hopeful message should resonate beyond Christian audiences to a world still groaning for peace and good will," said staff critic David DiCerto, who noted that Isaac "soulfully essays Joseph with an empathetic decency, as he quietly shoulders his appointed responsibility, while troubled by an abiding sense of inadequacy."

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

**Community sing planned**

Fort Wayne — The Bach Collegium, a nonprofit singing group in northeast Indiana, is hosting a community-wide open sing of Handel's "Messiah" on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Fairfield Avenue. Directed by Thomas Remenschneider, there will be opportunities for soloists and chorus members alike. All are encouraged to bring their own "Messiah" scores, or we will have some available to rent or borrow. Holiday cookies and coffee will be served after the event. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and all chorus members. For information, call Karen Fraser at (260) 452-1189 or Thomas Remenschneider at (260) 482-9412.

**Singles group to meet**

Fort Wayne — The GAP, a social group for single Catholics in the 40s to 60s age range will host a Christmas party on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. in the fire station community room on Aboite Center Rd. Please bring a side dish for the carry-in and a white elephant gift for an exchange. For more information call (260) 432-7346 or e-mail gap4565@msn.com.

**Christ Child Festival**

Fort Wayne — The Christ Child Festival will be held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Friday-Sunday, Dec. 16-17. Times are 6-9 p.m. on Friday, noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Clown, music, balloon art and face painting. Food and drinks and entertainment will be provided. Admission is free.

**Day of Reflection**

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent, (across from Marian High School) on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The theme is "Quiet

Waiting." The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Bring your Bible. Register by Friday, Dec. 8, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

**FUNDRAISERS**

**Knights plan spaghetti dinner**

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$6, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

**Cookie walk by the pound**

Plymouth — A cookie walk will be held Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Michael School, 612 N. Center St. Sponsored by the St. Michael Altar Rosary Society, cookies will be sold for \$4 per pound.

**Cookie walk planned**

Mishawaka — The St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie walk on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lower level of the church, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave.

**St. Casimir hosts St. Nicholas Day party**

South Bend — A St. Nicholas Day (Mikolaj) party will be held at St. Casimir Parish on Friday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the annex at the corner of Dunham and Webster streets. A traditional Polish meal will be served, including homemade pierogi, noodles, beef and coffee cake. Christmas carols (koledy) will be sung and there will be a visit from St. Nicholas. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children and on sale at the parish office (574) 287-9551.

**Foresters plan Christmas party**

Fort Wayne — The National Catholic Society of Foresters, St. Antoinette Court 870, is having a potluck Christmas party on

Sunday, Dec. 10, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish School basement. For information call (260) 447-2357.

**Christmas party for St. Augustine**

South Bend — The Father Augustus Tolten Society will have the St. Augustine Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 9, 7-11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus #553 Hall, 553 E. Washington. Tickets are \$10 in advance by calling C. Huddleston (574) 232-7548.

**Have breakfast with Santa**

South Bend — The Camp Fire Girls will sponsor Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the St. Anthony School gym. Tickets are \$5 presale, \$7 at the door. Call (574) 234-4145 for tickets and information.

**MISC. HAPPENINGS**

**Alumni needed**

Fort Wayne — Alumni of St. Vincent de Paul School are asked to attend an open house commemorating the school's 50th anniversary Sunday, Jan. 28. E-mail Chris Hursh at church@saintv.org, or call (260) 489-3537 x247.

**Pom Pom giveaway**

Fort Wayne — At the Dec. 8, Bishop Luers girls and boys basketball games pom poms will be given to students in grades 5-12. 150 pom poms will be given away at 6 p.m. before the girl's game and another 150 will be given away at 7:15 before the boy's game.

**Hand in Hand adoptions hold information meeting**

Fort Wayne — A orientation meeting on international adoptions will be Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Dupont Library branch, 536 E. Dupont Rd. For information call (260) 636-3566.

## REST IN PEACE

**Decatur**

Vera C. Wolpert, 80, St. Mary of the Assumption

**Elkhart**

Katherine C. O'Hara, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

Eric I. Garcia Raval, 5, St. Vincent de Paul

Jesus Fernando Beltran, St. Vincent de Paul

Joan M. Patanelli, 89, St. Vincent de Paul

Burnie N. Maurek, 70, St. Thomas the Apostle

**Fort Wayne**

Elias Nasar Franken, 86, Most Precious Blood

Theresa Gram, 86, St. Charles Borromeo

Edwin Scheele, 45, St. John the Baptist

Gwendolyn E. Shumate-Mattes, 20, Our Lady of Good Hope

Shirley M. Piekarski, 78, St. Charles Borromeo

Marjorie M. Wagner, 93, St. Jude

Margaret R. Morgan, 89, St. Joseph

Susan C. La Man, 73, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Anthony B. Johanna Jr., 72, St. Mary

Nazareth D. Pieri, 80, Our Lady of Good Hope

Kathryn Kohring Steimle, 78, St. Charles Borromeo

Grace A. Teusch, 90, St. Joseph

**Goshen**

Margaret E. Chattin, 90, St. John the Evangelist

**Mishawaka**

Pearl D. Barnes, 98, St. Joseph

Paul E. Breneman, 82, Queen of Peace

**New Haven**

William H. Yerks, 85, St. John the Baptist

**South Bend**

Bernard Lenezowski, 95, Christ the King

Angela H. Guzca, 87, St. Stanislaus

Margaret L. Policinski, 85, St. Jude

George E. Basker, 96, Little Flower

Joseph E. Koszyk, 78, St. Adalbert

James J. Connors, 75, St. Matthew Cathedral

Stella Gorski, 94, Holy Family

Robert E. Szerencse Sr., 81, Holy Family

**Waterloo**

Thelma Costanza, 90, St. Michael

**Sister Mary Esther Larkin**

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# Ecumenical pilgrimage continues at Catholic-Lutheran vespers

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — The Roman Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran communities came together once again on the first Sunday of Advent for the fifth annual Catholic-Lutheran vespers service to celebrate the growing unity and friendship the two churches have enjoyed in recent years and to pray for continued growth together toward full unity.

Messiah Lutheran Church hosted this year's service, which was presided over by Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Bishop James R. Stuck of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In his remarks, Bishop D'Arcy reflected on two figures he believes Catholics and Lutherans both honor especially during the season of Advent — John the Baptist and Mary.

Bishop Stuck opened his remarks with some humor that momentarily developed into a banter with Bishop D'Arcy, all of it warmly received by the congregation. He then spoke about how he has learned from Catholics as he has interacted with them, citing the example of how Catholics find the spiritual value of suffering. Both Bishop D'Arcy and Bishop Stuck lauded the convergence between the Catholics and Lutherans in recent years.

One example of this convergence is the 1999 Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, which effectively resolved the question of justification — a major issue of the Reformation — between the two churches. The declaration made the news again this July when the World Methodist Council also adopted the document.



DON CLEMMER

**Bishop John M. D'Arcy and Bishop James R. Stuck process out of Messiah Lutheran Church with priests and pastors behind them at the conclusion of the fifth annual Catholic-Lutheran vespers service. This event, which brings the local Roman Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran communities together, emphasizes both the importance of prayer and of local involvement in the ecumenical process.**

This year's service also echoed other ecumenical events of recent weeks including the pope's meeting in Rome with the Archbishop of Canterbury of the Anglican Church and the pope's meeting in Turkey with the ecumenical patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

"This kind of ecumenism, this outreach is necessary," says Bishop D'Arcy, noting that praying together is a central avenue for allowing Christians to move toward unity.

"It gives laypeople a vision of what the wider church is," says

Lutheran Pastor Fred Meuter of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. For Pastor Meuter, the joint vespers service is a sign of hope.

"It's very powerful to see Bishop D'Arcy and Bishop Stuck together," notes Meuter. "We see with that is what I would call reconciled diversity, that there are places where we haven't figured it all out, but we've figured enough out that we're able to pray together."

Another positive sign, the near-capacity crowd at Messiah Lutheran, by no means a small

church, suggested that the friendship between the Catholic and Lutheran communities is important to many people. Father Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and director of the Diocesan Ecumenical Office says that it is the role of local church communities to create a favorable environment for ecumenical progress, to till the soil, so to speak.

"If everything happens on the national or international level, it has to be received down on the local level," notes Father Schulte. "There has to be that reception and

acknowledgement, and they have to come along, or otherwise it's all just so much documentation that never really filters down to the local congregation."

Pastor Dale Henderson of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne affirms this: "I think that what really especially matters is what happens on a local level, when you and I talk, face to face, eye to eye, and recognize the fact that the Holy Spirit works wherever the Holy Spirit wants to work and doesn't limit his activity to church bodies, but is active in the lives and hearts of individual Christians."

He adds that one of the most inspiring images for Christian unity that he ever heard came from Catholic Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who described the church as a wheel with different spokes coming out and God at the center. Like the spokes, when different Christians are closest to God, they are closest to each other.

Father Robert Schulte recently came upon another metaphor, one that describes ecumenism as a pilgrimage.

"There's a longing for the end, but it takes you a certain amount of time to get there," notes Father Schulte. "And sometimes on a pilgrimage you find some shortcuts, and you get there faster than you thought, and there are detours, and sometimes it takes longer."

However long it takes for eventual unity, Lutheran Bishop James Stuck is convinced that what is already happening is a miracle.

"The kind of love and openness that we saw for one another this evening is what's characterizing our relationship now," says Bishop Stuck. "That has to be the work of the Spirit."

## A season overgrown by excess

BY CYRIL JONES-KELLETT

What is Advent? Is it mini-Lent? Are we supposed to give something up? Are we supposed to do something extra?

That's the funny thing about Advent: We know it's there, but many of us are not sure what it is, exactly, or what we are supposed to do with it. The secular world calls this time "The Holiday Season," or — more accurately — "The Holiday Shopping Season." And the secular world knows exactly what to do: shop, party, wrap things, watch holiday specials, eat.

All of which is an enjoyable way to mark the fading of the warm months and the nestling in for the cold.

But perhaps we have the nagging feeling that there is something else we should be doing as we pre-

pare for Christmas.

Part of that nag is certainly the fact that the highly commercialized festivities can overwhelm our efforts to observe the religious nature of the season. But perhaps another part is that we misunderstand Advent.

Here's what the church's General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar has to say about Advent:

"Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christ when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation."

This norm was promulgated in 1969, after the Second Vatican Council. Before the council, Advent was indeed thought of by most as a mini-Lent; it was a time to do penance and prepare for the

coming of the Lord. Even today, the Eastern churches call it the "little Lent."

And, of course, any preparation for the Lord requires a turning away from sin. Every part of the church's life includes a recognition that we must turn away from our bad habits and turn more completely toward God.

So there is a penitential aspect to Advent. But it is not the key attribute of the season. Instead, the church chooses to emphasize remembrance, joy and expectation.

Speaking last year about Advent, the pope said that it should be marked by two attitudes: "vigilance in prayer" and "exultance in praise."

Our exemplar of this season, is, of course, Mary, the mother of Jesus.

With Joseph she celebrated the first season of waiting for the Redeemer child.

Advent is, therefore, a time to

remember the virtues of Mary and to learn from them — her patience, her trust, her strength, her love for the Christ Child and her nurturing of him within herself.

Advent is a time to walk with Mary so that we can hold with her the Christ Child. Are we, too, letting the life of Christ grow within us? Does the growing of that life bring us joy? Do we nurture it? And are we waiting for him, as she waited for him?

Perhaps Advent is difficult for us because we are results oriented; we are not oriented toward waiting, toward simply loving the Lord who grows within us.

But that is all Advent is: to wait joyfully, expectantly — both for Christmas and for the fulfillment of God's promise to us for life eternal with him, for a new heaven and a new earth.

To celebrate Advent requires a heart willing — amid all the bustle of the season — to simply love the

life of Christ and to take joy that he is coming to fullness in us and that he is coming into the world.

One of the nice things about this is that it doesn't really conflict with "The Holiday Shopping Season." There is nothing about the pre-Christmas fun that has to upset Advent.

Certainly Mary and Joseph had very many worldly concerns as they awaited the coming of the child.

But the concerns did not become the central thing for them. The central thing was yet to come, even as it was already in their midst.

Their main task as they waited was simply to love and adore the one who was coming, the one they would love and adore all the more when they saw him face to face.

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