



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Diocese, church celebrate Immaculate Conception

Area faithful entrusted to Mary

BY CAROL GLATZ

FORT WAYNE, VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at the request of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, parishes celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception Saturday, Dec. 8, by entrusting the faithful to Mary, the patroness of the diocese. A Prayer of Entrustment was recited at parishes' holy day Masses. This was part of the diocesan Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year graces as the diocese was rededicated to the Immaculate Conception.

In Vatican City, lamenting the climate of consumerism and materialism in today's world, Pope Benedict XVI criticized "unscrupulous adults" who victimize children through sexual abuse and prostitution.

Even the most sacred things, "like the human body, temple of the God of love and life," have been turned into objects of consumption, he said before praying the noonday Angelus Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

"Adolescents, young people, even young children are easy victims of the corruption of love, deceived by unscrupulous adults who, by lying to them and themselves, lure them down the dead-end roads of consumerism," he said, without specifically mentioning abuse or prostitution to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"How sad when young people are robbed of the amazement, the enchantment of the most beautiful feelings" and the value of respecting the human body, he said.

Most young people growing up in a consumerist society are bombarded with "messages that offer false

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CNS PHOTO/DARIO PIGNATELLI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI blesses flowers during the feast of the Immaculate Conception near the Spanish Steps in Rome Dec. 8.

POPE'S ADVENT WREATH



CNS PHOTO/GIANCARLO GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI's advent wreath is pictured during the pope's meeting with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk at the Vatican Dec. 7. The wreath follows the German tradition of using red candles. Pope Benedict was born in the Bavarian region of Germany.

Notre Dame conference encourages dialogue of culture

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Nearly 200 speakers from the United States and from foreign countries came to the University of Notre Dame Nov. 29 through Dec. 1 to talk about the cultural divisions in the modern world. While the topics were wide-ranging — from human rights law to offshore industry to the ethics of exit from Iraq — all the speakers stressed the "dialogue" part of the conference theme: "The Dialogue of Cultures."

That theme was taken directly from a Sept. 12, 2006, address given by Pope Benedict XVI in Regensburg, Germany, in which the pope called for the reconciliation of Christian faith and natural human reason to enable "that genuine dialogue of cultures and religions so urgently needed today."

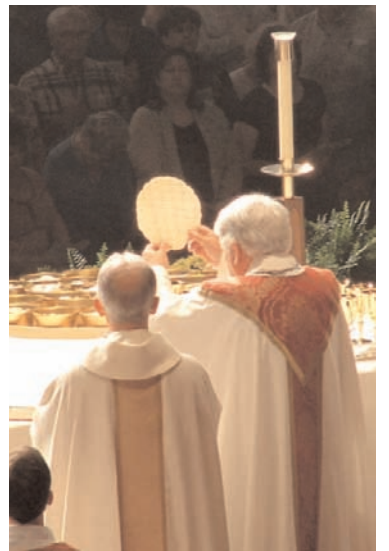
Setting the tone for the conference was

the keynote speaker, Archbishop Elias Chacour, Archbishop Metropolitan of the Melkite Catholic Diocese of Acco, Haifa, Nazareth and Galilee. In introducing him, Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, president of Notre Dame, called the archbishop a "noble" spokesperson for peace who has worked tirelessly for just relations between Palestinians, Christians and Jews in the Holy Land.

Archbishop Chacour told the audience in the full McKenna Hall Auditorium that dialogue is "the discovery of who the other is, and who are you in the presence of others." The absence of dialogue, he said, means committing crimes like the Biblical Cain killing his brother, Abel.

In the Middle East, he said, dialogue has been refused, and the rejection of dialogue has resulted in nine wars, each one more

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Holy Cross priests transform lives with daily reflections

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PUBLISHER: Bishop John M. D'Arcy

EDITOR: Tim Johnson
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Don Clemmer
STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan
FREELANCE WRITERS: Lauren Caggiano,
Ann Carey, Michelle Castleman, Elmer
J. Danch, Michelle Donaghey, Bonnie
Elberson, Denise Fedorow, Sister
Margie Lavonis, CSC, Jennifer Murray,
Jennifer Ochstein and Deb Wagner

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Kathy Denice
AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber
BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol
kvoiro1@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen (Fort Wayne area)
(260) 456-2824
Jeanette Simon (South Bend area)
(574) 234-0687

Web site: www.diocesefwsb.org/TODAY

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Bend, IN 46601. Telephone (574) 234-
0687. Fax: (574) 232-8483.

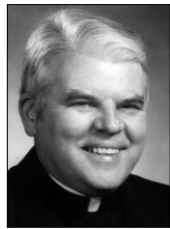
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The whole cathedral on Dec. 8 was 'a song to Our Lady'



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A kind of trilogy

On Friday we gathered together priests and bishop at our beloved Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to pray for Father Jim O'Connor, a devoted priest who spent many years as pastor of St. Henry Parish, Fort Wayne — years when it had a strong school and children seemed everywhere. Father Jim had suffered in his final years at Saint Anne Home, but he was remembered with great love. He had asked me to preach at his 50th jubilee and at his retirement at St. Henry's. I was privileged to speak some words at the Rite of Christian Burial in the presence of his dear sisters, Sister Jane Marie, the delegate to the religious for the Diocese of Rockford and his sister Theresa.

Jim O'Connor was one of the priests born in Gary, Ind., when it was part of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, who served in this diocese. Father Tom O'Connor, Msgr. Bill Lester and Father Ed Narowich, all came from Holy Angels Parish, which is now the Gary cathedral. His parents were from County Mayo in Ireland, the birthplace of my own mother. His father, Luke, came west like so many others to work in the steel mills and raise a family and pray the rosary every night.

The second day

I was very moved, as were so many others as we offered the holy Eucharist at noon on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of our diocese and our cathedral, despite the confusion that surrounds holy days when they fall on a Saturday or Monday. Everyone seemed to know that the feast of the Immaculate Conception, at least in this country, is always observed as a holy day of obligation no matter what day of the week it falls on. So the cathedral was packed, with people standing. Msgr. Bill Lester once told me that the whole cathedral was "a song to Our Lady." And so it was on Dec. 8, 2007, in a special way surrounded by the stained glass windows depicting Mary's life. We sang hymns to her, and after the homily, as was true in all the churches of the diocese and in the basilica, we entrusted the diocese and also ourselves to Our Lady. I wrote this entrustment for the Year 2000, and altered it somewhat for this Jubilee Year 2007. The entrustment is an act believing that Mary, with her pure heart, will lead us all to Jesus Christ, her son. This day is always special to me, but never more so than my years here as your bishop.

The third day: St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne

This is a splendid old parish, and how joyful it was that at the 9 a.m. Mass, despite icy footing and rain, we had an excellent crowd. Groups from two Masses — one for the Vietnamese and the other for the English-speaking were joined together. The occasion was the installation as pastor Father Chau Pham, SVD. We are very grateful to the priests of the Society of the Divine Word for allowing Father Chau to serve at St. Patrick's. Two of his brother priests, also from Vietnam and also members of the Society of the Divine Word, concelebrated with us as did Father Martin Lam Nguyen, CSC, a priest of Holy Cross and professor of art at Notre Dame, Father Martin has served the Vietnamese in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. There was an excellent Vietnamese choir. Some of the readings were in that language. After a substantial break and some Vietnamese food, we were back to the altar for the noon Mass. Standing room only. A full church. Mass in Spanish. I preached in English, and a wonderful young woman named Anna, who is a student at IPFW, translated into perfect Spanish. At the beginning of Mass there was Aztec dancing in honor of Our

Route 31. Route 31 is not the most scenic or delightful road in Indiana, but I was bound for Culver, where I had a soup and sandwich and a nice visit with Father Glenn Kohrman, an exemplary and hardworking priest. In addition to teaching at Ancilla College and Culver Academy, where he is chaplain, Father Glenn takes care of St. Mary of the Lake Parish. A cold night, indeed, in Culver at 14 degrees, but warm in the hearts of the people. They shared with me how much they appreciate Father Glenn's teaching and instruction and his weekly seminar on Scripture. We dedicated a new altar in a small chapel for daily Mass; and after some hot coffee, I was on the way again — east towards home.

Back to Sacred Heart, Warsaw, the next day

Back to Sacred Heart, Warsaw, the next day for an important meeting with our presbyteral council, followed by the diocesan consultors. The meetings with the council are always very enriching for me and filled with joy. Nothing beats meeting with our priests; and I will be with them again this week at St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse, for a Day of Recollection to be given by Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, the rector of the Josephinum Seminary.

I almost missed it

The 30th anniversary of my dear dad's death slipped by, and I only thought of it a day or two later. He died in Youville Hospital, a blessed place in Cambridge, Mass. I never met a finer man. I think of him and my

dear mother more often now because my dear sister is with them in their blessed place of love, so well described by Pope Benedict XVI in his new encyclical. Dad died at Youville Hospital. As we left the building that long-ago night, mom, just beginning to feel the pain, noticed a little touch of Christmas — a small Christmas tree, I think. It lifted her heart that he should die at Christmas time, the season of hope. It is an old Irish conviction to believe that it is especially blessed to die in the Christmas season. Pope John XXIII, as death drew near said, "Any day is a good day to die."

Jubilee indulgence

Do not forget that the Holy See has given an indulgence during this year for those who visit any of our parish churches, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, or the Fatima shrine at Notre Dame and other designated holy places and prays for the intentions of the Holy Father, while also going to holy Communion and confession. This plenary indulgence can also be offered for the deceased. And our priests, with their great tradition of penance services, give ample time for the sacrament of penance during Advent — often with several priests available for confession.

See you all next week.

This splendid parish
has always welcomed the immigrant,
beginning with the Irish.

Lady, and the beautiful painting was present, featuring her apparition to Juan Diego. This was accomplished very prayerfully. Then a little bit of Mexican food and we greeted Father Eloy Jimenez, returning after some weeks in Mexico.

This splendid parish has always welcomed the immigrant, beginning with the Irish. It was my joy to have a little time after the first Mass with Agnes and Jim McArdle, longtime parishioners and supporters of St. Patrick's. Here the Irish and the Vietnamese and the Mexicans and the other Latin Americans have been welcomed, and Christ and Our Lady, whom they knew in their homeland, were waiting for them here; and it was a privilege as their bishop to spend this day with them. I left St. Patrick's at about 2:30 p.m.; however, Father Chau recounted to me his work from the previous day, which far outdistanced mine. Our priests work hard.

Two important meetings

A long trek in midweek to Indianapolis to meet with the bishops of the Indiana province. And the next day a meeting with the Indiana Catholic Conference. We meet twice a year to look at matters that will be covered in the Indiana legislature and see what, if anything, we should support or oppose in light of the Gospel. After spending a little time in the chapel, which Archbishop Buechlein has erected in the archdiocesan building, which was once the Cathedral High School, I drove north on

Father James O'Connor remembered as teacher, scholar, man of God

FORT WAYNE — Father James J. O'Connor died Tuesday, Dec. 4, at Saint Anne Home in Fort Wayne. He was 91. He leaves a legacy as a devoted priest, educator and the longest-serving pastor of St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne.

James O'Connor was born Aug. 27, 1916, in Gary to Irish parents, Luke and Brigid O'Connor. He is said to have had a deep devotion to Mary, which he attributed to his own mother. He graduated from Holy Angels School in Gary and St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, where he received the Basselin Scholarship for studies at Sulpician Theological Seminary at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

On June 6, 1943, Father O'Connor was ordained by Bishop John F. Noll at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

He served briefly as an assistant at St. Bridget Parish in Hobart, Ind., until fall classes began at Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, where he taught subjects including English, speech and religion from 1943 to 1953. Whether it was in a classroom or from the pulpit, Father

O'Connor was known for being a scholarly man and dedicated teacher with a dignified manner.

"By his very demeanor, he demanded respect," recalls Rita Belot, a Central Catholic alumna who would later have Father O'Connor as her pastor at St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne. "He was a priest right down to the bone."

In July of 1951, Father O'Connor was appointed assistant at St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne. This was followed in June of 1960 with his first pastorate at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Pierceton. Two years later, he became pastor of St. Mary Parish in Huntington and, the same month, was also appointed

a member of the diocesan church music commission as well as diocesan censor librorum, the church official responsible for reviewing books and texts for doctrinal accuracy.

Father O'Connor's longest assignment came in

July of 1968 when he became pastor of St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne. At the time, the parish was only a little over a decade old with a number of younger families. He succeeded its founding pastor, Father Robert Hoevel.

Father O'Connor's time at St. Henry's coincided with the implementation of post-Vatican II guidelines in the parish, including the formation of a parish council and board of education to assist with the implementation of these directives.

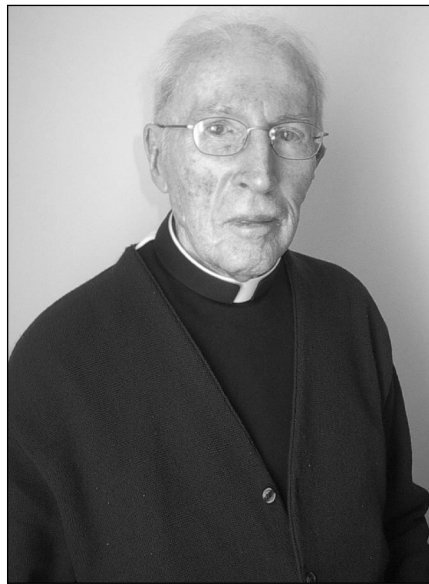
St. Henry parishioners still remember fondly Father O'Connor's 23 years as their pastor.

"He was wonderful with children," recalls Jeanne VanDyck. "He had a wonderful command of the English language. His homilies were so profound and so inspirational."

VanDyck adds that Father O'Connor would spike his homilies with his Irish sense of humor, another attribute that endeared him to many people.

"I don't think he ever raised his voice," Rita Belot recalls. "You didn't expect the humor to be there, but when you got to know him, you could just sense it back there."

When Father O'Connor retired



FATHER JAMES O'CONNOR

on Sept. 1, 1991, he left a loving parish behind.

"He was so revered and still is," notes Belot.

In retirement, Father O'Connor moved to Fort Wayne's southwest side and, after a chance encounter with Father Bob Schulte, then-pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Church, began assisting with weekend and weekday Masses at St. Elizabeth. This, according to Father Schulte, gave Father O'Connor the opportunity to celebrate Mass in a community, rather than alone in his home.

"He provided a little different perspective than I did," says Father Schulte, rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, recalling Father O'Connor as "more of a traditional preacher."

Even as he grew physically frail, Father Schulte notes, Father O'Connor was still a strong preacher. He was also always a good person to talk to who often

had interesting or amusing stories.

Father Dominique Carboneau was a seminarian at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish during this time and recalls of Father O'Connor, "He had a very fine mind and was something of a Renaissance man. He was a gentleman and, even though he knew a lot of things, was very humble. That always impressed me about him." Father Carboneau adds that Father O'Connor reminded him of the priest in the movie, "The Bells of St. Mary's," noting that he was very cultured, often in a dress hat.

"He was the kind of priest they don't make anymore."

Father O'Connor is survived by his sisters, Therese O'Conner of Merrillville and a School Sister of Notre Dame, Sister James Marie of Rockford, Ill., several cousins and his former secretary of 40 years, Genevieve Kasper of Columbia City. Mass of Christian Burial was Dec. 7 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Portage, Ind., with his parents. Memorials to Another Christ Burse (education fund for seminarians Diocese of Gary) or Masses.

Sharon Little, Deb Wagner and Don Clemmer contributed to this story.

CULTURE

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devastating than the last. Another war would be even more devastating and affect the whole world, he warned: "What happens in Gaza and Israel and the West Bank affects us all."

Violence brings only violence, he said, and to deny your enemy the right to speak is to deny the very rights God gave to human beings.

Religion plays a major role in this world today, he continued, for people of religion are starting to learn to listen to each other. Dialogue is becoming a basis for building respect for the other parties, raising hope for achieving the goal of respecting our differences while at the same time working together for one future.

The archbishop stressed that it was necessary for everyone to heed the call of "The Man of Galilee" in his Sermon on the Mount, when Jesus urged people to live the beatitudes and to hunger and thirst for justice.

George Weigel speaks of Regensburg

Another major address at the conference was given by theologian George Weigel, author of the biography of Pope John Paul II, "Witness to Hope," who spoke on "Reading Regensburg right." Weigel said that Pope Benedict's

address at Regensburg was the most important papal statement of global consequence since John Paul II defended human rights based on universal moral law at the United Nations in 1995.

Benedict's first point in the speech was that all the great questions of life are ultimately theological, for God can't command the irrational or the unreasonable, Weigel said. In our human capacity for reason, we see the divine imprint of reason, and so our idea of God influences our ideas of theology and politics.

Secondly, the pope pointed out that irrational violence is incompatible with the nature of God and the nature of the human soul, Weigel said. Benedict wasn't laying down a blanket indictment of Islam, but rather was acknowledging that certain currents of thought in Islam insist that suicide bombing of innocents is pleasing to God. It is the responsibility of all who worship one true God to declare that murder of innocents is an abomination based on a misunderstanding of God and the nature of moral obligation, Weigel said.

"By quoting from a robust exchange between a medieval Byzantine emperor and a learned Islamic scholar, Benedict XVI was not making a cheap rhetorical point," Weigel said. "He was trying to demonstrate the possibility of a tough-minded but rational dialogue between Christians and Muslims. That dialogue can only take place, however, on the basis of a shared commitment to reason and a mutual rejection of irrational violence in the name of God."

Benedict's third point — one that has been almost entirely ignored, said Weigel — was directed to us, to the West. That message was, according to Weigel:

"If the high culture of the West continues to fritter its time away in the intellectual sandbox of post-modern irrationalism in which there is 'your truth' and 'my truth' and nothing properly describable as 'the truth,' the West will be unable to defend itself.

"Why? Because the West won't be able to give reasons why its commitment to civility, tolerance, human rights and the rule of law are worth defending."

Only Pope Benedict could have put these points on the world's agenda at this level of sophistication and for a global audience, and he did so in his Regensburg address, Weigel said.

Among the other notable speakers at the conference were Alasdair MacIntyre, permanent senior research fellow at Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture; Russell Hittinger, Warren Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Tulsa and 2007-08 Randall Distinguished Professor of Christian Culture at Providence College.

"The Dialogue of Cultures" conference was sponsored by Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture, and was the center's eighth annual fall conference. The center's 2008 fall conference Nov. 6-8 will have the family as its topic.

POPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

society are bombarded with "messages that offer false models of happiness," the pope said.

He said these young people "risk losing hope because they often seem orphans of true love which fills life with meaning and joy."

The pope said Mary is a shining star of hope that can lead those lost in the darkness to Jesus, the "true light, the sun."

He said Mary, who was conceived free of original sin, reminds people of "God's lofty and beautiful project for everyone: to become holy and immaculate in love in the image of our creator."

Later in the afternoon, Pope Benedict continued the feast day celebrations by making an afternoon visit to a Marian monument in the center of Rome.

The pope blessed a large basket of roses set at the foot of a column topped by a statue of Mary. The statue commemorates Pope Pius IX's proclamation in 1854 that Mary, by special divine favor, was without sin from the moment she was conceived.

He told the rain-soaked crowd of 10,000 people to be inspired by Mary's "fearless faith, unshakable hope, and humble and boundless love" as she followed in the footsteps of her son Jesus.

Mary invites every Christian to avoid evil and respect God's will,

to not lose heart "when suffering and death knock on our doors," to look toward the future with hope, and to love one another as brothers and sisters, "united in the task of building a more just, supportive and peaceful world," he said.

Mary, the mother of God, is also the mother of all humanity, he said. Because she is a symbol of the triumph of good over evil, Mary can act as a beacon of hope for all people, he said.

Pope Benedict said Mary points the way to God, who is the only answer to the world's ills.

Without God, "or worse, against him, we can never find the path that leads to love, we can never overcome the power of hate and violence, we can never build a stable peace," he said.

At the end of his homily, the pope greeted via satellite-television linkup pilgrims in Lourdes, France, who were celebrating the opening of the jubilee year marking the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearance to St. Bernadette Soubirous.

On the second Sunday of Advent, during his Dec. 9 Angelus in St. Peter's Square, the pope warned against losing the true meaning of Christmas to "a materialist mentality."

The world today is experiencing desertlike conditions where people's lives and inner beings "are thirsting for the life-giving water that is Christ."

He said St. John the Baptist's call for conversion still is urgently needed today.

Mother Teresa's relationship with Mary was spiritually intense

Missionary of Charity priest with Fort Wayne ties writes on Mother Teresa

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — It was through a chance encounter with a book in 1972 in Rome that Father Joseph Langford came to know Mother Teresa.

Years later, in 2007, the priest is still in awe of the woman that led him to co-found her priest's community, the Missionaries of Charity Fathers. The priest has released a book detailing her intimate relationship with the Blessed Virgin — "Mother Teresa: In the Shadow of Our Lady."

"I saw her photo in the first book that came out on her in 1972, he said. "I felt like I had before me a female Christ."

Father Langford views his new book as a chance to "pay it forward" and pass on the power of Mother Teresa's grace.

According to Father Langford, saints can be powerful intercessors in our everyday lives. "The grace God gives us through the saints can be mediated through other ways," he said.

Father Langford's book captures the mystery of Mother Teresa's faith, particularly the visions that inspired her mission. It was while still in her original order, the Loreto Sisters, Mother Teresa experienced mystical graces and a great union with God, Father Langford explained. Later, on a train on Sept. 10, 1946 at age 36, she had an overwhelming experience of the love of God, during which she was instructed to go out and minister to the 1 million people living in poverty in India. In this apparition, Jesus told her to bring his love to the poor and forgotten.

While Mother Teresa doubted her ability to tackle the task of caring for the poor in the streets of



Father Joseph Langford, cofounder of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity Fathers, is shown with Mother Teresa. Father Langford recently wrote "Mother Teresa: In the Shadow of Our Lady," published by Our Sunday Visitor.

Calcutta alone, a European woman with no resources, the visions' mystical communications continued — with increasing intensity. In one particular poignant vision, she was in a vast crowd among the poor and suffering, who felt far removed from Jesus' presence. Yet in the midst of all the suffering there was Jesus hanging on the cross. In that same vision, Mother Teresa saw herself as a young girl before the cross with Our Lady directly behind her, as if wrapped in her presence.

That solidarity with Jesus and envelopment in the Blessed Virgin's grace was a theme that carried into her mission. From then on, according to Father Langford, Mother Teresa lived among them, showed them directly the love of God she herself had received on the train, and served them with great compassion.

Even though Mother Teresa had a particularly intimate relationship with the Blessed Virgin, that same kind of relationship is accessible to all, Father Langford said.

"She has been given to all of us," he said about Mary. "God has given Our Lady to be a special presence in the lives of every disciple."

We can bring Mother Teresa's spirit of generosity to our own neighborhood and environment, to our own personal "Calcutta," Father Langford said.

"Each of us is called to do something beautiful for God, he said. "We have every available access to the fullness and richness of our faith," he said. "But the poor have nothing."

Furthermore, as Father Langford explained, we are called to make use of our gifts.

"Each one of us has been given gifts," he said. "We will be judged (according to) what we have done to live that grace of the kingdom."

Father Langford dedicated the book to his mother, as she had a great influence on the priest. A "gently compassionate woman, the goodness of her heart opened my heart to two mothers more — of Nazareth and of Calcutta," he said. Father Langford's mother lives in Fort Wayne.

In closing, Father Langford said this book is "the first answer to the questions that have come up (relating to the skepticism about her faith life). This book shows how Mother Teresa lived out her faith, despite pain in her soul and around her, he said.

The book is currently available in Catholic bookstores and www.osv.com.

John Norton appointed editor of OSV Newsweekly

HUNTINGTON — Our Sunday Visitor Publishing announced recently the hiring of John Norton as editor of *Our Sunday Visitor Newsweekly*.



JOHN NORTON

A former correspondent for the *OSV Newsweekly*, Norton has also served as a reporter for the Rome bureau of Catholic News Service and as international news anchor for Vatican Radio.

"John brings to the position a knowledge of the international church, solid reporting instincts and an ambitious desire to elevate *OSV* as a premier source for information and analysis on Catholic issues," said Greg Erlandson, president of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing. We are excited about having him as a member of our publishing team, and we look forward to the contribution he will make to Catholic journalism."

As a correspondent for the Rome bureau of Catholic News Service, Norton wrote more than 1,000 stories from Rome, participated in Vatican news pools and covered papal trips to Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Egypt.

As international news anchor for Vatican Radio, he wrote and anchored the daily English-language newscasts beamed worldwide, as well as covered a papal trip to Mexico City.

"I'm excited to be joining the

editorial team of a newsweekly that has played such an important role in the history of the church in the United States," Norton said.

"The next chapter in that history is successfully engaging, informing and inspiring U.S. Catholics in the age of new media. Our Sunday Visitor is uniquely placed to face today's challenges because of the diversity of its publishing ventures, the talent it has gathered under one roof, and its strong corporate sense of urgency for continual improvement," he said.

Norton's responsibilities will include not only leadership of the newsweekly team, but also participation in the development of the publishing Web site, www.OSV.com. He brings to the position experience with continuous improvement and process management techniques, as well as a solid background in digital innovation.

Our Sunday Visitor Newsweekly is the flagship publication of Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. Founded in 1912 and published in Huntington. It is the most widely read national Catholic newspaper in the United States.

The publishing division also produces several other Catholic periodicals along with hundreds of Catholic books, religious education resources and pamphlets. Its sister division, Our Sunday Visitor Offering Envelopes, is the leading producer of church offering envelopes for Catholic parishes in the United States.

Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve - December 24

4:00 pm - Holy Cross Church (Family Mass)

5:00 pm - St. Stanislaus Church

Midnight Mass 12:00 am - St. Stanislaus



Christmas Day - December 25

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

Mary, Mother of God Vigil (New Year's Eve)

5:30 pm - Holy Cross Church

Mary, Mother of God - January 1, 2008

9:30 am - St. Stanislaus Church



Hall's

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God remains source of comfort in shooting tragedy, Omaha priest says

BY LISA MAXSON

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — In a time of great sadness and pain, God remains present as a source of comfort, an Omaha priest said in his homily at a Dec. 6 prayer service for the victims of shootings the day before at one of the city's shopping malls.

"We turn to God, not because God will reveal answers to all of our questions, but because God is faithful to his promise: to walk at our side in times of sorrow, even as he does in times of joy," Father Harry Buse, pastor at St. Leo Church in Omaha, told a capacity crowd of family, friends and co-workers of the victims.

St. Leo Church is located just blocks from Westroads Mall where 19-year-old Robert Hawkins entered the Von Maur department store Dec. 5 around 1:30 p.m. with an AK-47 assault rifle and randomly shot and killed eight and wounded five others before turning the gun on himself.

On the night of the shootings, a candlelight vigil at St. John's Church on the campus of Jesuit-run Creighton University was the first public gathering.

A midday prayer service was held at the campus church Dec. 6. Also, a bell rang for each victim, including the shooter, as candles representing them and the wounded were carried to the altar.

The St. Leo service followed that evening; it was the home parish of one of the victims, 53-year-old Diane Trent.

Victim Janet Jorgensen, 66, was a Von Maur employee and a mem-

ber of St. James Parish in Omaha. Thirty-six-year-old Angie Schuster, also an employee, was a parishioner of St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Omaha.

The other deceased include store customers John McDonald, 65, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Gary Scharf, 48, of Lincoln, Neb., as well as three store employees from Omaha — Maggie Webb, 24; Gary Joy, 56; and Beverly Flynn, 47.

At the St. John's service, Jesuit Father Roc O'Connor, rector of the Jesuit community at Creighton, asked the 800 people gathered to be "men and women for others" in the face of tragedy.

"The men and women of Creighton University have always been here for each other," he said. "Today is no different and that makes us a special community."

Victim McDonald was a graduate of Creighton University, as is one of the wounded shoppers, 34-year-old Jeff Schaffart.

Father Buse went to Westroads Mall shortly after the shootings to offer pastoral assistance.

Ministering to people in times of tragedy is common for priests, but not normally a situation of this magnitude, he said.

"I am aware that as a priest times come where we are called to be part of sad and tragic situations of various kinds, but the magnitude of this is certainly unexpected," he told the *Catholic Voice*, newspaper of the Omaha Archdiocese.

"Certainly these tragedies remind us of the brokenness of the human condition, of the fact that sin is part of our lives as humans,"

Father Buse said. "But it also reminds us to remember that Jesus rises above all of that."

One of the last victims to be identified was Trent. Her family had been in agony waiting for the news. Father Frank Dvorak, one of several chaplains for the Omaha Police Department, ministered to them as they waited at the Hampton Inn across the street from the mall.

"It's like any tragedy. To be able to be present to people suffering many times is really more important than what we say," the priest said. "The presence we give to people in that time lets them know that they aren't alone."

While mourning the loss of the victims, Father Dvorak said that as Christians we can't forget to pray for the shooter.

"If we really have faith that Jesus died for everyone we recognize that we can do some drastic evil things and be forgiven," he said. "We don't believe God will judge harshly those who are not sane. So when you think about the young man we should be thankful God is merciful."

A tragedy like the mall shootings provides the opportunity for people to remember what the season of Advent is about and ask themselves if there is a place for Jesus in their lives, he said.

"God is always with us," Father Dvorak said. "If we don't have that relationship with God, then maybe this is a call to begin to find out what's missing in our lives and to open ourselves up to the hope, peace and true joy that Christ brings."

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Christmas Vigil Mass

Monday, December 24, 10:00 p.m.
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Christmas Day Mass, Tuesday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Day Mass, Tuesday, January 1, 10:00 a.m.

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Vatican's clergy congregation unveils Web site with important texts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy unveiled a Web site offering the Bible in nine languages, the Code of Canon Law and commentary on Sunday liturgy. The congregation's new site, www.bibliaclerus.org, is part of its www.clerus.org Web site which also has increased the number of resources available in its electronic library, said a Dec. 8 letter by the congregation's prefect, Cardinal Claudio Hummes. While the Web sites are open to everyone, they are geared toward serving the world's priests, deacons and catechists, the letter said. The resources on the new Web site already had been available from the congregation on a CD and had been distributed to 140,000 clergy around the world.

Pope says he hopes talks with Baptists bear fruit for dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI told Baptist and Catholic representatives he hoped conversations between the two denominations "will bear abundant fruit for the progress of dialogue and the increase of understanding and cooperation." The pope met privately at the Vatican Dec. 6 with more than 20 delegates who were in Rome for a meeting of the joint international commission sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Pope Benedict said if reconciliation and greater fellowship between Baptists and Catholics were to be realized certain issues "need to be faced together, in a spirit of openness, mutual respect and fidelity" to the Gospel. He said some of the "historically controverted issues" that needed further discussion include "the relationship between Scripture and tradition, the understanding of baptism and the sacraments, the place of Mary in the communion of the church, and the nature of oversight and primacy in the church's ministerial structure."

Cardinal McCarrick announces interfaith effort to fight terrorism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, the retired archbishop of Washington, led a group of religious leaders Nov. 30 in announcing a national interfaith grass-roots campaign to oppose terrorists and protect Americans from their violence. The campaign is being launched by Cardinal McCarrick; Rabbi Jack A. Luxemburg, chief rabbi of Temple Beth Ami in the Washington suburb of Rockville, Md.; and the Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III, dean of the Washington National Cathedral of the Episcopal Church. Cardinal McCarrick, who spoke at the National Press Club, said the campaign is comprised of people from different religious traditions, coming together with mutual respect and understanding, to protect Americans from terrorists

NEWS BRIEFS

POPE GREETES ORTHODOX METROPOLITAN AT VATICAN



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI greets Russian Orthodox Metropolitan Kirill before a meeting at the Vatican Dec. 7. The pope and Metropolitan Kirill, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's office for external relations, held a rare meeting in a bid to improve often-strained relations. An interview with Metropolitan Kirill was published late in the afternoon by *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper. "The meeting with the pope was very positive and very beautiful," he said. "On our agenda there are many important themes such as the promotion of basic values."

and their violence. "This is ... a monumental step," Cardinal McCarrick said. "This is the family gathering to say thanks be to God, the one God that we all worship. ... We're all his children."

Pope OKs plenary indulgence for Lourdes' 150th anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To mark the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearance to St. Bernadette Soubirous near Lourdes, France, Pope Benedict XVI authorized a special indulgence to encourage renewed holiness. Catholics can receive a plenary indulgence for taking part in any public or private devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, said U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court dealing with indulgences and matters of conscience. As Christians strive to become more holy, they can look to Mary who "calls the faithful to her son and his sacrifice and to the love of the Father," said the cardinal, quoting from "Lumen Gentium," the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. The Vatican published the cardinal's statement announcing the indulgence and outlining the requirements for receiving it Dec. 5. An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due for sins committed. A plenary indul-

gence is the remission of all punishment. Cardinal Stafford said the indulgence can also be applied to souls of the faithful in purgatory.

Archbishop says synod on Bible should reignite passion for Scripture

ROME (CNS) — The world Synod of Bishops on the Bible should help reignite "passion for the word of God in the church," said Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, secretary-general of the synod. "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church" is the theme Pope Benedict XVI has chosen for the Oct. 5-26 synod. During a Dec. 4-5 conference at Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, Archbishop Eterovic spoke about the synod and about the hundreds of submissions made by bishops' conferences, religious orders and individuals about an outline of the topic and a list of questions about Catholics and the Bible published last April. The archbishop said the responses show a widespread desire to recover the interest and enthusiasm for studying and praying with the Bible that marked the years immediately after the Second Vatican Council. The council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation ("Dei Verbum") led to a greater appreciation for the Scriptures, which in turn led to a renewal in the fields of preaching, religious education, theology, spiri-

tuality and ecumenical relations, Archbishop Eterovic said.

Modernity does not mean religion inevitably retreats, say panelists

NEW YORK (CNS) — Modern life does not inevitably entail the retreat of religion from the public forum, concluded participants in a Dec. 5 Fordham University panel discussion on the myths and realities of secularization. Those who equate modernization with secularization oversimplify the argument and fail to distinguish between social theory and actual examples found in diverse countries around the world, they said. The discussion between Peter Steinfels, co-director of the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture, and Jose Casanova, professor of sociology at New School University in New York, drew an audience of 200 people to the Lincoln Center campus of the Jesuit-run university. Secularization, which once referred to the movement of priests from monasteries to parishes, is now generally understood as a society's movement away from religious influence as its primary guiding force. Steinfels said the discussion of secularization engages many people, some of whom fearfully equate it with a loss of religion and heritage. Casanova said one could argue the world is growing both more secular and more religious.

Myanmar's bishops: Cut down on parties, focus on promoting peace

YANGON, Myanmar (CNS) — Bishops in Myanmar have called on Catholics to cut down on external celebrations of Advent and Christmas this year and focus on promoting peace and development. Archbishops Paul Zinghtung Grawng of Mandalay and Charles Bo of Yangon, president and general secretary, respectively, of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar, issued the message on behalf of Myanmar's bishops. The message was dated Dec. 3, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News. In September, the government cracked down on protests — led by Buddhist monks — against rising prices and corruption. Myanmar is a predominantly Buddhist country. In the message sent to all parishes, the bishops proposed that the church "observe the season of Advent and celebrate the feast of Christmas more in accordance with the spirit of prayer and penance."

Cardinal has said he was assaulted over abuse crisis

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony told archdiocesan priests in October that he was assaulted during the summer by a man who was angry over the church's sexual abuse scandal, according to reports from priests who attended the annual meeting. The Associated Press, *Los Angeles Times* and *New York Times* reported Dec. 5 that Cardinal Mahony talked about the assault during an Oct. 1 priests' pastoral meeting, as an illustration of the toll the abuse scandal has taken on everyone in the church. The three news organizations each quoted several priests confirming that Cardinal Mahony had described being knocked down and beaten or kicked by a man who shouted obscenities and made angry statements about sexual abuse by priests. *The Los Angeles Daily News* broke the story Dec. 4. Carolina Guevara, archdiocesan spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Archdiocese, declined to comment to any of the publications or to Catholic News Service.

Vatican discovers rare Michelangelo sketch of St. Peter's dome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has discovered a rare sketch of the dome of St. Peter's Basilica drawn by Michelangelo Buonarroti. Some believe the 1563 drawing may be the last surviving example of the Renaissance master's work before his death in 1564, said the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*. Dark-red-chalk lines show a sketch of "a partial plan of one of the radial columns of the cupola drum" of the basilica, said the paper's Dec. 7 edition. It said the torn sketch was found recently in the archives of the Fabbrica di San Pietro, the office of the Vatican's chief engineer.

St. Vincent de Paul dedicates Care-Van

FORT WAYNE — Father Daryl Rybicki, chaplain of the Fort Wayne St. Vincent de Paul Society, blessed a new Dodge Care-Van, the vehicle that will be used for the society's service for those in need of transportation to medical, dental and rehabilitation appointments. And the drivers and other St. Vincent de Paul representatives were also on hand for the blessing and to review the extra "bells and whistles" on the vehicle that was placed into service Dec. 7.

St. Vincent de Paul has coordinated this program for 26 years, according to John Becker, a member of the board who oversees Care-Van. The new Care-Van makes the fifth van brought into service in the 26 years. The old van was seven years old but had clocked 160,000 miles. "It goes to auction," Becker said.

Fourteen volunteers offer services as drivers. Care-Van averages 25,000 miles per year and transports approximately 1,200 people, Becker said. The new van being placed into service has a wheelchair lift and accommodates three or four people who can climb aboard.

"The St. Vincent de Paul Society wishes to especially thank The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation, Parkview Hospital Community Health Improvement Program and many individuals who sent us donations for this program," Becker told *Today's Catholic*.

Care-Van is one of two major programs to help the poor and needy of the area. The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store collects donations of clothing, furniture, appliances and other household items, which are given to those in need. These items are also sold at the store for a nominal fee to offset operating expenses and wages for the employees.

To volunteer, contact the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store at (260) 456-3561.

TV Mass marks 21 years

SOUTH BEND — The Sunday televised Mass over WNDU TV marked its 21st anniversary on the first Sunday of Advent and was celebrated by Father Bernard Galic, pastor of Holy Family Church and who has directed the program for most of its years on the air.

The televised Mass was instituted by Bishop John M. D'Arcy and is principally for shut-ins, those in nursing homes, hospitals, prisons and those who are unable to get transportation to Mass. — EJD

St. Meinrad monks write book on Catholic prayer

ST. MEINRAD — Sixteen Benedictine monks from St. Meinrad Archabbey have contributed to a new book, "The Tradition of Catholic Prayer," published by Liturgical Press.

Among the contributors are Archabbot Justin DuVall and Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, himself a

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY BLESSES NEW CARE-VAN



TIM JOHNSON

Father Daryl Rybicki, chaplain of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fort Wayne and pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne, blesses the society's new Dodge Care-Van, which will transport those in need to medical, dental and rehabilitation appointments. The Care-Van program transports approximately 1,200 people per year.

Benedictine. The book was co-edited by Father Harry Hagan and Brother Christian Raab at the archabbey.

"For Benedictines, tradition is a way of life that depends on those who have gone before us," the coeditors said in the book's foreword. "Their way of life both guides and challenges us to make the tradition our own so that it may live in us today."

"Our prayer, then, depends on their prayer, and so we have devoted much of this book to exploring how others have lived a life of prayer," they said.

The book retails for \$24.95 and can be purchased at Catholic bookstores or online at: www.saintmeinrad.edu/shop/.

Photos of diocesan parishes, institutions, on display at History Center

FORT WAYNE — The exhibit featuring color photos of 90 churches and chapels within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will open Dec. 17 at the History Center, 302 E. Berry St.

The exhibit consists of 360 color photos from the 82 active Catholic churches, plus an additional eight sites, including oratories, religious communities/congregations and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame.

Interior/exterior views as well as art from the 90 sites are included in the exhibit, entitled "United Through Faith." The exhibit was introduced at the Eucharistic Congress last August at the University of Notre Dame and

since then has been hosted by several parishes of the diocese. Sharon Little was the photographer.

The Heritage Education Foundation makes it possible for groups of students in grades K-12 from public, private and parochial schools in five counties to visit the History Center at no charge. Teachers or principals of schools in Allen, DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben counties may make arrangements by contacting Julia Estabrook at the center, (260) 426-2882, ext. 312.

The History Center will be open Dec. 17-22 and Dec. 26-31, 2007, and Jan. 14-17, 2008. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon-5 p.m. Saturdays.

St. Joseph County's Bridges out of Poverty program attracts Slovakian professor

NOTRE DAME — Dr. Libusa Radkova, a social work professor at St. Elisabeth University in Bratislava, Slovakia, visited Saint Mary's College and South Bend the week of Dec. 10 to learn more about St. Joseph County's Bridges out of Poverty program.

Saint Mary's College introduced "Bridges" to the community in 2004. It is a national educational program based on author Ruby Payne's books, "A Framework for Understanding Poverty and Bridges Out of Poverty."

Saint Mary's College Center

for Women's Intercultural Leadership and South Bend businesses, agencies and organizations are using "Bridges" as a framework to transform this into a sustainable community in which individuals move from generational poverty to self-sufficiency, enhancing the quality of life for everyone and creating a model for other communities.

During the week, Radkova visited area agencies to learn more about how the South Bend community is using the "Bridges" program to address poverty. She will then take the ideas back to Slovakia in hopes of bringing about social change there.

Crèches on display at Archabbey Library

ST. MEINRAD — An exhibit of Christmas crèches from around the world will be on display in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library, St. Meinrad, now through Jan. 7.

The display contains crèches from the monastery collection, as well as from the Catherine A. Smith Nativity Collection, which was donated to Saint Meinrad in 2002 in memory of Charles Patrick ("Pat") Smith.

Smith began collecting Nativity sets in 1971, purchasing many during her extensive travels throughout the world. She donated the collection to Saint Meinrad in memory of her brother, who studied for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad and later served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The crèches selected for display represent a variety of styles and

media: porcelain, wood, glazed tile, glass and others.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Exhibit hours are: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9-11 a.m. and 1-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Exceptions are Dec. 26-28, when hours are 1-4:30 p.m. The library will be closed Dec. 22-25 and Dec. 29-Jan. 1. All times are Central Standard Time.

Please arrive at least 30 minutes before closing to view the exhibit.

St. Jude School plans to meet needs of South Bend's south side

SOUTH BEND — St. Jude Catholic School announced Dec. 3 that it is anticipating expansion on South Bend's south side and intends to meet the needs of today's parents who are savvy consumers of education for their children.

A group of 17 participants, including school board members, alumni and special guests Tom Doyle of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education and Harry Verhiley from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, met on Nov. 27 to review school progress and engage in strategic planning for the next five years. This meeting comes on the heels of a more recent visit to St. Jude by Bishop John M. D'Arcy, who reiterated that St. Jude is a strong school, important to residents of the south side and beyond.

The 50-year-old school provides all-day kindergarten and educates children through eighth grade. With its well-tenured faculty, Gifted Opportunities program and strong athletics participation, it serves as a reliable feeder school for Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools.

Strategic additions to faculty and programming have resulted in a state-of-the-art science laboratory, computer lab with up-to-date computers donated by the University of Notre Dame, after-school care and enrichment programs in a variety of subjects outside the core curriculum. Within the last two months, St. Jude has established a student mentoring program, created a partnership with St. Joseph County Recycling, and begun its process of school improvement in the areas of reading comprehension and problem solving.

Recent standardized surveys of fifth and eighth grade students reveal school strengths such as: approachable faculty; positive teacher-student relationships; teaching of Christian values and morals; involved parents; affection for the school; small class sizes; individual attention; and strong leadership.

"St. Jude is for anyone who values lifelong learning through faith-based education," says Principal Stephen Donndelinger, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame's ACE master of education program.

A four-year test analysis of the school's ISTEP scores shows a general trend approaching the 90th percentile; the school is undertaking steps to achieve a goal of scores in the 95th percentile range in 3-7 years. The strategic planners also see short-term opportunities for St. Jude School to:

- Offer strong arts and foreign language programs
- Differentiate instruction to

Saint Joseph's High School hosts career day

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — Doctor, lawyer, judge, journalist and veterinarian ... over 107 parents, alums and community members spoke at the annual Saint Joseph's High School Career Day. Throughout the day on Nov. 8, students of all grade levels had the opportunity to hear people from a variety of different career paths speak about their jobs.

Parent and social worker Karen Matthews spoke to the students about her work in the neonatal intensive care unit at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.

"I talked about my role in the NICU as a social worker," said Matthews. She talked about things that go on within the unit and about the work she does with families to help them through some very rough times with their little one.

"You realize after 20 years in this career you have something to offer," said Matthews about what made her decide to participate in the event. "It's a unique place to work, and I want to share my experiences."

Matthews was very happy with the way her sessions went and felt the students she spoke to seemed really interested in what she had to offer them about her career path.

"I thought it was really good. They asked good questions and the kids were really attentive," said Matthews about her experience.

Judge Peter Nemeth, a 1959 Saint Joseph's High School alum, talked to the students about his work as a judge for the past fourteen years.

"I talked to the students about

the fact that the number one vocation they should have is parenthood if they choose to have children," said Nemeth. "I've seen firsthand what happens when parents don't do their job."

He told the students to find a career path that will make them happy and not to pick a career based on money or prestige.

"It's important to choose a vocation or job that they like," said Nemeth.

Nemeth enjoyed having the chance to visit his old school and talk in a classroom that was part of the girls' wing when he was in high school.

"It's a good thing," said Nemeth about the career day program. "It does expose them to different people and different things."

Former Indiana governor and 1964 graduate Joe Kernan attended the event and talked to the students about his life in politics and as an entrepreneur.

"I gave them a little background on the fact that 44 years ago I was sitting where they were sitting and that was a month after Studebaker closed," said Kernan. Life changed drastically for families in Michiana after that closing, and he related how life changes like this affected his life and the career paths he took throughout his adult life.

"I wanted to help them recognize there's lots of opportunities out there for them they might not think are possible or too big to reach that may come along that they can take advantage of," said Kernan about what he hopes the students got out of listening to his talk. "I hope they got something that could be of use or value."

St. Joseph School project aids community

MONROEVILLE — The Monroeville community will be a little better prepared for emergencies thanks in part to the efforts of St. Joseph School students. The school partnered with Monroeville EMS for a service project of folding and assembling two sizes of File of Life packets. These handy red files can be filled out with emergency information and posted on the front of a refrigerator or carried in a wallet to provide help should a life-threatening emergency arise.

The project started when third and fourth grade teacher, Debbie Groves, went home to visit in Rochester this summer and came back with some inspiration.

"They were handing out these little red packets that could be filled with emergency information," said Groves. She had never seen anything like it before and thought it was a great idea.

"My grandmother is in her 90s ... this would be great for the elderly. What if someone had a stroke and couldn't talk or had a diabetic episode?" she questioned.

Groves may be more aware of emergency situations because she worries about her elderly grandmother, but it may be the fact that her son, Kyle, is now studying to be a paramedic. "I guess I am more aware of medical situations now that he is involved in that field."

Groves picked up her File of Life at the farmers market in Fulton County. The local Lions Club supplied it. She thought that it was such a good idea that she brought a sample to show EMTs at Monroeville and offered help from her students.

We are often looking for service projects that the students can get involved with," explained Groves. "I thought this would be a good one."

Groves contacted Lois Ternet who took the idea back to her EMS partner, Max Meyer. It was similar to another project that the EMS had been involved with years ago called "Vial of Life." It is supplied by the same company who improved on the earlier project. Instead of rolling up an info sheet and placing it inside the refrigera-



DEBBIE GROVES

Sierra Wenger, Torry Wild and Elizabeth Zelt prepare the File of Life folders.

tor, it is now easily displayed on the outside with a magnet.

Meyer who has been a member of Monroeville EMS since its inception in 1975 still keeps a "vial" in his desk drawer at work. He brought up the idea to the EMS officers and President Dean Rothgeb approved it.

Six weeks later, the students were assembling the packets — an example of community working together for a cause.

It took only 45 minutes for the fast moving hands of the youngsters to fold and assemble the packets and sort into boxes. It was a project that they made look easy.

Fourth-grader Evan Renninger thought it would be a good idea that his great-grandmother had one on her refrigerator.

Second-grader Sofia Love was inspired by the thought of helping others and said it made her feel "pumped up."

Rylie Schane, a third grader, also thought it was a good idea. "If you have an emergency, people will know where to look right away."

Monroeville EMS plans to distribute the File of Life to various locations including doctor's offices, by request, at special events and setting up a table at a local business several times a year.

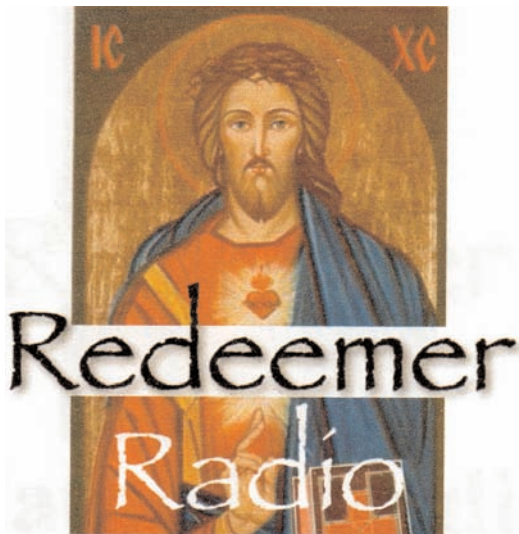


Allyssa Bosler and Monica Scott stack the piles of ID cards for the File of Life.

The project was funded by memorial donations to Monroeville EMS.

As this year's theme for St. Joseph School states, "We can do no great things; only small things with great LOVE" by Blessed Mother Teresa. "This project was just another example of doing what Jesus would do. The Monroeville community means everything. It is our family and friends. It is only natural that we should help," smiled Groves.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season!



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

challenge all learners

- Deepen student knowledge in matters of faith
- Develop K-8 service learning opportunities
- Align curriculum in core subjects and develop benchmark assessments that provide evidence of student improvement.

Chuck Bergman, school board president, explains, "Our goal is to be a strong, Christian, high school preparatory school with measurable results."

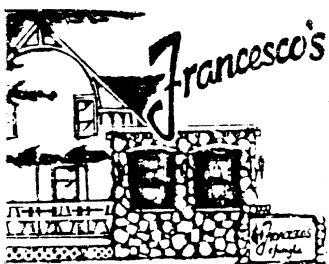
Brian Waldron, board member and retired Penn-Harris Madison teacher asserts, "Excellence is what we are striving for; the best investment is a Catholic education and St. Jude intends to be the best there is."

SAT prep course offered at Bishop Dwenger

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School is offering an SAT prep course on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. Classes will begin on Jan. 15, 2008, and end on Feb. 28.

The 14 sessions will include the diagnostic testing, six verbal and six math sessions.

The class fee is \$160 and includes the text for the course. The class will address the new changes in the SAT. The class is open to any high school student in the Fort Wayne or Allen County area. For more information and registration, please call Pat Wilson at Bishop Dwenger High School at (260) 496-4700.



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Steeple earn Fort Wayne 'city of churches' moniker

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne earned the moniker "City of Churches" in the late 19th century, as numerous towers and church steeples began to form the distinct skyline.

The city's Catholic churches and parishioners have shaped the city's culture since its inception. Today, 16 remain in Fort Wayne, each with their own unique charm and notoriety.

Tom Castaldi, Allen County historian, and Janice Cantrell, the diocese's archivist, are well-versed in the local churches' histories.

When it comes to notable architecture, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Mary Church come to mind. Both Castaldi and Cantrell agree that the older parishes have the most charm, but the variation in style adds to the city's appeal.

"I would say that our older parishes are well known for their historical architecture," Cantrell said. "These parishes are good examples of the traditional historic architecture of churches. All of our parishes in Fort Wayne are good representations of typical architecture for churches in the time period that they were built."

Castaldi, moreover, is personally drawn to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception's charm.

"The cathedral as we know it today was completed in 1860 and at the time was the largest church in Indiana," the historian said. "In 1998, it was closed for a major restoration and renovation project. In the process, the east window in the apse was made more clearly visible to the congregation. When it was installed in 1896-97, together with the other windows in the cathedral, they were described as the finest of their kind."

As Castaldi recounts, St. Mary Church is alive with historical value.

"St. Mary's was another inspiring structure, but as you know it was destroyed by a lightning strike which sparked a fire in 1993," he



Early photo of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

said. "It has been rebuilt, of course. However, it is interesting that it was built by the Fort Wayne's German community ... of which at least a third was Catholic, and had grown to a significant size by 1846."

According to Castaldi, St. Mary Parish was thriving with the influx of German immigrants in the mid-1800s.

"This community actually began at present-day Cathedral Square in St. Augustine and moved into their new brick church in November of 1849," he explained. They named it Der Mutter-Gottes Kirche, the Mother of God's Church. English speaking residents of Fort Wayne, seldom used the German title and spoke of the "German Catholic Church" or "St. Mary Catholic Church."

According to Castaldi, the Germans weren't the only ones to bring ethnic influences to the parishes.

"Germans built the Der Mutter-Gottes Kirche," he said. "The Irish came and did the same erecting St. Patrick's in the 1890s, and shortly thereafter Precious Blood Church

became a reality for a mixed German and Irish congregation."

Castaldi further elaborated on the link between railroads and local ethnic influence. "Later, when railroads had assumed dominance over canals, he explained, "more immigrants flowed into the area and as the Italians came they established St. Joseph's on Taylor Street later moving around the corner on Brooklyn Avenue."

The ethnic identity, however, is no longer present today, according to Cantrell. Instead, Cantrell explained, the churches are focused on catering to the specific needs of the parishioners, regardless of ethnicity.

"I believe that the parishes no longer have the same strong ethnic following," she said. "For example, St. Patrick Parish, originally an Irish parish, now has regular services in Spanish and Vietnamese."

Castaldi echoed Cantrell's comment about responding to the needs to the respective immigrants.

"Certainly, the Hispanic population has grown and heavily support the parishes near their

homes," he said. "In a way, you can see the same influence people have had by nationality with that of an American ethnic influence. Obviously, as our local population has increased with the growth of the city, new parishes have been established to accommodate the spiritual needs of these people as well."

The fact that Fort Wayne has sustained its Catholic identity reveals a great deal about the values of Fort Wayne residents, the historians contend.

"The abundance of Catholic churches, as well as other denominations, reflect middle American values formed from men and women who, in their time immigrated here and worked hard for what they have," Castaldi said.

Likewise, Cantrell and Castaldi said these early Midwestern values have infiltrated into modern society.

"These immigrants brought with them their traditional values of religious life," she commented. "I think that Fort Wayne still has these values as a strongly traditional family-oriented city. With those values it makes sense that we would have a large population of churches in our city."

Castaldi said the Catholic values have shaped the Fort Wayne community as a whole. "With such a value system instilled, many Catholics are supportive in giving back some of what they feel are gifts from God to the institutions that support what they hold dear," he said. "Most recently it manifested itself in the successful financial campaign to support Redeemer Radio 1450 AM."

For further information about Fort Wayne's spiritual roots, Castaldi recommends John Ankenbruck's book, "The Twentieth Century History of Fort Wayne."

Historical information requests concerning the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend can be made to Janice Cantrell at (260) 422-4611 Ext. 3386, by e-mail at jhackbush@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

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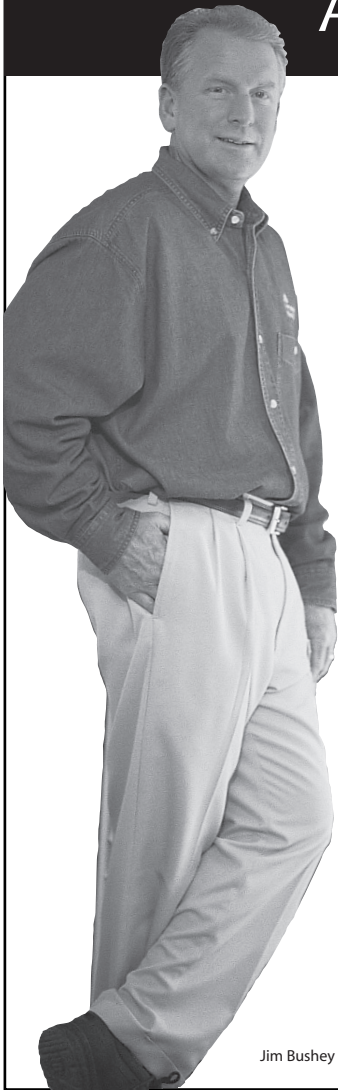
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Holy Cross teacher wins grant to visit Africa

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND – When Holy Cross School teacher Jennifer Sosinski applied for a Lily Endowment that would allow her \$8,000 to renew herself, she never imagined her wish to go to Africa would come true.

It did, and Sosinski went to Africa June 21 through July 18 where she spent time living with a host family, learning the customs and traditions of the African people while working in an orphanage. She had the chance to teach fourth grade English and Science along with fifth grade English. On the last three days of her trip, she had the privilege to go on an African safari where she was guided by a local tribe through the jungles of Africa.

"I put this in and decided I might as well try. I put my grandest wish out there," said Sosinski about the grant application. "This is a chance of a lifetime. I thought I would try to do something that I could never do by myself."

Sosinski has always been interested and concerned about the conditions of orphanages overseas, and the care the children were receiving. As a mother, she felt a strong desire to help those children and was concerned by the media's portrayal of orphanages in the early 1980s.

An African safari has also been something she was always interested in doing and creating a trip that would allow her to help orphans in Africa along with the adventure of a safari seemed like the perfect trip proposal.

"Every day my prayer was that if it's your will I'll win this grant," said Sosinski about the long weeks of waiting and praying for the grant.

Sosinski said the trip was amazing and a life altering experience. She soon realized that the horrible images of orphanages were a gross exaggeration. The facility, By Grace Center Orphanage, where she worked housed 200 children in residence and 150 children that lived elsewhere and came to school each day. Children had to wear uniforms to school and the children taught within the building were in preschool through seniors in high school.

Everything was written on boards because the children had no books and Sosinski was amazed at the children's constant happiness no matter how much work they did or how great the obstacles of their environment. She was amazed at how all the



JENNIFER SOSINSKI

children have a vision and purpose in their life at such young ages.

"They were quiet and they wanted to learn," said Sosinski

about her students. "They want to come to America to learn at our universities."

Before she left on her trip, she spent the month of May at Holy Cross School raising funds to take with her on her trip. She and her fourth-grade students spent time learning about Africa and educating themselves on the customs and traditions that Sosinski would experience on her trip.

The school adopted this orphanage as a group they wanted to help financially and pray for, raising \$2,500 that was used to purchase supplies for the orphanage and install new tile flooring in the facility.

"It was an eye opener to me at how amazing the world really is," said Sosinski about her entire trip and experience. She had the opportunity to meet some wonderful children, watch a baby be born while staying with the host family, learn about local tribes in Africa and dispel any myths she believed about life in an orphanage.

Sosinski is planning a return trip in summer 2008, but this time she is taking six other people with her on her adventure. Sosinski, another teacher at the school and five high school students are currently fundraising for their trip and they plan to work in the orphanage and embark on a three-day safari before they leave the area. It costs over \$2,000 to fly and money to stay with a host family so the group has started holding bake sales, port-a-pit chicken sales, and various other fund-raising plans to try and raise the funds for all seven people to make the trip.

While in Africa, she read two chapter books about the character Flat Stanley and brought them back to America for her current fourth grade students to take around town (and the United States if traveling) to take back to Africa and share with her students on her next visit.

"My goal this time is to help a young third grader who is deaf and speaks by wiring or by letter signing," said Sosinski. "In spring I'm taking classes in sign language and I want to do something for him."

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SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR NEARS END



BISHOP D'ARCY OPENS JUBILEE YEAR

"Let this year be a year of joy," Bishop John M. D'Arcy announced in a letter that opened the diocesan Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year. He is shown at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 31 as he presided at the inaugural Mass that opened the jubilee. The year was opened in South Bend on Jan. 7 at St. Matthew Cathedral.



JUBILEE PILGRIM CROSS PROCESSES

Young people from across the diocese processed the traveling Jubilee Pilgrim Cross across the campus of the University of Notre Dame to the Joyce Center for the closing Mass. The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross traveled across the diocese to all parishes and Catholic institutions and culminated its journey at the Eucharistic Congress.

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BILLBOARDS PROMOTE WELCOME HOME

"You can always come home" was the theme of billboards and posters throughout the diocese as part of an evangelization outreach to inactive or under-active Catholics. The campaign also featured television advertisements, Wells of Hope and a 1-877 MERCY4U telephone line. Mercy Day, on March 20, offered penitential opportunities and the return of many to the church.



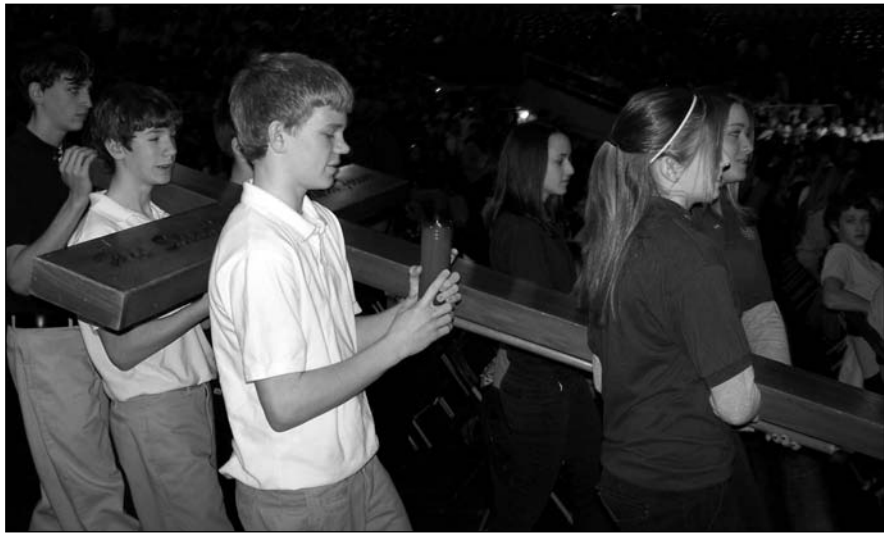
PINNACLE OF CELEBRATIONS

The Eucharistic Congress held Saturday, Aug. 18, at the University of Notre Dame, was the pinnacle day of celebration. The day concluded with a diocesan-wide Mass at the Joyce Center. Saturday vigil Masses, weddings, funerals and reconciliation were suspended that day so priests and parishioners could travel to Notre Dame. Activities included an ecumenical prayer service, catechetical workshops, eucharistic adoration, rosary at the grotto and the sacrament of reconciliation.



ENTRUSTMENT TO THE BLESSED MOTHER

On Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was entrusted to the Immaculate Conception at all parishes and Catholic institutions.



ALL SCHOOLS MASS IN SOUTH BEND

The 16th annual all schools Mass at the Joyce Center at the University of Notre Dame was celebrated Jan. 29. Students carry in the traveling Jubilee Cross, which visited every parish and Catholic institution during the jubilee year. A Mass in Fort Wayne was held on Oct. 2.



REMEMBERING FOUNDRESS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN FORT WAYNE

The Sisters of Providence, who served several parish schools and Central Catholic High School, were invited to a Mass on Nov. 18 in honor of the order's foundress, St. Mother Theodore Guérin, who was canonized a saint in the Catholic Church on Oct. 15, 2006, in Rome.

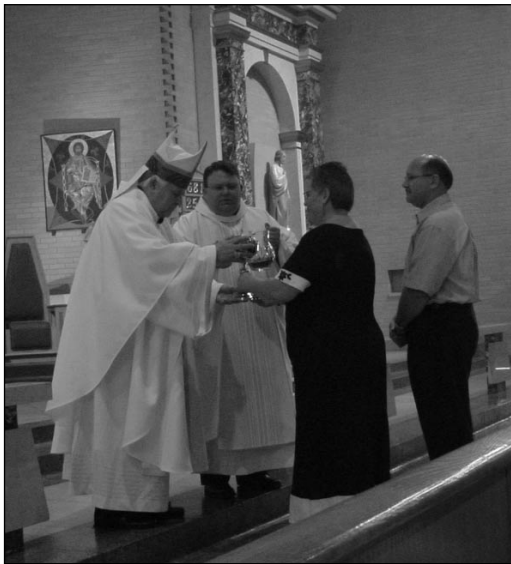


ORDINATIONS

Bishop John M. D'Arcy ordained to the priesthood Fathers Jason Freiburger and Bob Lengerich on Saturday, Oct. 27.

FIFTY YEARS

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated his 50th anniversary to the priesthood on April 15.



JUBILEE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Married couples who observed their 25th, 50th or more wedding anniversaries were invited to special jubilee Masses celebrated in Fort Wayne and South Bend. Randy and Roberta Polovick are shown at the St. Matthew Cathedral celebration on Sept. 9.



JUBILEE CELEBRATION WITH RELIGIOUS

Religious sisters, brothers and priests gathered at Ancilla Domini Chapel in Donaldson on Nov. 4 for a jubilee celebration of religious life.

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REGIONAL CONFIRMATIONS

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, joined by parish priests, celebrated regional confirmations in both Fort Wayne, shown above, on Sept. 30 and in South Bend on Sept. 23.

Bishop D'Arcy years signified by new initiatives

COMPILED BY ANN CAREY

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, with a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, commissioned Joseph M. White to write a history in celebration of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year. The following is excerpted from "Worthy of the Gospel of Christ: A History of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"(During Bishop John M. D'Arcy's) years of leadership ... (an) extraordinary range of new initiatives ... (were undertaken) to strengthen Catholics' religious faith, to ensure a clear Catholic identity in all aspects of diocesan life, and to make the Catholic presence known among the diocese's general population that is only 12 percent Catholic.

... During his first Christmas season in the diocese, Bishop D'Arcy hosted three half hour television programs as a kind of retreat to enrich the Christmas experience for all Christians, especially Catholics. The positive response to the Christmas programs inspired the thought that broadcasting Sunday Mass would be well received by the homebound or infirm. With the motto "Togetherness in Christ," he announced that the diocese would begin broadcasting Sunday Mass on Nov. 30, 1986, the first Sunday of Advent. ... Through the years, the televised Sunday Masses from Fort Wayne, hosted by Rev. Edward Hession, and South Bend, hosted by Rev. Bernard Galic, continued with strong support from the Catholic community. ...

... When Bishop D'Arcy came to the diocese, he soon heard priests' complaints about the method of funding diocesan ministries. ... At issue was the diocesan tax of 13 percent on all parish income to fund diocesan offices and ministries. The tax, imposed on parish collections as well as school tuition, debt reduction campaigns and other fund-raisers, was widely believed to stifle initiative since fund-raising efforts for worthy parish projects also involved giving away a fixed portion. ...

After careful planning through a committee, the diocese's first Annual Bishop's Appeal was launched in 1987 (to fund diocesan initiatives such as) ... Office of Spiritual Development, urban parishes, Catholic Charities, Office of Family Life, Office of Religious Education, Office of Campus and Adult Ministry, the diocesan high schools, support of seminarians and retired priests, Communications Office, and the new South Bend chancery office. (Money over parish goals was returned to parishes).

... The publicity for the 20th Annual Bishop's Appeal in 2006 reported that "the total benefit to parishes has exceeded \$110.8 million. Some have paid off parish debts, increased outreach and have arrived at a more stable existence."

... From the beginning, as outlined in his inaugural homily, Bishop D'Arcy placed the highest priority on spiritual development. For that reason, in 1986, he established a new diocesan Office of Spiritual Development ...

D'Arcy timeline 1996-2007

1996:

Nov. 5: U.S. presidential election; Bill Clinton defeats Bob Dole to win his second term.

1997:

Sept. 5: Mother Teresa of Calcutta dies of heart failure in Kolkata, India.

1998:

Monica Lewinsky scandal dominates news.

1999:

Y2K was a major event in 1999 both in actual events and in media over-reporting.

March 26: A Michigan jury finds Dr. Jack Kevorkian guilty of second-degree murder for helping patient die.

June 12: Texas Governor George W. Bush announces he will seek the Republican Party nomination for president of the United States.

Oct. 31: Roman Catholic Church and Lutheran Church leaders sign the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, ending a centuries-old doctrinal dispute over the nature of faith and salvation.

2000:

Jan. 1: Y2K passes without serious, widespread computer failures, as many experts and businesses had feared.

March 21: Pope John Paul II begins the first official visit by a Roman Catholic pontiff to Israel.

Nov. 7: George Bush defeats Al Gore in presidential election. Results not final because of dispute over votes in Florida.

2001:

Jan. 20: George W. Bush is sworn in as the 43rd president of the United States.

Nov. 22: Pope John Paul II sends the first papal e-mail from a laptop in his office.

2002:

April 18: A new insect order, Mantophasmatodea, is announced.

Oct. 7: The discovery of Quaoar is announced.

2003:

Feb. 1: Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrates over Texas upon reentry, killing all seven astronauts onboard.

2004:

Jan. 26: A whale explodes in Tainan City, Taiwan.

June 5: Ronald Reagan, the 40th president of the U.S. dies at his home in Bel-Air, Calif., at the age of 93.

Oct. 20: Boston Red Sox defeat New York Yankees, win World Series.

Nov. 2: U.S. President George W. Bush defeats Sen. John Kerry.

Passing on the Catholic faith through schools and religious education programs has long been a priority throughout diocesan history. This commitment has remained strong during the D'Arcy years (and significant fund-raising programs and salary enhancements were put into place to guarantee the future of Catholic education).

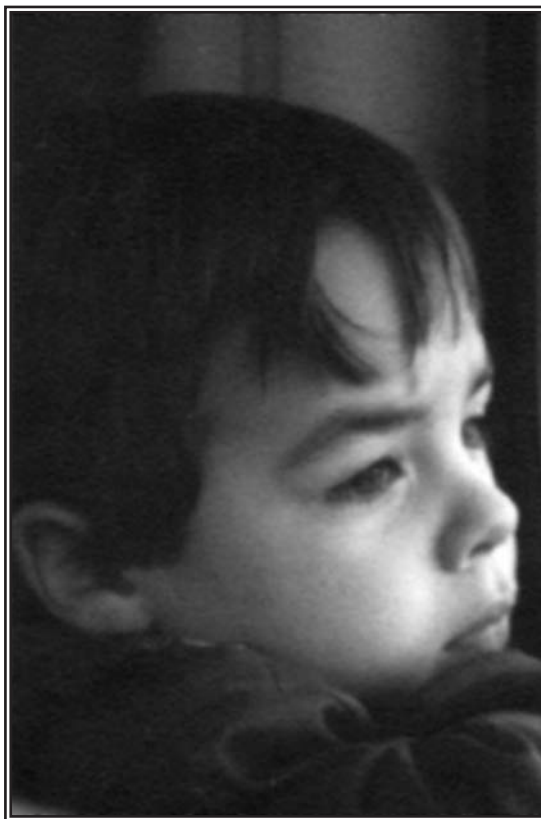
... Through the years, overall enrollment figures for diocesan schools has remained stable. In 1985, the diocese's 43 grade schools enrolled 12,042 students; in 2005, 41 grade schools enrolled 11,572 students. In 1985, the five diocesan high schools (including the one in Huntington closed that year) enrolled 3,314 students. In 1986, the four diocesan high schools enrolled 2,982. In 2005, the combined enrollment of the four was 3,160.

... The diocese's growing financial strength from the Annual Bishop's Appeal and a commitment to the church's social mission has enlarged the scope of Christian service (through diocesan agencies such as Catholic Charities). ...

Bishop D'Arcy has insisted on the highest standards for seminarians and priests. ... Accordingly, he has aimed to strengthen the priesthood with his personal access to priests, frequent visits to parishes, meetings with priests, and the annual retreat. Ultimately, his ministry to priests has aimed to serve the laity well. He often repeats, "The best thing that I can do for a parish is to provide a good priest."

The 150th anniversary — and the long history of the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — may well be celebrated as an extended reflection on the mystery of what happens in the mingling of the human and the divine, of nature and grace, of the secular and the religious, in the pilgrimage of faith that has made Catholics and their leaders "worthy of the Gospel of Christ."

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EDITORIAL

Jubilee year: It's a wrap

Bishop John M. D'Arcy will close a memorable diocesan-wide Jubilee Year on Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany, as it began with a Mass at 9:30 a.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. Jubilee years historically have been occasions of pilgrimages to holy shrines and as special opportunities to deepen one's faith by more direct contact with the holy. Indeed, the observance of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend included a year of prayer, evangelization and the pursuit of holiness.

The theme of the year was "Behold the Face of Christ. His Steadfast Love Endures Forever."

As it did in 2000, the diocese again conducted a pilgrimage to a Eucharistic Congress at the University of Notre Dame as its pinnacle event (Aug. 18). It included an ecumenical service in the beautiful Basilica of the Sacred Heart, a vast array of catechetical workshops throughout the campus, day-long eucharistic adoration in Alumni Hall Chapel, ongoing recitation of the rosary at the Notre Dame grotto, private participation in the wooded Way-of-the-Cross, opportunities for celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation at 45 locations sprinkled beneath umbrellas throughout the campus, special programs for both teen and pre-teenage young people and an exhibition of parish and collegiate religious art. The Sesquicentennial event ended in the Joyce Center with a 30-minute art slide presentation set to a stirring musical prelude provided by a diocesan-wide choir and orchestra directed by Jeremy Hoy, followed by a reverent and awesome celebration of the Eucharist with some 6,000 pilgrims participating. A reception to celebrate Bishop D'Arcy's 75th birthday provided a fitting conclusion to a beautiful day filled with many graces, praise, thanksgiving and celebration.

During the Jubilee Year, all registered Catholic households received four special Sesquicentennial issues of this newspaper containing a pastoral letter from Bishop D'Arcy and details of events associated with the 150th anniversary of the diocese. A Jubilee prayer card and window decal were inserted in the initial free issue of the weekly newspaper. Bishop D'Arcy said it was a time of prayer and evangelization and requested every parish have a mission which included outreach and an invitation to Catholics who may have left the practice of their faith. More than 20 parishes held such a mission.

A very visible symbol of the special year was the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross, carried by young people on pilgrimage to all diocesan parishes and institutions over a two-year period, so all Catholics could observe the instrument of their salvation and be drawn to Christ, the bishop indicated. The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross finally was processed by about 100 young people from Saint Joseph's High School onto the nearby Notre Dame campus for the Eucharistic Congress where it was first brought to the Basilica and then prominently displayed throughout the day. It was carried to the youth events and finally to the closing liturgy.

Other Jubilee Year events included: All-Schools Masses in South Bend and Fort Wayne; Liturgy Day with Jan Michael Joncas (Feb. 3); a diocesan-wide media ad campaign beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 21) to promote outreach efforts to inactive Catholics, including the "Wells of Hope" parish-mission program, a 1-877-MERCY4U phone line for those seeking counseling and help, and the availability of the sacrament of reconciliation on "Mercy Day" (March 20); the 50th anniversary celebration of Bishop D'Arcy's ordination to the priesthood (April 15); and in both Fort Wayne and South Bend regional anointings of the sick, separate adult and regional confirmations, and 25/50th wedding-anniversary Masses. In addition, there were diaconate ordinations at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend (June 2); ordinations of two young men to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne (Oct. 27); re-consecration of the diocese to Mary on the feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8); to be followed by the Closing of the Jubilee Year liturgy on Epiphany.

Two commemorative works provide a written treasure of the anniversary year: "Behold the Face of Christ," by Sharon Little and Franciscan Sister Agnes Marie Regan; and "Worthy of the Gospel of Christ: A History of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend," by Dr. Joseph M. White.

We commend all who took part in this prayerful and sacred year, and most especially the many individuals, beginning with Bishop D'Arcy, who were instrumental in bringing it all together. As in the Year 2000, a Jubilee Year planning committee again was chaired by the capable Linda Furge, director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry for the diocese. A note of gratitude also goes to Holy Cross Father Richard V. Warner, director of Campus Ministry, and the co-operative Notre Dame personnel serving on the Jubilee 2007 Committee.

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

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

What Joseph teaches

In the first two chapters of Matthew's Gospel there are two annunciations made to Joseph in dreams. The first one concerns the birth of Jesus; the second centers around the need to flee Herod. In a way, Matthew's "dreams" underscore the need for inner peace and silence. And they also point out how in redemptive reality, all depends upon God's initiative.

We know very little of Joseph's background. Matthew concludes his genealogy of the Jesus' lineage with the observation: "Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the messiah."

Both the fact that he was the husband of Mary and his gentle sensitivity toward Mary when she was found to be with child (Mt. 1, 18-19) indicates that on a human level, he was a man of great love. And we might pause to reflect upon the truth, enunciated by Francois Mauriac, that human love is essential for understanding divine love.

The qualities of human love which I believe help us understand God's love for us are many. We might just list a few.

Love is never an abstraction. It is always directed toward an individual. Love involves, as we know, total acceptance of the other. If we give thought to it, we realize that love is a gift — it cannot be programmed. Nor is it earned. As we know, true love is ever deepening. All of these qualities are reflective of the love God has for each one of us.

There is one specific quality of our human love that must be emphasized. The poet and writer Charles Williams singled out this characteristic when he wrote his bride-to-be: "I do not wish you to love me simply as I am, but I want you to love me as your way to God." Loving others as their way to God infuses the notion of love — on any level — with a specific Christian dimension.

As we turn to the annunciations which center about Joseph, we see how he was asked to accept a mystery in faith. One could not — on a natural level — comprehend the angel's message. As yet the idea of a three-person Deity had not yet been revealed. Thus the Holy Spirit as a Divine Person would have been unknown. And faith always demands, as mentioned above, an element of trust



ADVENT REFLECTIONS

MSGR. THOMAS McDONNELL

— clinging to God and his Word.

The message the angel delivered has deep relevance for ourselves. The child to be born is Emanuel — God-with-us. God's approach to us is one of attachment. At baptism, he irrevocably promises that he will walk with us every step of our earthly journey. We merely have to turn to him, in our difficulties, to seek his support.

Nor should we be afraid to turn to the Lord for his help. Indeed, later in the Gospel Jesus invites us to take his yoke upon us. His listeners would

It reminds us that it is through our ordinary activity that we too should be conscious of bringing forth Christ in our world.

have grasped the meaning of this image. They would have seen how, for example, two oxen are yoked together to share the burden they are carrying. In an analogous way, Jesus is indicating to us that he is willing — rather desirous — to support us, to share our burdens and to strengthen us.

While still focusing on the first annunciation to Joseph, I am reminded of a question that I often ask myself: what do I want to bring to the Lord at the time of judgment. My answer is connected with verse 21: "... you are to name

him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." The conversion and salvation of sinners is close to the heart of Jesus from the very beginning. And it is a challenge for myself to continuously pray and sacrifice for this intention.

There are two final points to be made concerning Joseph. As the Scriptures indicate, he was a carpenter. His life was circumscribed by ordinary tasks. Yet he was chosen to be the guardian of the Child and his mother. In this, he teaches us the importance of the ordinary in God's plan. It reminds us that it is through our ordinary activity that we too should be conscious of bringing forth Christ in our world.

The second point is to realize that sometimes the faith-life will lead to hardships. This is especially true in a culture which easily dismisses Christian values. In Joseph's case we see the hardships in his journey to Bethlehem, his rejection at the inn, the birthplace for the Lord. And finally, we read: "Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. And in this context, we learn from Joseph what W. H. Auden wrote: To choose what is difficult all one's days as if it were easy, that is faith. Joseph, praise.

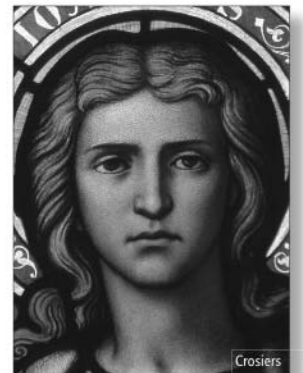
Msgr. Thomas McDonnell is a priest from the Archdiocese of Boston.

John the Evangelist

died c. 100

feast - December 27

John and James were Galilean fishermen called from mending their nets to follow Jesus, who nicknamed them "sons of thunder." Along with Peter, the brothers were in Jesus' inner circle, witnessing his transfiguration and agony in Gethsemane. John, always "the beloved disciple" in tradition, was given the care of Mary on Calvary. In later years, he was exiled on Patmos, and reportedly died at a great age in Ephesus. Authorship of the fourth Gospel, three New Testament letters and the Book of Revelation are attributed to John and his followers.



Will new director take museums far from the madding crowd?

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Perhaps even more than Michelangelo's frescoes or the statue of Laocoon, the discouragingly long entrance line — often stretching half a mile — has become the modern emblem of the Vatican Museums.

In peak seasons, visitors can wait more than an hour to get inside the museum complex. And once inside, it's shoulder to shoulder in some of the more popular rooms and hallways.

The congestion is the price of success at the Vatican Museums, where attendance has more than tripled over the last 30 years. In 1976, about 1.3 million people came to the museums; last year, the number reached nearly 4.3 million.

Economically, this is all good news. Last year, the Vatican Museums took in about \$65 million and spent about half that amount, providing Vatican City with its most significant source of income.

But for visitors, the experience can be more claustrophobic than cultural. On a recent morning in the Sistine Chapel, where every-

one seems to end up, it was more packed than a Roman bus at rush hour.

In early December, the Vatican Museums got a new director, Antonio Paolucci, and already he's indicated that he considers the lines and the crowds a priority problem.

Under Paolucci, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence long ago instituted a reservation system for all visitors, an idea that's expected to be introduced at the Vatican in 2008. The reservations are made for specific times throughout the day, virtually eliminating walk-ins and reducing the wait.

Earlier this year the Vatican launched a reservation system, but it was only offered to groups. At the same time, it reduced museum entrance hours for individuals, making a bad situation worse for most tourists.

The Vatican and the city of Rome are moving forward on plans for a subterranean entry area to the Vatican Museums that would feature shops and information displays. That would at least bring the lines out of the summer sun and winter rains.

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

Some Vatican officials are also looking at the possibility of connecting the Vatican's own train line and station, rarely used today, to the Rome subway system as a way to shuttle visitors to a separate museum entrance.

One of the problems with the Vatican Museums is that it's only open five hours a day for much of the year. Closing down at lunchtime is an Italian tradition that has been scrapped by most museums, and the Vatican, too, is finally considering longer hours throughout the year.

Nighttime openings, already offered in many Italian museums, would further decompress the visitor flow and attract people who are

LETTER, PAGE 16

Penance and prayer lead to Christ



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday of Advent Mt 11:2-11

The Book of Isaiah is the source of this weekend's third reading. Isaiah was between a rock and a hard place, so to speak. He realized that unwise alliances, and behavior that forgot God, put the Hebrews' kingdom of Judah at great risk. The prophet was convinced that if the nation did not return to God in genuine obedience and piety, then the whirlwind eventually would sweep away life, as he and his contemporaries knew it.

So, despite the angry reaction to what he said on the part of many of his contemporaries, Isaiah unflinchingly continued to call the people back to God.

It was not as if God would bring a terrible punishment upon the kingdom. Rather, the people, by their impiety, would create a nightmare for themselves.

The Epistle to James supplies the second reading. This epistle rarely appears in the liturgy. The identity of the author is unclear. The New Testament mentions four men with this name. Which, if any, wrote this epistle? Some insist that James, the foster brother of the Lord, was the author. (Ancient Christian writers surmised that James in this reference was a son from a previous marriage of

Joseph, the eventual spouse of Mary. They reasoned that this must have been the case, as they believed, with the church today, that Mary had only one child, namely Jesus.)

Nothing in the text itself, or elsewhere in the Bible, affirms the view that James, the foster brother of Jesus. This is a supposition.

Regardless, this reading solidly establishes the author's faith that Jesus will be victorious. No power can exceed the power of the Lord. After all, the Lord is the son of God.

However, while final victory undoubtedly will come, it will not necessarily come at a time that humans predict, and certainly it will not come at their bidding. But, it will come.

So, the epistle urges strong faith, but also forbearance.

The third reading, from St. Matthew's Gospel, centers on John the Baptist, whose denunciations of sin in high places led to his arrest. (In time, they would lead to his death.)

Despising the Roman occupation of the land, pious Jews at this time yearned for a Messiah who would rid the Holy Land of the pagan intruders.

However, John gives another description of the Redeemer. He will not be a warrior, commanding armies to slaughter the enemies of the One God of Israel.

Rather, the Savior will be known for compassion. Jesus is compassionate, healing the sick, giving hope, and restoring life, all lovingly as the true representative of God on earth.

In the last verses, Jesus affirms that John is a prophet. In fact, the Lord says, there is no greater prophet.

Reflection

Advent is approaching its close. Since Christmas is near, the church looks ahead to the wonder of the Lord's birth. It is "Gaudete Sunday," using a title taken from the first word of the Introit in Latin, "Gaudete!" or "Rejoice!"

Priests may wear rose vestments this weekend, using them instead of violet, as if the rays of dawn already are brightening the somberness of Advent.

The readings make several points. Isaiah warned us, as he warned his contemporaries, that by sin we bring heartache on ourselves. God never brings death. He brings life, just as Jesus brought life.

Advent penance and prayer hopefully lead us to imitate Christ. The liturgy presumes that we are using Advent to our advantage. If we are, and if we center our lives on Christ, then our love for God and for others will brighten the darkness and terror of our times. It is that simple. This imitation of the Lord brings life.

So, it is up to us, and, as James counsels, it will take time.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

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

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

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

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

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

Often forgotten in the Christmas flurry, this saint is an intriguingly human mix of conflicting ideals: St. Thomas Becket.

1. Becket is often referred as "A Becket." Why?

- just a typo, medieval monks were notoriously careless like Brother Joseph (Sloppy Joe)
- His family were French speakers so "De" or "A" would be apropos with their names.
- His nickname was "a bucket" as he was rather cosmetically challenged.

2. Becket was (by birth)

- English
- Scots
- Burgundian

3. But as with the ruling class in England, culturally he was more in tune with this area, where his parents were from:

- Brittany
- Normandy
- Languedoc

4. An apparently completely false legend had it that his mother was

- married secretly to a descendant of Jesus.
- a princess of the royal house of France.
- an Arab from the Holy Land.

5. Becket got an education in this French city, later a national capital:

- Vichy
- Aix La Chapelle
- Paris

6. His whole life was lived in

- poverty.
- the 12th century.
- holy orders.

7. He went to work for this top English cleric:

- Anselm, cardinal elect of England.
- Cardinal Wolsey, prelate and archbishop of York.
- Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury.

8. But his career really took off when Henry II succeeded this ruler who was such a failure that no more kings ever bore his name:

- Stephen
- Charles
- George

9. Thomas and Henry were initially strong personal friends and Henry gave Thomas this top office:

- Marquis of Queensbury
- Chancellor
- Archbishop of Normandy

10. Unexpectedly, as soon as Henry made his friend Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury,

- Thomas demanded that the king divorce his wife and marry Annie Boylen's sister.
- Thomas defended the church's privileges against the king's encroachment.
- Thomas demanded the king accept the throne as a papal vassal.

11. Becket had eventually to flee and sought refuge with this order that sheltered him in France until they were threatened by Henry:

- The Cistercians
- The knight who say "Ni"
- The Yellow Friars (tremulous tertiaris)

12. Although he returned to England, all was not well and eventually this unusual occurrence happened in the cathedral:

- The king was refused Communion at his own wedding.
- Armed knights murdered their archbishop.
- Two priests were sheepishly handed over by Thomas to the king for punishment.

13. Although Henry outlived Thomas, he went on to see Thomas canonized. As if this was not enough, Henry had to accept this:

- public penance and flogging for possible complicity in the death of Thomas.
- three more archbishops from the same religious family as Thomas.
- naming his son Thomas, who would go on to be King Thomas III.

14. While Henry was regarded as a towering figure, it was Becket's tomb which attracted pilgrims, best described by this author:

- The Venerable Bede in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle
- Shakespeare in "All well that ends well"
- Chaucer in the "Canterbury Tales"

15. Ostensibly about Becket's fate, Murder in the Cathedral, by this author can be seen as a warning against fascism:

- T.S. Eliot
- Oscar Wilde
- Sophie Scholl

ANSWERS:

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

Catholic weddings should take place indoors, in a church

I have a friend who wants to get married in the Catholic faith, but would like to have her wedding outdoors at a park with a priest. Is this possible?
Anonymous

This is a fairly common question, especially considering the picturesque outdoor weddings often depicted in movies and on television. The answer is that Catholic weddings should take place indoors, in a church. Canon Law states the norm: "a marriage between Catholics or between a Catholic party and a non-Catholic baptized party is to be celebrated in a parish church." It is not the practice in this diocese to grant outdoor exceptions.

This rule exists for both practical and theological reasons. Practically speaking, the participants in the wedding ceremony do not have to make last minute provisions for unpredictable weather, which can easily spoil any outdoor event. And theologically, wedding vows are ideally exchanged within the holy Mass

as celebrated before the community in a church, the house of God. Marriage, like all the sacraments, flows from the Eucharist. Holy Communion is the ultimate sign and reality that lends context to the nuptial union of a man and a woman, emphasizing that matrimony is a profound sharing in Christ's marriage with the church. "Communion," after all, speaks of unity, and of the free gift of Christ's humanity and divinity for us — a total gift reflected in the sacrament of matrimony.

This is also why "unity candles" are strongly discouraged as inappropriate for wedding Masses — they draw the connection and focus away from the true source and symbol of unity, the Eucharist.

I notice some parishes no longer sing a recessional hymn, but instead play instrumental music. What is the story behind this? Anonymous

While the recessional has become a significant ritual element in our worship, the recessional

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

hymn is technically not part of the actual liturgy, since the Mass ends with the final blessing and dismissal by the priest. "Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship," the newly released set of music guidelines from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, states that a recessional hymn is not necessary, and that an instrumental piece can be substituted.

Another reason for the absence of a recessional hymn may be that a hymn of praise or thanksgiving has already been sung by everyone after Communion, which is a practice that can be found in our diocese.

"Sing to the Lord" suggests that, if a hymn of thanksgiving is used, "it may be appropriate to choose an option other than a congregational song for the recessional. Other options include a choral or instrumental piece or, particularly during Lent, silence."

After the priest raises the host and the chalice in the Eucharistic Prayer, some people bow, some people do nothing. Does the church have a teaching on this? What are we supposed to do?
Anonymous

Above all, it should be noted that the norm for Roman Catholic worship is kneeling during the Eucharistic Prayer. Posture is very important to liturgy, since it is a dynamic and physical expression of our thoroughly incarnational worship, which employs all our senses and every aspect of our being. In the society and culture in which our Roman Rite liturgy has developed, kneeling has come to be understood as one of the deepest bodily displays of

reverence and humility before someone worthy of veneration — in this case, before our very God and Savior.

But if there is a serious lack of space, or some other good reason, those members of the faithful who are unable to kneel at the very least "ought to make a profound bow when the priest genuflects after the consecration" (from the "General Instruction of the Roman Missal"). A "profound bow" is a bow of the body from the waist, which is more meaningful and engaging than a simple bow of the head. Of course, there is nothing to prevent one who is kneeling from also making a slight bow of reverence, according to his or her own devotional practice. However, that is not a necessary gesture.

Brian MacMichael, director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, answered this week's questions.

Among the fallen

VALLE DE LOS CAIDOS, Spain — Judged by the standards of a century replete with political slaughter, the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39 can seem a relatively tame affair. Tens of millions died in Stalin's Ukrainian hunger famine, the Holocaust, Mao's Great Leap Forward, and Pol Pot's Cambodian killing fields; the civil war in Spain managed a mere 500,000 killed. In the time, however, and for decades afterwards, the Spanish Civil War was a 20th century political Rorschach blot: whether you stood with the Spanish Republicans or with the Spanish Nationalists was a pretty good indicator of where you stood on other classic left/right divides. The Spanish Civil War accelerated

the development of an anti-totalitarian left in the West (George Orwell being a prime example); conversely, many European and American conservatives thought the Nationalists were fighting a kind of anti-modern crusade. The truth is that just about everyone behaved badly during the Spanish Civil War, and there are atrocity stories to spare on both sides. The victory of Francisco Franco's Nationalists was frequently portrayed, at the time, as a preview of fascist ascendancy. Yet Anthony Beevor (a British historian not terribly sympathetic to Franco) argued recently that, had the Republicans won with the aid of the USSR, Spain would have become like Romania and Bulgaria after World War II — a Soviet dependency, freed only by the Revolution of 1989.

Reconciliation was preached at Mass; reconciliation is what the monks teach the visitors who come in large numbers every day.

As the recent beatification of 498 martyrs of that period suggests, the Catholic Church suffered terribly during the Spanish Civil War; the new beati join hundreds beatified in the 1980s and 1990s and the nine Martyrs of Asturias canonized in 1999. Yet the beatified and canonized are a fraction of the total — some 7,000 bishops, priests, seminarians, monks and nuns were killed simply because of who they were; no one knows how many thousands of lay Catholics were dispatched for the same reason. Some of the killings were beyond grotesque, as priests and seminarians were treated like bulls in the ring: stabbed, flayed, their ears cut off, and so forth, before the coup de grace. Entire monasteries, seminaries and convents were wiped out; the dead bodies of nuns were exhumed and desecrated. There was little (some say no) apostasy.

On a clear, crisp mid-November morning, lethal wickedness seems far away as one approaches the Benedictine Abbey of the Holy Cross, the spiritual center of the Valley of the Fallen, the Valle de los Caidos, Spain's national memorial to its civil war dead. Located about 40 minutes outside Madrid, the complex consists of a national park, in which 40,000 Nationalist and Republican dead are buried; a colossal basilica hewn out of a granite mountain, atop which is the world's largest cross (some 150 meters high); and behind the memorial cross, a classic monastic grid composed of a monastery, a



GEORGE WEIGEL

choir school, a research library and a center for social studies.

Critics carp that the Valley of the Fallen is a monument to one side of the civil war — Franco's — and reflects Nationalist sensibilities. The abbot, Father Anselmo Alvarez, OSB, has a different view; as he put it to me after Sunday Mass, "This is a place of reconciliation." Reconciliation was preached at Mass; reconciliation is what the monks teach the visitors who come in large numbers every day. The great mosaic in the basilica's dome (a dome carved inside a mountain) is dedicated to Christ the King, who is surrounded by angels, martyrs, confessors — and the dead of the civil war. There, in the true kingdom, there is neither left nor right, for the "former things" have "passed away." Rev. 21.4

Another fair-minded British historian, Hugh Thomas, wrote of the anti-Catholicism of the Spanish Civil War that "at no time in the history of Europe, or even perhaps of the world, has so passionate a hatred of religion and all its works been shown." Spain's aggressively secularist government is now trying to rewrite the history of the 1930s in order to eliminate that truth. In dealing with the contentions and savagery of the past, the monks of the Valley of the Fallen have, I suggest, found the more excellent way.

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

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for December 16, 2007

Matthew 11:2-11

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

IN PRISON	TO COME	ANOTHER
BLIND	SIGHT	WALK
LEPERS	CLEANSED	DEAF
RAISED	THE POOR	GOOD NEWS
BLESSED	OFFENSE	A REED
DRESSED	ROYAL PALACES	PROPHET
MESSENGER	THE LEAST	KINGDOM

BORN OF WOMAN

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

unable to visit during the day.

The Vatican Museums once estimated that it exhibits about 30,000 objects of art and holds another 120,000 in storage. In recent years, officials have tried to highlight some of these lesser-known objects, including works of modern art.

The Vatican has also opened up new sections of the museum. The latest wing, inaugurated in September, was dedicated to Vatican postage stamps.

But on a recent morning, the stamp museum was virtually empty. Not far away, thousands of tourists marched down the hallway toward Michelangelo's frescoes. They were voting with their feet, and the Sistine Chapel was still king.

Sports

BISHOP DWENGER TO HOST WINTER FANTASY GUARD SHOW IN JANUARY For those interested in learning more about Color Guard, Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne will host a day of excitement and competition with over 30 teams competing at the school on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, beginning at 10 a.m. and running through the day. Admission is \$5. This is a fundraiser for the Bishop Dwenger Music Boosters

Panthers defeat Eagles in CYO basketball action

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, Eagles may be 0-2 starting off the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) 2007-2008 season, but Coach Tom Starks is sure that “our best basketball is still very much ahead of us.”

In his opinion, Starks felt they faced the toughest two teams in the Gold League right off the bat.

“St. Joe, Decatur, may be the best team in the league and St. Vincent’s, a very well-coached team, is a close second,” predicted Starks. The Eagles lost their opener to Decatur and were defeated by St. Vincent on Saturday, Dec. 8, at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel.

However, Starks is very pleased how his unit is improving with each practice after a late start to the season due to the football team’s success. “We are a young team and still meshing together,” explained Starks.

The Eagles have just three eighth graders on the roster and made the decision to bring up seventh graders to complete a full team this season. The coaches agreed that this made the most sense given the large seventh-grade class at the school and was a way to avoid cuts at this level. As fifth and sixth graders, this group went undefeated both of the past two years.

The Eagle lineup includes Herm Ross, Matt Wood, Steve May, David Shank, Thomas Starks, Tom Carrier, Dwight Richards, Jack Sturm and Channing Williams with John

Shank, Dan Sink, Chris Yeager and Mike Williamson serving as assistant coaches.

As head coach, Starks assured the parents of two things this season: 1) he would make mistakes; 2) the boys would become better basketball players.

He hopes to win a few games for his eighth graders and teach the boys more knowledge of the game in preparation for the next level.

Even without a key starter, St. Vincent Coach Todd Martin was very satisfied with his team’s performance in the Gold League matchup saying that it was their “best game of the season so far.”

The Panthers went into the locker room with a 19-10 lead at the half thanks to a trey at the buzzer from Justin Schaefer and went on to win by a final score of 42-25. Channing Williams scored 15 points for the Eagles while Joe Morreli led the Panthers with 11, and Keenan Fuller added 10.

In other action at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel last Saturday, the Hessen Cassel Squires downed the Crusaders from St. Therese, 62-49, despite a 28-point effort from St. Therese, eighth-grader Logan Dorman.

James Knapke led the Squires scoring attack with 23 while teammate Mitch Castleman chipped in another 15.

In girls’ Blue League action, the St. Therese Lady Crusaders defeated the Twins from St. Louis-St. Rose, 34-22. Alisha Gerardot of St. Rose led all scorers chalking up 13 points. Oxley and Luegring paced the winners with 11 and 10 points each. The Crusaders are now 2-0 in conference play.

ICCL basketballers complete second week of action

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The basketballers of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) wound up the second week with intensive action.

Tate Bellagrange of the Corpus Christi Cougars snared the top individual performance of the week by pouring in 21 points to lead the Cougars to an easy 50-30 win over the Holy Cross Crusaders.

Holy Cross also had a good scoring pair in Dana Johnson who tallied 16 points and Tre Olive who added 13 in a losing cause.

St. Jude rolled over St. John the Baptist, 37-13, behind the nifty scoring of Mark Downs who collected 14 points and Tom Deranek who popped in 13.

St. Joseph of Mishawaka cut

loose with an offensive barrage of 70 points and held Mishawaka Queen of Peace to 11 points that included only three field goals. Alex Ewing picked up 14 points for the winners.

Parker Devenney looped in 13 points to lead St. Thomas of Elkhart past St. Matthew, 25-14.

St. Anthony Panthers also had an easy time by thumping St. Joseph of South Bend, 51-32, with Tray Keith leading the way with 13 points.

In other contests, Holy Family nipped Christ the King, 21-19; St. Pius defeated St. Michael, Plymouth, 22-13; and St. Monica of Mishawaka defeated city rival St. Bavo, 30-24.

In the Colors Division, St. Jude Green beat St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue, 35-17, as Neal Dowling tallied 11 points for the

victors.

Christ the King Gold edged St. Pius, 28-25, in a nip-and-tuck battle down to the waning minutes as Greg Konkle tossed in 12 points for the victors. Bob Brumbaugh collected 12 for the Raiders.

Connor Edmonds and Joe Speybrouck together scored 26 points in leading Christ the King White to a 41-24 victory over St. Joseph Gold of South Bend.

St. Thomas Maroon of Elkhart won handily over Holy Cross Blue, 47-20, as Alex Soptech rolled in 15 points for the winners, and Brandon Riikonken added 12.

In other games, Corpus Christi Red defeated St. Thomas Gold, 35-25; St. Matthew Black edged St. John the Baptist Maroon, 22-19; Christ the King Blue won over St. Anthony Gold, 41-18.

Faculty Position

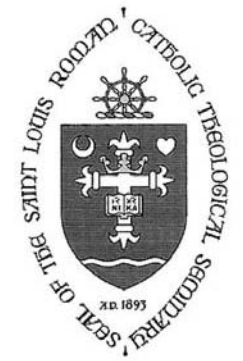
PHILOSOPHY

KENRICK-GLENNON SEMINARY

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, the major seminary of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Saint Louis, has begun the first year of a new undergraduate program and seeks applicants for an additional full-time faculty position in the philosophical disciplines.

Applicants should be Roman Catholic, should exemplify the Gospel in their lives, and should manifest a love for the Eucharist as a source and sign of unity in the Church. They should possess an advanced (preferably terminal) degree, be dedicated to the total formation of seminary students, and be willing to form with the students and colleagues a genuine community of faith, formation, and learning. Applicants should be well versed in the classic themes of Western philosophy and capable of providing a consistent and sound philosophical education to undergraduate seminarians studying for the Roman Catholic priesthood.

Women and persons of color are encouraged to apply. Rank is open. Salary will be determined by qualifications and experience. Review of applications begins January 15, 2008, and continues until the position is filled. Appointment is effective July 1, 2008. Applicants are asked to send a letter of application and curriculum vitae to the following. Inquiries are welcome to the same.



Rev. Donald E. Henke, D.Th.M.

Associate Academic Dean
Assistant Professor of Moral Theology
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
5200 Glennon Drive
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St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Squire Wil Knapke takes a shot at the Squires vs. St. Therese Crusaders game Dec. 8 at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel gym.

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Daily reflections to transform lives, "The Cross, Our Only Hope"

BY VINCE LABARBERA

NOTRE DAME — Ave Maria Press has just published a Holy Cross book titled, "The Cross, Our Only Hope." The inspirational work was edited by Holy Cross Fathers Andrew Gawrych and Kevin Grove — both near graduates of the University of Notre Dame's master of divinity degree program — with a foreword by Holy Cross Father Hugh Cleary,

superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The editors of this volume of daily reflections managed to "reflect" and commemorate the images of the Holy Cross tradition as expressed through their founder, Blessed Father Basil Moreau, beatified on Sept. 15 in Le Mans, France.

"Holy Cross religious have been consecrated, set apart, not to condemn this age but to love and transform it," wrote Father Cleary.

"These reflections will accompany us each day through a year of grace. They will help us to be a people of faith in a secular age," he continued. "They have hope to bring us. Happy are we who live in their promise."

Many Holy Cross priests serving the diocese in the South Bend area as well as at Notre Dame are among the contributors of this moving collection. In addition, the prayerful work contains endorsements from more than a dozen well-

known religious leaders, including Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Father Theodore M. Hesburgh and Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC.

"These reflections are meant to be read as part of personal, familial, or communal prayer and meditation each day," wrote the editors. "They roughly follow the church's liturgical year, while giving special attention to Holy Cross feasts and other major celebrations in the church."

The Hammes Notre Dame Book Store will host a book signing Friday, Dec. 14, from 1-4 p.m., featuring contributors to "The Cross, Our Only Hope: Daily Reflections in the Holy Cross Tradition." Twenty-nine of the book's contributors, along with one of the book's editors, Holy Cross Father Kevin Grove will be signing books during the event.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Advent Christmas concert and evening of prayer

Bristol — St. Mary of the Annunciation will host an Advent Christmas Concert with Mark Forrest, International Irish Tenor on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. A free-will donation will be taken. On Monday, Dec. 17, there will be meditation, music, prayer and healing in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. A reception will follow both evenings. For more information, call (574) 848-4305.

Saint Expo

Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Parish religious education program's sixth graders will present a Saint Expo on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 4:15-5 p.m. in the parish hall. The children will present biographical information about some of the saints who will actually be walking in our midst. Free admission.

Advent reconciliation service

Waterloo — St. Michael the Archangel Parish will have an

Advent reconciliation service on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m. Private reconciliation will be available.

Holiday Christmas concert and bake sale

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish will have a holiday candy and bake sale Saturday, Dec. 15, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and Sunday Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to noon. A Christmas concert will be held Sunday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. in the church. The concert is free.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 21, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$6, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Fish fry

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 14, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$7, seniors \$6.50, children under 12 \$4.

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The ideal candidate would have some years of experience directing religious education, a graduate degree in theology, a lively prayer life, a faith-filled character, knowledge of the Church and world, an interest in justice, a commitment to Christ's peace, and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds and experience. The parish wishes to fill the vacancy by January 2008. Send cover letter and resume to the pastor:

Rev. John Patrick Riley, CSC
Sacred Heart Parish, University of Notre Dame,
104 The Presbytery, Notre Dame IN 46556
or by email: John.P.Riley.33@nd.edu

Requests for more information can be addressed to
Chris Miller, DRE at cmiller4@nd.edu

TV MASS GUIDE FOR CHRISTMAS

DATE	FEAST	FORT WAYNE	SOUTH BEND	"Catholic Comment" airs Sundays at 7:05 a.m. on WOWO 1190 AM in Fort Wayne and at 7:30 a.m. on WSBT 960 AM in South Bend. "Radio Rosary" airs M-F at 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on Redeemer Radio WLYV 1450 AM
		CHANNEL 33 - WISE 10:30 A.M.	CHANNEL 16 - WNDU 10:30 A.M.	
Dec. 16	3rd Sunday of Advent	Father James Stoyke Cathedral Fort Wayne	Father Camillo Tirabassi Corpus Christi South Bend	
Dec. 23	4th Sunday of Advent	Father Jason Freiburger St. Vincent dePaul Fort Wayne	Father Bob Lengerich St. Pius X Granger	
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Midnight Mass live from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne	Midnight Mass live from the Vatican	
Dec. 25	Christmas	Bishop John M. D'Arcy Live Fort Wayne	Father Christopher Cox, CSC St. Adalbert, South Bend Airs 6 a.m. and 5 p.m.	
Dec. 30	Feast of the Holy Family	Father David Ruppert St. Therese Fort Wayne	Father David Porterfield, CSC Our Lady of Fatima House Notre Dame	

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Pope among 12 religious leaders in CBS documentary 'In God's Name'

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The genesis for a documentary on why people use religion and faith as justification for some of history's most horrible acts came from one recent horrible act: the World Trade Center attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Jules Naudet, who with brother Gedeon produced the upcoming CBS documentary "In God's Name," collaborated with his older brother on "9/11," which aired on CBS five years ago.

Until those terrorist attacks, the Naudets were planning on making a documentary on the lives of firefighters. What resulted was something entirely different. And the effects of that tragedy provided some motivation for "In God's Name."

"It was the moment where I was filming in the lobby of the World Trade Center, and hearing that horrible roar coming from above," the Paris-born Naudet told Catholic News Service in a

Nov. 30 telephone interview from New York, his home for the past 18 years.

He and his brother were at the trade center that day because they had begun work on their film about firefighters.

"Having the first World Trade Center tower coming down on us, me running for my life and thinking I was going to die," Naudet said, "this strange question popped into my head: Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? I survived that day, and for a few months these questions were in the back of my head and nagging me. I talked it over with my brother."

They decided "why don't we go to see the people who should have these answers? These are kind of the spiritual beacons on our planet," he said.

Pope Benedict XVI is one of 12 spiritual leaders, five of them Christian, featured in the documentary. Non-Christians include the Dalai Lama, the chief rabbi of Israel, a Hindu spiritual leader and a prominent Sunni Muslim

leader. The pope was the only one of the 12 who did not sit down with the Naudets for a private interview.

"The Vatican historically has not given interviews. A pope has not given a private interview because his exclusivity in a way would not be fair," Naudet told CNS. "But I think we worked very closely with him. We went through all the archives and found features of His Holiness to find answers to the questions we had: What is the meaning of life? What is the future, his hopes, his fears?"

Through the archival research, they were able to find images "that never had been seen before," Naudet said. "I think people will look differently on the pope when you see him. ... That will give them another dimension that people would not previously see."

The Naudets can't say yet exactly what viewers will see when "In God's Name" hits the airwaves Dec. 23, 9-11 p.m. EST. They're still in the editing room when they're not granting interviews. Making a film, Naudet said, is like "putting together this amazing and beautiful puzzle. It's hard to do."

The brothers calculated that over 165 days of filming "we have 180 hours of footage to condense into a two-hour special. It's heartbreaking in a way. Every time you remove something you feel like you're tearing a limb from yourself," Naudet said.

The two have been a film making team since boyhood.

"He (Gedeon) was 12, I was nine and I was more the actor and he was the director," Naudet said.



CNS PHOTO/STEPHAN CRASNEANSKI/ COURTESY OF CBS

Pope Benedict XVI leads the traditional Way of the Cross at the Colosseum in Rome in April. The pontiff is one of 12 spiritual leaders featured in the documentary "In God's Name," which airs Dec. 23 at 9 p.m. EST on CBS.

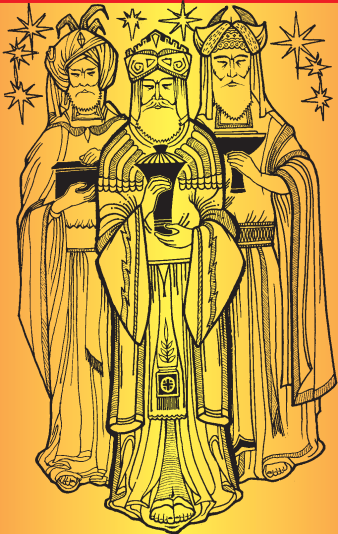
"We had our dad lend us a small camera and we made our first film, which I think was a small thriller, which was in our neighborhood in Paris, and then (we made) a small documentary about our school. Then we went to film school in New York together.

"We see slightly different things. We are a body with two different heads. We arrive at the same conclusion but from two different points of view," he added.

Raised as an agnostic by their parents, Naudet said his beliefs didn't change when making "In God's Name."

"I don't think I can say at the end of the journey itself after meeting these people that I found God," he told CNS, "but I found hope — which is what I was wrestling with. I did not know what kind of answers we were going to get. It was a little frightening.

"The lesson I get from this is that we have more to unite us than divide us," he said. "That is what gave me great hope."



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DEC. 31 -4:30 PM HOLYDAY VIGIL
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4:30 p.m. Christmas Mass

11:30 p.m. Concert of Christmas Carols

Midnight - Christmas Mass

December 25, Tuesday, Nativity of the Lord

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Christmas Masses

December 31, Monday, (Vigil) Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Eve)

4:30 p.m. (Vigil) Mass

January 1, 2008, Tuesday, Feast of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Masses

January 6, Sunday, The Epiphany of the Lord

4:30 p.m. (Vigil) Mass - 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Masses

The Pastoral Staff and Parish Community extend to you prayerful wishes for a happy and holy Christmas celebration. May the New Year, 2008, bring you many blessings and graces