

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

TV Mass celebrates 20 years



ANN CAREY

Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, talks on-camera about the television Mass in South Bend after she and Bishop D'Arcy, right, received awards for their roles in making the Mass successful. At left is Vince LaBarbera, director of communications for the diocese, who presented the awards.

BY ANN CAREY

SOUTH BEND — In the 20 years that Sunday Mass has been televised from the WNDU-TV station on the University of Notre Dame campus here, the homebound congregation has been able to share in the Mass celebration every Sunday of every year.

Of course, those years have provided a few challenges, like the Sunday when heavy snow shut down every parish Mass in town. Knowing that the televised Mass was even more important on such a day, Father Bernard Galic plowed the 12 miles to the TV station in the only available vehicle that could make it through the snow: his parish's pickup truck that was equipped with a snow blade.

Father Galic, pastor of Holy Family Parish and Director of Vocations for the diocese, has been host of the South Bend Mass since its inception and is known to many as "The Pastor of the Airwaves." He was joined six years ago by Franciscan Sister Agnes Marie Regan, who now shares the hosting duties with him.

Sister Agnes Marie had worked with the Fort Wayne television Mass celebration for several years when she was serving as director of worship for the diocese. When she was transferred to South Bend, where she now is pastoral associate at St. Matthew Cathedral, the diocesan communications office pressed her into service for the South Bend television Mass, and she now is known locally as "the TV Mass Sister."

In addition to hosting the Mass, Sister Agnes Marie and Father Galic devise the schedule for who will celebrate each Mass and which parish will be present. Usually the celebrating priest will bring parishioners from his parish to make up the television congregation. When a Holy Cross priest from

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Devotion leads guitarist to special recordings

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ICCL and CYO teams highlighted

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Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrated

BY DENISE FEDOROW

WARSAW — Led by a band that included saxophones and guitars and accompanied by a choir with tambourines — many dressed in traditional Mexican clothing — the parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Warsaw gathered Sunday to celebrate Mass and the feast of their parish's namesake, Our Lady of Guadalupe (officially Dec. 12).

There was standing room only in the church as Bishop John M. D'Arcy came to celebrate Mass with the people of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He asked the congregation how many of them had been to Guadalupe, Mexico, and about half raised their hands including the parish pastor Father Paul Bueter and pastoral minister Sister Joan Hastreiter, SSJ.

Bishop D'Arcy asked how many of them had walked a great distance, and he brought Javier Mancilla to the front of the altar with him because Javier walked for 10 days. A woman in the congregation said she walked

for 11 days, and Javier jokingly said he had walked faster.

Bishop D'Arcy asked why they walked so long. "She's our mother and we go to honor her," Javier answered.

Javier also said he'd made a promise to Our Lady and that his long walk was a form of penance as well. Bishop said a pilgrimage like Javier's was a form of sorrow for sin, "But not only for our sins but for everyone's and to open our hearts to our mother, Our Lady."

The bishop and the parishioners talked about San Juan Diego and that he was on the way to find a doctor for his sick uncle when Our Lady appeared to him and asked him to go see Senor Obispo, but the bishop didn't believe Juan Diego and asked for a sign.

"This bishop," Bishop D'Arcy said pointing to himself, "came to be with Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and the beloved people of Mexico."

He pointed out the beautiful vestments

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FIREFIGHTER PLACES FLOWERS ON STATUE OF MARY IN ROME



CNS PHOTO/DANIELE COLARIETI

In celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a firefighter puts a ring of flowers on a statue of Mary near the Spanish Steps in Rome Dec. 8. The statue commemorates Pope Pius IX's proclamation in 1854 that Mary was conceived free of original sin.

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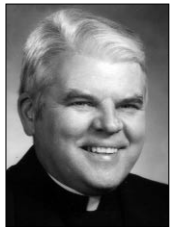
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Celebration of Catholic faith and Mexican-Catholic culture



NEWS
& NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The affection of those born in Mexico for Our Lady of Guadalupe is wonderful to behold. They know the event of her coming, her appearance to Juan Diego, the miracle of the roses and the conversation between the young boy and the Mother of God.

What a joy it was to arrive on a lovely winter day at our new church in Warsaw, dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is a fact that this church would never exist except for Jerry and Savina Kralis. Jerry was a businessman in Warsaw, who I believe was in the poultry business. He has a large family — I think about a dozen children — most of whom, like Jerry himself, went to Purdue, a family of Boilermakers. He and Savina own property in Warsaw and gave 1 1/2 acres to the diocese, provided a church was built for Hispanic Catholics. Jerry and Savina saw the increasing population. I believe many worked for him. His own heritage was that of immigrants, so he promised this land to the diocese, but with the condition it be used to build a church for the Spanish-speaking Catholics. Most of them come from Mexico. I can remember walking through that hilly area many years ago with Monsignors Jim Wolf and Bill Lester and Father Paul Bueter. We went through brush and trees, and later accepted this wonderful gift. Jerry was with us when we broke the ground. He was in a wheelchair suffering from a severe cancer. It was a lovely spring day, and he was able to see the beginning of the construction work before the Lord brought him home. What a thrill to drive up there on the Sunday near the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A packed church, with several rows standing in the back. The new baptismal font had recently been put in place. The church is set up on a hill, and it has a Spanish, or more accurately a Mexican, flavor to it. I do not think we would have this church, except for Linda Furge, who worked on this project for about 10 years. Also it never would have been possible without the Legacy of Faith. Two million dollars went into this church from that effort. The parish raised the rest and is responsible for the debt.

It has become a strong parish. I have always been impressed with Sister Joan Hastreiter, SSJ. She spent many years in Peru and speaks perfect Spanish. Of course, Father Paul Bueter, who served many years in Panama with the legendary Archbishop McGrath, a Holy Cross priest, has been a blessing for English- and Spanish-speaking Catholics for a generation.

What a magnificent celebration of Catholic faith and of Mexican-Catholic culture

It was a special joy to see so many young people, and so many young men and women taking part in the offertory procession with Mexican rhythms. And at the end, the Mariachi band bringing the painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe into their very own church.

I celebrated Mass many times over the past 20 years with this community when they were in a garage in Milford. Many priests drove there from South Bend to celebrate this Mass. One thinks immediately of Father Tom Lemos, CSC. Now they have their own church, set out on a hill; and it was a privilege to be part of it for this great feast.

After finishing and after a bit of Mexican food, Jim Fitzpatrick and I drove north to Ligonier, with a brief stop to visit Father Terry Place, pastor of St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse. Father has been quite ill and is struggling bravely in a battle against cancer. Please keep him in your prayers.

Another observance of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe followed in St. Patrick, Ligonier. Once again, the church was packed with many standing in the back. This was the second Mass of the day. I was privileged to offer Mass in Spanish, but preached in English, a little dialogue with the people. In each parish, a young woman translated for me. It seemed to work well, but I sure hope that the time will come when I can become more fluent in that beautiful language.

His authenticity came through. A beautiful day with about 55 of our priests at Sacred Heart, Warsaw, for prayer and the sacrament of penance.

A day of prayer with our priests

A dear friend of mine for 50 years, Msgr. Thomas McDonnell, gave an Advent Day of Prayer for our priests. Father Tom is a writer and brought with him a nice pamphlet with beautiful Advent recollections.

His material was substantive and focused on Our Lady. The afternoon conference was a reflection on the Magnificat. There was ample opportunity for the sacrament of penance, and the priests eagerly picked up the pamphlet he brought with him.

As is always the case, it is the life and the spirit of the retreat master, which comes through. Father Tom has spent most of his life working with the poor in the inner city and also with the handicapped and the parents of those who are handicapped. His authenticity came through. A beautiful day with about 55 of our priests at Sacred Heart, Warsaw, for prayer and the sacrament of penance.

The Oriental Orthodox Church

I heard for the first time in over 50 years the Armenian language. The occasion this time was the visit of a distinguished prelate

from the Armenian Orthodox Church. You see, there is a man in Fort Wayne, Zohrab Tazian, who grew up and was educated in Lebanon. Many Armenians, I have learned, came to Lebanon at the time of the terrible Armenia holocaust. Over a million were killed in an attempt to destroy an entire people. This is what brought many of them to my hometown of Brighton and Watertown across the Charles River. They had small shops and many worked at shoe repair. They were religious and spoke with heavy accents, and they became devoted Americans.

His Holiness, Aram I, was a luncheon guest of the Tazian family. Much of the religious community of Fort Wayne was there. I met many Orthodox priests and learned, anew, about the distinction and yet close relationship between the Oriental Orthodox Church, which includes the Armenians and Coptic Christians, and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Zohrab is like so many who came here and found an opportunity in business. He became an instrument in helping many to raise and build good families. It was a joy to be in touch with a prelate whose church is also apostolic.

Pope John Paul II used to say that the church must breathe with two lungs, meaning both East and West. The East with its sense of the Trinity, its strong sacramental life and the celebration of the Holy Liturgy and its devotion to the Fathers of the Church shares our heritage and tradition, and we must draw closer to them.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

You ask any priest what he thinks of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and he will tell you it is one of the most remarkable organizations in the church. So it was a joy to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne with the Vincentians of Allen County. These are men and women who bring food and clothing to the hungry, transport elderly for medical help with almost no administrative costs, are always among those in need. I read a few lines to them from Pope Benedict's first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God is Love"):

"The church can no more neglect the mission of charity than it can neglect the ministry of the Word or the sacraments."

Every parish has the obligation to reach out to those in need and do it in a way that is humble, but also visible; and do it always in prayerful communion with Christ, who made this central to his mission. We read this throughout the Scriptures, especially in the 25th Chapter of the Gospel of Matthew.

Congratulations to Mike Brey and the Irish basketball team, with two victories over ranked teams within one week. Let us hope it continues.

We will be watching those University of Saint Francis Cougars, as they once again battle to bring home the national championship of the N.A.I.A. in Savannah, Tenn. Best of luck to Coach Donley, his players and Sister Elise Kriss, OSF, and all the young people of Saint Francis.

See you all next week.

Vatican officials say they found St. Paul's tomb in Roman basilica

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After years of archaeological work, Vatican officials announced they have identified the tomb of St. Paul beneath the Rome basilica dedicated to the apostle.

Authorities said Dec. 11 that a roughly cut marble sarcophagus was found beneath a historic inscription that reads: "Paul Apostle Martyr." The tomb lies several feet below the main altar of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Only one end of the sarcophagus has been opened to view, and the rest is buried beneath building material. If Pope Benedict XVI gives permission, the experts may attempt to open the sarcophagus and find out whether the saint's relics are inside.

"We can be certain that this is the tomb of St. Paul," Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, archpriest of the basilica, told a Vatican press conference.

"No one ever had any doubt that the basilica was built on the site of the tomb. Now we can see it, through a small window we have created," the cardinal said.

He said Vatican experts

attempted to X-ray the tomb to view the contents, but it did not work because of the thick marble walls of the sarcophagus.

An "internal exploration" of the sarcophagus would pose technical problems but probably will be attempted, the cardinal said. He said it was certain that the tomb had remained sealed since it was placed there in the fourth century.

"The Basilica of St. John Lateran says they have the heads of Sts. Peter and Paul. I don't know how they can, since this tomb has never been opened," the cardinal said.

Giorgio Filippi, the Vatican archaeologist who carried out the studies on the tomb area, said that, archaeologically speaking, it did not matter whether relics of St. Paul were discovered inside the sarcophagus or not.

He said positive identification of the tomb was made using historical and scientific methods, independent of the presence of relics.

Experts believe the marble sarcophagus was put in place during the reconstruction of the basilica in 390. The church was remodeled several times afterward and almost completely destroyed by fire in 1823.

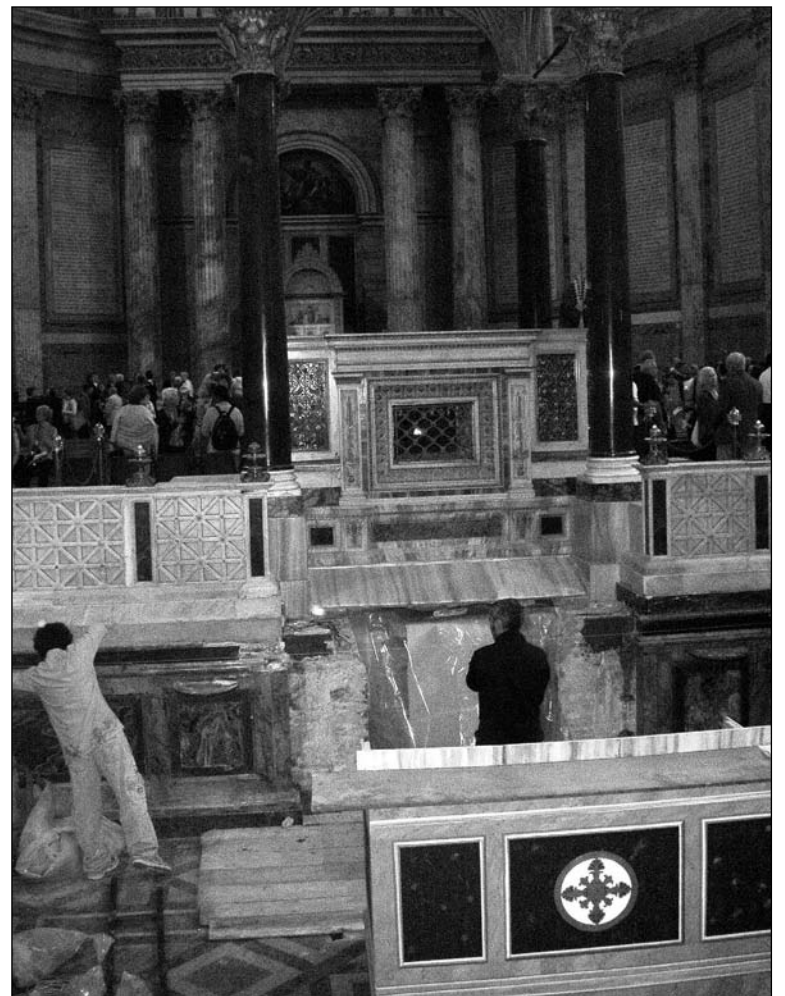
One of the more important archaeological finds, Filippi said, was that the sarcophagus had a funnel-shaped hole in the top — later closed with mortar — through which the faithful could stick pieces of cloth to make secondary relics.

He said that was a significant sign that the tomb was revered from the beginning as that of St. Paul of Tarsus.

Tradition holds that St. Paul was martyred by beheading in the first century and that his body was buried in a cemetery along the Via Ostiense, where the basilica was built.

Filippi began studying the basilica in 1993, and in 2002 he made the first close examination that led to the lid of the sarcophagus.

Workers complete a project at the tomb of St. Paul in the basilica, St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. The basilica was the host site for the Mass of Thanksgiving for pilgrims who traveled to the canonization of St. Mother Theodore Guérin.



TIM JOHNSON

Catholics' approval rating for bishops highest since scandal broke

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CNS) — The percentage of Catholics who think the U.S. bishops are doing a "good job" is the highest it has been since the clergy sex abuse scandal broke in early 2002, according to results of the Contemporary Catholic Trends poll conducted by LeMoyn College in Syracuse and Zogby International.

In the fall 2006 Contemporary Catholic Trends survey, 71 percent of Catholics said they strongly agreed (29 percent) or somewhat agreed (42 percent) that "the U.S. bishops are doing a good job leading the Catholic Church."

That percentage had been 83 percent in the fall of 2001; the U.S. clergy sexual abuse crisis erupted in Boston in January 2002. Later that year the percentage dropped to 68 percent and was as low as 58 percent in 2004. In late 2005, 64 percent of Catholics said the bishops were doing a good job.

The latest survey results, made public Nov. 30, had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points. Zogby conducted telephone interviews of 1,505 self-identified Catholics chosen nationwide.

The poll also showed a high level of support for the work of Pope Benedict XVI and for local pastors.

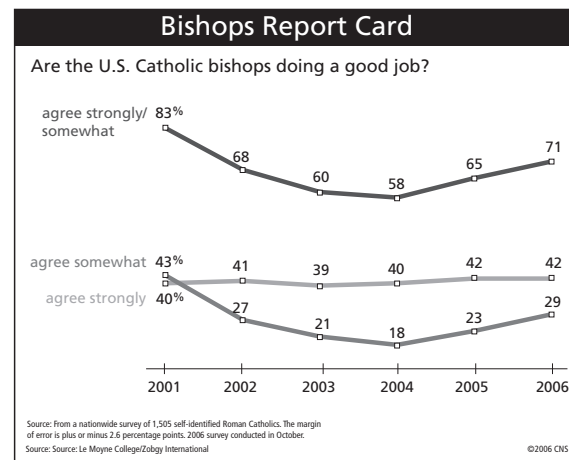
More than 83 percent agreed — 45 percent strongly and 39 percent somewhat — that the pope was doing a good job leading the Catholic Church, while 88 percent agreed — 69 percent strongly and 19 percent somewhat — that the pastors of their parishes were doing a good job.

The recent Contemporary Catholic Trends survey also compared attitudes on various social issues of Catholics who attend Mass and those who do not, as well as all Catholics' views on friendship, trust, their financial situation, and charitable giving and volunteering.

In all, 20 percent of the 1,505 respondents said they had left the church at some time during their lives and 10 percent said they do not attend Mass in a typical month.

Although 64 percent of Mass-attending Catholics said they thought priests should be able to marry, 81 percent of nonattending Catholics thought so.

On artificial birth control, only 15 percent of Catholics who do not attend Mass were opposed to it while 36 percent of those who do attend at least



occasionally were opposed. The highest percentage of those opposed to it — 43 percent — were Catholics who attend church weekly or more often.

Overall, 50 percent of Catholics believe all abortions should be illegal; 49 percent disagreed and 1 percent said they were undecided. Of Catholics who attend Mass at least weekly, 60 percent said all abortions should be illegal. Only 30 percent of those who never attend Mass agreed with the statement.

Less than half (48 percent) of Catholics said the death penalty should be illegal, although the percentage rose to 53 percent among those who attend Mass weekly or more often.

In other results, the Contemporary Catholic Trends survey found that:

- Sixty-five percent of Catholics are satisfied or very satisfied with their financial situation.

- More than half (51 percent) agreed that "most people can be trusted," while 44 percent said that "you can't be too careful" in dealing with people. Among the general population in 2004, only 36 percent of Americans said most people can be trusted.

- Catholics also have more "close friends" than those in the general population. Although 25 percent of Americans said in 2004 that they had no one to confide in, only 4 percent of Catholics said they had no one they considered a close friend and 1 percent reported only one such friend. Over a quarter of Catholics (27 percent) said they had 10 or more close friends.

Iraqi leader: Islam is religion of freedom with responsibility

BY REGINA LINSKEY

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Islam rejects oppression and is a religion of freedom with responsibility for society's common interest, said the head of the largest political coalition in the Iraqi government.

"Oppression is not acceptable, but nor is chaos," said Abdul Aziz Al-Hakim, president of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution and leader of the United Iraqi Alliance.

Islam teaches "peaceful cohabitation" with many religions and races, he said.

Al-Hakim spoke through a translator Dec. 5 at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington about freedom in the Shiite branch of Islam. He briefly answered questions from journalists who filled the center's auditorium.

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, Italian Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Vatican nuncio to the United States, and Rabbi Ephraim Isaac, a professor of Semitic studies at Princeton University in New Jersey, attended the speech, sponsored by The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Al-Hakim, one of the most influential Iraqi religious and political leaders, was in Washington to meet with U.S. President George W. Bush Dec. 4. According to news reports, the two discussed religious and sectarian reconciliation and the need to increase the capabilities of the Iraqi government.

During the rule of the Sunni-

majority Baath Party regime, Al-Hakim lived in Iran. He returned to Iraq in 2003 when he was appointed a member of the Iraqi Governing Council's Presidential Committee. The committee was the first democratic organization to lead Iraq after more than 30 years of dictatorship.

Seven of Al-Hakim's brothers have been killed. Six were killed by former dictator Saddam Hussein and the most recent in 2003 by terrorists.

During the event at the center, Al-Hakim said the prophet Mohammed's example teaches that Islam is a peaceful religion. The Quran, the sacred book of Islam, describes nonbelievers "as worthless and hollow" enemies, he said, but the Prophet, who was subjected to danger from nonbelievers, never reacted with the same level of violence or initiated a war.

"The tragedies we see today are from those who misunderstand Islam," he said. "Islam says, 'Whoever kills one person unjustly kills all of mankind.'"

"Sectarian violence is rejected by scholars, whether Sunnis or Shiites," he said.

He added that religious leaders have been working to issue statements and to reach "reconciliation with all those who did not take part in the political process."

Al-Hakim also addressed questions about the drain of Iraqi Christians; he said Muslims were not the reason why half of all Iraqi Christians left the country.

Iraqi Muslims have been "defending Christians and their rights for centuries," he said.

Mary not just for Catholics anymore

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As publications from *Time* magazine to *Christianity Today* have discovered recently, Mary, the mother of Jesus, is not just for Catholics anymore.

Features on Mary are perennial favorites for editors looking for a religion-themed story before Christmas, and in the last few years many of these articles have focused on the increasing popularity of Mary among Protestants.

Marianist Father Thomas Thompson, editor of the *Marian Library Newsletter* at the University of Dayton in Ohio, points out that the expanding Protestant acceptance of Mary is based upon a strictly scriptural view of her, rather than on any change in Protestant theology.

Some Catholic doctrines about Mary, such as the Immaculate Conception — the belief that she was conceived without sin — remain controversial among Protestants,

Father Thompson said. But as anti-Catholicism has waned among Protestants, the barriers to Episcopalians, Baptists and evangelicals turning to Mary have faded as well.

"We're very happy to see others taking an interest in Mary," he said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, a Baptist college in Birmingham, Ala., wrote recently that "it is time for evangelicals to recover a fully biblical appreciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in the history of salvation, and to do so precisely as

evangelicals." George's comments appeared in the December 2003 issue of *Christianity Today* and in a 2004 collection of essays by various theologians, "Mary: Mother of God."

"We may not be able to recite the rosary or kneel down before statues of Mary, but we need not throw her overboard," George wrote.

In the magazine, he quoted an early 20th-century Southern Baptist New Testament scholar, A.T. Robertson, who said Mary "has not had fair treatment either from Protestants or Catholics." Robertson argued that while Catholics have "deified" Mary evangelicals have coldly neglected her.

"We have been afraid to praise and esteem Mary for her full

worth," said George, citing Robertson, "lest we be accused of leanings and sympathy with Catholics."

George's article went on to explain historical, scriptural and theological reasons why Protestants should embrace Mary.

"We need not go through Mary in order to get to Jesus," George concluded, "but we can join with Mary in pointing others to him."

Another recent book, "Blessed One," is a collection of 11 essays about Mary by Protestant scholars.

In their introduction, editors Beverly Roberts Gaventa and Cynthia L. Rigby, professors at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas, respectively, said their goal for the book was to help Protestants think in new ways about Mary, "blessing her and being blessed by her."

'She is a person of faith who does not always understand but who seeks to put her trust in God.'

FROM 'BLESSSED ONE,' A COLLECTION OF 11 ESSAYS ABOUT MARY BY PROTESTANT SCHOLARS



CNS PHOTO/SEAN SPRAGUE

An image of Mary and the Christ Child is preserved at St. Sophia Orthodox Church in Ohrid, Macedonia. The church had once served as a mosque after the Turks captured Ohrid in the 14th century. Even though Islam recognizes Mary as the mother of the prophet Jesus, the eyes of the figures in this fresco were gouged out in keeping with Muslim belief, which forbids the rendering of humans in places of worship.

"She is a person of faith who does not always understand but who seeks to put her trust in God," they wrote.

For Muslims, on the other hand, Mary has always been a part of the picture.

John Alden Williams, professor emeritus in the humanities of religion at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, is a Catholic historian who has studied Islamic civilization and religion. He and fel-

low William and Mary professor James A. Bill published "Roman Catholics and Shi'i Muslims" in 2002.

It notes that two sections of the Quran, the sacred book of Islam, are devoted to Mary, known there as Maryam. She is recognized as the purified woman chosen to be the mother of the promised Messiah. Islam considers Jesus an important prophet, but not the incarnation of God.

Williams explained in a phone interview that, like Catholics, Shiite Muslims, who are a minority compared to the vastly more numerous Sunni Muslims, believe in intercessory prayer through saints and other holy people. That includes Mary, who is highly revered as a mediatrix between humans and God, or Allah. Sufis, another Islamic sect, also believe in intercession.

In Sunni Islam, "the whole idea of intercession is disputed," Williams said, "just as it is among Calvinist Protestants."

Among the differences the leaders of the Protestant Reformation had with the Catholic Church was the growth during the Middle Ages of devotion to Mary. Reformers argued that Jesus was the only mediator between God and mankind and that "exuberant Marian devotion seemed to them to threaten the clarity of the Gospel message of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, through Christ alone," wrote Daniel L. Migliore, a theology professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, in his chapter in "Blessed One."

Muslims who seek Mary's intercession, on the other hand, see her in much the same way Catholics do, said Williams.

While living in the Middle East, he said he witnessed several striking examples of the reverence many Muslims have for Mary.

At the Convent of Our Lady, an Orthodox church in Sednaya, Syria, he watched devout Muslims roll out prayer rugs to join Christians in reverencing an icon of Mary that is reputed to have been painted by St. Luke the Evangelist and believed to have the power to cure illnesses.

And in the late 1960s, many Muslims were among the millions who gathered in a Coptic Orthodox church in Egypt, hoping to catch a glimpse of reported Marian apparitions, he said.

For more than a year starting in 1968, apparitions of Mary were reported over the domes of the Church of the Virgin Mary in the Zeitoun area of Cairo.

Williams went to the church once during that time and was surprised to see Muslims among the crowd, he said.

"I asked some people, 'Isn't it a little funny for you to be coming here to a Christian church?'" Williams said. They said they considered it only proper that Mary would appear at a church dedicated to her, but explained that they believed she was speaking to all Egyptians, not just Christians.



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PHOTOS BY DENISE FEDOROW

Bishop John D'Arcy wearing special vestments with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe visits with parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Shrine in Warsaw to celebrate Mass on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Standing at the ambo is student translator Anna.

OUR LADY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he and Father Bueter wore with the images of Our Lady of Guadalupe and thanked James Fitzpatrick, who gave them to the parish.

When Juan Diego's bishop asked for a sign, Our Lady asked Juan Diego to pick flowers — specifically roses — at a time when roses wouldn't be in bloom. When Juan Diego brought the roses to the bishop an image of Our Lady appeared. Our Lady of Guadalupe also asked Juan Diego to build a church.

"That's what happened here in the year 2000. We said 'We must build a church.' Here the Blessed Mother asked the people and asked 'Senor Obispo' to build a church," said Bishop D'Arcy.

Bishop D'Arcy asked the congregation why Our Lady of Guadalupe wanted a church built in Mexico and in Indiana, and young Alex Sanchez was called up out of the pews to answer.

"To bring us closer to Jesus," Alex said.

"Our Lady of Guadalupe is

here with us, not just an image but she is here to bring us closer to Jesus," Bishop D'Arcy said.

He told those gathered that whatever might have kept them away from holy Communion in the past, the bishop, the church, Father Paul, Sister Joan and Our Lady of Guadalupe want to help.

"We don't care about documents — there's only one document we care about, your baptismal certificate. We want to say to everyone here the Catholic Church is your home."

Bishop D'Arcy told parishioners it was a great honor for him to be with them on their feast day and asked them to pray always, to be sure their children receive the sacraments, to pray the rosary and to attend Mass regularly.

At the presentation of the gifts a ceremonial dance was performed and many brought baskets of fruit, food and flowers to leave at the altar. Another dance and a procession with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe covered in roses concluded the celebration.

Parishioners were invited to stay for the traditional meal after Mass.

Bishop D'Arcy also celebrated the feast day with the parishioners of St. Patrick's in Ligonier in the afternoon.



Some of the children of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish dressed in traditional Mexican costume present gifts of baskets of fruit and flowers to the altar.

Catholic leaders say new provinces make Mexican church more efficient

BY JONATHAN ROEDER

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican Catholic officials have said that a recently approved plan to restructure the nation's ecclesiastical provinces will give the church greater flexibility and efficiency.

The changes, enacted by Pope Benedict XVI in late November, established four new Mexican ecclesiastical provinces, which serve as administrative districts for the church's operations.

The bishops in the cities designated as metropolitan sees, or capitals, of the new provinces have been elevated to archbishop, bringing the number of Mexican archbishops from 14 to 18.

The new provinces are:

- Baja California, administered from the new Archdiocese of Tijuana.
- Bajío, administered from the new Archdiocese of Leon.
- Hidalgo, administered from the new Archdiocese of Tulancingo.
- Chiapas, administered from the new Archdiocese of Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Carlos Villa Roiz, information director for the Archdiocese of Mexico City, told Catholic News Service the restructuring was in response to Mexico's geographic and demographic complexity.

"In Oaxaca, for example, there are 500 civil municipalities," he said, referring to the southern state's local political districts, which are equivalent to counties in the United States.

"If the archbishop visits one municipality every day, it will still take him well over a year to visit the whole state," he said.

By creating new ecclesiastical provinces, the church will be able to streamline its operations, he added.

"It was necessary to make the administration more efficient," he said.

A statement by Auxiliary Bishop Jose Gonzalez Gonzalez of Guadalajara, released Nov. 29, said the changes were made following a broad study of Mexico's demographics and the church's ability to reach remote, underserved areas.

"This decision by the Holy



CNS PHOTO/DAVID MAUNG

Priests and seminary students play basketball during a sports gathering and barbeque to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the founding of a Catholic seminary in Tijuana, Mexico, Dec. 7. The U.S.-Mexican border city of Tijuana is the headquarters of one of four new provinces established under a reorganization plan by the Mexican bishops.

Father confirms the intention of Mexico's bishops to better serve our homeland," Bishop Gonzalez wrote.

In some states — especially Chiapas — the rapid expansion of Protestant evangelical groups is often attributed to the Catholic Church's lack of a presence due to a complicated geography and isolated communities.

Pope Benedict also approved a reconfiguration of existing dioc-

ses, with a number of cities shifting from one ecclesiastical province to another.

Mexican bishops first petitioned the Vatican for the restructuring in 2003.

Mexico is the world's 11th-largest country in terms of population, with close to 108 million inhabitants. It is the 15th-largest country in the world in terms of area.

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Translation of Mass prayers could be ready in mid-2007

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican could approve the new English translation of the main Mass prayers as early as mid-2007 if the work of its advisory committee proceeds as planned, the committee said. The Vox Clara Committee, which includes a dozen bishops from eight English-speaking countries, met Dec. 4-5 at the Vatican. Over the past year, most of the world's English-speaking bishops' conferences have approved a new translation of the Order of the Mass, which includes all the prayers — such as the Gloria, creed and eucharistic prayers — used regularly in daily and Sunday Masses. The Latin-rite bishops of India, among the last to consider the new translation prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, are expected to vote on it during their January plenary meeting. The Vox Clara Committee has been reviewing the translations approved by the bishops' conferences at the request of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, which must give its permission — or "recognitio" — for the translations to be used.

Pope drops 'patriarchal' from Rome's four major basilicas

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has dropped the name "patriarchal" from Rome's four major basilicas, which will be called "papal basilicas" instead, a church official said. The decision affects all four basilicas traditionally called "patriarchal" — St. Peter, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major. Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, archpriest of St. Paul Outside the Walls, announced the change at a Vatican press conference Dec. 11. He said the pope decided recently that the term "patriarchal basilica" was no longer appropriate. The cardinal said one reason for the change was potential confusion over why the basilicas were called patriarchal. Some might have thought it referred to the pope's former title of "patriarch of the West," he said. Traditionally, the major Rome basilicas were referred to as patriarchal because they represented the patriarchal churches in early Christian history.

Archbishop Myers ordains married former Episcopal priest

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (CNS) — Joining approximately 80 other married former Episcopal priests who have become Catholic priests in the country in the past 26 years, Father Alvin Kimel Jr. was ordained Dec. 3 to serve the Archdiocese of Newark. Father Kimel was the first former Episcopalian to be ordained by Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, who was named in 2005 as ecclesiastical delegate for the pastoral provision that allows married men to become Catholic priests in the U.S. Latin Church in certain circumstances. Among

POPE ARRIVES TO CONSECRATE CHURCH IN ROME



CNS PHOTO/DARIO PIGNATELLI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI speaks to a crowd as he arrives to consecrate the Church of Santa Maria Stella della Evangelizzazione in Rome Dec. 10. The banner in Italian reads "You are Peter," referring to Jesus' words to St. Peter in the Gospel of St. Matthew. The parish, founded in 1989 in one of Rome's fastest-growing suburban areas, today has the youngest population and the highest number of baptisms of any Rome parish.

those witnessing the ordination at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in South Orange were Father Kimel's wife, Christine; his mother, Ninon; and several other members of his family, which includes three sons and a daughter — all adults. An Episcopal clergyman for 25 years, Father Kimel, 54, said his decision to leave the Episcopal Church, which he entered as an adult, was not an easy one.

Italian Cardinal Pappalardo, outspoken against Mafia, dies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Italian Catholic Church's strongest voice against the Mafia for 26 years, retired Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo of Palermo, died Dec. 10 at the age of 88. In a Dec. 11 telegram to the archdiocese, Pope Benedict XVI praised the cardinal as a "zealous and generous pastor" who tried to promote the "moral and cultural growth of Palermo's society." The pope sent a separate telegram of condolence the same day to Cardinal Pappalardo's sister, Maria, and said her brother "knew how to generously and wisely serve the church" with "intense and patient pastoral work." Named archbishop of Palermo in 1970, when the Mafia appeared to rule significant segments of life in Sicily, Cardinal Pappalardo often was called on to preside over the funerals of the innocent victims of Mafia violence. The funerals as well as interviews, pastoral letters and public appearances became occasions for the cardinal not only to condemn Mafia involvement, but also to urge Sicilians to reclaim control over their social, political and economic lives.

Pope accepts resignation of Polish Cardinal Glemp

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Polish Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Warsaw, who turns 77 Dec. 18, but said the cardinal will retain the personal title of Polish primate until his 80th birthday. Announcing the cardinal's retirement Dec. 6, the Vatican also announced the pope had named Bishop Stanislaw Wielgus of Plock to succeed him. Cardinal Glemp has headed the Archdiocese of Warsaw since 1981 and led it through the tumultuous years of Poland's martial law, underground Solidarity movement and the fall of communism in the late 1980s. The new archbishop of Warsaw, 67, spent 30 years teaching philosophy at the Catholic University of Lublin. Pope John Paul II named him bishop of Plock in 1999.

Chilean cardinal prays God will disregard Pinochet's wrongdoings

SANTIAGO, Chile (CNS) — A Chilean cardinal prayed that God would "not consider the wrongdoings" of Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean general and dictator who died Dec. 10 at age 91. "May the Lord value everything good he did in life and (may he) rest in peace," Santiago Cardinal Francisco Errazuriz Ossa said at a Dec. 11 Mass at the Santiago Military Academy, where Pinochet was to be cremated Dec. 12. The death of Pinochet, a Catholic who ruled Chile from 1973 to 1990, brought mixed reactions in Chile, where for

years he had been a controversial figure. Chilean human rights organizations say that under Pinochet's regime at least 2,100 people were executed for political reasons, more than 1,100 prisoners disappeared, and an estimated 10,000 prisoners were tortured in the country's clandestine jails.

Former Massachusetts Catholic church sold, to become mosque

INDIAN ORCHARD, Mass. (CNS) — It will still be a house of worship. That's something that was important to Lokman Yanbul and Catholic parishioners regarding the former St. Matthew Church in Indian Orchard. The 142-year-old colonial church and the rectory next door were sold for \$150,000 in October to the Turkish-American Islamic Society Inc., which plans to convert the church into a mosque. "We did this for the children," said Yanbul, referring to why the local Turkish-American community felt the need to have its own mosque. "We want them to (be able to) continue their cultural and religious heritage." Yanbul is married and has three children. He has lived in the United States for 29 years, immigrating to Brooklyn, N.Y., with his family as a teenager. He has been a resident of Ludlow, near Indian Orchard, for the last seven years. Aside from worshipping in the Turkish language, Yanbul said their community's liturgy is culturally different from those offered in other area mosques. He said the Turkish-American society is currently made up of about 80 families.

Bill requiring notice about fetal pain in abortions fails in House

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. House of Representatives failed to reach the two-thirds majority needed Dec. 6 for passage of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. The legislation, which would have required that women undergoing an abortion at least 20 weeks into their pregnancy be informed that an abortion causes pain to the fetus, had been backed by President George W. Bush. The U.S. Catholic bishops had not taken a stand on the bill. The vote in the House was 250-162 in favor of a move to suspend the rules and pass the legislation. A two-thirds majority was needed for such a procedural move. During floor debate on the bill, Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., its chief sponsor, cited expert testimony showing that unborn children have "a developed system of pain perception and response" by 20 to 22 weeks into the pregnancy.

Daily Mass readings now available for download as podcasts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Audio recordings of the daily Mass readings from the New American Bible are now available for download as podcasts through links on the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign Web site — www.usccb.org/ccc/. "The Internet is now a part of our lives and a medium which can help provide for spiritual enrichment," said Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Communications. "This service complements the text versions of the readings already popular on the USCCB Web site and responds to the many requests for podcasts of the readings," he added. Podcasts are recordings that are prepared with actual radio broadcast material for individual listening on computers or the iPod personal music storage system. The term podcasting is derived from the iPod name.

Chinese spokesman rejects Vatican criticism of illicit ordination

HONG KONG (CNS) — China's State Administration for Religious Affairs has rejected Vatican criticism of the ordination in Xuzhou of a bishop without papal approval. A spokesman from the administration told the Xinhua news agency Dec. 3 that the criticism makes "no sense." He said China and the Vatican have no official ties, have not reached a tacit understanding or agreement on the ordination of bishops, and the Vatican never has recognized the government-sanctioned Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China. The Chinese government also informed the Vatican in advance of the selection and ordination, "which showed great sincerity," the spokesman said. A Dec. 2 Vatican statement said Pope Benedict XVI was deeply saddened by the Nov. 30 ordination of Father Wang Renlei, 36, as coadjutor bishop of Xuzhou.

The Franciscan Center to close Clothes Closet and Toy Chest

FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Center announced Dec. 7 that it will close its Clothes Closet and Toy Chest on Thursday, Dec. 21.

"The Clothes Closet-Toy Chest is one of our longest-running programs," explained Sally Ley, founder and chief executive officer of The Franciscan Center, "but we have found demand steadily declining over the past several years. The Franciscan Center has always based its programs and activities on the needs of the community, and we see the current and future need elsewhere."

Closing the program will allow the organization to focus on its existing, and growing programs: the Food Pantry, Medicine Cabinet and Sack Lunch programs. "These programs, especially our Medicine Cabinet where we distribute such nonfood items as over-the-counter medicine, vitamins, Band-aids, toothpaste and toilet paper, are growing every week," explained Ley.

Starting now until Dec. 21, all remaining clothes and toy inventories will be distributed free of charge and without limit.

Contact The Franciscan Center at (260) 744-3977 for more information or visit the facility at 4643 Gaywood Dr.

Hispanic Outlook recognizes Saint Mary's College

NOTRE DAME — The *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* magazine named Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, as one of its 2006 Publisher's Picks. According to publisher José López-Isa, "Our list of publisher's picks ... represents our latest and best thinking about which colleges and universities offer Hispanic students a solid chance of academic success." Saint Mary's is one of eight Indiana colleges and universities to receive recognition.

Student surveys conducted by "The Hispanic Outlook" determine which institutions make the list.

Saint Mary's College offers support to Hispanic students in many forms. The Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership, Mexico Study Tour, the Student Diversity Board and La Fuerza are some of the departments and programs in place to help them succeed.

The Student Diversity Board and La Fuerza are student-led groups on campus that organize programming — including several events for Hispanic Heritage Month — and bring Hispanic students and other minorities together.

Book group to focus on Blessed Mother

FORT WAYNE — The public is invited to join a new book discussion group beginning Jan. 10. The "2007: A Year of Reading with our Lady," group will read books featuring writings of the Fathers of the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. ALOYSIUS KNIGHTS SUPPORT BI-COUNTY SERVICES



BLUFFTON NEWS-BANNER PHOTO BY GEOFF FRANK

Bluffton-based Bi-County Services Inc. received a \$2,500 contribution Dec. 8 from the Knights of Columbus council at St. Aloysius Catholic Church at Yoder. John Whicker, center, president of Bi-County Services holds a check presented by Mike Follis, left, the grand knight of St. Aloysius Council #13142, and Alan Gunkel, right, the K of C treasurer. The contribution was from proceeds of the K of C's major fundraisers this year, including a September golf outing and this year's Tootsie Roll fundraiser in May. The K of C is in its fifth year of service in contributing funds to Bi-County, which provides services to people with disabilities in Adams and Wells counties.

Church, saints and theologians on the Blessed Virgin Mary each month beginning with "The Cause of Our Joy," by M. Francis LeBlanc, O. Carm (Pauline Books).

Discussion gatherings will be held the second Wednesday of each month from 9-10:30 a.m. in the Cathedral Bookstore, located on the first floor of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 S. Clinton St. Free parking is available in the parking garage.

Book lists are available at the Cathedral Bookstore and All Saints Religious Goods, 3506 S. Calhoun St. For more information e-mail justadorehim@hotmail.com.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School accepted into the NJHS

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School has been granted a charter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Similar to the National Honor Society, the society serves to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire for service, promote leadership, develop character and encourage citizenship.

The selection process will begin during the spring semester of 2007. St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School will select students from the current sixth and seventh grades for induction during the fall of 2007.

Five members of the staff have been appointed to the faculty council. This council is responsible for reviewing the applications and determining the candidates for

NJHS. The council will look at the criteria listed earlier.

Principal Lois Widner is excited to have a charter starting at the school. "This is an opportunity to recognize students who excel in many areas. Our students are very involved in extracurricular activities, community service, and shine academically," Widner said.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School serves students in grades K-8

Thomas Beuchel honored as Eagle Scout

FORT WAYNE

— Boy Scout Troop 1 honored Thomas B. Beuchel, 16, at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Hession Center of St. Charles Catholic Church. Thomas is the son of Patrick and Margaret Beuchel of Fort Wayne. They are members of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, New Haven.

Only 2 percent of Scouts attain the highest rank of the Boy Scouts of America. An Eagle Scout must have completed at least 21 merit badges and organized a service project that benefits his church, community, or school. Thomas led a crew that restored the base of a tombstone and a storage shed at St. John the Baptist's cemetery.

Thomas joined St. John's Cub Scout Pack 3050 at age seven and

later earned their highest award, the Arrow of Light. He has been a member of St. Charles Boy Scout Troop 1 since 2001.

A junior at Bishop Dwenger High School, Thomas has been active in marching band, pep band, drumline, jazz band and liturgical choir. As a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, New Haven, he volunteers each summer for the Vacation Bible School program and participates in youth choir.

Notre Dame task force issues report on future of Catholic schools

NOTRE DAME — The Notre Dame Task Force on Catholic Education—a national group of Catholic educators, administrators, diocesan representatives, philanthropists and investment specialists—has released a report on the challenges and opportunities confronting primary and secondary Catholic schools in the United States.

The report, entitled "Making God Known, Loved, and Served: The Future of Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools in the United States," is the result of a yearlong study commissioned by Notre Dame's president, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, and chaired by Holy Cross Father Timothy Scully, director of Notre Dame's Institute for Educational Initiatives.

According to Father Jenkins, the report is the university's response to the United States Catholic

Conference of Bishops 2005 pastoral statement, "Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium."

"We all know of the many challenges that have confronted the Catholic community in the United States as generation after generation has struggled to build and sustain this extraordinary school system," Father Jenkins said. "These challenges certainly have not diminished at the outset of the 21st century. At the same time, and despite the many difficulties that confront us, Catholic schools in the United States today offer compelling opportunities for growth and renewed life."

Emphasizing "the responsibility of the entire Catholic community" for the Catholic schools, the bishops' pastoral statement had appealed to Catholic higher education to address the now familiar problems — declining enrollments, rising tuitions, inaccessibility to new Catholic immigrants, diminishing academic quality, and a shrinking labor pool of vowed religious among the teaching ranks — and to propose some hopeful responses.

The Notre Dame task force report promises a deepened Notre Dame commitment to serve Catholic elementary and secondary schools through programs such as:

- the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), which annually supports nearly 200 teachers in more than 100 Catholic schools in more than 30 communities nationwide

- the ACE Leadership program, which has received a \$1.1 million grant from the Goizueta Foundation to expand its enrollment by 50 percent and to build the recently approved master of arts in educational administration degree, which prepares principals for Catholic schools

- the ACE Fellowship, which supports and encourages ACE graduates to become lifelong advocates of service to Catholic schools

- the recently launched Magnificat School project, which provides principals, pastors, parents and school board members with professional support and development training to strengthen schools that might otherwise close

- a proposed ACE Consulting Initiative, which will provide administrators and advocates of Catholic elementary and secondary schools expertise in marketing, governance, board training, management, strategic planning and investing

- the convening of regular National Parish School Leadership Team Workshops for pastors, principals and school board presidents from selected dioceses to discuss Catholic identity as well as marketing, leadership, strategic planning and financial management.

In addition to recommending that the American bishops place the revival of Catholic schools among their highest priorities, the report urges them to "teach clearly and with one voice that parents have a right to send their children to Catholic schools, that these schools contribute to a healthy civil society and provide special benefits to the poor and disadvantaged."

The report is available online at <http://president.nd.edu/catholic-schools/>

Blessed Mother leads guitarist to music ministry

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — What began as a mother's prayer that her son just make it through his senior year of high school blossomed into both a musical and spiritual adventure for South Bend native Mike Nolan.

Inspired by his older brother, Mike started playing guitar 20 years ago at the age of 11. With no formal training, he picked the instrument up quickly and was hooked. But as Mike looks back, he says his self-image became reliant on what he could do musically.

"I loved making music," recalls Mike. "But I didn't necessarily share it to bring joy to others, or to give glory to God."

Meanwhile, Cathy Nolan was worried about her son's educational future.

"One day, his mother was praying for him," explained Mike's dad, Denis. "He was going to begin his senior year and didn't have much of an educational direction, and she was worried about his future. She asked the Lord what she could do to help, and felt the Holy Spirit say, 'Get him music lessons.'"

So, the Nolans called Mendoza's Guitar and asked if anyone there could take him on, and if they could possibly get him ready for music school in one year. The answer was "yes" and Mike began lessons at age 18. He sped through the classical curriculum and was actually recommended by Mendoza's to teach other students by the end of that year.

"Mike is the only local guitar teacher my studio will recommend," said Mendoza's owner Richard Wisner. "He is an excellent musician and an excellent teacher."

With some hard work and a lot of prayers, Mike graduated from Saint Joseph's High School in 1994. That fall, he was off to Indiana University, South Bend (USB) where he studied classical guitar. Mike went on to graduate as Musician of the Year, a dream he had when he began college.

Meanwhile, Mike continued to grow spiritually. As a young teen, Mike recalls meeting guitarist John



DIANE FREEBY

Mike Nolan teaches classical guitar to a young student.

Miller Whitney, who pulled Mike aside to talk about music during a Medjugorje conference.

"He stressed that the most important thing for me to do," remembers Mike, "even more important than how I was progressing musically, was to beg the Holy Spirit to come to me and lead me, and to keep my eyes and heart on him always. Well, I took this seriously and consecrated my music to God over and over again."

'I literally loathed music'

"I still had a split musical personality," explains Mike. "I was consecrating it to God and still using my music to draw attention to myself. Finally, God stripped me of music completely. Lest the seed fall to the ground and die, it remains only a seed. Well, he allowed me to 'die' musically and for two years I didn't even look at my guitar. I didn't listen to music. I didn't sing in the shower, or hum while I was driving. I literally loathed music."

Mike says he was still completely devoid of any music when he received the idea for his guitar rendition of "Litany of the Lady," now featured on his most recent compact disk, "Clothed With the Sun."

"I actually dreaded picking up

my guitar to start recording, but I came down to the studio having spent some time in adoration, and I just decided to go through it for Our Lady."

Dedication to the Blessed Mother

As Mike emerged from his musical dry spell, he took more joy in playing his music, consecrating it all to Jesus through Mary, Queen of Peace. Mike's devotion to the Blessed Mother is essential to both him and his wife, Annie, as they raise their four young children in the Catholic faith.

"I have found that Our Lady is like a warp zone to the heart of Jesus," explains Mike. "You can go to Jesus your own way, or you can use one of the greatest gifts God has given us, Mary. Especially in this time, she is able to accomplish things unheard of. I am definitely not attentive enough to her, but the daily rosary especially is the lifeblood of myself and my family. I don't think we would survive without it."

Mike and Annie make a practice of saying the rosary together each morning, and again in the evening with their children. Annie leads the children herself just two nights out of the week while Mike

teaches guitar in the basement of their home.

Families are so busy these days that stopping to say the rosary together might seem like a tall order. But the Nolans are firm believers in the graces received with such a devotion to Our Lady.

Mike and Annie agree that one key to involving children in the rosary is to just make it a part of the daily routine.

"I heard some great advice once," said Mike. "If your children are agitated during lunch, you don't eliminate lunch altogether, do you? You find a way to get through and slowly they grow into responsible lunch-eaters who will probably continue to eat lunch every day for the rest of their lives. Well, the same goes for the family rosary. Many people start with good intentions, but give up because the kids can't handle it."

Mike suggests keeping the family rosary in the spirit of invitation, and utilize your children's amazing imaginations with descriptive meditations. And most of all, the parents must pray with their whole hearts. Even if the child is distracted, he or she is absorbing the spirit of prayer.

"I remember pouting and hating it when my dad called us to the family rosary at home," said Mike. "But also being filled with wisdom and the presence of God as the rosary progressed. God is patient and kind, and he worked with me where I was. He needed my par-

ents to be faithful to daily family prayer and to actually pray with their hearts."

Mike's Catholic faith and family life remain intertwined with his music. His first CD, "Majka" is what Mike calls "me having fun with the guitar, lots of improvisation with a few acoustic pop songs thrown in." His second CD is a different story. Mike has received much more response from "Clothed With the Sun," which he attributes to Our Lady.

"Basically each piece was written and recorded without knowing a CD was the finished product," explained Mike. "I was writing each piece because it was burning in my heart at the time. A friend urged me to make a CD, but it has definitely not been my project from the start. God sort of designed the whole thing and let me in on it at the end, which is why I think he is able to use it much more."

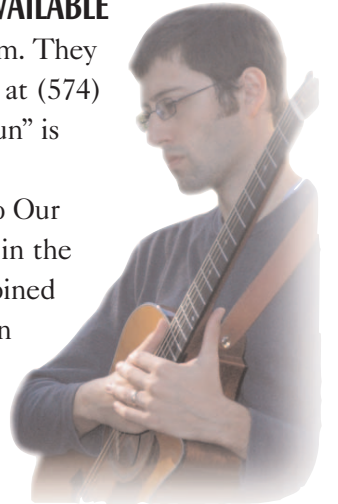
"Artists have a moral responsibility to be vehicles for true beauty. I desperately want my children to be filled with life. And I would never want darkness for someone else's child. I earnestly hope to be morally responsible as an artist."

But perhaps the best success Mike Nolan, the family man and musician, has achieved is stated very simply by his own parents. When asked what makes them most proud of their son, they simply say, "How he's responded to God."

MICHAEL NOLAN'S CDS ARE AVAILABLE

by visiting www.michaelbaru.com. They can also be purchased by phone at (574) 247-1605. "Clothed With the Sun" is available at Divine Mercy Gifts.

Mike's most recent tribute to Our Lady may also be found on line in the form of a video slide show combined with the Litany of Our Lady. "In Honor of Our Mother" has received thousands of views on the Internet at www.michaelbaru.com



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Corpus Christi held Forty Hours Devotion

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Hundreds of parishioners took turns spending time with the real presence of Jesus last weekend at South Bend's Corpus Christi Church.

Beginning with a 7 p.m. Mass and benediction on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, individuals and families signed up for half-hour time slots that continued throughout the night until Saturday's 5 p.m. Mass. Adoration resumed after the Sunday Masses, running from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Forty Hours Devotion, or Quarant Ore, is an extended period of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It corresponds to the 40 hours of loneliness and darkness experienced by Christ in the tomb. For some participants, coming to adoration was a break from some of life's difficulties.

"If I come here to be with Jesus, I feel joy in my heart," said a woman on her way out. "I wanted to stay longer, but I have an older person at home to take care of, and that's important, too."

Corpus Christi has an active holy hour program throughout the year, with people coming to the chapel each hour, from 6 a.m. until the 10 p.m. nightly closing. For some, last weekend's special devotion was an extension of that practice.

"I usually come here every day at 5 a.m.," explained one man. "It's nice to be united with our Lord and to be in his presence in a special way."

Pastor Father Camillo Tirabassi invited a priest from the University of Notre Dame to take part in the conferences held Sunday evening and Monday morning. Holy Cross Father Kevin Russeau spoke about the Eucharist. He addressed what we believe about the real presence, and how Christ incorporated both sacrifice and communion when he instituted the Eucharist.

Adoration resumed at 9 a.m. Monday, following a school Mass and talk by Father Russeau. Devotion wrapped up at 7 p.m. with a closing Mass and reception at the school.

A quote by St. Thomas Aquinas on his death bed was posted in the back of church: "If in this world there would be any knowledge of this mystery keener than that of faith, I wish now to affirm that I believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in this sacrament, truly God and truly man, the Son of God, the son of the Virgin Mary. This I believe and hold for true and certain."

Bishop Luers capital campaign features year-end raffle

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers High School capital campaign, "Faith in our Future," has just taken a new turn. Now in its third year, the campaign is nearing the \$3 million mark in fundraising and an exciting year-end raffle is underway to help reach that goal.

The latest effort is the brainchild of co-coordinators Keith Pautler and Jason Draper and the fund-raising committee, with raffle prizes guaranteed to stimulate interest and promote ticket sales. First prize is a two-year, 24,000 mile lease on a new car or a \$10,000 cash option. Second prize is a 50-inch plasma high definition television set. Third prize is a laptop computer and fourth prize is \$500 cash.

The cost of a raffle ticket is \$100, and only 1,000 tickets will be sold, says Pautler. The drawing will be held and the winner announced at the Luers girls' varsity basketball game on Thursday, Dec. 21.

Draper describes the prizes as "really cool" and the raffle a unique way to make the fund-raising effort attractive to the general public and those with no direct ties to the Luers community.

Assistant principal Pautler describes his behind-the-scenes role in the campaign. "My job is numbers." He keeps records of contributions, sends out pledge reminders and makes sure things stay on track. "The face man is Jason Draper," he says.

Draper, a 10-year Luers physics teacher and technical coordinator for the school, is the public face of the campaign. He

attends meetings of booster organizations, alumni groups and other community gatherings in order to make the case for necessary improvements and what he calls "a major face-lift" at the school. He asks his listeners to "pray about it" and give sacrificially, and the outstanding results attest to his efforts.

The nearly half-century-old school building has long required extensive updating, according to Principal Mary Keefer. The original boiler needs replacement, drafty old single-pane windows must be insulated, and air conditioning should be added to improve the learning environment. A lift is currently being installed to provide handicapped accessibility to the entire building. "These are not frills," she has consistently pointed out.

The entire first phase of reconstruction is estimated to cost just over \$6 million, but with pledges in hand for \$2.2 million and a year-end goal of \$3 million in sight, major renovations will begin in late April. After that the work will "go like gangbusters" through the summer so that the building is ready for the start of classes next school year, says Pautler.

Draper is equally optimistic. When site preparation begins and cranes move in next spring, he says, the three-year vision will finally become reality and that will excite Bishop Luers students, staff, administration and alumni.

The surrounding community will benefit as well. With so much rebuilding and corporate investment currently underway on Fort Wayne's south side, "we get to be part of that," Draper says.

Times for Liturgy St. Pius X Parish

52553 Fir Road Granger, Indiana

Christmas Eve

Lessons & Carols 4:30 p.m.

5 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

Lessons & Carols 11:25 p.m.

Midnight

Christmas Day

9 a.m. 11 a.m.

New Year's Day

9:00 am 11:00 am



Cathedral of St. Matthew

Christmas Confession and Mass Schedule

CONFESSIONS

December 18-22 - 7:30-8:00 am and 4:00-5:00 pm

December 23 - 10:00 am - Noon



CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00 pm (with Children's Choir)

6:00 pm and Midnight

(Lessons and Carols begin at 11:30 pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

9:00 am and 11:00 am

1701 Miami Street • South Bend

Tippecanoe Place December Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Make Your Holiday Reservations - Call Early for Best Times!					Kids Cove & Elsie Rogers Tree Decorating. Suzuki Talent Education of Michiana 7 PM	9 Riverbend Chorus 7:00 PM
Holiday 10 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	Battell 13 School Tree Decorating	14 Toys for Tots & Feed the Children Collection Site	John Adams Swing Choir 7:00 PM	Quarter Notes 16 & Silver Springs Quartet from Suzuki Music School 7:00 PM
WASSAIL BOWL						
Holiday 17 Brunch with Santa Claus 9 AM - 2 PM Please call for reservations	Pet Refuge 18 Collection Site. Join our E-Club for News, Events & Discounts	19 Gift Cards available in any denomination	20 VISIT www.tippe.com for Holiday Recipes	21 Gift Cards available in any denomination	Mishawaka Madrigal Singers 7 PM	23 Join Pianist Arlis Pearl in our lounge 7:00 PM
WASSAIL BOWL						
Holiday Brunch with Santa Claus 9AM -1:30 PM Dinner 4-8 PM Please call for reservations	25 Christmas Day CLOSED Merry Christmas	Make Your New Year's Eve Reservations Early! NEW YEAR'S EVE Brunch 9:00 am - 1:30 pm • Dinner 4:00 pm - 10:00 p.m. NEW YEAR'S DAY (Dinner Only) 4:00 pm - 8:00 p.m.				



Tippecanoe Place
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620 West Washington
South Bend
234-9077
Reservations Recommended



Happy Holidays



Senior Spirit

MEDICARE RX ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN FORT WAYNE Parkview Behavioral Health has partnered with the Medicare Rx Access Network of Indiana to assist Medicare beneficiaries in understanding the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. This free education session is open to the public and is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 16, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Parkview Behavioral Health, 1720 Beacon St. Individuals interested in attending should call (260) 373-7672.

Contemplating in clay

Fred Kagel lets Jesus work through him

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

SOUTH BEND — In a hermitage perched behind the home he shares with his wife Katherine in South Bend, Fred Kagel, 83, quietly watches the seasons change.

The windows throughout the front offer him a panoramic view as deer skip through his wood covered yard.

Suzu, the 10-year-old gray and white cat who lives in the heated hermitage and seems to favor Kagel alone, is often his only company.

It's perfectly quiet. But if you listen closely — really listen — to what Kagel hears, you'll realize he's not alone.

It seems the Holy Spirit is in this place. Through that guidance, the retired florist who owned a flower shop — Kagel's Flowers — across from Memorial Hospital for 54 years, has a ministry that seems to extend beyond himself.

Known as a man who could always find any kind of icon you might need, Kagel occupies much of his time now creating clay religious statues, crosses and sculptures. For him, it's an act of contemplation.

But his ministry is more than that. People seem to find their way to Kagel, and he'll be the first to tell you that he can't imagine why.

Take, for instance, the man who was not Catholic, but eventually became Catholic after long discussions with Kagel and now is

in the process of becoming a priest. Or like the minister in a Protestant denomination who cannot seem to shake Catholicism from his soul. He and his wife regularly attend Mass in South Bend, and the minister visits with Kagel.

They come for the sculpture and the icons, it seems, and stay for something else.

Sitting in his hermitage, Suzu curled up on his lap, Kagel becomes emotional when asked why he thinks people come to him unburden themselves.

"I think God is using me as an instrument," said Kagel, a eucharistic minister and member of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi. "In all humility, I don't know why. Maybe they come because of my gray hairs and my glasses. People would come, and they still do because everyone wants to talk to someone."

He says we all need to "unload ourselves," which is what is technically called confession, often nowadays considered an act of the past.

But Kagel insists that it is not. It happens every day when people place their confidence in someone else.

Kagel turns it around, though. By not going to confession regularly with a priest, people miss out on the special blessings from the church, he says.

When he's not creating sculptures, Kagel has himself on a tight schedule, visiting the Handmaids of the Most Holy Trinity daily —

Saturday and Sunday included — for either Mass or Eucharist Service and liturgy.

He calls Sister Emmanuel, superior of the Handmaids of the Most Holy Trinity, his longtime spiritual director and his wish to follow the contemplative life is what drew him to the monastery where Sister Emmanuel, a slight woman with kind eyes, lives. He said he believes people think it strange of him to come to liturgy every day at the monastery instead of a traditional cathedral.

But Kagel believes it's where God wants him, and wherever God wants him is where he wants to be.

They pray for the community as well as events going on around the world. He says praying the rosary is the "most powerful weapon we have waking the Mother of God through the holy rosary and asking for protection for ourselves."

But even more, daily Mass is important, Kagel insists.

"Just like food sustains my body, I have to have my spiritual food, the Eucharist," says Kagel.

For him, and for everyone, Kagel contends, faith is a minute-by-minute, get-up-till-you-go-to-bed, 24-hour-per-day endeavor.

But by saying all of these things, Kagel admits he's worried, and he's worried more than a little. He says he's worried people will take it wrong and think him a bit prideful.

But his demeanor gives the exact opposite impression.

"I'm not a saint," says Kagel,



JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

Fred Kagel of South Bend spends time in the hermitage behind his home with his cat Suzu, who lives in the hermitage. He's holding a sculpture he created, which, for him, is an act of contemplation.

all the while confessing that he is certainly striving for the day he's a saint and God calls on him to tell him his work is done. "I'm just on a bumpy road like everyone else."

But for now, Kagel insists he's on the path God has chosen for

him. The balls of clay he forms nearly on a daily basis is a work that is a gift from God.

"The secret is not trying to be in the driver's seat in our lives," reveals Kagel. "We have to let Jesus flow like a river through us and let him work."

Seniors have a vital role in family Christmas celebrations

BY LISA PETSCHKE

The Christmas season is a hectic time for many people, due to the preparations and festivities that typically take place. Staying sane, not to mention enjoying this special time of year, is even more of a challenge for those raising a family — a labor-intensive role at the best of times.

Older relatives, who have many Christmases under their belt and usually some time to spare, can be instrumental in making the season more meaningful and enjoyable for this younger generation and their offspring.

Given their early life experiences and the wisdom that comes

with age, they are well-positioned, for example, to take a leadership role in taming Christmas commercialism — a concern shared by many of today's parents — and modeling environmental stewardship.

Elders are also the key to traditions, passing them along and perhaps also developing new ones. Traditions help solidify a family, giving it a unique identity that provides each member with a feeling of belonging. They also provide stability, in turn promoting feelings of security.

If you are a senior, read on for some ways to enhance your family's celebration of the season and create lasting memories.

Addressing stress

- Prepare extra batches of holiday treats and share them.
- Offer to baby-sit so parents can go shopping, or invite the grandkids over for an afternoon or evening so their parents can wrap presents without interruption.
- Spell off at-home parents during the day, so they can get their hair done, run holiday-related errands or attend a school event.
- Check the newspaper for special events suitable for families — such as choral shows, pageants and skating sessions — especially those that are free or low-cost. Pass on details, or offer to take the grandkids to one of them.

Gift giving

- Resist the urge to go overboard with gift giving. Limit the number and magnitude of gifts you give, and ensure equity.
- Suggest a new tradition of drawing names, giving family presents in lieu of individual gifts or buying only for the children.
- Run ideas by their parents before purchasing gifts for your grandchildren. Ask for suggestions to ensure your selections are age appropriate and compatible with individual needs and preferences, as well as the family's values.
- Consider alternatives to the usual store-bought stuff. These include: homemade food or hand-crafted items; gifts of time, involving a service like baby-sitting or a

talent such as hairstyling or photography; gifts of experience that allow the recipient to try something new, like a sport or a musical instrument, or an offer to teach a skill you possess, such as sewing or woodworking; gifts the whole family can enjoy together — for example, a board game or large jigsaw puzzle or passes to a museum; and charitable donations in honor of loved ones. Let others know you'd welcome these types of gifts.

• Avoid products that are trendy, disposable, have limited use, require batteries or don't appear durable.

• Seek out gifts that promote

Giving year-end gifts to charity and family

Last month we looked at some charitable gifts that can help you fulfill your stewardship commitments to your parish, school or other diocesan agency as well as provide tax savings yet this year. Here we will review year-end planning techniques that can result in significant gifts to family members and help save federal estate, gift and income taxes.

Annual gift-tax exclusion. For 2006 and 2007, you can give \$12,000 each year to an individual, and the gift is excluded from federal gift tax. You can use the gift-tax annual exclusion for as many individuals as you wish. For example, on Dec. 31, you give \$12,000 to your son and \$12,000 to your daughter. Then, on Jan. 1, you give another \$12,000 to your son and another \$12,000 to your daughter. If you made no other gifts to your son or daughter during these two years, all of these gifts are subject to the annual exclusion.

If you are married, your spouse can also make annual exclusion gifts because you and your spouse each have your own annual exclusion amount, regardless if you file joint federal income tax returns.

Extension of long-term capital gains rate

The Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act (TIPRA), which was signed into law this year, extends preferential rates applying to long-term capital gains through 2010.

Long-term capital gains will continue to be taxed at the 15 percent tax rate for individuals with taxable income in the top four brackets through 2010. In addition, long-term capital gains will be taxed at 5 percent through 2007 and at 0 percent from 2008 through 2010 for those individuals with taxable income in the lowest two tax brackets.

Change in "kiddie tax" provision. Before TIPRA, the "kiddie tax" rules stated that children under the age of 14 who had more than a certain amount of unearned income had to pay tax

at their parents' tax rate. The threshold amount at which kiddie tax applies is twice the standard deduction for a dependent claimed on another taxpayer's return. For 2006, that amount is \$1,700 in unearned income.

The new law raises the age limit from 14 to 18 (with some exceptions), effective for tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2005. The child is entitled to an \$850 exemption, and the next \$850 is taxed at the child's rate before the kiddie tax applies.

Let's look at an example of gifting appreciated capital gains property to children and how that can result in significant tax benefits.

Sue and Bill own stock worth \$48,000 which has appreciated in value over the years by \$10,000. They could sell the stock, pay the capital gains tax of 15 percent on the appreciation (\$1,500 tax), and use the proceeds to pay college tuition for their son and daughter (both are over age 18).

Instead, Sue and Bill could gift the stock to their son and daughter and have their children sell the stock to use for college tuition. The gift of the stock qualifies for the annual gift-tax exclusion. Moreover, since both children are over the age of 18, the capital gain on the sale of the stock is taxed at the child's rate, not at the parents' 15 percent rate. Therefore, the net proceeds of the sale are greater, providing more money for tuition payments.

Tuition and medical gifts

Any payments made on behalf of an individual directly to a person or institution providing medical care or education are excluded from gift taxes. Therefore, if a grandparent pays his or her grandchild's college tuition directly to the college on the student's behalf, that amount will not be considered an annual exclusion gift or a taxable gift. Likewise, if a child pays his or her parent's medical expenses directly to the medical care provider, the payment is not subject to gift taxes.



ELISA SMITH, CPA/PFS

PLANNED GIVING

Section 529 College Savings Plans. Individuals can invest in state sponsored Section 529 college savings plan accounts to cover qualified higher education expenses at any qualified college or university for a beneficiary in the future.

Gifts made to a Section 529 college savings plan do not qualify for the tuition exclusion. However, they can be considered an annual exclusion gift. A donor may contribute \$60,000 in a single year to a Section 529 plan and elect to spread the contributions over five years for annual exclusion purposes.

Before the Pension Protection Act of 2006, the federal tax-exempt status of Section 529 plans was set to expire in 2010. This new law makes such tax benefits permanent. Now, distributions from Section 529 plans used for qualified higher education expenses are exempt from federal income tax, permanently, and moneys can be invested to grow tax-free.

Effective Jan. 1, 2007, Indiana taxpayers will receive a 20 percent state tax credit, up to a maximum of \$1,000 for contributions to Indiana's Section 529 college savings plan.

Note: This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended for tax advice. Please consult with your professional advisor.

Elisa M. Smith, CPA/PFS, is vice president and director of financial planning for STAR Wealth Management, and director of planned giving for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Medicare Part D enrollment tips

INDIANAPOLIS — Medicare beneficiaries who are enrolled in a Medicare prescription drug plan should examine their coverage to ensure it continues to meet their needs. Seniors who are satisfied with their current plan do not have to take any action during the open-enrollment period (Nov. 15 through Dec. 31), but those who wish to make a change will find new options with lower costs and more comprehensive coverage available for 2007.

Know your three C's. Consider the following when making a decision:

• **Coverage.** Does the plan cover your medicines? Does the plan have a coverage gap? Do you need more comprehensive coverage in 2007?

• **Cost.** What is a plan's monthly premium? Does the plan have a deductible? How does the plan handle co-payments?

• **Convenience.** Is your local pharmacy in the plan's network? Does the plan have a mail-order option?

For help answering these questions and finding the right plan, seniors can turn to Medicare's prescription drug plan finder, available at

www.medicare.gov, or they can call 1-800-MEDICARE. Free personalized health insurance counseling also is available through local State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP). (They are listed in the "Medicare & You 2007" handbook, which is sent to everyone with Medicare.)

• **Estimate your annual drug costs.** The majority of seniors will not spend enough on their medications to reach the coverage gap. If a beneficiary's total drug spending in 2007 is less than \$2,400, there likely is no need to select a plan with gap coverage. However, beneficiaries with higher drug costs may want to consider one of over a dozen plans available in each state in 2007 that will cover the gap. The Medicare Web site (www.medicare.gov) now includes a monthly cost estimator to help

seniors calculate and compare monthly prescription drug costs for all plans.

• **Don't cancel your existing plan.** Seniors intending to switch to a new Part D plan should not cancel their existing plan. Enrollment in a new plan will automatically terminate a beneficiary's current coverage.

• **Apply for extra help.** Additional assistance is available to low-income seniors who have trouble affording their out-of-pocket costs. According to federal health officials, over 3 million Medicare beneficiaries nationwide were eligible for the low-income subsidy this year but didn't apply. For information, visit your local Social Security office or call (800) 772-1213.

Currently, there are 46 member organizations participating in the Medicare Rx Access Network of Indiana that represent seniors, patients, people with disabilities and chronic diseases, pharmacists, healthcare providers and businesses. The network provides information and assistance with outreach and education for the new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit.

Members share an interest in educating Medicare beneficiaries about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit and work closely with the appropriate agencies to obtain up-to-date information to ensure that information disseminated by the network about Medicare Part D is factual and accurately conveyed and to equip beneficiaries and their caregivers to make informed choices. By sharing information with each other about member organizations' independent efforts, collaborating on activities, and identifying ways to work together, the network aims to eliminate duplication of efforts and maximize the effectiveness of outreach efforts.

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Project turns into rosary ministry

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Amidst the crowds of people and tables full of holiday crafts, one booth stood out at the annual Corpus Christi Christmas Bazaar.

The statuette of hands folded in prayer held more than an heirloom rosary. It also held a tangible sign of our Catholic faith and the love of God that is ever-present, especially during the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season.

Bob Lerma was looking for a retirement fund project, when St. Matthew's parishioner Patty Opaczewski provided the idea of creating heirloom rosaries. What started out as a joint business venture has turned into so much more.

"My true feelings are it would be wonderful to have this become a profitable business," explains Patty. "But truly, the success is in spreading the love of prayer to bring more people closer to God."

That seems to happen wherever the two set up shop to display their handmade, carefully crafted rosaries. A November Saturday in the crowded Corpus Christi gym was no different.

"It was wonderful to have grandmothers and others pull their rosaries out of their purses and share their stories with us," recalled Patty. "It doesn't matter how many we sell. It's getting the rosaries out there and sparking more conversation that inspires me."

Patty and Bob create their heirloom rosaries by threading selected gemstones onto sterling wire.

"By using wire instead of chain, these rosaries will last several lifetimes," said Bob. "If you have a beloved rosary with a broken chain, we can repair it with wire."

Much thought, care and prayer is put into creating each heirloom rosary. The team does plenty of research in order to replicate ancient crucifixes and medals, some dating as far back as the fourth century.

Some of the medals include Joan of Arc, St. George and St. Peter. The crucifixes include replicas from Spain, France, Italy, The Philippines, Ecuador and Russia. Celtic and Coptic crosses are also featured.

While Patty and Bob say they've had fun learning the history of the church, it's the craftsmanship that makes each rosary unique.

"I told Bob, when we make these we have to hold them in our hands and see how they lay," said Patty. "As I make the rosaries, I like to pray the rosary."

So far, response has been overwhelmingly positive, if not always profitable.

"Our rosaries will usually spark positive responses, enlightening conversations and bonding with others," explained Bob.

Customers aren't the only ones who come away with something special. Bob credits Patty with helping him along his own faith journey.

"Because of Patty's deep devotion to the Catholic Church, I have become more inspired to pray, attend church and do my part to spread the word about the rosary."



Patty Opaczewski and Robert Lerma hold the heirloom rosaries that they sold at the Corpus Christi Christmas Bazaar in November. Above, a Russian cross is shown.

For information on heirloom rosaries, contact Patty at (574) 291-8689 or e-mail her at pattyO22@comcast.net.

PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

St. John the Baptist - Fort Wayne Holiday Schedule

CONFESSIONS

DEC. 17 - 6PM
DEC. 18 - 7AM & 5:30PM
DEC. 19 - 9AM & 5:30PM
DEC. 20 - 7AM & 4:30PM
DEC. 21 - 9AM & 7PM
DEC. 22 - 7AM & 5:30PM
DEC. 23 - 9AM & 3PM
ANY TIME BY APPOINTMENT



**4500
FAIRFIELD AVE.
Fort Wayne**

MASSES

DEC. 20 - 5:30PM (ANOINTING)
DEC. 24 - 4:30PM (JAENICKE
CONSORT & CHILDREN'S CHOIR)
DEC 25 - 12AM (ADULT CHOIR
& RINGERS) 8 & 10:30AM
DEC. 30 - 4:30PM
DEC. 31 - 8 & 10:30AM
JAN. 1 - 8 & 10:30AM

Holy Family Church

56405 Mayflower Road - South Bend

Advent and Christmas Schedule CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 16 11:00 AM - Noon & 4:00 - 4:45 PM
Monday, December 18 7:00 PM
Tuesday, December 19 7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 20 11:00 AM
Thursday, December 21 7:00 PM
Friday, December 22 7:00 PM
Saturday, December 23 11:00 AM - Noon & 4:00 - 4:45 PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sunday, December 24 4:00 PM
Midnight Mass

(Choir presentation begins at 11:30 PM)

Monday, December 25 7:00 - 9:00 and 11:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S MASS

Monday, January 1 - 9:00 AM

Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish

Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve - Dec. 24

4:00 pm - Holy Cross Church (Children's Mass)
5:00 pm - St. Stanislaus Church

Midnight Mass 12:00 am - Holy Cross Church

Christmas Day - December 25

9:30 am St. Stanislaus 11:00 am Holy Cross Church

New Year's Eve - December 31

4:30 pm - St. Stanislaus

New Year's Day - January 1, 2007

8:00 & 11:00 am - Holy Cross Church

9:30 am - St. Stanislaus Church

PETSCHE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

good values. For contemporary fiction, music or movies, for instance, check out the selection in Catholic and Christian gift shops.

- If you're not sure what to give, choose a gift certificate from the person's favorite place to shop or dine, if known, otherwise from a large department store or bookstore.

- For wrapping, choose reusable gift bags and boxes, or get creative and make the wrapping part of the gift — for example, a scarf or photo storage box. Leave oversized gifts unwrapped, hide them and provide clues on where to find them.

- Enlist your grandchildren's help in making gift tags from old Christmas cards.

Planning ahead

- Be sensitive to family members' competing obligations in terms of work schedules and holiday plans with in-laws. Don't make assumptions about availability or insist on certain dates, times or locations for family events, but rather negotiate plans that work for everyone.

- Be prepared to modify or forego traditions that are no longer practical (for example, a post-midnight Mass meal). Recognize, too, that young parents may wish to start some family traditions of their own — don't take it personally if you're not included.

- Consider starting a new family tradition — perhaps a tree decorating party at your home or a festive sing-along (obtain song books and easy-to-use musical instruments such as tambourines and maracas).

Quality time — fostering connections

- Take your grandchildren on a special outing — perhaps a holiday light tour, attending a church bazaar or the local Santa Claus parade, shopping for a special gift for their parents or purchasing gifts to donate to a toy drive.

- Invite the grandkids over for baking or decorating or to watch a classic holiday movie. Afterwards, read aloud a favorite Christmas story.

- Attend grandchildren's school Christmas pageants or holiday recitals.

- Invite your family to join you for Christmas Mass.

- Share cards, letters and photos you receive from relatives and family friends.

- Share family recipes for special dishes or sweets. Invite members over for a hands-on cooking or baking demonstration.

- Reminisce together about past holiday events. Bring out photo albums or play home movies.

- Share your recollections of childhood Christmases, including family customs, memorable gifts and touching or humorous moments.

Lisa M. Petsche is a clinical social worker and a freelance writer specializing in intergenerational issues.

EDITORIAL

What's new this Christmas?

Part of the cherished beauty of Christmas is its rich tradition as the story of the birth of Jesus again unfolds with all its uniqueness and, of course, its timeless message, "Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord." The Gospels of Matthew and Luke provide the familiar details of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the Messiah's birth in a manger, the angel's announcement to the shepherds and the visit of the Magi. It is up to us, however, to apply the "old" message to whatever is "new" in our lives.

It's a time to reflect on past Christmas celebrations and the pending observance this year. How have we grown or changed both physically and spiritually since last December? Maybe we are living in a different home or apartment, perhaps our physical condition has altered due to surgery, accident or illness, or we have experienced the loss of a loved one since last Christmas.

We seem to measure or center our lives on the Christmas holidays perhaps more than a major birthday or anniversary. We often reflect on where we were or what we were doing last year at this time.

The custom of sending greeting cards can move us to tell the story of our lives the past year to distant friends and family, frequently in great detail in a preprinted, lengthy letter.

Even though the Christmas story is the same every year, our perception of its message is filtered by what we have experienced during the year or are enduring currently. Someone who has just gone through a divorce, lost a job, or suffered a serious accident or illness obviously is going to observe the holidays differently than the person who just got married, received a promotion or was issued a clean bill of health.

For many, unfortunately, the Christmas holidays are among the saddest days of the year because loved ones have died, and friends and family have moved away, leaving age and loneliness as one's only companions. The music, the decorations, the commercial promotions and the many traditions of Christmas only serve to remind the lonely of what is now missing from their lives.

For those fortunate to be actively caught up in the Christmas rush — often complaining about a lack of time and money — the holiday hassle can be just that: a frenzy to accomplish too much for fear the annual festivity will flop if they fail.

Moderation in all things

There needs to be balance in our lives with the realization we can't bring back the past or do everything in anticipation of making the annual event a rousing success. Christmas comes and goes at the end of every year whether or not we want it to, or are ready for it to happen.

To make Christmas new this year maybe we just need to sit back and let that old "holiday feeling" wash over us. If we are alone throughout the season perhaps our memories of past Christmases can serve as a substitute for gatherings of family and friends. If we tend to get caught up in the Christmas rush, maybe we need to slow down and take a few minutes to appreciate the significance of the season.

Reviewing the Gospel accounts of the birth of Christ can lead us into celebrating Christmas anew in our hearts. Does the Christ Child have a message especially for us this year? We only can hear it if we make time to listen. Hearing the sounds of the season, from the variety of carols playing everywhere throughout the month to the tinkling Salvation Army bell, can make us more aware of the spirit of giving and charity so prevalent during the Christmas season. Hopefully, the holiday sounds will arouse a desire within ourselves to give more to those less fortunate this year.

Finally, learning to appreciate the many customs of the season, including not only those surrounding the birth of Christ, but also the holiday traditions observed by other religions and cultures, may help us realize in a new way another timeless message of Christmas: "Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward All!"

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

Service of Evening Prayer was wonderful gesture of Christian unity

What a wonderful evening we spent on Sunday, Dec. 3, at Messiah Lutheran Church as Catholics and Lutherans united for A Service of Evening Prayer under the leadership of Bishop James R. Stuck representing The Indiana-Kentucky Synod of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Bishop John M. D'Arcy representing the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The two banners with half of the cross on each, symbolizing our separation, yet when placed side by side on the altar also represent our growing ever closer together is an inspiration to all of us to work together for Christian unity.

Bishop D'Arcy spoke of the years of alienation caused by missteps on both sides and the need for healing and reconciliation. Bishop Stuck highlighted the importance of understanding the meaning of suffering in our journey as disciples of Christ. Both bishops commented on the success of our journey together thus far, to heal the rifts that have separated us, and pledged to diligently pursue the process toward full unity.

Wouldn't it be a great gift to the Christ Child this Christmas if during this Advent season each Christian family would reach out to a Christian family of a different faith experience in a gesture of Christian unity that would further his quest; "That they all may be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me." — Jn. 17-21.

Tony Iott
Fort Wayne

Diocese should note Komen-Planned Parenthood links

While visiting Fort Wayne, I read in the Nov. 5 edition of *Today's Catholic* that the CEO of St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, a Catholic hospital, is heading up the board of the newly formed local branch of the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Are Nancy R. Hellyer, members of the Junior League, and Riverbend Cancer Services aware that Eva Sanchez Silver, herself a two-time breast cancer survivor, resigned her position as one of Komen's top research analysts in September 2004 due to Komen's donation of nearly a half million dollars to Planned Parenthood? In announcing her resignation, Silver commented, "It makes me wonder what other abortion-related agendas SGK may be supporting, like the black-out on the 16 statistically significant epidemiological studies linking abortion to breast cancer. Is one hand washing the other?"

Nancy Brinker, founder of the

Komen Foundation, sat on the Planned Parenthood advisory board at least as late as 2002.

Considering that the Vatican recently confirmed Bishop Bruskewitz's excommunication of those in the Lincoln, Neb. diocese involved with dissenting organizations including Planned Parenthood, should Catholics anywhere be supporting an organization that in turn funnels money to Planned Parenthood?

I suggest that Fort Wayne-South Bend folks read the report from their neighbors at Right to Life of Indianapolis found at www.lifeissues.org/AbortionBreastcancer/komen/fact_sheet.pdf.

Breast cancer is increasing at an alarming rate in our country and we should do all that we can to prevent it. However, our best bet is to seek reliable information rather than flock to the popular wolves in

sheep's clothing. I would watch to see if the new Indiana organization really does increase awareness of breast cancer by disseminating information such as:

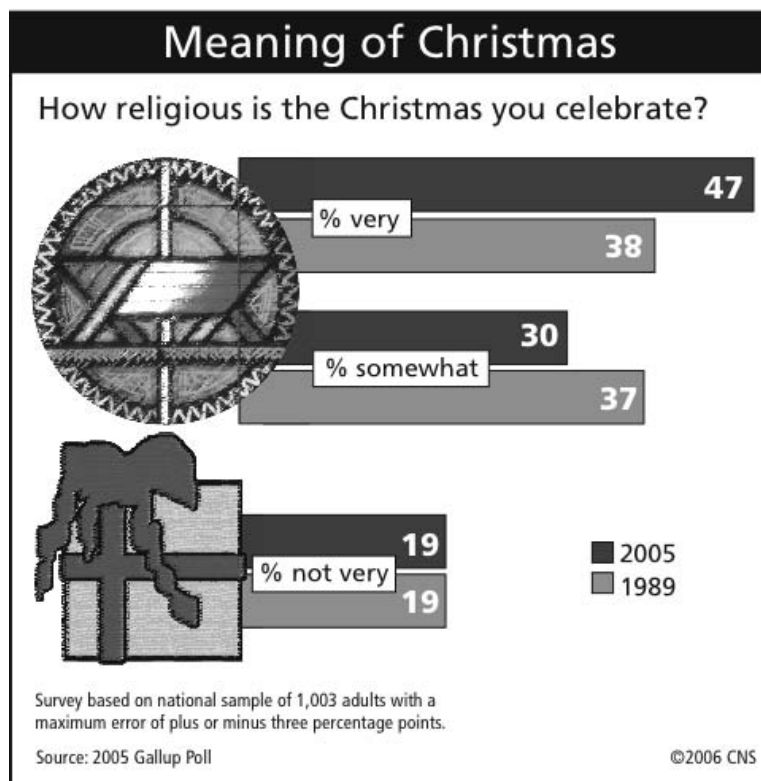
1. Oral contraceptives are carcinogenic (see www.who.int/reproductive-health/family_planning/cocs_hrt.html)

2. Women who breastfed for two years or longer reduced their risk of breast cancer (see www.breastfeeding.com/all_about/all_about_breast_cancer.html)

3. Child bearing, as well as breastfeeding, exercise and dietary measures can decrease the risk of breast cancer (see www.bcpinstitute.org/booklet.htm)

By their fruits you shall know them.

Diane Vincent
Lewis Center, Ohio



Peter Canisius

1521-1597

feast - December 21

This doctor of the church was born in Holland and studied canon law in Belgium before turning to the study of theology in Germany. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1543 and soon was a well-known preacher. He attended two sessions of the Council of Trent and was an important figure in the post-conciliar Catholic revival in Europe. As the Jesuit provincial in southern Germany, Austria and Bohemia, he started schools, colleges and seminaries, and is credited with keeping the southern German peoples Catholic.



Saints for Today

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Vatican officials gauge life span, geographic reach of Turkey visit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Buoyed by Pope Benedict XVI's successful visit to Turkey, Vatican officials began trying to gauge its long-term effect on ecumenical and Catholic-Muslim dialogue in other parts of the world.

Would the rave reviews and upbeat headlines carry over into coming weeks and months? And in the case of Islam, would the pope's outreach to a Muslim population on the edge of Europe make a similar impact in Arab and East Asian countries?

Vatican and other experts gave a tentative but hopeful "yes" to both questions. At the same time, they cautioned that ecumenical and interreligious dialogues are long projects, involving historical tensions that reach far beyond the 24-hour news cycle.

The most dramatic advance appeared to come in the Vatican's relationship with Islam.

Several observers said that by praying in a mosque next to an Islamic cleric the pope showed that prayer carries at least as much weight as intellectual arguments in the difficult dialogue between the two faiths.

"The pope's gesture in the Blue Mosque opens a new horizon in interreligious dialogue. It shows that prayer is the privileged path for the meeting between faithful of different religions," said Italian Bishop Vincenzo Paglia of Terni, a veteran organizer of interfaith meetings.

Vatican experts said the pope did not retreat from questions he raised in Regensburg, Germany, last September about Islam, reason and violence. In Turkey, too, the pope rejected violence in the name of religion; the difference was he clearly framed it in an expression of respect.

"The pope didn't change his mind about what he believes. But Regensburg was speaking about Muslims at a distance from them and that led to misunderstanding and bitterness. This visit injected an element of human contact, which is key to any serious dialogue," said Jesuit Father Daniel Madigan, director of the Institute for the Study of Religions and Culture at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University and an adviser to the Vatican on Islamic issues.

"I think that will have a broader

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

effect in the Islamic world. All the responses I'm getting from Muslims around the world are positive and saying we need to keep the momentum going," Father Madigan said.

Sources said the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue was making plans for a number of meetings with Islamic scholars and groups in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, focusing in part on the questions raised by 38 Islamic scholars in response to the pope's Regensburg speech.

"For these dialogues, the atmosphere created by the Turkey visit will be very important. They will not have to begin under the burden of getting things back on

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Evangelize: Live the Gospel



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday of Advent Lk 3:10-18

This weekend the church observes the Third Sunday of Advent. The Book of Zephaniah furnishes the first reading. It is a short book, only three brief chapters. Little is known about this prophet, beyond what can be assumed from the writing itself. This much, however, is known. Zephaniah was the son of Chusi and traced his ancestry to Hezekiah, presumably King Hezekiah of Judah.

It appears that the book was written between BC 640-609, or during the reign of King Josiah of Judah. Josiah was a reformer, and his reforms were religious in intent and in impact. Such is not surprising. The kings saw themselves, if they viewed themselves properly, as representatives and agents of God. Aside from all else, their duty was to draw the people more closely to God.

Zephaniah, obviously, supported this effort.

This weekend's reading is an exuberant and bold exclamation of joy. When the people are faithful to God, they bring peace and prosperity upon themselves. So, if they draw more closely to God, if they are more attentive to the covenant, their good fortune will be assured. Their enemies will be turned away.

They will be secure.

For the second reading on this weekend the church presents a passage from the Epistle to the Philippians. Philippi was a city, in what today is Greece, founded centuries before Christ and named in honor King Philip, the father of Alexander the Great.

By the time of the first century AD, it was an important center in the Roman Empire, and it was important as a military base.

Such centers often became the sites of Christian communities, as their population was considerable by contemporary standards, and there was much movement of people through them. People came from all parts of the empire, bringing their ideas and values, such as Christianity.

As was the reading from Zephaniah, this reading is filled with excitement and joy. The coming of the Lord is predicted, and it will be soon. Such was the assumption of many of the early Christians.

When Jesus would come again, all wrongs would be righted. Evil would be defeated. To prepare, Christians should conform themselves as much as possible and in every respect to the Lord.

The epistle proclaims that this holy transformation has occurred. It delightedly declares that the Christians of Philippi are unselfish.

St. Luke's Gospel is the source of the last reading. In this reading, John the Baptist appears, urging that the man with two coats give one to the poor.

John also tells a tax collector to assess only the fixed amount. The Roman system of taxation was in effect legalized extortion. The Roman authorities were not able, or even inclined, to send citizens of Rome into the far reaches of the

empire to collect taxes. So locals had to be induced to do the work.

Some incentive was necessary. Local tax collectors were turncoats, despised as such. Profit made it worthwhile.

They achieved their profit by adding to the assessed tax their own demand. Then, John declares that the true Messiah will come soon. The prophetic, holy, fearless John foretells the coming of Jesus.

Reflection

This weekend sometimes is called Gaudete Sunday, the word coming from the opening of the entrance song, "Gaudete — be joyful!"

Zephaniah, Philippians and the Gospel all predict the coming of God's power and justice. Such is the Lord's promise. However, even while the Scriptures look forward to a sudden, dramatic coming of Jesus in glory, these readings this weekend also remind us that we can bring Jesus into our lives and into our communities by living the Gospel.

READINGS

3rd week of Advent

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) Is 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-24

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-6, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7 8abcd Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

In this season of gift giving, this quiz looks at the gifts of the Magi.

- Which one of the three gifts is a mineral?
a. gold b. frankincense c. myrrh
- What are the primary uses of frankincense?
a. It is used as a medicine for camels and pigs owned by the Israelites.
b. It was used to produce fragrant smoke used in rituals.
c. It is an emergency food source for observant Jews.
- Where were the most common sources of frankincense?
a. Southern Nubia and West Chad
b. South Arabia and Somalia
c. Italy, Gaul and Hibernia
- The first mention of frankincense in the Bible is not in the New Testament. In Exodus, God commanded incense be made containing amongst other ingredients, frankincense. What was unusual about this recipe?
a. It was forbidden to replicate it for everyday use, under pain of shunning.
b. It was regarded as too valuable to write down, so was only shared verbally.
c. It was highly explosive, so the high priests were often killed while making it.
- In a reference to a realm ruled by a famous queen, Isaiah 60 mentions frankincense as coming from:
a. Sheba b. Egypt c. Kush
- What happened to the usage of such materials when Christianity arrived?
a. They were discontinued as being of Jewish origin.
b. They were carried over and are still used in Catholic rituals today.
c. They were identified as pagan and so stopped forever.
- While various interpretations of the gift of frankincense are possible, it likely supports this idea in the nativity:
a. Jesus was the ultimate cure-all for the world, so he needed painkillers.
b. Jesus was the King of Kings, so he needed to wear a perennial golden plant.
c. Jesus was worthy of worship, including ritual use of incense.
- Like frankincense, myrrh is one of these:
a. a word that cannot be pronounced
b. insect secretions
c. gum resins
- Myrrh, like frankincense, came sometimes from Punt. We know it better as the chaotic region of:
a. Somalia b. Yemen c. Zanzibar
- These verses praising the joy of spices "...gather my myrrh and my spices." are from the:
a. Book of the Dead b. Book of Revelation c. Song of Songs
- In the New Testament, what common use for myrrh makes this possibly an ominous gift for a newborn?
a. Amongst many medicinal and cosmetic uses, it was used to anoint a dead body.
b. Amongst many medical uses, it was used to place a curse on a Gentile.
c. Amongst many cosmetic uses, it was meant to mark a man as a victim.
- Gold is of course the most familiar and immediately recognizable of these gifts. Even as far back as Exodus it is mentioned, most notably when the Israelites made this for worship in Sinai:
a. a golden Jahweh b. a golden cross c. a golden calf
- Gold is frequently used in churches and rites, but even sermons could be golden, especially those of this "Golden Mouthed" church father:
a. Chrysostom b. Gileadamesh c. Pope Dorado I
- Gold, as well as silver, encouraged this "most Catholic" monarchy to explore most of South America:
a. Genoa b. Spain c. Andorra

ANSWERS:

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

We are always to be open to the good of our fertility

My wife and I are both Catholic. I guess what I'm trying to ask is, when we practice natural family planning, how sexually intimate does the church allow a husband and wife to be without actually having intercourse? Can a couple engage in foreplay without having intercourse? During times of fertility, should a husband and wife abstain from all sexual activity? Kevin

Here is my brief answer to your question. According to God's plan for human love, we are always to be open to the good of our fertility, since it is directly related to the procreation of a unique person, made in the image and likeness of God. We should never turn against the good of our fertility. Thus every marital act should be open to potential parenthood, since love and life go together. When a couple has good reasons for spacing their children, then NFP is a morally acceptable way, because it always respects these values.

If the objective is to space births, and not become pregnant

at this point in time, then the couple is to respect the requirements of their own biology. In short, if you choose not to become pregnant, then refrain from those actions that lead to pregnancy.

And now for the longer answer. It is taken from the Couple to Couple League's handbook in Spanish, "Panificacion Natural de Familia," written by Erick Carrero. It deals with "Creative Abstinence," and I am translating it for you:

"Many couples feel very bad when they discover that NFP requires abstinence from marital relations. They think that their spouse is going to lose interest in them. They do not know that abstinence can be an opportunity to improve their marriage. To abstain means to deprive oneself of something to which you have a right, with the purpose of obtaining something of greater value. When one abstains from sexual relations during the fertile time, one does so in search of a greater good. It could be for the health of the wife, for the husband's search

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

for employment, or time for taking care of the children which they already have. There are different reasons which each couple should place before God to decide if this is the appropriate way for them, or not.

"But this deals not only with limiting sexual relations. The time during which the couple abstains is the best time to cultivate other dimensions of their marriage. It is for this reason that we call it creative abstinence.

"If you recall when you first got acquainted, both of you shared many things about your lives and your feelings, which had nothing to do with sex. This time is a special moment to be

together, to prepare a special meal for your husband, to give flowers or to say something romantic or special to your wife. Also you can go on a walk, to the movies, to the park, speak about things that you desire to do together in the future, etc.

"Going to church during the week, or making some special prayers together can be a real help in difficult days. Yes, difficult days because in many moments abstinence can be difficult. But they should remember that we deprive ourselves of something in order to obtain a greater good. When at last a couple can continue their relations, these tend to reflect a love more mature and more committed between the spouses. The husband will know that his wife wants him because she loves him, and not because of pressure or

obligation. The wife will feel greater respect for a husband who is disposed to wait for the good of all."

Father Matthew Habiger, OSB, provided this information.

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.

Spirit of Christmas, more prosaic concerns motivate year-end giving

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It's the most wonderful time of the year.

That's what many of those who run the nation's charitable organizations might say about the period that includes Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as the end of the tax year.

But Mark Melia, director of fundraising for Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore, thinks it is the spirit of Christmas rather than the thought of tax deductions that drives increased giving during the holidays.

"This is the season that calls giving to mind," as Christians reflect on God's great gift of his Son to the world, he told Catholic News Service. To help others is "an expression of our faith," he added.

CRS, the U.S. Catholic overseas relief and development agency, receives 42 percent of its total private donations during the months of November, December and January, Melia said.

At Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria, Va., and its member agencies around the country, the Christmas season is both a time of increased giving and a time of increased need.

"Many families in our diocese are walking a tightrope, hoping to have enough just to make it through the day and keep from falling into poverty," said Rachel Hrbolich, associate director of social services for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, who said emergency assistance cases locally are becoming more complex.

"People are no longer simply delinquent with a bill or in need of food," she added. "They are delinquent with several bills, need food, clothing and medication and are in danger of foreclosure/eviction or are homeless."

With more than \$646 million in private donations last year, Catholic Charities USA and its agencies placed 14th on *The Chronicle of Philanthropy's* list of the top 400 charitable organizations. CRS is 32nd with nearly \$343 million in private funding in 2005. The two are the only Catholic organizations in the journal's top 50.

The Contemporary Catholic Trends poll conducted recently by LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y., and Zogby International shows that Catholics are a generous bunch.

Asked whether they had given money in the past year to a charitable organization in addition to their parish, 79 percent of Catholics said yes. Half said they had given more than \$300, and half said they had given less than that.

In addition, 62 percent of Catholics said they had done volunteer work in the previous 12 months. Nearly one-third said most or all of that volunteer work had been done in conjunction with a religious organization.

According to *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, educational enterprises — including colleges and universities — received the most from private donors in 2005 at \$15.6 billion, followed closely by social services agencies and youth groups at \$15.5 billion.

International charities like CRS got nearly \$9.9 billion, while hospitals, medical centers and other health-related charities received \$6.8 billion in private funds.

Bob Sullivan, vice president of development at The Catholic University of America in Washington, said the school sees an increase in "the volume and often the size of donations" at Christmastime, as do most U.S.

WASHINGTON LETTER

NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

colleges and universities.

But he attributes the increase as much to "the motivation people feel at the end of the tax year" as to the Christmas spirit.

When the university shuts down for Christmas break, Sullivan's office remains open to respond to donors who want to be sure their contributions are properly credited before the end of the year.

After Hurricane Katrina, Congress wanted to encourage Americans to donate to assistance efforts in the Gulf region but did not want to hurt contributions to other nonprofits, Sullivan told CNS. As a result, tax breaks were approved for both Katrina recovery and other charitable endeavors, boosting giving to many charities and nonprofits.

First-time donors to CRS receive phone calls thanking them, as do those who have increased their giving. Informational tools for donors include regular e-mails to the approximately one-sixth of donors who provide their e-mail addresses, a catalog listing each CRS project and its cost, and a magazine called *The Wooden Bell*, named for a Haitian proverb: "Nobody hears the cries of the poor, or the sound of a wooden bell."

But, the magazine notes on its cover, CRS donors "not only hear the cries of the poor, but answer with compassion."

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for December 24, 2006

Luke 1:39-45

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C: the visit of Elizabeth by Mary, the mother of God. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

MARY	SET OUT	HASTE
TOWN	ENTERED	HOUSE
ZECHARIAH	GREETED	ELIZABETH
HEARD	HER WOMB	FILLED
SPIRIT	BLESSED	AMONG WOMEN
FRUIT	MOTHER	MY LORD
SOUND	BELIEVED	THE LORD

JOYOUS VISIT

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

track again," said Jesuit Father Christian W. Troll, professor of Islamic studies at the Sankt Georgen Graduate School of Philosophy and Theology in Frankfurt, Germany.

Father Troll, a key participant in a closed-door papal symposium on Islam last year, said the pope made it clear in Turkey that human dignity, human rights and especially religious freedom must be the measure for Christian-Muslim relations.

But he said the pope linked this message with the high regard the church has for Muslims. In doing so, the pope showed that there is

no "changing mood" in the Catholic Church on dialogue with Islam, Father Troll said.

Meanwhile, the Italian weekly *Panorama* reported that the Vatican may try to arrange a meeting in Hungary next year between Pope Benedict and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow, at a monastery that predates the East-West Christian schism of 1054.

Four days after the papal visit to Turkey, however, Patriarch Alexy renewed long-standing complaints of proselytism against the Catholic Church, and called on the Vatican to do something about it — another reminder that ecumenical and interreligious dialogue require persistence and immense patience.

Are feeding tubes required?

One of the very practical concerns that patients face near the end of life involves the question of feeding tubes. How can we discern whether a feeding tube is morally required? The answer always depends on the particulars of a patient's situation, but there are a few broad considerations that can help in the discernment process.

As a general rule, we ought to die from a disease or an ailment that claims our life, not from an action (or inaction) by someone that causes our death (for example, withholding hydration). Our death, in other words, should result from the progress of a pathological condition, not from a lack of food or water if it could have been readily offered to provide comfort and support to a patient.

In general, there should be a presumption in favor of providing nutrition and hydration to all patients, including those who require the assistance of a feeding tube. A feeding tube can be conceptualized as a kind of "long spoon" that assists us in feeding someone who has difficulty swallowing.

The proper starting point for the discussion, therefore, is the recognition that feeding tubes should be offered to patients because they are likely to provide two benefits: they bring comfort to the patient and alleviation of the suffering that comes from hunger and dehydration, and they may also serve as a bridge to healing, depending on the details of the disease.

Does this stance imply that feeding tubes must always be used, no matter what? Certainly not. There will be circumstances where feeding tubes will become "disproportionate" or "extraordinary" and will not be morally obligatory. One very clear example would be the situation in which a feeding tube fails to provide nourishment to the patient. If somebody has advanced cancer of the digestive tract, for instance, so that he lacks a functional stomach or intestines, and cannot absorb nourishment, a feeding tube would not be required, since this would constitute a futile kind of "force feeding."

Several other examples where feeding tubes would not be required could be mentioned. In some cases, feeding tubes may actually cause significant problems of their own for a

patient. For example, if someone is very sick and dying, perhaps with partial bowel obstruction, the feeding tube may cause them to vomit repeatedly, with the attendant risk of inhaling their vomit, raising the specter of lung infections and respiratory complications. The feeding tube under these conditions may become disproportionate and unduly burdensome, and therefore non-obligatory.

In some instances, providing drips and naso-gastric feeding tubes can interfere with the natural course of dehydration in a way that causes acute discomfort to the patient near death. When the kidneys have not shut down, the fluids can sharply increase the flow of urine. If patients are extremely weak and have lost bladder control, they may need to have a catheter inserted, which can be distressing to patients and their families.

Intravenous fluids also tend to increase respiratory secretions, making it more difficult for patients to catch their breath or cough, and suction may be required. Providing IV hydration can also cause a flare up of fluid accumulation in the abdomen and expand the edema layer around tumors, aggravating symptoms, particularly pain.

Other circumstances must also be considered. Is the patient suffering from dementia, perhaps due to Alzheimer's or another nervous system ailment? Demented patients present a special challenge, as they may need to be restrained in order for a feeding tube to be inserted, and that restraint may need to continue so as to prevent them from pulling the tube out.

Both the restraint and the presence of the tube can cause fear and anxiety in the demented patient, and one must therefore carefully consider whether such a tube would really be proportionate to the patient's health care needs, especially in advanced dementia at a point close to death. Our desire to comfort and palliate those suffering from an end stage disease is an important part of the equation in mapping out the best options for health care treatment. If we have to tie down our loved ones and cause them grave discomfort and uncontrollable anxiety in order to provide a feeding tube, such a tube may well become disproportionate and non-obligatory.



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

These considerations hold most notably for patients who are near death, where it is clear that we are not obligated to extend or "string out" an imminent death, and where the benefits of the feeding tube will be subject to considerable discussion. It should be emphasized, however, that in weighing the propriety of tube-feeding, we must specifically examine the burden of the technique itself, and not try to make some kind of global assessment about whether we believe that person's life in general is burdensome or "not worth living." Life can be burdensome, as it is for all of us at times, but that doesn't provide us with license to shorten it by refusing a standard and effective intervention.

Sometimes when families are discussing whether to provide a feeding tube to a loved one who is dying, there may be concern that such a tube, once inserted, can never be ethically removed after it has been put in place. In point of fact, however, such an understanding would be incorrect.

Merely because a feeding tube has been placed does not say anything about whether that tube can later be withdrawn. If the patient's circumstances change so that a feeding tube has now become a burdensome and extraordinary intervention, that tube can be withdrawn without hesitation or compunction.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Plunging into the Jordan seven times

What is the meaning of the story of Naaman the leper?

Naaman was the valiant general of the army for the king of Damascus in Syria. His story is found in 2 Kings chapter 5. Naaman was a leper. The Syrians (or Arameans) had captured an Israelite girl in a raid on Israel who became the servant of Naaman's wife. The little girl told her mistress that Naaman could be cured of his leprosy if he would present himself to the prophet at Samaria in Israel, namely Elisha. Elisha was the successor of the prophet Elijah. He was a farmer at Abel-meholah in the Jordan valley south of the Sea of Galilee. He prophesied during five kingly reigns (BC 853-800).

Naaman came with horses and chariots to the house of Elisha. The prophet sent Naaman a message to wash seven times in the Jordan River in Israel and his flesh would heal and he would be clean. Naaman became angry and said: "Are not the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be cleansed?" Father John McKenzie says this superiority of the waters of Israel over the waters of Damascus implies the superiority of Israel's God over the gods of Damascus.

The New American Bible says this statement is typical of the ambiguity in ritual healing. The muddy waters of the Jordan River are no match hygienically for the mountain spring waters of Damascus. But ritually it is the other way around.

R. Hall mentions the importance of the waters of Damascus. The city owes its existence to the

Barada River that rises high in the anti-Lebanon mountains. The waters give life to the Ghouta oasis, which makes settlement possible in what is an otherwise uninhabitable area. Unfortunately today the Barada River is not much more than a smelly drain flowing through the city. On the banks of the Barada lies the Takiyyeh Mosque built in 1554 and the National Museum containing written cylinders from Ugarit using the first known alphabet from the 14th century BC.

The angry Naaman was ready to leave Israel, but his servants said: "If the prophet had told you to do something extraordinary, would you not have done it? All the more now, since he said 'wash and be clean,' should you do as he said." So Naaman plunged himself into the Jordan seven times. His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Naaman returned to Elisha and said: "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel." Please let me take two mule-loads of earth, for I will no longer offer sacrifice to any other god." Naaman wanted the Israelite earth on which to erect in Damascus an altar to Yahweh. Father McKenzie says here Elisha is seen, not only as a healer, but as a savior of Israel.

Naaman then said to Elisha: "I trust the Lord will forgive me this: when my master enters the temple of Rimmon, then I too must bow down in worship." Elisha replied: "May the Lord forgive your servant this. Go in peace." The New American Bible says that Elisha approves the situation of Naaman who, though a convert as regards belief in and worship of Yahweh,



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE HISTORY

is required by his office to assist his master, worshiping in the pagan temple. A distinction is made between material and formal worship. Father McKenzie says Rimmon is a god worshiped at Damascus that is an alternate name of the storm god Hadad who was asked to restrain his destroying hand.

Jesus refers to the cleansing of Naaman in the Gospel of Luke when he was preaching in his hometown of Nazareth. Jesus said: "No prophet gains acceptance in his native place. ... Recall the many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one was cured except Naaman the Syrian." This curing of the foreigner Naaman also looks forward to Christ who wants to save all people, Jew and gentile alike.

Elisha eventually died and was buried. 2 Kings 13 says that people were burying a man, when they spied a raiding band of Moabites, so they cast the dead man into the grave of Elisha and fled. But when the man came in contact with the bones of Elisha, he came back to life and rose to his feet. J. Comay says this story shows that Elijah's power of working miracles persisted even after his death.

Meet The Priest

Father Polycarp Fernando

Ordained to the priesthood:
Aug. 19, 1978
Pastor, St. Dominic, Bremen



What was the primary influence in your decision to become a priest?

There were several factors. I came from a good, devout Catholic family. My pastor was very dedicated to his priestly ministry. The priests who were ordained from my village parish too played a role. I was also encouraged by my teachers in the grade school.

Why do you like being a priest?

It gives me a great joy to celebrate the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, together with the community. This also has helped many people in their own preparation for various sacraments.

What are your special interests or hobbies?

I love to cook, garden and read.

What do you do for relaxation?

Watch basketball and volleyball games, visit with friends and travel, play cards and have time for personal rest and reflection.

What is your favorite reading material and authors?

I like to read on Scripture, moral theology and on world religions. Magazines, *National*

Catholic Register, Thomas Green, Bernard Haring, Bede Griffiths and Thomas Merton.

What is your favorite prayer?

Hail Mary

What is your favorite Scripture passage?

Jn 3:16

What is your favorite food?

Rice and curry — I do not like to stop there. I would like to taste different types of food from different countries.

Do you have a pet?

No

How do you prefer to be addressed by the laity?

Father Polycarp

Sports

BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL TO HOST SAINTS BASKETBALL CAMP Students in grades kindergarten through eight will have the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of basketball, such as dribbling, passing and shooting, with an emphasis on fair play and sportsmanship at a camp offered by Bishop Dwenger High School. The Saints basketball camp will be held Saturdays, Jan. 13 and 20, and Feb. 3 and 10 in the mornings. Cost of \$40 includes a t-shirt. Bishop Dwenger coaches Dave Scudder and Matt Kostoff will be the instructors. For information, contact Bishop Dwenger High School at (260) 496-4700.

Hessen Cassel CYO basketball team builds on last year's record

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — With an experienced group returning, the Squires from St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, are looking to improve their fourth-place Blue League finish from a year ago in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball season.

In his second CYO season, Coach Jim Knapke feels his eighth graders are strong leaders. "We have a great group of kids this year and we are hoping to build on what we did last year," said Knapke. St. Joe has nine on their roster this year, which includes sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

Returning starters include James Knapke, Steven Kiermaier, Hunter Tobe and Ty Wyss. Brian Nichter, Will Knapke and Alex Miller are noted as key newcomers. The assistant coaches are Tom Miller and Tony Wyss.

The Squires finished in third place out of 10 teams in the Queen of Angels Invitational over the Thanksgiving holiday. They have jumped out to a 2-0 regular season record with wins over St. Therese and Huntington early in the 2006-2007 race.



Fifth and sixth grade

St. John, Fort Wayne, 34; St. John, New Haven, 18
St. Louis-St. Rose 41; St. Charles 17
St. John, Fort Wayne, 49; Memorial Park 41
St. John, Fort Wayne, 36; Benoit 23
St. John, Fort Wayne, 34 (8-0); St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth 4

Blue League Boys

St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, 27; Huntington 17 (W. Knapke, S. Kiermaier, Landrum 8)
St. Louis-St. Rose 26; St. Therese 42 (Collett 13, Delua 14)

Gold League Boys

St. Charles 44; St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth 22 (Book 13, J. Torkeo 12)
St. John, New Haven, 22; Queen of Angels 19

Blue League Girls

Huntington 11; St. Therese 32 (Birely 12, Stoffel 4)

CYO girls basketball coaches

- St. Aloysius, Bud Sorg
- St. Charles, Kurt Patterson
- St. John, Fort Wayne, Sarah Shank
- St. John, New Haven, Mark Watts
- St. Joseph, Decatur, Mike Stimpson
- St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, Phillip Schultheis
- St. Jude, John Petrie
- Precious Blood, Kim Eschbach
- Queen of Angels, Marty Secrest
- St. Rose-St. Louis, Melissa Harris
- St. Therese, Stuart Oberley
- St. Vincent, Martin Hunnicutt
- Benoit, Juan Gorman
- Huntington, Mike Stoffel

Seventh grade

- St. Charles, Scott Burkhardt
- St. John, Fort Wayne, John Adams
- St. John, New Haven, Lori Fendal
- St. Jude, Jane Wolff
- St. Vincent, Elise Epple

High scorers define early ICCL basketball season

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Although the current basketball program of the Inter-City Catholic League is still in its infancy, individual performances continue to stand out.

Alex Bauters of St. John the Baptist burned the nets for 21 points, yet St. John dropped a 35-28 decision to St. Jude. Corey Samuels of St. Jude popped in a sizzling 17 points.

In other Martin De Porres West games, St. Michael, Plymouth beat St. Adalbert, 30-15, as Zack Bridgemen tallied 14 points.

Two games in the Martin De Porres East saw St. Pius X of Granger beat St. Monica of Mishawaka, 33-13, behind the 19-point performance of Vinnie Rulli. St. Joseph of Mishawaka swamped St. Bavo, 41-8. Tim Wilson led with 10 points for St. Joseph.

Nick Pellegrino rolled in 17 points to lead St. Joseph of South

Bend to a 37-21 victory over St. Matthew in the John Bosco East. In the second division game, St. Anthony squeezed out a 48-37 win over St. Thomas of Elkhart. Sean Hart with 13 points and Pete Gillis with 10 points led St. Anthony. Jordan Grise with 11 points and Ty Rody with 10 paced St. Thomas.

In the second game, Holy Cross nipped Holy Family, 37-36, with a 15-point performance from Colton Pulaski, who also tipped in the winning bucket. Collin Skodinski had 16 points for Holy Family.

Five games were played in the junior varsity Colors Division. Mike Henry of St. Jude Green set the nets aflame with 21 points as his mates downed Christ the King Gold, 45-40. Kyle Wieschaus of Christ the King had 10 points.

Corpus Christi Blue defeated St. Joseph Blue, 46-23. Mike Ragukonis netted 16 points for the winners.

St. Thomas White edged St. Anthony Maroon, 33-18. Holy Cross Blue beat St. Thomas Gold, 17-3.

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'Heaven: Where Is It? How Do We Get There?'

BY HARRY FORBES

NEW YORK (CNS) — "The purpose of life is to come to the end of your life at peace with the Lord so that you may find an eternal happiness in heaven," says Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, in the final moments of an offbeat Barbara Walters special concerning what she calls our "ultimate destination," plainly titled "Heaven: Where Is It? How Do We Get There?"

Using the next world as a peg, the two-hour ABC News program, to be rerun Friday, Dec. 22, 9-11

p.m. EST, covers the world's great religions, with the input of a cross section of celebrities, theologians, scholars, scientists and ordinary folk. Apart from the atheists — who are given equal time here — most agree that heaven exists. Furthermore, nearly all are confident it will be a wonderful place.

Of course, specifics vary. Walters flew to the Himalayas to interview the affable Dalai Lama (so charming, in fact, that Walters asks to kiss him) and he informs Walters that in Buddhism there's a cycle of reincarnation along the way before reaching nirvana. A now-disgraced Colorado pastor, the Rev. Ted Haggard, former president

of the National Association of Evangelicals, a giddy man with a Pepsodent smile, contends unequivocally that if you don't accept Jesus you go to hell, where he regretfully consigns Jews and Buddhists.

Walters traveled to Israel to meet an imprisoned 21-year-old Palestinian, a failed suicide bomber, who posits that Walters herself will go to the netherworld unless she becomes a Muslim. He speaks rapturously of bounteous rivers of milk, honey and wine — and 75 virgins waiting for him.

The more measured Islamic scholar, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf of the American Society for Muslim Advancement, also paints a literal picture of heaven as living in "comfortable homes" with servants, with the worldly pleasures of sex and food.

Anthony Destefano, author of "A Travel Guide to Heaven," sees no reason why animals can't go to heaven.

Early on, the Christian view was that only spiritual beings who are like angels could enter heaven. But now, Cardinal McCarrick explains, we believe the body will be reunited with the spirit. And he cheerfully describes heaven as a place of great peace and tranquility, and no more troubles.

Rabbi Neil Gillman of the Jewish Theological Seminary disagrees with the cardinal that the purpose of life is heaven, and puts more emphasis on the here and now without disputing an afterlife. Comic Jackie Mason, an ordained rabbi, puts a humorous spin on what he hopes will await him upstairs.

The Rev. Calvin Butts III, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City, sees a place of "no tears," but rather "eternal joy and happiness."

"Heaven" also elucidates how our most vivid impressions of heaven come not from the pulpit, but from film and television, and there are clips from "It's a Wonderful Life" as well as "Defending Your Life," a 1991 film about the afterlife with Albert Brooks.

Maria Shriver was inspired by her own childhood curiosity after the tragic deaths of her Kennedy relatives to write a book for children called "What's Heaven?"

One of the most attractive aspects of heaven is the promise of being reunited with loved ones, an aspect confirmed by Cardinal McCarrick as well. And, indeed, several here speak quite eloquently of that hope, especially a woman who lost her husband to cancer 35 years ago and never remarried.

Near-death experiences give further affirmation of an afterlife. Actress Elizabeth Taylor speaks of one during which she says she met her late husband, Mike Todd, eradicating any fear of death evermore. This is a view echoed by several others — including Deb Foster, who had been officially dead for four minutes after giving birth and speaks ecstatically of her visions of the other side.

There are a few naysayers, and Walters herself — kisses to the Dalai Lama notwithstanding — takes a dispassionate stance, but amid all the unbridled optimism the believers win out, hands down.

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MISC. HAPPENINGS

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Adam Schmitt, retired and in residence at St. Joseph Parish, will celebrate the holy hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 7:15 p.m.

Oplatek dinner planned

South Bend — The American Relief Committee for Free Poland will have an Oplatek dinner on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the Z.B. Falcon Hall, corner of Sheridan and Western Ave. Advance ticket sales only by Jan. 5. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$6 for children under 12. Contact Dolores Liwosz at (574) 259-7001 or Dr. Z. Sobol at (574) 272-3392.

Christmas services at Ancilla

Donaldson — A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 10 p.m. Christmas Eve at Ancilla Domini Chapel. The Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 p.m. There will not be a Mass at midnight. The Service of Lessons and Carols will include the Ancilla Domini Choir, Bell Choir and instrumentalists. There will be one Mass on Christmas Day at 11 a.m. in the Catherine Kasper Home Chapel.

Christmas music concert

South Bend — St. Adalbert's St. Cecelia Choir, together with the Chopin Choir of St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church will present a concert of Christmas music on Sunday, Jan.

7, at 3 p.m. at St. Mary PNCC, 1601 W. Sample St. Free admission.

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,

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Decatur

Robert D. Zeser, 76, St. Mary of the Assumption

Elkhart

Abigail Santos, 54, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

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

Ruth Ann Godfrey, 93, Queen of Angels

Tony Verduce, 73, St. Charles Borromeo

Granger

Ann L. Kvietkus, 86, St. Pius X

Gwendolyn M. Klein, 91, St. Pius X

New Haven

Fritz L. Staak, 78, St. John the Baptist

Plymouth

Matthew Durbin, 33, St. Michael

South Bend

Samuel W. Widmer Jr., 85, Christ the King

Edward J. Perry, 82, Christ the King

Joan M. Kazmierczak, 74, St. Anthony de Padua

Kim M. (Szigeti) Grant, 45, Christ the King

Stanley L. Machowiak Sr., 88, St. John the Baptist

Thomas J. Roemer, 79, St. Joseph

Jeanette Fair, 91, St. Anthony de Padua

Dorothy F. Brechenser, 74, St. Anthony de Padua

Ruth M. Barrett, 86, St. Anthony de Padua

Waterloo

Walter J. Richter, 86, St. Michael the Archangel

Sister Claretta Burbine, 96, Church of the Immaculate

Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Sister served at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.

Sister Margaret Ellen O'Connor, 89, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Sister served at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.

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.

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.

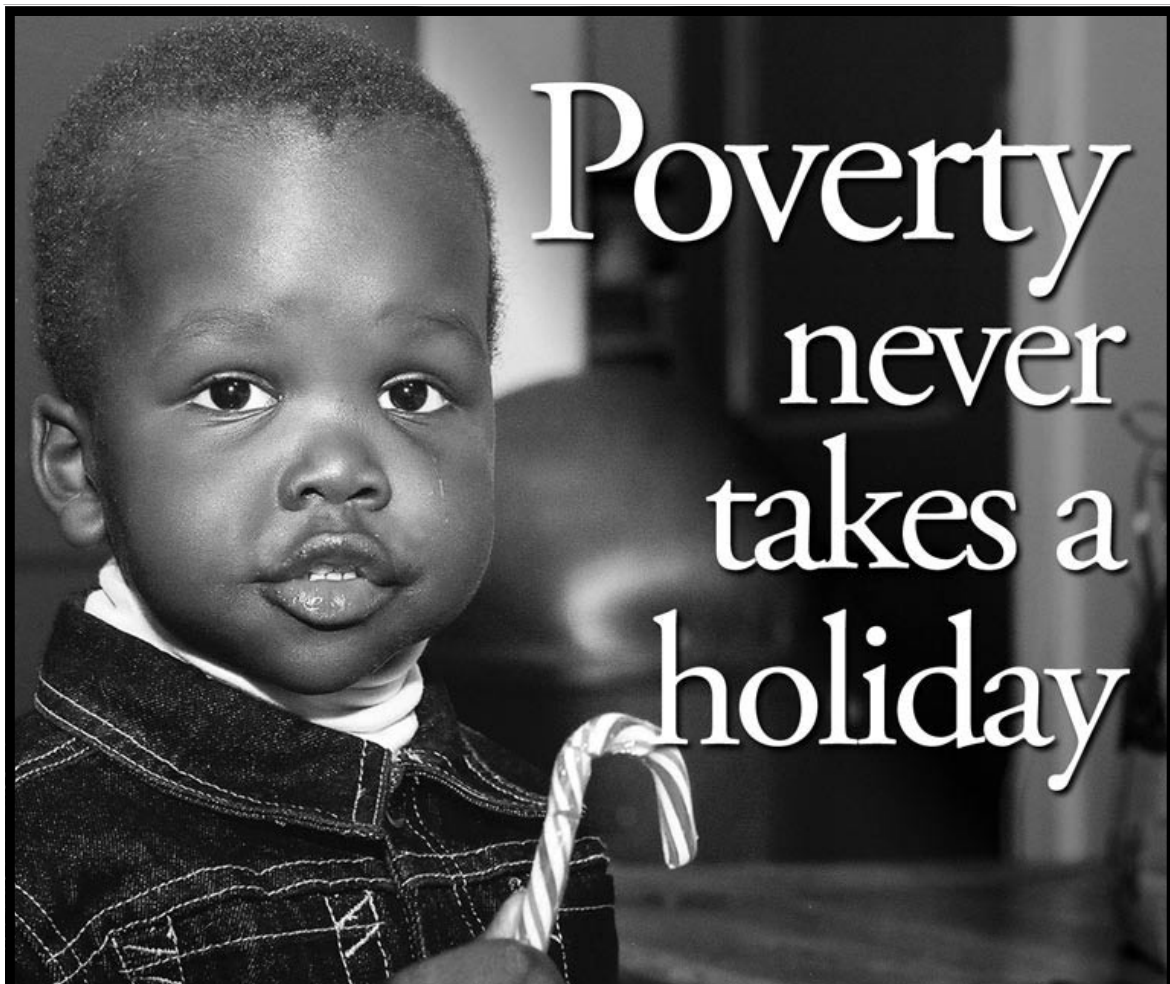
Cookie walk planned

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.

FUNDRAISERS

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a



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Dedicated volunteers bring a sense of family to the Fort Wayne TV Mass

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Among the many volunteers who bring the TV Mass to the airwaves to viewers on WISE-TV, many have a family legacy in the ministry.

Broadcasting the Mass on WKJG-TV (Channel 33) in Fort Wayne for the first time on Nov. 30, 1986, Ed McBride and Christine Bonahoom-Nix took the role of associate director. Ed, a veteran in the broadcasting field, had lobbied for a TV Mass and even traveled to Boston, at Bishop John M. D'Arcy's blessing, to investigate the production there.

With Ed at the helm, soon his son, Sean, was stopping by the studio on Sunday mornings to check out his dad's work. Ed's wife, and Sean's mom, had a stroke when Sean was only 8 years old. With Mrs. McBride finding it difficult to attend Mass at a parish, the TV Mass became "a very personal ministry for us," Sean said, who was helping regularly by the time he was in high school. "It was a true blessing. It was very personal for us, because that was mom's church."

Sean comments on the Mass: "To this day, we get calls and letters describing how wonderful it is ... not only to see pastors and parishioners, but old friends. ... There is a very real connectedness there to folks at home."

As Ed McBride's health became frail, Sean found himself helping his father. Sean said, "It was just a natural progression to show up even more and more and unofficially help" with doughnuts and altar preparation. He would tell his dad, "You just have a seat, relax, I know what to do."

When Ed no longer handled the TV Mass, Sean, after talking with his wife, decided to take up his father's role.

Today, Sean's son Devon can be seen at the TV Mass held at the University of Saint Francis Chapel. "By proxy, they begin to learn things," Sean said. They take an interest, look at the cameras and wonder, "How does that work?" Soon they are learning how to run the very expensive equipment.

Devon has a keen interest in learning all the aspects of this. Sean says young people are a valuable asset to the ministry.

As for Devon, "I see my role as a helper," he said. "I come to Mass every first Sunday or fourth Sunday and I help my dad get ready and do almost everything."

While the McBrides are behind the cameras, the Lamping family is often in front of the cameras. As music directors, Jim and Theresa coordinate the music. If a parish cannot provide

musicians and cantors, the Lampings take care of the music.

Jim came to Fort Wayne from Minnesota to work in the broadcasting field and has been a liturgical musician since he was 11 years old.

When the children were small, the Lampings wanted to include the children in the music ministry. Because Jim and Theresa are tall, the children would sometimes stand on paper boxes at the television station to balance the height for the cameras.

The Lampings' sons, Christopher and Andrew, worked their way from singing on the television Mass to handling the camera duties. In eighth grade, Christopher needed confirmation service hours, plus he noted his voice was changing, so the move from in front of the camera to behind the camera as an operator seemed feasible. His brother Andrew, who is older, had blazed the trail the same way for Christopher's transition.

Co-director and volunteer Bob Nicola also welcomed his brother-in-law, John Bobay to the crew.

Bob, who calls himself an audio-video geek, enjoys his volunteer work. Bob's memories, as well as Sean and Jim's, linger in last-second arrivals of a priest who overslept, malfunctioning microphones and climbing under the camera's range to make the necessary changes — all without notice of the viewers.

It was Bob who encouraged his brother-in-law John Bobay to volunteer, a good effort for a music engineering major from Ball State University. Communications is a popular field in Nicola's and Bobay's family. John's mother Joan, was the sports contributor to *Today's Catholic* for many years and avid TV Mass viewer. This special ministry of communications continues in her son and son-in-law.

The people at home are ever on the mind of the newest host of the Fort Wayne TV Mass, Sister Carol Meyers, OSF, a chemistry professor at the University of Saint Francis. The host is the most visible TV Mass volunteer, and Sister Carol started hosting fulltime after her friend and co-host Sister JoEllen Scheetz retired to the order's motherhouse in Mishawaka. Having experienced serious illness herself in the past year, Sister Carol knows firsthand the difference the TV Mass can have in the life of a sick or homebound person for whom "every day is the same."

"What a wonderful thing that people can get that liturgical feeling," Sister Carol says.

Don Clemmer contributed to this story.

TV MASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Notre Dame is celebrant, volunteers are sought for the congregation.

The host for the day instructs the studio congregation off-camera before the Mass begins about protocol. For example, the congregation is instructed to remain seated, so as not to block the cameras. And, because the Mass can be only 28 minutes long to fit into its allotted time slot, only the front row of the congregation receives Communion on camera; the rest of the congregation receives afterwards.

Seating in the studio is limited to about 50 people, with about 20 of them being visible in two rows of pews. The remainder of the congregation is seated on folding chairs behind the camera.

Sister Agnes Marie told *Today's Catholic* that televising the Mass usually proceeds well, but challenging moments do occur. Sometimes the celebrating priest will have difficulty with the 28-minute restriction, and the concluding blessing may be cut off because the station does not have the option of letting the Mass run over its time slot.

However, she said that one of the most "terrifying" experiences she had as hostess was at the other extreme, and occurred when a newly ordained priest finished the Mass five minutes early. Thinking on her feet, sister simply walked up and started interviewing the priest about his vocation, which turned out to be a bonus segment for the viewing congregation.

Sister Agnes Marie also recounts the time that she received conflicting instructions from the station personnel about how much time was left. Normally, the cameramen hold up cards to indicate the time remaining, but on one Sunday, one member of the crew indicated to her that she should bring things to a close, while another signaled her to lengthen her remarks. She apparently picked an acceptable middle road.

Both Father Galic and Sister Agnes Marie have many stories to tell about how well received the television Mass is. Father Galic's favorite story is about the woman who asked for him to anoint her on her deathbed. When he got the call from the nursing home, he asked if they had the right priest, for his parish was on the other side of town.

The caller explained that the woman had asked for him by name, so he went to the nursing home. When he arrived, the woman's daughter explained that her mother had been bed-ridden for years, and she considered Father Galic to be her pastor since she watched the television Mass every Sunday all of those years.

Sister Agnes Marie has had similar experiences, and said that people stop her in stores to tell her they see her on the television



PHOTOS BY ANN CAREY

The South Bend TV Mass audience has been able to watch the three Knapp children grow up during the 16 years the family has provided music for the Mass. Playing for the 20th anniversary Mass were Anna, left, and her parents, Linda and Andy. Caleb and Esther Knapp were out of town for the anniversary Mass.



Father Bernard Galic, left, concelebrated the 20th anniversary of the televised Mass in South Bend with Bishop John M. D'Arcy, right. Father Galic has hosted the Mass since its inception.

Mass. She seems particularly pleased that the television congregation includes a group of prisoners at the state prison in Michigan City who call themselves the St. Dismas Community. She has become a pen pal to one of the prisoners through the television Mass, and considers that to be part

of the ministry.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated the South Bend television Mass on Dec. 3 for the 20th anniversary. Afterwards, Vince LaBarbara, director of communications for the diocese, pre-

sented awards to the key people who have made the Mass possible over the years:

- Bishop D'Arcy, who initiated the TV Mass ministry in the diocese.
- Matt Jaquint, general manager of WNDU-TV, which has broadcast the Mass for those 20 years.

- Father Galic, who has hosted and presided at the TV Mass in South Bend since its inception.

- Sister Agnes Marie, for her work over the past six years.

- Andy and Linda Knapp and their three children, who have provided music for the Mass for 16 years.

- Betty Zavor, a volunteer who helps with setup and represents the St. Joseph Valley Knights of Columbus in providing refreshments after the Mass.

- Paula Olen, a volunteer who also helps with setup and arranges for the proclaimer, server, additional parishioners, and any other needs.

After the awards were distributed, Bishop D'Arcy also recognized Basil O'Hagan, who was in the Dec. 3 studio congregation. O'Hagan—now retired—was general manager of WNDU-TV in 1986 when Bishop D'Arcy approached him about the possibility of televising the Mass. Bishop D'Arcy thanked O'Hagan for being receptive to the idea and making the televised Mass possible and so successful.

Father Galic's favorite story is about the woman who asked for him to anoint her on her deathbed.