



# TODAY'S CATHOLIC



CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

The birth of Christ is depicted in stained glass at St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto. The Christmas feast commemorates the birth of Christ. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil and ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 13 in 2008.

## Christmas message

BY BISHOP JOHN M. DARCY

*It is not science that redeems man: man is redeemed by love. This applies even in terms of this present world. When someone has the experience of a great love in his life, this is a moment of "redemption" which gives a new meaning to his life. But soon he will also realize that the love bestowed upon him cannot by itself resolve the question of his life. It is a love that remains fragile. It can be destroyed by death. The human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:38-39). — Pope Benedict XVI, "Spe Salvi"*

Thus does the successor of Peter raise our eyes towards the only hope for humanity, the love, which comes to us at Bethlehem. It is a hope, which is not something external when we kneel before the crib, rather it rises in our hearts when we express our faith in the Redeemer, the Son of God, born for our salvation.

We can only begin to understand Christmas and the true nature of its joy when from within our heart we recognize who it is that is born and the purpose of his coming.

He is before us with Mary, whose yes to the angel opened the door for his coming and with Joseph, his guardian and the man of faith — he is before us so that we will freely choose to adore him and choose also to be associated with him in the work of saving humanity.

But we have freedom, indeed the pope's new message is to a great extent about freedom. We have freedom to make this one day a passing moment in our life something to be experienced and then set aside. Or, with that great gift of freedom, we can offer ourselves to God who has come to receive us and join us to him in the work of salvation. We can say yes to this invitation.

Christmas is all about love — our love for God who has emptied himself for our salvation. We also must pray to him that we will have the same love for humanity, for others, as he has; and in this way, we will be joined to him in the work of redemption.

The crib, like the cross, puts such extraordinary choices before us. From God we have the freedom to choose. From the incarnation, we also have the grace to say yes to him and to the work he has for each one of us.

A blessed Christmas to you all.



## Keeping it simple

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Next publication

Jan. 6, 2008

## Bishop, St. Patrick's celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe

BY JENNIFER MURRAY

FORT WAYNE — "Am I not here, who am your Mother?"

These are the words that touched the heart of a humble peasant, Juan Diego, on a rugged hill in Mexico in the year 1531. She identified herself as the Mother of God and yet by her traditional clothing and her gentle words to Juan Diego, she took on the role of mother of peasants, mother of Native Americans, mother of Hispanics, mother of all who are humble. Today she is known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Hispanics are deeply devoted to Our Lady and her feast day, on Dec. 12, is a time of great celebration.

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego because she wanted a church built in her honor. She sent him to the bishop, an aristocratic Spaniard, who could not

believe that the Mother of God would appear to a peasant who converted to Catholicism just years before. He demanded a sign.

She sent him a most miraculous sign. On Juan Diego's tilma, similar to a heavy shawl or wrap made of cactus fiber, is a magnificent image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. According to the laws of nature, this tilma should have disintegrated after 20 years. Instead the tilma, with the image, has endured for nearly 500 years.

The tilma was the sign that caused the bishop to believe. Yet it was the words of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego that caused the real miracle to take place. Her words of motherly love brought 9 million Native Americans of Mexico to Christ in less than 20 years.

"Am I not here, who am your Mother?"

OUR LADY, PAGE 3

## PLYMOUTH CELEBRATES



PROVIDED BY ST. MICHAEL PARISH

St. Michael Parish, Plymouth, youth presented a one-act play Dec. 11 on the eve of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Myra Figuer, center, portrayed Our Lady. Others included Jose Diaz as the bishop. Directors of the play were Virginia Figueroa and Jorge Mendoza.

## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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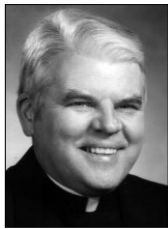
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# Construction is sign of vitality and the protection of Our Lady



## NEWS & NOTES

**BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY**

### A tale of two parishes

It was a stormy Sunday morning and 6 to 8 inches of snow had fallen. But, to paraphrase the New England poet, Robert Frost: "I had promises to keep." So with my driveway plowed out, I headed west, driving slowly, with two brand new snow tires, towards St. Patrick Parish in Arcola.

Driving about 20 to 15 miles per hour, I made it in good form. The number of people in church was surprising given the severe weather. After Mass, it was my privilege to bless a wonderful new Catechetical Center completed and paid for because of the extraordinary leadership of Father Cyril Fernandes, a priest from the Diocese of Jamshedpur in India. After Mass and blessing, there was a wonderful program with speeches by those who had given such exemplary parish leadership. I met my good friends Alex and Judy Pursley as well as Ed and Mary Ellen Rice and so many others that made possible this magnificent building with its state of the art technology. Also, present were John and Mary Hilger.

I have known St. Patrick, Arcola, for many years and have been there a number of times. My recollection is that early on, some people said this is one of the parishes we should consider closing. When Father Cyril went to St. Patrick, there were 170 families and now 368 families have registered. Many are drawn by the beautiful old church and by the leadership of Father Cyril. However, there has been a significant amount of new homes in the area and more are expected.

This was a joyful event, and I thought also of my good friend, Bishop Felix Toppe, the bishop of Jamshedpur, in faraway India who has provided this exemplary priest for us and who enjoys staying in St. Patrick Parish when he comes through the area. Also present and concelebrating was Father Alex Dodrai, who will take the place of Father Cyril while he returns to India to visit his diocese and his family. A joyful event on a snowy Sunday.

### Off to Elizabeth Ann Seton

Due to the storm, it was my privilege to be driven to the next stop by Larry Weigand. Now there is something historic here too. Larry, a graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School where he was an outstanding football player on a team that won the state championship, was head contractor in the construction of both buildings in these parishes. His company, so well known in the Fort Wayne area, was dedicating two educational facilities in one day. A great joy for him, I am sure, and for his good parents, Bob and Sally.

At Elizabeth Ann Seton, we dedicated phase three of this extraordinary campus. I often say that the best thing the bishop ever does for a parish is to assign a good priest to that parish. There have been two pastors at Elizabeth Ann Seton, a parish which I was privileged to establish 20 years ago — Jan. 1,

1988 — with land donated by the Gallucci family. First, Father Bob Schulte, the founding pastor and now our vicar general and rector of the cathedral, and in recent years, Father Jim Shafer. Both have given outstanding pastoral leadership to this parish. Here one can see, as earlier at St. Patrick, the truth of Pope John Paul's definition of a parish, which he calls: "A family of families."

There are about 1,400 children in religious education if we include, as we certainly should, both the school and the religious education program. Father Shafer has taken full advantage of the diocesan programs for training catechists and has brought so many lay people, men and women, into apostolic works and ministries within the parish. The computer room is state of the art and the classrooms, which have been functioning since school began in August, are filled with light and promise. As you come through the main entrance, there before you, standing on a great platform and quite elevated, is the crucifix. It will be the first thing seen by the children as they come into school each morning and will remind them of Christ our savior who always must be central to Catholic education; and they will learn that the cross is a victory for humanity.

I also was pleased to greet in his Benedictine habit Father Bernard Ramenaden, OSB, who along with his brother Father Ronald is serving in our diocese. Back home across the snowy roads, I felt gratitude to the pastors of these parishes and the generosity of the parishioners who have made possible these two buildings, which will serve to bring the word of God to children for generations to come. We have a great deal of construction going on in our diocese, and this is certainly a sign of our vitality and of the protection of Our Lady who is our patroness and to whom we should all have such a tender devotion and love.

### All sold out

Word came last week from Greg Erlandson, president of Our Sunday Visitor, that "Worthy of the Gospel of Christ: A History of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend" by Joseph M. White, Ph.D., published by OSV is sold out and an

additional 500 are being printed. This was most encouraging. I signed books for one hour at the Notre Dame bookstore. Through my own fault, it was my first time in that magnificent building and I was very impressed. The numbers seeking a book signing was smaller than in our Cathedral Bookstore in Fort Wayne; but of course, many books have now been distributed through parishes. Nevertheless, we are just delighted and Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Company is pleased that there has been so much interest in this history of our first 150 years as a diocese. At the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception 20 copies were sold and people signed up for 30 more. St. Jude, Fort Wayne, also sold all of its copies with many signing up for more.

It was a joy to visit St. Joseph County Library in downtown South Bend next to our diocesan office to present them with two copies of the history. I did the same at the beautiful new Allen County Library in Fort Wayne. Both libraries received the books with gratitude and appreciation, and the South Bend library already had purchased copies.

The visits also reminded me of what a blessed thing a public library is for children and for people of all ages.

### Upcoming schedule

For the 23rd time it will be my privilege and joy to observe the following Christmas schedule: Mass on Christmas Eve with Father Michael Heintz at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend; midnight Mass, which will be televised, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne; morning Mass at the University of Saint Francis Chapel, which will be televised in the Fort Wayne area over Channel 33. Then home for a quiet Christmas day and a chance to call my family; two sisters to call this year rather than three. Painful, as it should be, but also with the trust that my dear Mary is in heaven with our parents where she surely appreciates more deeply the meaning of Christmas.

I will see you in two weeks for the feast of the Epiphany, the last day of our Jubilee Year.



**Bishop John M. D'Arcy, flanked by Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. Patrick, Arcola, and visiting priest Father Alex Dodrai, bless the new Catechetical Center on Dec. 16.**

RON ULASZEWSKI

# Document reminds Catholics of duty, right to share Gospel

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Catholics fulfill their right and duty to share their faith with others, they are not engaging in proselytism or showing contempt for the beliefs of others, said a new document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Sharing the Christian faith with the hope that another may accept it is a command given by Christ to his followers and is a natural result of wanting others to share something special, said the "Doctrinal Note on Some Aspects of Evangelization."

Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the doctrinal congregation, presented the document at a Dec. 14 Vatican press conference.

In addition to reminding Catholics of their obligation to share the Gospel with others, the document harshly criticized Catholics who believe that every religion offers salvation, and it defended Catholics in some Orthodox countries from charges of proselytism when they welcome into the Catholic Church people who freely ask to join.

"For a long time, the reason for evangelization has not been clear to many among the Catholic faithful," the document said.

"It is even stated that the claim to have received the gift of the fullness of God's revelation masks an attitude of intolerance and (is) a danger to peace," it said.

In reality, the document said, when Christians share their faith

with another they are responding to the right and the need the other has to hear the truth and to accept or reject it.

Cardinal Levada said the document, which already was being prepared when Pope Benedict XVI was still prefect of the congregation, was the result of a growing "confusion about whether Catholics should give testimony about their faith in Christ," particularly to people who already belong to another religion.

Respect for another, he said, absolutely forbids any use of "coercion or tactics unworthy of the Gospel," but it also means sharing one's blessings, the greatest of which is the good news of salvation in Christ.

Indian Cardinal Ivan Dias, prefect of the Congregation for Evangelization and a member of the doctrinal congregation, also participated in the document's presentation and spoke about the need to balance respect for other religions with the desire to lead others to faith in Christ.

When talking with members of other religious traditions, "Christians must try to discover the action of the Holy Spirit, that is, the 'seeds of truth,' as the Second Vatican Council called them," that are present in those religions, he said. At the same time, one must try "to lead them, without any superiority complex, to a full understanding of the truth in Jesus Christ."

"Even if the various non-Christian religions possess seeds of truth planted in them by the Holy Spirit and the

people who follow them may be saved, that does not mean that the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ is irrelevant. It is our task to help the seeds of truth grow so that they find their fullness in Christ," Cardinal Dias said.

Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze,

Arinze said.

Archbishop Angelo Amato, secretary of the doctrinal congregation, said the document is a practical follow-up to the 2000 document "Dominus Iesus," on the uniqueness of Christ and universal salvation in him.

**"The sharing of our Catholic faith with others who do not yet know Christ should be regarded as a work of love, provided that it is done with full respect for their human dignity and freedom."**

CARDINAL FRANCIS ARINZE

prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments and also a member of the doctrinal congregation, told reporters, "The sharing of our Catholic faith with others who do not yet know Christ should be regarded as a work of love, provided that it is done with full respect for their human dignity and freedom."

"Indeed, if a Christian did not try to spread the Gospel by sharing the excellent knowledge of Jesus Christ with others, we could suspect that Christian either of lack of total conviction of the faith or of selfishness and laziness in not wanting to share the full and abundant means of salvation with his fellow human beings," Cardinal

Despite the 2000 document's insistence on the importance of proclaiming salvation in Jesus Christ alone, he said, "there still exists a coolness toward missionary activity" in many parts of the church.

In addition, he said, the document is an affirmation of the right and duty of Catholics to share their faith with others who ask to know more, whether those asking belong to other religions or to other Christian communities.

He said that when non-Catholics are free to minister to their members in predominantly Catholic countries, it only makes sense that the Catholic Church would have the same right to offer

pastoral care to Catholics in predominantly non-Catholic countries.

Besides China, where all religion is restricted, and some Muslim countries where Christians cannot openly practice their faith, the issue also involved some parts of the former Soviet Union, where the Russian Orthodox Church has accused the Catholic Church of proselytism, or trying to convince members of the traditionally Orthodox population to become Catholic.

The document said: "The mission of the church is universal and is not restricted to specific regions of the earth. Evangelization, however, is undertaken differently according to the different situations in which it occurs."

Asked specifically about the Russian Orthodox claims, Cardinal Levada said, "Especially in a country like Russia where there were long years of atheistic communism, one must respect the sensitivity of the Orthodox, who are concerned about rekindling Christianity in the life of their people."

While some evangelical groups have launched proselytism campaigns in Russia, he said, the Catholic Church is there to offer pastoral care to Catholics.

"We do not proselytize, but it can happen that someone has an encounter with the Catholic faith and wants to join the Catholic Church," the cardinal said. In such situations, the Catholic Church must respect the individual's conscience and help him or her to follow it.

## OUR LADY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Our Lady of Guadalupe did what all the missionaries had been unsuccessful at doing. She showed the people of Mexico that the one true God, Jesus Christ, was not the white man's God only, was not the God of the conquistadors. She identified herself with them. She took the role of their mother and made Christ their brother. She opened her heart to them and that is when they saw the love of God poured out for them.

Five-hundred years and not much has changed. She is still the mother of all who turn to her. None are as devoted as the spiritual descendants of Juan Diego. Mexicans, and indeed numerous other Hispanic peoples, hear in her words to Juan Diego a call to their own hearts.

This is why the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is such an important day. Many traditions have developed to give Hispanics an opportunity to properly honor their Mother.

On Dec. 9, the Hispanic community of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, celebrated their devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The young people danced around the church, in a beautiful procession, before Mass began. They wore traditional clothing and on their heads were headdresses with peacock feathers. Near the altar was a replica of the image of

Guadalupe and they danced for her. Little children dressed as peasants went up with offerings.

Following the Mass, they performed a skit reenacting those days when the humble peasant, Juan Diego, was given a mission by Our Lady to go to the bishop to build a church.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy took the role of the bishop and shouted "milagro, milagro" or "miracle, miracle" as he saw the tilma with the image of Our Lady. After the skit, the young dancers returned to the front of the church to pay their tribute.

At 5 a.m. before morning Mass on Dec. 12, many Hispanics sing "Las Mañanitas" to celebrate the "birthday" of Our Lady of Guadalupe. But for Hispanics, Our Lady of Guadalupe is not just remem-



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MURRAY

A child, dressed in celebratory clothing, attends Our Lady of Guadalupe festivities at St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne.



Bishop John M. D'Arcy, seated in the sanctuary, participated in Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations at St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne Dec. 9.

accomplish miracles for you."

Many Hispanics go to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico as part of their devotion, particularly after she has interceded for them. In fact, the basilica receives more visitors than Lourdes or Fatima.

"They will go on their knees up to the altar. It is made of rock. Often by the time they get to the altar, their knees are bloody," explained Rita McDonagh.

For those who have not grown up in the Hispanic culture, this level of devotion may seem difficult to understand. Many do not realize that the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is not, and should not be, a Hispanic celebration only. After all, Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas, not only of Mexico or Latin America. Her message is not only for the ears of Juan Diego, or for Mexicans, but for all of us.

Why do so many Hispanics get up at 5 a.m. on Dec. 12 to sing to Our Lady of Guadalupe? Why do they devote a space in their homes for a shrine and time in their days to pray to her? Why would anyone go on their bloody knees up to an altar?

Sebero Hernandez has the answer for such devotion: "The reason is she is the Mother of God. The reason we all love her so much is she is our mother, everyone's mother."

"Am I not here, who am your Mother?"

Who could ignore the Mother of God, the mother of our very souls?

# TAP empowers change for justice

BY MAY LEE JOHNSON

SOUTH BEND — He works to keep the wheels of justice rolling for those who are often targeted by racial profiling. Holy Cross Father Christopher Cox, pastor of St. Adalbert Church and co-chair of the Transforming Action Through Power (TAP) sponsoring committee, has heard more than his share of civil rights and immigration horror stories.

"After hearing about so many cases of profiling, we joined members of TAP to try to bring about a change," Father Cox said.

"Currently TAP is supported by Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Mennonite, Pentecostal and several other congregations.

"There is not much that any of us can do alone, but when you join forces with a faith-based organization like this one, we become united to accomplish systemic change in the South Bend community," Father Cox said.

TAP has been going public with an agenda that it has been forming over the past year, and it includes a growing network of member congregations around South Bend who have been groomed to become activists and leaders.

They aimed their appeals at the officials and political candidates such as mayoral candidates, prosecutors, police chiefs, Fraternal Order of Police presidents, a state senator and representative, a congressman and city council candidates.

Last week the group sponsored a discussion on civil rights and immigration at the Abundant Faith Outreach Center where Rev. James Williams is pastor. Guest speaker Richard J. Bowers Jr., an attorney, with Action in Detroit, spoke to



MAY LEE JOHNSON

**Pastor James Williams, Holy Cross Father Christopher Cox, Audrey Jones-Spencer and at-large South Bend Council member Karen White share a few lighthearted moments before discussion of civil rights and immigration issues at a meeting last week at the Abundant Faith Outreach Center. Father Cox is one of the leading members of Transforming Action through Power (TAP).**

the members of TAP. According to Bowers, in Detroit, people of Middle Eastern and Latino descent were the biggest targets for racial profiling, noted Bowers.

"We began working on an ordinance that ... went into effect in July, and there hasn't been that many complaints about profiling," Bowers said. Local members of TAP are pushing for a similar ordinance in South Bend.

"I know that profiling is real" said council member Karen White of South Bend. She went on to describe one of her own personal experiences: "I was heading home from a church service, and was about to turn when a South Bend police officer stopped me and began questioning me, and I questioned him back. He said to me, 'You're going to have to shut up because we both can't talk.'" The officer said that the license plate was expired and warned her.

"I felt really bad, but I never said anything to anyone because all citizens should be treated with respect and dignity," White said.

Benito Garcia echoed White's experience with profiling.

"I was on my way home from work when I got pulled over for a taillight being out," Garcia said. "The officers were nasty and mean and said things I thought were unfair and out of line, but I said nothing. I was afraid. He finally let me go and told me to have my papers with me the next time. I said, 'yes sir' and left."

The Scripture adopted by TAP comes from 2 Timothy 1:7, and says: "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

"That's why we meet," said Father Cox. "We are hoping to be about change in our local community."

# Pope says joy of Christmas season comes from Jesus' presence

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Consecrating a new parish church, blessing figurines of the baby Jesus and reciting the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict XVI said the joy of the season comes from knowing Jesus is present among people and can work through them.

The pope began Dec. 16 by blessing Rome's new Our Lady of the Rosary Church, sprinkling the building with holy water, filling its corners with incense smoke and anointing its altar with oil.

While the third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday, includes a special invitation to rejoice, he said, "in truth, all of Advent is a call to joy because 'the Lord is coming,' because he comes to save us."

Preparing for Christmas, the pope said, the Mass readings "constantly repeat that we must wake from the sleep of habit and mediocrity; we must abandon sadness and discouragement; we must strengthen our hearts because the Lord is near."

Pope Benedict told the parishioners that all their hard work and sacrifice in building the church and worrying over every detail should be a symbol of the sacrifice and care with which they prepare their hearts for the Lord's coming and their lives for living as Christians.

"The living community is more sacred than the material temple we consecrate," the pope said. "And to build this living, spiritual temple — which is you — there is need for much prayer" and active participation in the liturgy, catechesis and the charitable and cultural activities that the parish offers.

"May the care we show for the material building — sprinkling it with holy water, anointing it with oil and filling it with incense — be a sign and a stimulus for a more intense care in defending and promoting the temple of the person, which is formed by you, dear parishioners," Pope Benedict said.

Returning to the Vatican for the midday recitation of the Angelus, the pope told people in St. Peter's Square that the joy of Advent and



CNS PHOTO/ALESSIA GIUALIANI

**An 86-foot Christmas tree is seen lit against the backdrop of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 14. The tree, located in St. Peter's Square near the obelisk, was lit in a Dec. 14 ceremony.**

Christmas comes from knowing that God, in Jesus Christ, became one of us.

"Christian joy arises from this certainty: God is near, he is with me, he is with us in joy and sorrow, in health and sickness, as a friend and faithful spouse," the pope said.

Pope Benedict said the fact that Christian joy remains despite sorrow and struggle can be seen in the life of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who had long periods of feeling that God had abandoned her, but she continued to smile and to take God's love to the poor and the dying.

"Yes, joy enters the hearts of those who place themselves at the service of the small and the poor. In those who love that way, God takes up residence and the soul rejoices," he said.

At the end of the audience, Pope Benedict blessed statues of the baby Jesus that children brought to the square in preparation for placing them in Nativity scenes at home and at school.

While he wished the children a Merry Christmas, he asked their parents, priests and teachers "to collaborate with enthusiasm for the Christian education of the little ones."



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## Times for Liturgy St. Pius X Parish

52553 Fir Road Granger, Indiana

### Christmas Eve

Lessons & Carols 4:30 p.m.

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

Lessons & Carols 11:25 p.m.

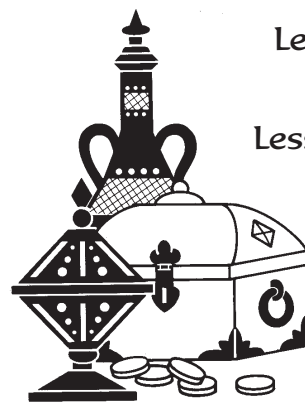
Midnight

### Christmas Day

9 a.m. 11 a.m.

### New Year's Day

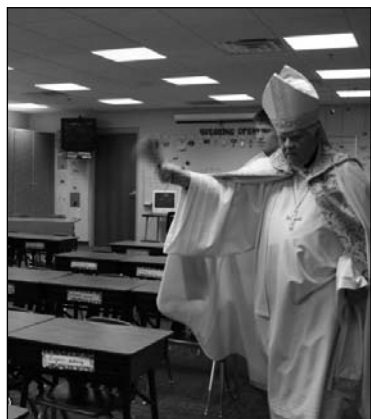
9:00 am 11:00 am



# Expansion blessed by bishop

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church hosts a vibrant and active parish community that has grown to over 2,000 families since it opened its doors on Aboite Center Road 17 years ago. To accommodate the needs of the ever-growing parish, ground was broken for a 55,000-square-foot expansion project in 2006. Now 10 months and much construction later, the newly completed expansion has been dedicated and blessed by Bishop John M. D'Arcy.



KAY COZAD

**Bishop John M. D'Arcy blesses the newly completed expansion at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish with holy water in a dedication and blessing ceremony on Dec. 16. The blowing snow and icy road conditions did not deter the over 300 parishioners and interested others from participating in the ceremony, tour and following reception.**

The dedication ceremony took place on Dec. 16, despite the inclement weather, when Father Jim Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth Church, joined by founding pastor Father Bob Schulte, vicar general of the diocese, associate pastor Father Bernard Ramenaden, OSB, and parish staff, gathered with over 300 parishioners and others in the parish activity center to hear Scripture readings, sing and pray together.

The bishop spoke of the 20-year-old parish, which met in Haverhill School for almost three years before the original church was completed, and its growth and activity saying, "You, along with your priest, have built a beautiful facility ... in the middle of modern suburban culture ... and you have a responsibility to make all welcome here." He went on to offer his prayer that the church would be a place where people come to pray and raise their hearts to God.

**"Make it a place of thanksgiving."**

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

"Make it a place of thanksgiving," he said. After sprinkling each new room within the facility with holy water, the bishop blessed the congregation and joined them on a tour followed by a reception held in the new cafeteria on the lower level.

Founding pastor Father Schulte said of the expansion, "It's beautiful. It's nice to be able to have all this room for the children."

The original vision for the parish building phases has met his expectations and he says, "It's right on (schedule)."

Current pastor Father Shafer said of the dedication and blessing ceremony, "Wonderful! It calls

God's blessing on the new facility, which is a grace and blessing to the parish."

Jim Kitchens, business manager and pastoral minister of St. Elizabeth, describes the new facility as a parish activity center, which houses a high school-sized gymnasium complete with a stage. The gym is used not only by St.

Elizabeth physical education students but by adult basketball teams and more. The St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School, with 489 students in all and 290 on the St. Elizabeth campus, has

been expanded with four additional classrooms to house third and fourth grade students this year allowing the dedicated teachers of the St. Elizabeth campus to educate children kindergarten through fourth grade.

Lois Widner, principal there said, "It's been so exciting. ... We have the additional room to do the programs that we want to do."

St. Elizabeth's religious education program (R.E.) is huge, Kitchens said with over 850 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. These R.E. students have expanded into the new classrooms as well. In addition to the new classrooms, the new facility includes new office space for

school personnel including the principal's office and an office for the guidance counselor. And a state-of-the-art computer lab has been added to the elementary building.

The commercial kitchen in the lower level with its stainless steel appliances and counters feed the 290 students, who enjoy their school lunches in the expansive 400-seat cafeteria, which includes a wall of windows with a view of the outside amphitheater.

The beautifully landscaped amphitheater, which can hold between 100-200 people, will be host to family movies in the summer as well as youth group and parish ministry activities.

And the youth ministry for high school-aged parishioners, now has a room they can call their own in the lower level of the facility, replete with donated furniture, foosball game table and computer outlets. Other rooms are also available for adult gatherings as well.

Of the expansion Father Shafer said, "It enables us to gather to meet the needs of the parish in a spiritual way. It will really change this place ministry-wise. The school will use it most, but it is a blessing to the whole parish."

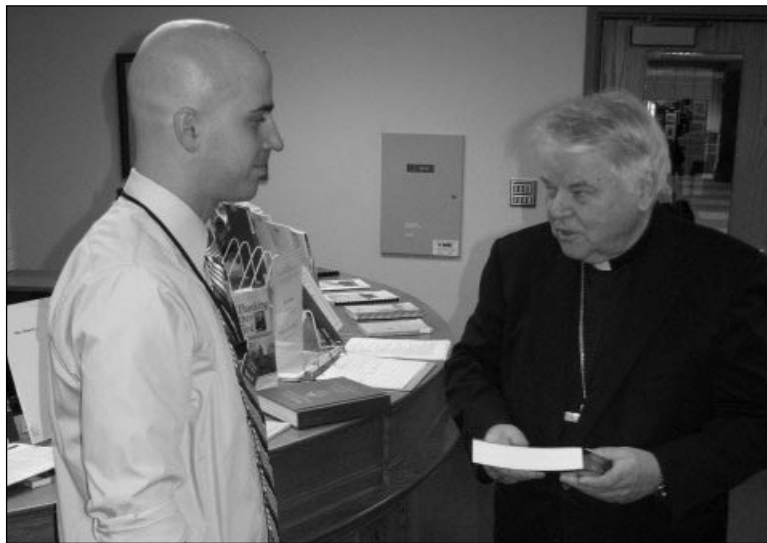
The future use of the building is open to all possibilities as Shafer reports that currently they are monitoring its use by the parish ministries and will soon know how to offer it to the surrounding community as well.

Another important part of this expansive building project undertaken by Weigand Construction Company and coordinated by Jerry Mays, includes renovations within the church sanctuary itself, which was repainted in neutral colors. The pews and kneelers were recovered and new carpet and linoleum was laid. And says Kitchens, a much needed roof repair was undertaken, adding that renovations to the existing parish hall, adjoining kitchen, atrium and library are awaiting completion.

Kitchens would like to thank Dr. Mike and Grace Mastrangelo, honorary co-chairs for the fundraising committee, saying the (monetary) gifts are on target for this impressive project as well as for Bill Niezer's assistance as the chair of the building committee.

"It was 10 months of construction and has been a joy to work with such a professional group of people," said Kitchens. "It's amazing. They did a beautiful job."

## PRESENTING DIOCESAN HISTORY BOOK TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES



JOE KOZINSKI

Bishop John M. D'Arcy presents a copy of "Worthy of the Gospel of Christ: A History of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend" to the St. Joseph County Public library. The bishop presented the book to Kevin Wadzinski, para professional in the Local and Family History Department of the library. Below, Bishop D'Arcy presents the book to Jeff Krull, director of the Allen Country Public Library in Fort Wayne. The bishop signed copies of the book, which was written by church historian Dr. Joseph White in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the local diocese, and printed by Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington.



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## Report cites accomplishments, challenges in church response to abuse

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although the church has taken positive steps in its response to the clergy abuse crisis, more needs to be done, according to a five-year report on the crisis released Dec. 13 by the National Review Board, the lay group that oversees the U.S. Catholic bishops' compliance with child protection policies. The report, addressed to U.S. Catholics on the fifth anniversary of the board's establishment, called the church's response to the abuse crisis "impressive" but also noted that its "work is only beginning." It said church officials must do a better job of providing victims with the help they need and should also help Catholics at the parish level understand how best to respond to victims and their families. It also recommended church leaders provide "protection and restoration" for priests accused of abuse who are later found innocent and called for "greater speed" in investigating and responding to abuse allegations. The full report may be accessed online at: [www.usccb.org/nrb/nrbreport2007.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/nrb/nrbreport2007.pdf).

## Bishop praises New Jersey lawmakers for vote to abolish death penalty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop John M. Smith of Trenton, N.J., said Dec. 14 he was pleased New Jersey legislators voted to abolish the death penalty, but said he would not have a "triumphalist attitude about it" because capital punishment is such a sensitive issue. Members of the General Assembly voted Dec. 13 to end the death penalty in their state, four days after the measure was approved by the state Senate. Gov. Jon Corzine signed it into law Dec. 17. In remarks at the state capitol, Corzine said the decision to abolish the death penalty in the state demonstrated that "New Jersey is truly evolving." He said a fundamental argument against the death penalty is for society to "determine if its endorsement of violence begets violence, and if violence undermines our commitment to the sanctity of life." The governor also issued an order to commute the sentences of the eight men on the state's death row to life in prison without the possibility of parole. He thanked advocacy groups, naming the New Jersey Catholic Conference and the American Civil Liberties Union among others, for their efforts "that put pressure on those of us in public service to stand up and do the right thing."

## Pope advances sainthood cause of 6-year-old Italian girl

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has advanced the sainthood cause of a 6-year-old Italian girl who wrote letters to Jesus in the final stages of her illness. If she is eventually canonized, Antonietta Meo would become the

## POPE USES INCENSE AT FUNERAL OF AUSTRIAN CARDINAL



CNS PHOTO / L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI uses incense at the funeral Mass of Austrian Cardinal Alfons Stickler in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 14. Cardinal Stickler died Dec. 12 at the age of 97. Cardinal Stickler was the world's oldest living cardinal.

youngest nonmartyr saint to be recognized under modern saint-making procedures. The girl, known by the nickname "Nennolina," lived in Rome in the 1930s and had bone cancer. When she was 5, one of her legs had to be amputated, and she bore it cheerfully, saying she connected it with Jesus' suffering. As her disease worsened, she dictated poems or letters to God, Jesus and Mary. She died five months before her seventh birthday, and the letters were later cited as the record of a young mystic. On Dec. 17 the pope approved a decree affirming the heroic virtues of the girl. If a miracle is attributed to her intercession, she could be beatified. Recognition of another miracle is needed for canonization.

## Archbishop Dolan named chairman of Catholic Relief Services board

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of Milwaukee has been appointed chairman of the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency. The appointment, confirmed by Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the bishops' conference, was announced in a Dec. 13 news release. Archbishop Dolan, a CRS board member since January 2007, succeeds Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., who had been chairman since 2001 and has been a member of the CRS board since 1995. Ordained to the priesthood in 1979, Father Dolan was

secretary to the apostolic nunciature in Washington for five years before serving as rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome. In 2001 then-Msgr. Dolan was ordained to the episcopate when he was appointed auxiliary bishop in his native St. Louis. A year later, he was appointed archbishop of Milwaukee.

## San Antonio Catholics, Jews come together to light historic menorah

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Father David Garcia, rector of San Fernando Cathedral, said the annual Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah commemoration in San Antonio was an opportunity to illustrate how people of various faith traditions have worked with one another over the years. "Each one," he said, "has added a wonderful richness that only their tradition could give." Good relationships among different faiths in San Antonio is what distinguishes it as a premiere city, he added. Father Garcia's remarks opened the sixth annual lighting of a menorah owned by San Antonian Bennett Feinsilber and brought from Poland long ago by Feinsilber's grandfather. Catholics and Jews jointly lit the eight candles in a Dec. 7 ceremony at AT&T Center, organized under the auspices of San Fernando Cathedral and the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, a co-sponsor. It is the same menorah Pope John Paul II and Feinsilber lit together at the Vatican on Hanukkah in 2001. This year Hanukkah began at sundown Dec. 4.

## Bishop Pelotte of Gallup, N.M., takes medical leave

GALLUP, N.M. (CNS) — Bishop Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup has taken a medical leave of absence, effective Dec. 13. The bishop, who has been recovering from injuries sustained during a July 23 fall at his home in Gallup, had received treatment in Arizona, Texas and Florida and returned to his diocese Sept. 21 with the hope that a return to familiar surroundings would help his recovery. But in consultation with his doctors, Bishop Pelotte has now decided to focus solely on his recovery for an undetermined time period. A Dec. 13 diocesan statement did not say where the bishop will be staying during his medical leave. It simply said he would not be in Gallup. Last summer the 62-year-old bishop said he had fallen down the stairs at his residence, which caused extensive injuries. During the bishop's absence, Father James Walker, vicar general of the diocese, will continue with the administrative duties of the diocese that he assumed earlier this year after the bishop was injured.

## Vatican recruits 'spiritual mothers' to pray for priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With a letter to the world's bishops and a 40-page illustrated brochure, the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy is encouraging eucharistic adoration for the holiness of priests and is recruiting "spiritual mothers"

to pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The project, launched Dec. 8, aims to highlight the link between the Eucharist and the priesthood as well as Mary's special role as the mother of every priest, said a letter from the congregation's top officials. Cardinal Claudio Hummes, congregation prefect, and Archbishop Mauro Piacenza, congregation secretary, said that as part of a wider effort to address the challenges facing priests today, they wanted to promote perpetual eucharistic adoration "for the reparation of faults and sanctification of priests." But they also hoped to promote "a commitment on the part of consecrated feminine souls," who, following the example of Mary, "might wish to spiritually adopt priests in order to help them with their self-offering, prayer and penance." The letter asked bishops to promote in their dioceses "a movement of prayer," centered on perpetual eucharistic adoration and involving priests, religious and laypeople.

## Chinese bishop released after nearly four months of being detained

ZHENGDDING, China (CNS) — After nearly four months of detention, Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguo of Zhengding has been released. Bishop Jia is not registered with the Chinese government and has been detained numerous times in past years. Catholic sources in the Zhengding Diocese told the Asian church news agency UCA News that the 72-year-old bishop arrived at his cathedral in Wuqiu village, in Hebei province, Dec. 14. The village is near Shijiazhuang, Hebei's capital, more than 160 miles southwest of Beijing. According to one source, Bishop Jia's family made numerous requests for his release because the uncle of the bishop is seriously ill. With Christmas approaching, the source added, the bishop reportedly also asked the local government many times to release him so that he can celebrate the major church feast day at his cathedral. The source also quoted a government official as saying Bishop Jia will again be detained after a few days because he needs to undergo a "learning session."

## Australian state passes laws to accommodate pope at World Youth Day

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — The New South Wales government has passed special legislation to accommodate Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Sydney for World Youth Day in July. The temporary laws passed by the government in mid-December will allow police extended powers of search and seizure and the discretion to remove individuals and vehicles from July 15-20 World Youth Day events. The laws, which have been likened to those enacted for the Sydney Olympics in 2000, also restrict air space above World Youth Day venues such as Royal Randwick Racecourse and the pope's residence while he is in Sydney.

## The Franciscan Center's Thanksgiving Tuesday hits new record

FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Center served 770 people on its annual Thanksgiving Tuesday, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving that its Food Pantry is open.

"Our largest usage day for our food pantry is always the Tuesday before Thanksgiving," explains Sally Ley, founder and chief executive officer of The Franciscan Center. "While we may average 300 families a week during the year, we had 770 families visit the food pantry on one day. Men, women and children were lined up around the building at 4:30 a.m. even though we do not open the pantry doors until 9 a.m.," she said.

As in previous years, The Franciscan Center relies completely on donations to provide the turkeys, chickens, hams and other meats it distributes to its clients. "Just when we started to hand out hot dogs as a last resort to the last couple of dozen clients, a generous donor pulled up in a truck with 30 turkeys. We are truly blessed by the community," adds Ley.

The Franciscan Center runs a food pantry, Medicine Cabinet and Sack Lunch Ministry. Please contact The Franciscan Center at (260) 744-3977 for more information or to arrange a donation for 2008.

## Bishop Dwenger students hold fast, recall hungry

FORT WAYNE — In solidarity with their less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world, students, faculty and staff at Bishop Dwenger participated in a 24-hour fast Monday, Dec. 10.

Religion teacher Tom Kenny was the impetus for this project, according to Melissa Wheeler, fellow religion teacher and coordinator for the fast. The student leaders then decided to organize the fast on Dec. 10, in correlation with World Human Rights Day.

Wheeler explained the philosophy behind fasting: "This is only a 24-hour period to experience what millions of our brothers and sisters experience every day. During our daily lives, we are bombarded with advertisements for food. Students seem to really see this when they are fasting."

Moreover, the money raised through sponsorships will go to Catholic Relief Services (CRS). "The focus for CRS this year is providing clean water in places where it is not available," Wheeler said. "Not having clean water is a major health hazard for many communities. Young children are especially vulnerable to disease and infection due to unclean water."

As a result of the fast, Wheeler said she hopes the students will walk away with a changed world view. It's easy to get caught up in the everyday intricacies in our microcosm, but God's kingdom extends beyond our realm, she said. Moreover, she hopes the fast will have a lasting effect on those who participated.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## SCOUT TROOP PARTICIPATE IN LEGO LEAGUE COMPETITION



PROVIDED BY TROOP 300

Boy Scout Troop 300's Robotic Trouble team and their supporters prepare for their inaugural first Lego League competition in December. The group advanced to state competition held at Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne. Troop 300's members attend St. Therese and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne, and St. Aloysius in Yoder. Several Catholic school teams were also among the dozens entered in the statewide competition.

"When we truly see all people as our brothers and sisters, amazing things are possible," Wheeler said. "We hope that students and adult participants will make a commitment to helping the less fortunate in our world not just for these 24 hours, but for the rest of their lives."

According to Wheeler, there are other ways to promote social justice beyond fasting. The teacher stressed the importance of remaining aware about relevant issues affecting the world.

"It may seem small, but information spoken will eventually make its way to influential ears," she said. "Sometimes you will have to look beyond the network news to find this information so it may take some work."

A good place to start is with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), she said. Moreover, lobbying groups, the United Nations and the Peace Corps are also helpful. Information for these organizations are available online at our fingertips so we can put due pressure on decision makers.

In closing, Wheeler said this fast is something bigger than herself.

This is simply what Christ has asked us to do, she said. "This is not me promoting human rights. It is work toward the kingdom that Christ preached. This is one of our

obligations as Christians. As we read in Matthew 25:40, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" — LC

## St. Joseph Parish provides Healthy Family Center with Christmas cheer

SOUTH BEND — 'Tis the season for giving, and parishioners and students of St. Joseph Catholic Church and School in Mishawaka answered the Christmas bell for Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center's (SJRM) Healthy Family Center. As a result of the generosity, 74 patients from the Healthy Family Center will receive Christmas presents they would otherwise not be able to enjoy.

A Christmas tree was placed in St. Joseph Church at the beginning of the Advent season. The tree had paper ornaments with Christmas gift ideas for the 74 patients. Parishioners took the ornaments and purchased the suggested items.

The patients received two presents with a value totaling \$25. With 74 patients, the total present value came to \$3,700.

Boy and Girl Scouts, from kindergarten through eighth grade at St. Joseph School, then spent part of the day wrapping all the

gifts and later delivered them to the Healthy Family Center for the patients on Dec. 13.

"This is generosity beyond belief," said SJRM's Lori Kenney, who has been involved with the initiative since its inception five years ago. "What was really special was watching how the kids made sure that each present had a name tag on it so the gift was going to the right person. And, of course, they had a blast bringing the gifts over."

## Ancilla Domini Chapel's Christmas Eve and day Masses, services told

DONALDSON — A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 10 p.m. Christmas Eve. The Mass of the Nativity of the Lord will be celebrated at 10:30 p.m., Dec. 24 in the Ancilla Domini Chapel, PHJC Ministry Center. There will not be a Mass held at midnight.

The Service of Lessons and Carols will include the Ancilla Domini choir, bell choir and instrumentalists Adrienne Geisler, violin, and Kelly Filson, flute. Mary Lou McCarthy is director of music and organist.

There will be one Mass on Christmas Day at 11 a.m. in the Catherine Kasper Home Chapel. All are welcome.

## Gloves and hats needed by The Franciscan Center

FORT WAYNE — When Sally Ley, founder and chief executive officer of The Franciscan Center, was a little girl, she could not wait for Christmas. Her anticipation was not just for toys, but at Christmas time the Sisters of Divine Providence would donate to her and her sisters brand new gloves and hats every year.

"Now we want to help others in Fort Wayne as I was helped," explains Ley. "We have been providing gloves over the years, but this year we want to provide gloves and hats to all of our Sack Lunch Ministry clients — over 1,000 men, women and children!"

The Franciscan Center runs a food pantry, Medicine Cabinet and Sack Lunch Ministry on the south side of Fort Wayne.

Please contact The Franciscan Center at (260) 744-3977 for more information or to arrange a donation of new or gently-used gloves, mittens and winter hats.

## Serrans host WHLY general manager, plan for luncheon

SOUTH BEND — Richard Petersen, general manager of WHLY, Holy Radio, 1580 AM, the Catholic radio station in South Bend, told members of the Serra Club of South Bend that the complete transfer of the radio station to his group still hinges on complete approval of the Federal Communications Commission. Funds for the complete purchase of WHLY are currently in escrow, he told the Serra Club.

Meanwhile, Petersen said, WHLY is broadcasting Catholic programs to the South Bend area.

Deacon Ron Moser, president of the Serra Club, announced that a large contingent of officers and members will attend the holiday luncheon for the diocesan seminarians and priests at Fort Wayne's Summit Club on Dec. 27.

Heading the group will be Richard Wasoski, president-elect; George Resnik, past district 37 governor; and Richard Dornbos, a past president of Serra and current district governor who will serve as group spokesman. Other officers attending will be Robert Schultheis, vice president of programs; Stephen Elek, Jr., vice president of technology programs; Dr. Frank Toepp, vice president of the Serra Foundation; Dr. Norlin Rueschhoff, treasurer; Joan Dudzinski, vice president of membership; and Lillian Chrzanoski. — EJD

## Information coming for papal events

FORT WAYNE — With the announcement of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States April 15-20, many requests for tickets to papal events have been received through the archdioceses of New York and Washington, D.C.

Plans are in formation in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to obtain some available tickets for the public, papal Masses on April 17 and 20. Those interested in attending the pope's public events should look for updated information in the Jan. 6, 2008 edition of *Today's Catholic*.



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## Community effort feeds the hungry

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Father Tom O'Connor started the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen in Fort Wayne out of the church's back door in 1973. Since then, the soup kitchen has provided a hot meal to countless people in need.

Carolyn Ransom, the soup kitchen's volunteer coordinator, works with 80 volunteers (50 full-time and 30 substitutes) on a regular basis. Ransom wears many hats, filling in for the "soup lady" as needed and cutting vegetables. The soup kitchen has been especially busy lately, as evidenced by the supply of soup. "This week we ran out of soup everyday," she said.

Ransom said the soup kitchen could not run without the support of the community. Scott's and Kroger donate bread. Krispie Kreme provides doughnuts and Starbucks and Honey Baked Ham are also regular contributors.

Running a soup kitchen is a costly undertaking. With the inflated price of dairy products, milk is by far the most costly item the kitchen serves. According to Ransom, the soup kitchen serves 160 gallons a day, a cost of \$1,000 per week. Other food products amount to \$4,200 a week, Ransom said.

"We totally rely on the community," she said. While volunteers are appreciated, Ransom said the

kitchen has a steady volunteer base. Cash donations are most needed to fund the day-to-day operations, she reminds readers.

So what goes into the famous soup? Five pounds of noodles, vegetables, rice and meats are among the ingredients. "It really is good soup, too," Ransom said.

Ransom said donors can bring leftovers from parties and gatherings to put in the soup. Workplace food drives are also a way to make a difference. Ransom, however, reminds the community that the kitchen cannot accept any opened food.

The soup kitchen plays a critical role in the downtown community. "This might be their only meal for the day," Ransom said. "That should make you feel good," she said about the importance of making a contribution. With no overhead, donations are put directly into the operation, Ransom said about the community impact.

The soup kitchen is open to anyone in need, according to Ransom. "Anyone can come ... they just need to sign their name and address," she said.

Through her work, Ransom has met many regulars, but she said one thing holds true. "They're real close and family oriented."

The soup kitchen is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations are accepted seven days a week at the south side of the building.

## CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY GIFTS



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

St. Louis Besancon Parish, New Haven, and students from both St. Louis Academy and St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, participated in a diaper drive for the Christ Child Society during the first two weeks of Advent. In photo with the donations, are, from left, St. Louis Academy students Gus Wyss, Maggie Castleman and Ray Davis.

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# Fair trade shop offers alternative to disparity plaguing global market

**'We should care about the things we buy and the people that make them'**

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Fair trade is a buzzword today, but there's more to it than buying an expensive cup of coffee at Starbucks.

Jim Goestch knows the importance of fair trade firsthand. Jim and his wife Marian Waltz have run a fair-trade organization, Friends of the Third World (FOTW), for 35 years at 611 W. Wayne St. in downtown Fort Wayne. Their Third World Shoppe supports farmers and artisans from as far away as Ethiopia.

So what exactly is fair trade? "Fair trade goods are made by people who need to support their families," he said. Goestch explained that farmers, for example, receive one cent per pound for regular coffee, but \$1.30 for fairly traded goods. In the fair-trade system, farmers are organized into co-ops and sell directly to associations, eliminating the middleman.

As Goestch explained, specific criteria designate what is a fair-trade good and thus is worthy of the official label. According to a pamphlet in his shop produced by nonprofit organization TransFair USA, the Fair Trade Certified label guarantees fair prices for family farmers, decent working and living conditions, environmentally friendly farming practices and quality taste for the consumer. "Your buying has to be fair in context," he explained.

According to Goestch, it's easier to determine a fair price for food than for homemade crafts because of the unique nature of handcrafted goods; honesty, however, always prevails in his shop.

"We tell (the farmers and artisans) who give us the products

they can ask questions about how we do business," he said.

Goestch said the shop sells an eclectic mix of goods, including children's toy instruments, plant hangers, coffee and tea. Coffee and tea are the biggest sellers and coffee comes from 12 countries.

The shop owner said buying fairly traded goods is becoming more popular in today's market. "Fair trade is a trendy thing right now," he said. "It is becoming more noticed by the public."

Beyond the superficiality, Goestch addressed Christians' moral obligation to buy fairly traded goods.

"We should care about the things we buy and the people that make them," she said. "A Christian should care about the poor ... that's what it says in the Bible. Think about our sisters and brothers in the world."

According to David Dilts, a professor of economics at Indiana University-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne, the economic disparity in our world is plaguing the global market.

"What provides for economic security is very much dependent on other countries having the opportunity," he said. "Until humanity promotes this concern, there's going to be turmoil in the world."

Goestch agrees with Dilts that the global trade system is flawed. "We have so much disparity between the person who buys \$200-gym shoes and the person who makes them for a \$1 a day."

Still, he has faith in his shop's mission. "Fair trade is one example of a better way," he said. "We know we're making a difference."

**For more information** about the Friends of the Third World organization, visit [www.friendsofthethirdworld.org](http://www.friendsofthethirdworld.org). The Third World Shoppe is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by appointment.



LAUREN CAGGIANO

Jim Goestch holds a coffee sack containing fairly traded Peruvian coffee, one of the 21 countries that supply specific coffees that are roasted at the store. It is part of a local employment training program. Each sack is shipped to the U.S. with a code that indicates its country of origin.

# University of Dayton alumni bring joy to children in Fort Wayne

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Members of the Fort Wayne chapter of the University of Dayton (UD) Alumni Association and community volunteers brought the joy of Christmas and the UD spirit to children in the Fort Wayne area.

The event, Christmas off Campus, is an extension of the university's Christmas on Campus, a campus-wide celebration that brings the joy of Christmas to the underprivileged children of the Dayton area. The tradition of celebrating Christmas on the feast of the Immaculate Conception dates back to 1964 when a group of students got together and decided they wanted to celebrate Christmas before they left for the holidays.

With that small group of students back in 1964, Christmas on Campus was born. Since then, it has evolved into the night of magic and wonder that alumni know today.

The 2007 Christmas off Campus was held at the Fort Wayne Urban League at 2135 S. Hanna Ave., in the Hanna-Creighton neighborhood Saturday, Dec. 8.

Each year, the alumni association works with a local nonprofit to extend the spirit of the campus event to the local community. The Urban League was chosen this year as the recipient agency because of its prominent location in the heart of the city.

Led by Jeremy Reidy (a 2004 graduate and chapter president), planning began several months in advance. The end result was an afternoon of arts and crafts,



From left, Lauren Caggiano, Mark Maffey (Santa), Jeremy Reidy, Kim Back and Chris Caggiano celebrate the University of Dayton's Christmas off Campus at the Fort Wayne Urban League.

piñatas, cookies, presents and even a visit from Santa. About 45 children, ranging in age from pre-school age to 12, attended the party. Joy and excitement filled the air as the children rotated between stations.

Dennis Hipskind, a 1974 graduate, kindly donated UD basketballs and the children walked away grinning ear-to-ear.

For Kimberly Back, a 2006 graduate, Christmas off Campus holds a special meaning. "I wanted to bring something that to my knowledge is uniquely UD to Fort Wayne," Back said. "Christmas on Campus is such an amazing event that I wanted to stay a part of it even if I am unable to be in Dayton."

Furthermore, Back said nostalgia played a major part in her decision to participate.

"I have so many memories of

the Christmas season from my childhood that I wanted to give my time and resources to children in the community that may or may not get that anywhere else," she said. "This is something special for the kids to engage in and take something from whether it be a turn on Santa's lap, a strong swing at the piñata, a new book, a UD basketball or a new friend."

Similar to Back's sentiments, Reidy values the Marianist philosophy instilled in the event.

"The Marianist order teaches leadership through service to the community," he said. "The Christmas off Campus event is a way to serve the community by spreading goodwill to children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the joy of Christmas."

# Christmas wedding makes a unforgettable memory

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — The holidays are a time for sharing traditions and warm memories at St. Anne Home in Fort Wayne.

One resident, Rosalie Hasely, 100, holds a particular memory close to her heart. Nestled in an arm chair in her apartment, Hasely recalled the details of her wedding day some 70 years ago as if it were just yesterday.

"This happened to me in the midst of the Depression," she said, prefacing the story.

It was 1933 and Hasely, 26, was engaged to be wed to her college sweetheart, Henry, at the University of Notre Dame's famous log chapel. The Saint Mary's College graduate had returned to her hometown of Seattle following graduation. Hasely and her mother had to travel by train on the day after Christmas in what she called "the most terrible winter storm."

"It was unbelievable," she said, as the roads were slick with sheets of ice. To their dismay, the mother and daughter arrived in Chicago, then South Bend — five hours late. "The snow was knee deep," she said.

But Hasely wasn't the only one



LAUREN CAGGIANO

**Rosalie Hasely, 100, recalls the Christmas when she married her college sweetheart. Hasely lives in the apartments at Saint Anne Home in Fort Wayne.**

battling the harsh winter conditions. Her friends arrived in a milk truck from East Lansing to attend the wedding. Fortunately the best man and maid of honor were able to attend, although her father was not.

"That's the story," she said. "That was a Christmas never to forget."

Hasely recalled the story about how she met her best friend and future maid of honor. "We all met the same night," she said. "His college roommate (at Notre Dame) married my college roommate."

Following the wedding, the couple shared many happy memories together. Henry was offered a job as a junior partner at a law firm in Fort Wayne and Rosalie worked as a dietitian for several years.

Hasely's husband died 45 years ago from a heart attack, but the memories live on. "We had a wonderful life together," she said.

Traveling is especially near and dear to her heart. "I've done a lot of traveling," she said. "I've been to every continent except Antarctica. I've climbed across the Sahara and walked on the Great Barrier Reef. I've been very lucky."

As a result of her travels, Hasely, said she has made a general anthropological observation.

"People are the same all over. ... They all want a comfortable life and want what's best for their children," she said.

Hasely recently celebrated her 100th birthday Oct. 4. She is still a member of Our Lady of Good Hope Church, although she does not get out as much as she would like. In her spare time, she said she likes to do crossword puzzles and play bridge. She has lived in her apartment at St. Anne Home since the day the apartments were available.

# Senior Spirit

**HOW TO BEAT HOLIDAY TRAVEL STRESS** The holidays are one of the busiest times of the year for travel. While long lines and road-weary passengers are inevitable, here are few things you can do to make your trip less stressful. Be open to options. Be flexible when you make travel arrangements. Pack like a pro. Plan well and bring only what you need. Have fun. Time with family and friends should make it worthwhile.

## Last year to take charitable IRA rollover

### Question: What is the charitable IRA rollover?

**Answer:** Donors who are age 70 or older can transfer funds directly from their individual retirement account (IRA) to a public charitable organization without including the transfer in gross income for federal income tax purposes. However, the deadline for making a charitable IRA rollover is Dec. 31, 2007.

Before the Pension Protection Act of 2006 was passed, if a donor wanted to use IRA funds for a charitable contribution, he or she would have had to withdraw the funds from his or her IRA account and then contribute the money to the charity. The amount withdrawn was taxable income and reportable on the individual's income tax return. Depending on whether the donor qualified to itemize deductions, he or she could take a charitable deduction for the amount given to charity, but only up to 50 percent of adjusted gross income.

Currently, until Dec. 31, 2007, charitable gifts from IRAs can be accomplished simply and free of federal income tax. With these tax benefits, you can make gifts from your IRA while you are living and witness the good works that your gifts can provide now to your parish, school or other diocesan agency. You can also make gifts from your IRA to satisfy pledges from the Legacy of Faith cam-

paigned and/or the Annual Bishop's Appeal campaign.

Certain limitations apply to these nontaxable IRA charitable distributions. First of all, the donor may contribute IRA funds if he/she is age 70 or older on the date of the distribution, the qualified charitable distribution must not exceed \$100,000 in the aggregate in the tax year, and funds are transferred directly from a traditional IRA or Roth IRA to a public charity. This provision is effective for tax years 2006 and 2007 only.

Moreover, these gifts can only be transferred to one or more public charities but not private foundations, supporting organizations or donor advised funds. Also, the gifts must be outright; for instance, they cannot be used to establish a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. And the transfers cannot be from employer-sponsored retirement plans, such as Simple IRAs, 401(k)s, and 403(b)s.

Example: John, aged 80, has \$450,000 in an IRA and has pledged to give \$75,000 this year to his parish. If John transfers \$75,000 from the IRA, he will avoid paying federal income tax on that amount.

Another benefit of this legislation is that the funds transferred from your IRA to a charity count toward your mandatory withdrawal or required minimum distribution you must take each year after



ELISA SMITH

reaching age 70.

Example: Suppose Mary has \$700,000 in an IRA and will be required to withdraw approximately \$35,000 this year. And suppose that Mary wants to contribute \$10,000 to her parish school this year. She can authorize the trustee of her IRA to transfer \$10,000 to the parish school and \$25,000 to her. The \$10,000 distributed to charity will not be subject to feder-

al income tax.

Donors who may find this new provision of making charitable contributions from an IRA especially appealing will be those who do not itemize deductions, would not be able to deduct all of their charitable deductions because of deduction limits, may have a phase-out of their itemized deductions because of their income level, or are required to take minimum distribution withdrawals even though they do not need them for living expenses.

The charitable IRA rollover can also benefit donors who receive Social Security and are taxed on these benefits depending on how much taxable income they receive from other sources, including withdrawals from IRAs. Accordingly, money in an IRA that is rolled

over to a charity, rather than first withdrawn and then contributed to the charity, can have the effect of reducing taxes on social security payments.

The first step in making a charitable gift from your IRA is to contact your IRA custodian to transfer your desired gift amount directly to your parish, school, or other diocesan agency. If the funds are distributed to you followed by a contribution to the charity, you will still have to report the withdrawal as income.

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

### PLANNED GIVING

## The Ins and Outs of Christmas preparation

BY VINCE LABARBERA

With the season of Advent almost over, we may be frustrated and even irritated as we try hard to make everything just right for everyone, including ourselves, by the time Christmas arrives. Consider there is an inner and outer side to Christmas preparation. To make holidays meaningful and enjoyable, we need to find ways to balance

both outer and inner needs.

The outer preparations are necessary to sustain and build lines of loving communication with family and friends. The to-do list of addressing cards, shopping, gift wrapping, cooking, cleaning, decorating, feasting and traveling helps us sustain traditions and memories from past Christmases and celebrate the continuity of life. The decorations we may use year after year and our Christmas card list can be like memory jewels,

reminding us of Christmases past, of family and friends we hold dear. Our sense of smell can invoke memories, too, as our home is filled with the aromas of breads and cookies baking, the turkey or ham roasting, and pies cooling on the kitchen counter; all taking us back perhaps to those special, festive days of our lives.

Then there are the Christmas presents, which can involve planning and choosing just the right gifts for the right persons, followed by the shopping and time for wrapping. But remember, the stress, dread and negative energy we put into our thoughts and words, cards and gifts, food preparation and parties, comes back to us with the same negativity.

Conversely, if our energy is positive, then it will return to us in a positive manner. If we are not excited about sending Christmas cards, giving a gift to someone, decorating our home, and so forth, then we shouldn't do it. If we truly enjoy many of the things that go into preparing for the holidays, then we should strive to take them on with an open heart and a cheerful outlook. We receive back what we give to others.

If all our preparations are on the material or outer side, however, our happiness will be short-lived. As the holidays wear on we may begin to bemoan the stress, the mess, the extra debts and pounds incurred. We may even vow to leave the country next year before the holidays descend upon us. We create positive energy and enrich our holiday preparations and actions when we also take the time to cultivate the inner side of Christmas.

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# Three wise Johnson girls honor Jesus birthday in a unique way

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — 'Tis the season when frantic shoppers mob the stores in hopes of finding the multitude of gifts that might please their loved ones on Christmas morning. The hustle-bustle of Santa-related materialism this time of year sometimes casts a shadow on the real reason for the season. But one Fort Wayne family has found a creative way to honor baby Jesus on his birthday without all the hype.

Jason and Alicia Johnson, active members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, were married in 2000 and enjoyed sharing their families' regular Christmas traditions that year.

"The first year, we didn't have traditions of our own," says Alicia. But, she recalls, that year she was inspired by a homily offered by Father Jim Shafer, pastor of her church. "He mentioned the three gifts and related the Santa Christmas to Christianity and Jesus' birthday," she says.

Following the birth of their oldest daughter Mya in 2002, the Johnsons decided it was time to begin their own Christmas traditions. Mya would receive three gifts from Santa Claus symbolizing the Magi's gifts to Jesus at his birth. "It helped us simplify ... and control the hustle and bustle," recalls Alicia. A pillowcase size, drawstring bag, reminiscent of Santa's big red bag, was constructed adorned with Mya's name in which the unwrapped gifts would be found on Christmas morning.

"We try to make the gifts diverse," says Alicia, as Jason adds, "They get one toy, one book and one clothing (item). That way

we don't have to go crazy with tons of gifts. That's what most people relate Christmas to ... and I don't want them to think that's what it's all about."

Jason, who experienced foster care as a young boy, feels the family's approach to Christmas keeps the focus where it should be — on Jesus.

"I like it," he says. "When I was their age, I didn't have a whole lot. I'm teaching them, so hopefully they can do it for their kids, too."

Personalized letters from Santa arrive in the mail explaining to the girls that he understands that Jesus is the reason Christmas is celebrated. The letter asks the girls to choose three gifts because, "I'm special like Jesus," says Mya.

The family expanded over the years with two more daughters, Maggie, 3, and Morgan, 10 months, and the traditions continue. Each year the family ventures out to a local tree farm and chooses just the right tree to decorate their home.

Jason chuckles as he recalls the year he brought a very dull ax to the tree farm. "We ended up having fun," he says. The family decorates the tree together with most of the ornaments ending up at the bottom of the tree.

Each Advent season the manger in the family crèche stands empty awaiting Christmas morning when the girls search for the hidden figure of baby Jesus, while the plate, once heavy with cookies for Santa, holds only crumbs. Throughout the yuletide season, the girls take turns moving the three wise men closer to the manger each day.

The three young girls visit their grandmother, Terri Johns, where they bake a cake for Jesus. When



KAY COZAD

Jason and Alicia Johnson pose in front of their Christmas tree with daughters, from left, Maggie, Mya and Morgan. The family tries always to keep Jesus as the focus of their Christmas celebration.

asked why, Mya replies shyly, "It's his birthday ... We sing to Jesus ... It's fun."

This year Mya cracked the eggs and Maggie was in charge of stirring the batter. The family also enjoys attending holiday choir programs as well as community events such as the Gingerbread

Festival.

On Christmas day the girls rush excitedly to the tree under which lie their three gift bags. Following the gift opening, the search for the baby Jesus figure begins. After the figure is safely in its manger the family dresses in their holiday fare to attend Christmas Mass.

Maggie will dress in a "fancy pink dress" this year. Following Mass the family heads to grandma's where they gather with aunts and uncles to share the holiday feast. Dessert calls for a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday to Jesus" sung by the entire family as the birthday cake made by the girls is sliced.

Alicia, a second-grade teacher for Southwest Allen County Schools, currently on child-rearing leave, explains that several of the school staff have adopted the Johnsons' creative way of honoring Jesus.

"I am really on a crusade with my friends," she says. "I grew up with so much family celebration. The gifts are good but the highlight is being with family."

And her crusade doesn't stop after the Christmas season is over. The idea of simplicity is important to her, "So I don't get caught up in the hustle-bustle. I want people to know through my actions that I'm a Christian. I really believe in walking the walk and witnessing through life-style. Faith is not just a Sunday thing," she says.

Jason hopes to begin the tradition of reading the Christmas story from the Bible to his children as he fondly recalls his grandfather, then his own father, reading it to him. And one day when the girls are old enough, the Johnson family will attend midnight Mass as Alicia's family had done.

Their hope for the future of their children, "I hope it strengthens their faith so they can go to school and explain why they only get three gifts. I hope they're strong enough to say 'This is my faith.' ... and carry it through the generations."

## From Our Home to Yours



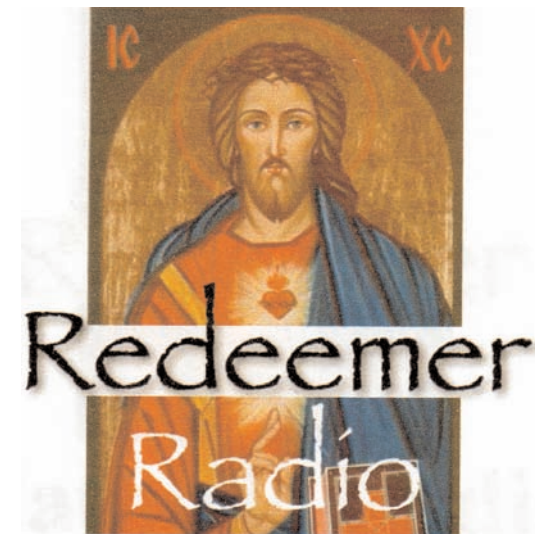
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## 'Tree Man Mike' is St. Vincent de Paul mainstay for Christmas

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Starting in late October, artificial Christmas trees start appearing on the floor of the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in South Bend.

Before they get to the floor, however, they have to be assembled. They arrive in boxes, donated by individuals or retail operations.

Mike Kamp, known as "Christmas Tree Mike," is the person who puts them all together.

"People say that it takes a lot of patience to put these together," says Mike, as he deftly spreads out the branches on a tree. "But it's no different than poppin' beans or shucking corn."

Mike has been doing the job for St. Vincent's since 1994. Before that, he assembled Christmas trees for Sinco. He figures he's assembled about 3,250 trees since 1970.

The trees come from a variety of sources.

"Sometimes, Target or other stores will get them in and they're brand new, but maybe one strand of lights doesn't work. So they give them to us because they don't want to fix them."

Or, families just get bored with the same tree they've had every year and decide to upgrade to a bigger one or a different color.



JUDY BRADFORD

Mike Kamp works on one of the many artificial Christmas trees sold at the thrift store beginning in late October.

The trees are a hot commodity and sell fairly fast.

He has some tips for those who must assemble trees at home:

- Always start from the bottom up, big branches to small
- Decorate with lights from the inside out, so the plugs aren't seen and wires won't interfere with further decorating
- Use a swivel stand for easier access.

Mike, who was injured in a motorcycle accident years ago and

has only one leg, finds the swivel stand convenient. The tree moves around for him, instead of him having to move around the tree.

What's the strangest tree he's ever assembled?

"It was a white tree that I think had been left in the sun and it was this golden color. I called it the strawberry blonde tree. It was almost orange. But it sold almost as soon as it hit the sales floor. People just like to have something different now and then."

## Checking toys on the recall list made easy by St. Vincent de Paul staffer

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Toys will be given out in Christmas baskets this year by the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

That may not seem like major news. After all, the agency has been a distributor of the Marine's Toys for Tots program for years.

But it is news — and it's good news — when one considers the wave of toy recalls that began in August and forced the Catholic lay

organization into a dilemma:

How would St. Vincent's provide safe toys this year for all of its needy clients who request Christmas baskets?

"It's been toy recall after toy recall," said Charlie Thompson, director of conference services and the St. Vincent's staff member who came up with a solution to the dilemma. "But we were surprised, once the solution was found, how simple it was."

The agency has limited staffing, and couldn't begin to check each

and every toy in the warehouse awaiting the Christmas giveaway. Moreover, it was beginning to look like no number of volunteers would be able to deal with the job of checking by barcode number.

When Thompson started looking at the recalls on the Internet, however, he realized how easily the thousands of recalls listed online could be cut and pasted into a Microsoft Word program. Pictures could even be pasted into the program to help volunteers identify recalled toys.

"Then, by simply using a 'find' function, we can quickly locate the toy, by name, if it's on recall," said Thompson. "If the name of the toy pops up, then we know to scrutinize it more carefully to see if it's on the recall list."

Parents who signed up for Christmas baskets (the application process ended Nov. 21) were also asked, for the first time, to sign a liability waiver since more recalls may come to light after toys are in the hands of children.

Parents were also given instructions on how to check future recalls online, and a toll-free phone number for the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Recalls dated back to 2003, and all the toys checked in October and November of this year were actually collected by the Marines during last year's Toys for Tots program.

"We feel that, ultimately, it is the parent's responsibility to check for recalls," said Thompson. "But as an agency that gives out toys, we also felt it was our responsibility to check for recalls to the best of our ability."



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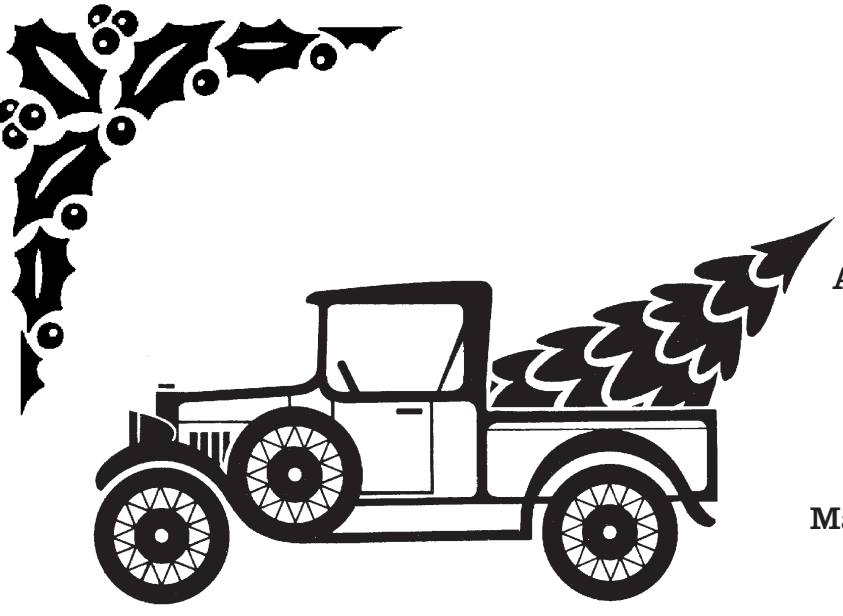
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(Music begins at 11:15 PM)  
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## EDITORIAL

## From 'Juno' to the Mexican border, Merry Christmas

While Christmas gets a bad rap as such a commercial holiday in our culture, with a closer look, one can see that, deeper elements and themes of Christmas — and underlying Catholic values — are still present amid the glitz and the materialism. These themes communicate aspects of the very heart of Christmas playing out in very real ways, sometimes as a welcome surprise, other times as an uncomfortable reminder to our conscience. They assert themselves in everyday aspects of society, from political issues to our entertainment.

For instance, we have the movies. Hollywood is so often regarded as a moral vacuum, and yet, in the last year, the films it has been producing have taken an unmistakable pro-life turn. From the moving "Bella," to the pleasant "Waitress," to the ultra-raunchy "Knocked Up," 2007 saw the release of several movies in which women facing unwanted pregnancies decide to keep their babies.

The latest of these is "Juno," a comedy-drama directed by Jason Reitman that features a sarcastic pregnant teen who decides to promise her baby to a childless upper-class couple who has advertised in a local newspaper. The USCCB review of this film calls it "smart, funny and ultimately moving" and possessing "just the right moral tone."

This welcome development in filmmaking not only suggests that pro-life themes simply make for better storytelling, but during the Christmas season can remind us that "the greatest story ever told" also began with an unplanned teen pregnancy, that of the Virgin Mary and her willingness to be the mother of Jesus.

Another development in our culture that hearkens back to the Christmas story is the now hot-button immigration debate. This plays out most visibly in the ongoing presidential campaign, in which Democratic candidates discuss whether or not they would issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants and Republicans talk of securing the borders, all the while hinting that any of a number of their GOP contemporaries are actually soft on the issue. But beyond and away from these sound bytes, the debate plays out among Americans everywhere.

The emerging view among many Americans is one that views illegal immigrants, and often immigrants in general, as an unwelcome threat to American jobs, culture, economy and even security. The inevitable conclusions of this view usually involve deporting 12 million people and building a wall along the Mexican border.

Not only have Catholics bishops across the U.S. been advocating against this sort of thinking and policy, the Christmas season again calls to mind another group of migrants, specifically Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the holy family, whose trek in the Gospels include Nazareth, Bethlehem and eventually Egypt. They serve as a stark reminder that Christ resides quite literally in, as the Indiana bishops have termed it, the stranger in our midst and that, rather than adopting a hostile stance toward immigrants, Americans might try to make a little room at the inn.

### Weather hype intrudes on the TV Mass

Many viewers of the TV Mass in Fort Wayne were stunned that Indiana's NewsCenter took an intrusive seven and a half minutes to tell us that last weekend's winter storm was subsiding. Viewers of the TV Mass missed the majority of the Liturgy of the Word, the readings for the third Sunday of Advent and a part of Mass celebrant Father James Stoye's homily.

The weather team advised people to stay home, stay off the roads. Ironically, the televised Mass was precisely for the people who were shut in their homes.

Also, the weather alert by Indiana's NewsCenter was simulcasted on both WISE-TV and WPTA-TV. Since it was simulcasted on two stations, was it necessary to interrupt the TV Mass?

We believe prudence is called for in these announcements. We fully agree that the community needs to be informed when dangerous weather conditions occur. Perhaps, a better way to have handled the announcement during the televised Mass would have been to provide a crawler at the bottom of the screen.

To intrude on the Mass, meant for those who could not get to Mass that day, shows an insensitivity to those who needed the Mass for comfort and spiritual nourishment that morning. We must ask, "Was this type of weather hype and intrusiveness really necessary during this sacred time?"

**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

## Blessings will follow our entrustment

We should commend Bishop D'Arcy for arranging to have the novena of entrustment to Our Lady in honor of her Immaculate Conception in our diocese.

Lately the world news, heartaches from family problems, sickness, etc., are causing us to be discouraged, which is dangerous to our souls.

During the novenas I attended at Mass at three different churches, I sensed that praying together for our diocese was a comfort to everyone.

It's good to know that our bishop is so concerned about our spiritual welfare that he arranged to again entrust our diocese to Our Lady.

We can expect many blessings from this because, as St. Bernard said, "Remember O most glorious Virgin Mary that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or

sought thy intercession was left unaided." Thank you.

Theresa Gabet  
New Haven

## Another charitable use for gift cards

I am sending this letter to both your publication and a couple of other Catholic newspapers that I read both in print and online. It is my hope that you will print my letter because it deals with an important topic, especially at the season of Christmas and New Year's.

I recently read an article in the *Wall Street Journal* that stated statistics from The National Retail Federation that predicted that an amazing \$26 billion in gift cards will be purchased this Christmas season by U.S. consumers.

I would like to share with your readers a strategy. I have received gift cards in recent years for which I have had no use. Last Christmas I

received a \$50 gift card for a retail chain store whose business practices I do not necessarily like. Thinking that this gift card would be useless to me, I donated it to a local home for unwed mothers and was told by an appreciative staff member it would go a long way to help a young mother who has made the courageous decision to have her baby in the abortion-saturated culture in which we live. Afterwards, I donated two other gift cards that were hanging around from past years, which were also put to good use.

Sometimes these "useless" gift cards go lost or unused. I would like to encourage your readers to consider donating such gift cards that they will not use to a local home for unwed mothers. Such gift cards can make the difference for a brave young mother who has courageously chosen life and has a rocky road ahead of her.

John Nguyen  
Niantic, Conn.

## THE annunciation

In one of the early hymns of the Church (Ode to Solomon), we read:

A Virgin pure she comes,  
And admonishing she cries ...  
... come ye here to me!  
For I will be your guide  
In all the ways of truth ...

At the time, there was a certain type of interpenetration between the church and Mary. In our case, however, we will simply concentrate upon Mary and try to discover how she continues to be our guide. In a way, the Annunciation scene in Luke's Gospel initiates us into many of the truths which are foundational for our spiritual growth.

Everything in the spiritual life is gift — gifts for which we must pray and for which we must be thankful. Moreover, it reminds us that God's grace is always personalized. It is the personal nature of the divine romance with us that should lead to true contentment and inner peace. Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that each one of us:

- Is the product of a thought of God
- Is willed by God
- Is loved by God
- Is important

Luke's introduction highlights the truth that Mary was a virgin. Many of the early writers of the church saw in her virginity not only a reality but also a symbol. In their interpretation, it was pointed out that Mary as virgin stood as a woman of integrity, embodying in herself the right relation we should be cultivating vis-à-vis the divine.

The key for ourselves for becoming a people of integrity is to follow Mary's example. The dynamic remains constant. Like Mary, we are called to hear the word of God and believe it. Like



## ADVENT REFLECTIONS

MSGR. THOMAS McDONNELL

Mary, we are called to nurture the Word within us, especially through the Eucharist. Finally, we are called to bring forth Christ into our world by acts of compassion.

In retrospect, I believe there is another reason to highlight Mary's virginity. She provided an example, which evolved into an integral part of the church's spiritual heritage — a heritage often casually accepted but seldom reflected upon, namely that of consecrated virginity. I believe that this has been a grace for the church throughout the ages. Such women in our midst remind us to what should be our response to the total self-giving of Christ to each one of us. His love is not to be simply accepted.

It demands our personal response in love. And the presence of woman who publicly profess virginity as well as the gift of celibacy in the priesthood are living icons of this truth.

The place of the annunciation is often overlooked. There is a remarkable sermon of Martin Luther, which offers a vivid description of Nazareth and its environment: "among the downtrodden people (Mary) was one of the lowliest, not a maid of high station in the capital city, but a daughter of a plain man in a small town. And yet this is the one whom God chose — God preferred a lonely maid from a mere town."

Many thoughts come to mind. God's love for the poor, which

continues to this day and which must be seen through our individual and collective (i.e. the church's) efforts and outreach.

Secondly, since Mary's life will be circumscribed by such an environment, we slowly begin to comprehend what was mentioned earlier: Each one of us is important no matter what our circumstances. Moreover, we learn that the most important thing is life is not what we achieve, but who we are. Like Mary we are to become lovers of God.

There is so much more contained in this scene, e.g. "Do not be afraid." So often in redemptive history these same words appear whether it be to Moses, Abraham, Jeremiah, etc. The true antidote to fear, which often arises in our life is to be found in God's promise: I will be with you."

Realizing that a picture is worth a thousand words, I would end this reflection by focusing on the word-picture bequeathed to us by Thomas Merton:

Fifteen year old —  
The flowers printed on her dress  
cease moving in the middle of  
her prayer  
when God who sends the messenger  
meets his messenger in her  
heart.

Her answer between breath and  
breath,  
wings from her innocence our  
Sacrament!

In her white body, God becomes  
our bread.

# Travels, consistory, writings keep Pope Benedict busy in 2007

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI never gives the impression of being overburdened, yet a look back at 2007 reveals a long list of papal activities and achievements.

The pope's output included four major documents and a lengthy book, more than 200 speeches and sermons, two foreign trips and three in Italy, the creation of new cardinals, and encounters with a lineup of world leaders, including U.S. President George W. Bush.

In April — just before celebrating his 80th birthday — the pope published "Jesus of Nazareth," which made the case that Christ must be understood as the Son of God on a divine mission, not as a mere moralist or social reformer. In six months, the book had sold more than 2 million copies worldwide.

In June, the pope issued a 55-page letter to Chinese Catholics, setting out new guidelines to favor cooperation between clandestine Catholic communities and those officially registered with the government.

The pope's letter strongly criticized the limits placed by the

Chinese government on the church's activities, but it invited civil authorities to a fresh and serious dialogue. Hopeful signs followed, as China and the Vatican agreed on several bishops' appointment.

In July, in a long-awaited and much-debated document, the pope relaxed restrictions on the use of the Tridentine Mass, the Latin-language liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council.

The pope said Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Roman Missal should be made available in every parish where groups of the faithful desire it — though he said the new Roman Missal, introduced in 1970, remains the ordinary way of Catholic worship.

November saw the release of the pope's second encyclical, "Spe Salvi" (on Christian hope), which warned that without faith in God humanity lies at the mercy of ideologies that can lead to "the greatest forms of cruelty and violations of justice."

One brief and unexpected document came in June, when the pope stipulated that a two-thirds majority is always required to elect a new

## THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

pope. The document did away with a more flexible rule that allowed for a simple majority election in case of an impasse.

The pope approved publication of other documents issued at the Vatican in 2007, including a text by the International Theological Commission that critiqued the traditional concept of limbo and said there are good reasons to hope that babies who die without being baptized go to heaven.

He traveled to Brazil in May, his first papal trip to Latin America and the longest journey of his pontificate. Opening the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, he warned against inroads by secular-

LETTER, PAGE 15

# Advent invitation to come to God



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 4th Sunday of Advent Mt 1:18-24

The church is observing the last Sunday of Advent. In only two days, joyfully and in great faith, the church will celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Lord or Christmas.

The church chooses for the first reading on this weekend a passage from the Book of Isaiah. Central in the reading is King Ahaz of the southern Hebrew kingdom of Judah, who reigned in the last third of the 8th century before Christ. His reign is not remembered as having been particularly distinguished. He was no great leader.

For Isaiah the definition of a good king, of course, was that the monarch genuinely led the people to God by inspiring them to follow the Covenant. Regardless of any other duty, confirming the Covenant, and requiring submission to its terms, were the principal responsibilities of the kings. Nothing else mattered.

While Ahaz was not spectacular in his role, God still used him as an instrument to bring the people back to fidelity to the Covenant. Ahaz served God's purpose to save the people from their own sins by fathering a son. When the king's spouse, a young woman, conceived, Isaiah saw in

the event a sign of God's caring for the people. What the lackluster Ahaz could not accomplish would be achieved by the son.

Thus, the coming of the new prince was a cause for rejoicing.

As its second reading on this weekend, the church selects a section from Paul's Epistle to the Romans. No Christian today would think of challenging Paul's status as an apostle. However, when Paul was alive, his credentials were hardly so universally acknowledged. He himself wrote of usurpers who vested themselves with the cloak of being apostles, and who led the faithful astray.

Here Paul stresses that he indeed is an apostle, because the Lord called him.

St. Matthew's Gospel is the source of the last reading. This reading recalls the miraculous conception of Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God, but the son of Mary, always a virgin. He entered human history directly as a result of God's love for humanity, fulfilling God's promise to give the fullness of life to the people who were faithful.

The Incarnation, as theologians call the mystery of the Son of God's birth as a human, is beyond human comprehension. Not even Joseph, holy as he was, could understand it. God's ways are not our ways.

### Reflection

Only two days remain in Advent, and given the frenzy usually connected with preparing for Christmas in our society, these remaining two days of Advent are apt to be quite busy.

Nevertheless, two days will be enough for any of us to use the opportunity of Advent to cleanse

ourselves of attachments to sin and instead make our souls worthy of receiving the Lord.

Christmas can be deeply personal for us, for if we have made ourselves worthy, Jesus will come to us personally on this great feast.

The church encourages us, therefore, to accept its Advent invitation to come to God. If we have conscientiously observed Advent, then the church urges us to continue doing so until Christmas. If we have allowed Advent to slip past us, the church calls us to use the time left.

God wants us to love him, as God loves us. Again and again, God has reached out to people to empower them in coming in him. He sent a son to Ahaz, that the nation might have a good king. He sent Jesus to us. Jesus sent us the apostles.

God loves us so much. He reaches out to us. He provides for us in ways we cannot understand. Even in only two days, we can reach out to God, if we so wish. There still is time.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

**Monday:** 2 Sm 7:12-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Lk 1:67-79

**Tuesday:** Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3, 11-13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

**Wednesday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17 Mt 10:17-22

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2-5, 7c-8 Mt 2:13-18

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35

## CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

Christmas gets all the attention but poor Christmas Eve is often neglected. So this quiz evens the score by looking at Eve.

- Eve was the first of these:**
  - humans
  - women
  - children
- She is first mentioned in this book of the Bible:**
  - Genesis
  - Revelation
  - Exodus
- According to one of the creation stories, Eve was formed from Adam's**
  - mind
  - love
  - rib
- According to some scholars the Hebrew word for "Eve" may be related to this type of creature also featured in the Bible:**
  - serpent
  - sirens
  - seals
- What is Eve tempted to do by a serpent?**
  - Eat the fruit of the tree of life.
  - Eat the fruit of the tree of death.
  - Eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge.
- At first Eve resists the serpent. What reason does she say God gave her for this edict?**
  - That if she ate it she'd look fat in her dress.
  - That she would die.
  - That she would experience pain.
- What two key things does the serpent tell her that persuade her to follow his suggestions?**
  - That she does not look fat in that dress and yes her hair was pretty.
  - That she would not die, but would be like God in knowledge.
  - That she would live forever and have children.
- How does Eve involve Adam in this escapade?**
  - She gives him fruit and invites him to eat it.
  - She sneaks the fruit of the tree into his breakfast cereal.
  - She gives him a ultimatum, eat the fruit or the broccoli.
- What do Eve and Adam then realize for the first time, though it was true all along?**
  - That fruit gives you gas
  - That they were stupid
  - That they were naked
- What rather innovative but likely ineffective countermeasures does Eve take to remedy this situation (9 above)?**
  - They ate chalk — a type of primitive antacid.
  - They enrolled in the first remedial school in history.
  - They sewed clothing out of fig leaves.
- What did they do when they hear God approaching?**
  - They hid.
  - They decided to flee the garden.
  - They posted a "no solicitors or deities" sign on the pearly gates.
- What punishment is inflicted on Eve (apart from death) for her disobedience?**
  - That she would have to work hard to earn her bread
  - That she would suffer pain in childbirth
  - That she would have Evil named after her
- In Paul's Letter to Timothy it is stated that "... Adam was formed first, then Eve ... was deceived and transgressed." This wording may account for the author's view that women**
  - should take the lead since Eve did so well in leading Adam.
  - had to be able to sew and cook fruit pies.
  - should have a different role than men in the church.
- In medieval times when Latin was more commonly used in the church much was made of the fact that the common Latin version of Eve, (Eva) was, backwards, a greeting "Ave" spoken this woman, who can be considered a new Eve:**
  - Mary, mother of Jesus
  - Mary Magdalene
  - Eva Peron
- The Prayer "Hail Holy Queen" refers to humanity as \_\_\_ of Eve**
  - rib eye
  - sons and daughters
  - banished children

### ANSWERS:

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

# Mary was kept untouched by the stain of original sin

**In the song often heard in the Christmas season, "Mary Did You Know?" one of the lines is "This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you." If Mary was born without original sin, as we believe in the Immaculate Conception, did Jesus deliver her? When would she have been delivered? What if she had said, "no" to the angel's request. Anonymous**

The song "Mary Did you Know?" was written by an Evangelical Protestant named Mark Lowry in the mid 1980s. The line in question can be understood both in an orthodox and in unorthodox way. If it is meant to suggest that Mary was born with sin, which Jesus was to remit or forgive at his saving death (or at some other point), then this is not in accord with Catholic teaching.

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception holds that from the first moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Ann, Mary was kept untouched by the stain of original sin. However, it is important for Catholics to remember that this singular grace granted to Mary was possible only through the saving death and resurrection of her Son, Jesus. That is, Mary is redeemed, so to speak, just as you and I are, however, she experienced this redemption from the first moments of her existence. That is, Mary's sinlessness is as much a fruit of Jesus' saving work as the forgiveness you or I might receive in the sacrament of penance.

Mary was delivered by Jesus from sin in this sense: she was preserved from sin, and yet, we

## THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

hold that this was achieved by the same act of Christ, which frees us from sin. Jesus' saving work, the paschal mystery, was so profound that it is, so to speak, trans- or meta-historical: It was not limited to space and time. This is related to what we hold about holy Saturday. All the righteous from the foundation of the world experienced redemption by Christ's saving act, even those who might have lived and died prior to the

Word-becoming-Flesh.

**Is Dec. 25 really the birth date of Christ? I heard that he may have been born in April. What is the background for celebrating the birth of Christ on Dec. 25? Anonymous**

We cannot be certain of the precise historical date of Jesus' birth; various dates likely abounded in the early centuries; we know, for example, that Clement of Alexandria (+ c. A.D. 220) had suggested May 20.

We do know that it has been commemorated on Dec. 25 since roughly the mid-fourth century (as found in the so-called Philocalian calendar recording practice in Rome in A.D. 336) in the Western Church.

While some have suggested the date was chosen to oppose the

pagan feast of the birth of the "sol invictus," (unconquered sun), this was likely not the primary reason for this date. Rather, it seems to have been related to the date of Christ's death. That is, some had calculated that the Good Friday on which Jesus had died was March 25, and that it would be fitting if he were conceived as well on the same day (the Annunciation): nine months following is Dec. 25. This tradition of calculating the date seems to have been known to St. Augustine (+ A.D. 430) in the early fifth century.

**Father Michael Heintz**, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, answered this week's questions.

# Memorable, yet not the traditional, Christmas celebrations

**SOUTH BEND** — This time of year conjures up recollections of Christmases past for many Catholics over the age of 60. Two seniors share some of their most unforgettable, if not traditional Christmases.

Shirley Schwindaman, mother of seven and parishioner at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Elkhart, recalled one particularly memorable Christmas.

"After my husband Bob died in April of 1986, I was so concerned about the grief my children were experiencing," she said. "One day that summer a friend of mine mentioned what their family was planning for Christmas. I can still remember that pain and panic overcame me. I thought, 'How will my family ever have a Christmas like they've always known?' Because their father had been ill for many years, vacations were nonexistent. As usual I said to God, 'You've got to help me in my dilemma.' And as he had done so many other times I think we together came up with a trip to Disney World."

Shirley continued, "When I told the children of my plan, I was excited by their sparkle and enthusiasm. When Christmas Eve and Christmas day came, we perhaps had a little less celebration of the birth of Christ than in the past, and more concentration on first flights for many of the children, packing and such. They were just so excited."

Shirley felt Disney World was a good relief and distraction from the pain her children had been suffering, and that God would understand that.

"God knew we needed that that year," recalled Shirley, "He is so understanding. We left on Dec. 26 and returned Jan. 2, and truly had a memorable Christmas. Many times that week I thanked God for blessing me with these beautiful



## EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

children. I was deeply grateful that their father and I had given them strong enough faith to also know that their father was celebrating the most glorious Christmas ever — his first in heaven — and that they should celebrate and enjoy it too."

Shirley concluded, "Twenty-one years later, I cannot count the number of times my children have talked about and told their own children about a different but wonderful Christmas of 1986."

Mary Ann Murphy, mother of 10 and parishioner at Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka,

recalled one unusual, memorable Christmas too. She was pregnant with her seventh child, due in January. Like the Blessed Mother, she went into labor on Dec. 24, Christmas

Eve. Unlike the Blessed Mother, however, she was sick with the flu.

"I was feeling sick," she said. "I went into labor. I went to the hospital, and Patrick was born. He was five or six weeks early, and it really threw me. I wasn't expecting this little present for another month! It was quite a shock."

Mary Ann's Christmas dinner was a surprise as well. "My Christmas dinner," she recounted, "on account of my flu-symptoms, was one little dish of red jello and one little dish of green Jell-o. It was served up to me on a very fancy tray, decorated by some group wanting to cheer up people in the hospital for Christmas. I don't know why but I found it all just hilarious. One of the nurses passing out dinner trays said to

me, 'Now, honey, if you put in a whole lot of sugar in your tea, you'll feel so much better.' Did she really think that sugar would solve this? Jell-o and tea on a fancy tray. What a Christmas dinner!"

Mary Ann continued, "My husband was at home in charge of our six little ones, all seven and under. Because daddy was in charge, they feasted on TV dinners. That made me laugh too. I don't have a clue what they did about presents. I was in the hospital four or five days. By then the whole holiday had come and gone.

"Because I had gone into the hospital on the 24th, I'm sure I was finished shopping and wrapping so my husband didn't have to do that. But how those gifts got distributed, and how he celebrated with the kids, I just don't know," Mary Ann said.

"And do you know what? Another surprise was that I was kind of relieved. I was happy as a clam just resting in my bed with my new little baby," she added. "I didn't clean up any messes. I didn't have to make a turkey. Really, I had no stress at all. All I had to do was to take care of my little baby, and I knew the other ones were safe at home with daddy."

"That was a very memorable Christmas," Mary Ann summed up. The best present that year was my brand new son."

Not unlike another mother's best gift born Christmas Eve night in Bethlehem.

**Theresa Thomas**, parishioner of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend, is the mother of nine children and wife of David. Visit her Web site at [www.theresathomas.typepad.com](http://www.theresathomas.typepad.com).

# SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for December 23, 2007

Matthew 1:18-24

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle A: the beginning of the story of Jesus' birth. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

|                |              |           |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| JESUS          | MARY         | JOSEPH    |
| TOGETHER       | SPIRIT       | RIGHTEOUS |
| EXPOSE HER     | ANGEL        | LORD      |
| A DREAM        | SON OF DAVID | YOUR WIFE |
| CONCEIVED      | A SON        | SAVE      |
| PROPHET        | VIRGIN       | EMMANUEL  |
| GOD IS WITH US | AWAKE        | HOME      |

## JOSEPH'S DREAM

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ism, threats against the family and an erosion of traditional Latin American values.

Visiting Austria in September, the pope prayed at a Marian shrine with tens of thousands of pilgrims. His Italian travels took him to Pavia, where he prayed at the tomb of St. Augustine, to Assisi in the footsteps of St. Francis, and to Naples for the opening of an inter-religious conference.

The pope continued to gradually replace Roman Curia officials,

but his most important set of appointments came this fall, when he named 23 new cardinals. Those receiving the red hat in a November consistory included two Americans: Cardinal John P. Foley, head of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, and Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

In June, the pope met Bush for the first time for talks that focused on the precarious situation of Christians in Iraq and other conflicts in the Middle East. The Vatican took the opportunity to express the hope for a negotiated settlement to "the conflicts and crises that are tormenting the region."

# The Holy Grail of reprogramming: A new era for stem cells?

The recent discovery that regular old garden-variety skin cells can be converted into highly flexible (pluripotent) stem cells has rocked the scientific world. Two papers, one by a Japanese group, and another by an American group, have announced a genetic technique that produces stem cells without destroying (or using) any human embryos. In other words, the kind of stem cell usually obtained by destroying embryos appears to be available another way. All that is required is to transfer four genes into the skin cells, triggering them to convert into pluripotent stem cells. It has been called "biological alchemy," something like turning lead into gold. Many are hailing "cellular reprogramming" as a breakthrough of epic proportions, the stuff that Nobel prizes are made of, a kind of Holy Grail in biomedical research.

As important as this advance may prove to be scientifically, it may be even more important to the ethical discussion. It offers a possible solution to a long-standing ethical impasse and a unique opportunity to declare a pause, maybe even a truce in the stem cell wars, given that the source of these cells is ethically pristine and uncomplicated.

As one stem-cell researcher put it recently, if the new method produces equally potent cells, as it has been touted to do, "the whole field is going to completely change. People working on ethics will have to find something new to worry about." Thus, science itself may have devised a clever way to heal the wound it opened back in 1998 when human embryos began to be sought out and destroyed for their stem cells.

Dr. James Thomson (whose 1998 work ignited the controversy, and who also published one of the new breakthrough papers) acknowledged just such a possibility in comments to reporters: "Ten years of turmoil and now this nice

ending."

Whether this nice ending will actually play out remains to be seen, but a discovery of this magnitude, coupled with a strong ethical vision, certainly has the potential to move us beyond the contentious moral quagmire of destroying human embryos.

Change never comes easily, however, and before we can really change, we need to see the reasons why we should change. Each of us is, incredibly, an embryo who has grown up. This biological fact stares researchers in the face every time they choose to "disaggregate" a human embryo with their own bare hands. It makes many researchers edgy, touching them on some deeper level of their being. It makes many Americans queasy and eager to find alternatives.

Dr. Thomson, who has overseen the destruction of numerous embryonic humans himself, had the honesty to acknowledge this fact in comments he made to the New York Times recently: "If human embryonic stem-cell research does not make you at least a little bit uncomfortable, you have not thought about it enough."

Reprogramming eliminates these ethical concerns even as it offers a highly practical and straightforward technique for obtaining pluripotent stem cells. As Dr. Thomson himself put it, "Any basic microbiology lab can do it, and it's cheap and quick."

Reprogramming is also important because it provides an alternative approach to "therapeutic cloning," a complex and immoral procedure used to obtain patient-specific stem cells.

Reprogramming provides patient-specific stem cells as well, but without using women's eggs, without killing embryos and without crossing moral lines.

The sheer practicality of the new reprogramming approach, coupled with its ethical advantages,



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

really make it a no-brainer. Yet despite all these advantages, a number of voices can be heard arguing that the bio-industrial-complex emerging around destructive human embryo research must be safeguarded and expanded. There are at least three reasons for this.

First, the financial investment that has already been made in this arena is significant, especially considering certain state initiatives like Proposition 71 in California, which devote large sums of state taxpayer money to pursue research that depends on human embryo destruction. Once large sums of money are involved, ethics often becomes the first casualty.

Second, some of the scientists who advocate the destruction of human embryos have never really taken the moral concerns very seriously because the creed they subscribe to is the so-called "scientific imperative," namely, that science

must go forward, as if it were the highest good. It must be able to do whatever it wants, wherever it wants, whenever it wants, and nobody should be pushing ethical viewpoints to limit what researchers do.

That, of course, is a completely untenable position because we regulate what scientists do all the time. The very mechanism by which we disperse federal money puts all kinds of checks and balances on what researchers can do and there are certain types of research like germ warfare studies or nuclear bomb development that the government strictly regulates already. Other kinds of research are criminal, such as performing medical experiments on patients who don't give their consent. The idea that we have to allow science to do whatever it wants is little more than "pie-in-the-sky" wishful thinking.

The third reason embryo destructive research will still likely be promoted has to do with abortion. Several astute commentators have noted recently how the whole field of embryonic stem-cell research seems to serve as a kind of "hedge" for abortion. In the same way that a garden gets a hedge placed around it in order to protect it, embryonic stem cells are

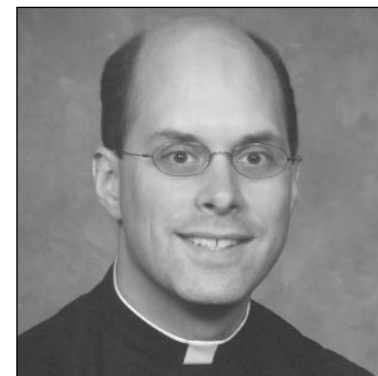
becoming a place holder for abortion. If embryo killing becomes incorporated into the way we cure illnesses and maintain our health as a society, then abortion on demand will be more likely to curry favor in our culture as well. If those trying to protect embryos carry the day, proabortionists fear that the same ethical arguments will prevail against abortion.

Several factors will therefore influence how this major new stem-cell discovery plays out in the future. One thing is clear, however: those renegade researchers, law-makers and Hollywood personalities who have long dismissed ethical concerns and advocated human embryo destruction now find themselves at an important juncture because of this breakthrough. We can only hope that in the wake of this discovery, the siren call of harvesting human embryos will cease ringing in their ears and allow for a new era of ethical science in our society.

**Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.**

earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass.

## Meet the Priest



### Father Dominique Carboneau

Ordained Nov. 27, 1999  
Pastor, St. Aloysius, Yoder

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

Among other things, the fine example of such parish priests as Father Sarrazine, Father Hammond, Father Urbine, Father Erpelding and a couple of religious priests — Father Cessario and Father Lamb.

#### What is the most rewarding part of being a priest?

Helping the faithful come to a deeper appreciation of their faith in the Lord Jesus.

#### What hobbies or interests do you have?

I like to read and study, do carpentry and teach art. Most of all, I like to build and fly model sailplanes. I have a number of different kinds of sailplanes of various sizes, but I pretty much just fly for the fun of it.

#### Do you have a pet?

Yes, I have a dog, Pokey, that is a poodle mix. She was an abandoned dog and is the first dog that I have ever had. She doesn't shed, eat much, or require a lot of maintenance — important for first-time priest dog owners. She is a good alarm clock, watchdog and manipulator.

#### What do you do for relaxation?

To relax, I like to work out, lift weights and bicycle. I find reading Lonergan (you'll hear about him in the next question), very relaxing. Also, even though the flying con-

ditions determine to a great extent just how relaxing flying sailplanes is, for the most part it is very relaxing — being out in a big field on a beautiful summer afternoon staring up at the sky for hours on end.

#### What is your favorite reading material?

My favorite would be the "Collected Works of Bernard Lonergan." He was a Canadian Jesuit who lectured on theology throughout most of the 20th century. I enjoy the novels of Louis DeWohl, the popular writings of Christopher Dawson, Fulton Sheen, Peter Kreeft, Thomas Howard, the reflections of Guardini and Von Hildebrand, the theology of St. Thomas, Von Balthasar, JPII and a few others. And I enjoy plowing through (to me) abstruse authors like Michael Dummet, Eric Voegelin and Martin Heidegger.

#### What is the best part of being Catholic?

For me, the best part of being Catholic is being plugged into the fullest expression of God's plan for our salvation.

#### What is your favorite prayer?

My favorite prayer is St. Thomas' prayer before study. Obviously the Our Father and Hail Mary have the most important place, but as far as a prayer that expresses the serenity of a mind awake and at the service of Christ it is St. Thomas' prayer.

#### What is your favorite Scripture?

My favorite is Mt 11: 25-30. Especially, I would say, verses 28-30. It is where the Lord invites us to take his yoke on our shoulders and learn from him who is meek.

#### Who is your favorite pope?

Pope John Paul II or Leo the Great. Both were given to the church at unique moments in history, and both were great doctors of the church. Perhaps John Paul II since he is a contemporary and has done more than anyone to shape the church of the New Evangelization.

#### What is your favorite food?

A frozen chicken breast cooked on the George Foreman with a micro waved potato and broccoli. My favorite food takes about 12 minutes to cook, and I find I can eat it pretty much every single day for months on end.

#### What is something interesting about yourself that most people might not know?

I can't imagine what that might be; I am very ordinary.

#### How do you prefer to be addressed?

With a long French name it makes it tough to go by anything other than Father Dom. But I like to be addressed as Father Dom because it comes easy to all the school kids, especially the shrimps.

## Examine Bethlehem as birthplace of Jesus

### Are we sure that Jesus was born in Bethlehem?

St. Matthew places the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. St. Luke also places the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor says Jesus was born in Bethlehem because Mary and Joseph were natives of Bethlehem. They had only moved to Nazareth because of the atmosphere of insecurity generated by the dynasty of King Herod.

St. Matthew says Joseph was afraid of Archelaus, the new king of Judea, so he settled in a different region at Nazareth.

Father Murphy O'Connor says the long residence of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth gave St. Luke the impression that they had always lived there, and he had to find a reason, which would place them in Bethlehem at the moment of the birth of Jesus. So St. Luke invoked the census of Quirinius, the governor of Syria.



## HIRE HISTORY

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

Some scholars have said that Matthew and Luke created the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem only to affirm that Jesus was the Messiah, since the Jews expected the Messiah to be born in Bethlehem. They also point out that St. Mark shows no knowledge of Jesus' birth at Bethlehem. Therefore Jesus could have been born somewhere else.

Father McKenzie responds to this critique by saying there is nothing in the infancy narratives or elsewhere in the Gospels to indicate that Jesus was born in any other place, so the Bethlehem tradition should be accepted as genuine.



# Sports

**USF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM HOLD NO. 3 PLACE** The University of Saint Francis (USF) women's basketball team continued to hold the No. 3 spot in the final 2007 NAIA Top 25 ratings released Dec. 12. Coach Gary Andrews' Lady Cougars (7-1) had won five straight games heading into a Top 25 clash with No. 20, 8-0 Rio Grande University (Ohio) last Friday night in the first game of the Indiana Tech Sport One Classic. USF has now been in the Top 5 for six consecutive ratings and a Top 10 selection for 20 consecutive ratings dating back to Jan. 18, 2006. USF has been in the Top 5 in 10 of the last 12 ratings.

## Snow cancels ICCL basketball action

BY ELMER J. DANCH

**SOUTH BEND** — For only the second time in its 62-year history, the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) was forced to cancel its Dec. 16 Sunday schedule because of a snowstorm that hit the South Bend area.

William Sorukas, a longtime volunteer for the basketball program, said the last time such an occasion occurred was approximately 30 years ago. He said the snowstorm simply blocked the parking lots at Saint Joseph's and Marian high schools. He pointed out that this was the worst in the history of ICCL.

Basketball action will resume Jan. 5-6 at Saint Joseph's and Marian.

Meanwhile, four teams enjoy their unblemished schedules until the New Year rolls around. They include St. Joseph in Mishawaka, Corpus Christi, Christ the King

and St. Anthony. All four have displayed scoring power in their previous victories.

### Bishop Dwenger sponsors basketball camp

**FORT WAYNE** — The Saints Basketball Camp for children in grades K-8 will be held Jan. 12 and 19, and Feb. 2 and 9. Cost is \$40. A t-shirt is included, and no special equipment is needed. Kindergarten through third grade will be held from 9-10:15 a.m. and the fourth through eighth graders from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Registration forms are available on the Web site: [www.bishopdwenger.com](http://www.bishopdwenger.com) and are due by Jan. 7. Registrations will also be taken at the door.

**For information**, call coach Scudder at (260) 496-4700 or e-mail [dscudder@bishopdwenger.com](mailto:dscudder@bishopdwenger.com).

## Courting lessons of life with CYO basketball

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

**FORT WAYNE** — Queen of Angels Coach Herb Berg hopes to teach his players how to "go after things in basketball like they will need to go after things later in life."

"We have a great group this year and very supportive parents," said Berg, the Royals leader. Berg also reports, "Our scorers are very unselfish and try to involve everyone on the team in the offense." He plans for his team to improve each week and correct what they did wrong against a team in their second meeting.

In his eighth season at Queen of Angels after a nine-year run at Sacred Heart, Berg is assisted by Coach Rick Stout this year. Their 12-player combined roster includes Cam Wirick, Isaac Berg, James Myers, Alex Balestra, Phil Dusseau, John Ayres, Adam Simpson, Will Hilger, Austin Stout, Tommy Moffett, Sean

Ryan and Jacob Harris.

The Royals (2-1) started off Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) league play with wins against Most Precious Blood and St. Therese, but lost to the Hessen Cassel Squires on Saturday, Dec. 15. In the 51-27 loss, Simpson led the Royals with 13 points.

"We were hoping to stay within 20 points, but Hessen Cassel is a tough team," said Berg. Wil Knapke's 13 points and Mitch Castleman's 11 mounted the scoring attack for the Squires, now 7-0.

In other hoops contests last weekend, two Blue League boys' teams battled to a 27-21 finish with St. Therese coming out on top. St. Aloysius' Luke Little paced the Gators with 11 points while Logan Dorman and Greg Shields had 9 points each for St. Therese. In the final game of the day at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel's Msgr. Contant Activity Center, the Huntington Catholic Rams were downed by the Lady Gators

from St. Aloysius, 32-29, in an exciting matchup. Sterrett was on fire for the Gators scoring 18 points while Pike and Stoffel led the Rams with 12 and 10 respectively.

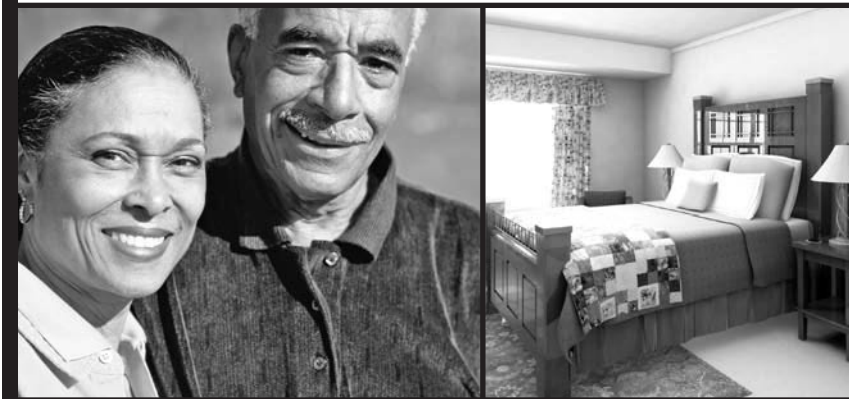
Coordinator Denny Jamison is busy planning the 2007 Holiday Hoop Fest the week between Christmas and New Year's, which will feature several CYO boys and girls teams. CYO league play will resume on Saturday, Jan. 5, with games slated at St. Aloysius, Queen of Angels and St. Vincent.

### Fifth and sixth grade basketball

At the fifth and sixth grade level, both the girls and boys teams from St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, remain undefeated. The Lady Squires downed St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, last week while the boys got by St. Vincent. The St. Louis-St. Rose Twins defeated St. Therese in their season opener. The Twins are very deep this season with 14 on the roster report coaches Neil Oberley and Larry Castleman.



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## 'The Kite Runner' not to be missed

BY HARRY FORBES

NEW YORK (CNS) — Fans of Khaled Hosseini's international bestseller "The Kite Runner" will not be disappointed and should find the film version (Paramount Vantage) a richly satisfying adaptation, despite screenwriter David Benioff's necessary abridgement of some events.

The film, quite superb in every way, opens in the year 2000. Amir (Khalid Abdalla), an Afghan writer now living in the United States, has just had his first book printed, and a shipment has arrived from the publisher. His excitement is undercut by a call from his father's old friend, Rahmin Khan (Shaun Toub), entreating him to visit him overseas.

Amir thinks back to his childhood in 1970s Afghanistan. Now played by Zekiria Ebrahimi, young Amir lived with his father, Baba (Homayoun Ershadi), spending endless days playing with his best friend Hassan (Ahmad Khan Mahmoodzada), the small but feisty son of his father's longtime servant Ali (Nabi Tanha).

The boys spend their days watching American Westerns like "The Magnificent Seven" at the local cinema, and flying their kites (a major pastime there) high above Kabul. Amir, an otherwise solitary boy who thinks his father hates him for causing the death of his mother during childbirth, is unassertive and lets the quick-witted, slingshot-savvy Hassan fight his battles. Kindhearted Rahmin takes an interest in Amir and seems to understand the boy's pain.

One day after Amir has a tremendous victory with his kite, Hassan runs off to retrieve it some distance away, and is set upon by Assef (Elham Ehsas) who has an issue with the boy's Hazara minority status. Together with two cronies, he beats and sexually assaults the boy. (This brief scene — the cause of some controversy from Aghan extremists — is executed with the utmost discretion. There's no nudity, and a casual

viewer might not even realize the assault is sexual.)

Amir, meanwhile, has witnessed the attack, but has done nothing. Beset by so much guilt afterward, he paradoxically begins to treat Hassan with disdain, and in an act of heinous betrayal, frames Hassan for the theft of his watch. Over Baba's protestations, Ali takes his son, and they leave for good.

The Soviets eventually invade Afghanistan, prompting Baba to flee with Amir.

Amir grows up — an aspiring writer, now living with his graying father who's developed a weak heart — and falls in love with Soraya (Atossa Leoni), the daughter of a hard-line Afghan known as the General (Abdul Qadir Farookh).

The call from Rahmin will give Amir a chance to atone for his misdeed in a way he never could have imagined, a mission that will bring him back to a greatly changed Afghanistan.

Under Marc Forster's sensitive direction, the beautifully acted film provides a fascinating portrait of pre- and post-Taliban Afghanistan, such as we rarely get to see.

Despite the lack of recognizable names, "The Kite Runner" has fine human values, a strong affirmation of friendship and family, and a redemptive ending that should move even the most stone-hearted. The positive depiction of pre-Soviet War Afghanistan and Islam should help dispel negative stereotypes.

This is a rare cinematic experience that should not be missed.

In Dari and English. Partially subtitled.

The film has a single profanity and use of the f-word, a brief rape scene with no nudity involving a small boy and a bully, two discreetly worded sexual references, an illegitimacy theme, a violent beating and a woman's stoning. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

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**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.

## FUNDRAISERS

### Knights plan spaghetti dinner

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

### Country Chef fish dinner

Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger music boosters will have a fish dinner on Friday, Jan. 11, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Tickets are adults \$8, children \$6 and children 5 and under are free.

### St. John the Baptist sells recipe book

Fort Wayne — "Taste and See," a recipe book of more than 430 recipes has been released by St. John the Baptist Parish. Copies are \$10 and may be purchased at Cathedral Bookstore or Waynedale Bakery. If you'd like to order a book call Tim Robison at (260) 745-7663. Shipped books will have an additional \$3 mailing charge.

## MISC. HAPPENINGS

### Montreal Pilgrimage

South Bend — Christ the King Parish is organizing a pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal June 16-20, 2008, and will cost \$475 per adult (based on a double-occupancy room). Registration forms can be found online at [www.christ-thekingonline.org](http://www.christ-thekingonline.org). A \$50 deposit will reserve your seat. For information call Linda Fitzpatrick (574) 272-3113 ext. 315 or Deacon Steve Lacroix at ext. 316.

### Light Weigh

Fort Wayne — An orientation meeting for the 12-week spiritual weight loss program, The Light Weigh, will be held in the east room of St. Vincent de Paul

Catholic Church on Monday, Jan. 7, from 9-11 a.m. Meetings for the series will be held Monday mornings in the same location. For more information contact Nancy Simmonds at (260) 637-9041.

### New Year's eve party

South Bend — A Polish-style sit-down dinner and party will be held Monday, Dec. 31, at the Holy Family parish center. An open bar, party favors and continental breakfast will be served. Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner served at 7 p.m. Music by deejay Jack Reichert from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets available at the Holy Family rectory for \$30 per person.

## DEVOTIONS

### All family rosary

Fort Wayne — The next all-family rosary will be Sunday, Jan. 6, at 3:30 p.m. at MacDougal Chapel (on the grounds of The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception). The intention is for all families, especially families with difficulties. All are welcome.

### Divine Mercy devotions

Fort Wayne — St. Henry Parish has Divine Mercy devotions every Wednesday at 3 p.m. and first Sundays at 3 p.m.

### Centering prayer

South Bend — Centering prayer is held every Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m. at Little Flower Chapel, 54191 N. Ironwood.

## DONATIONS

### Mustard Seed Furniture Bank can use your donations

Fort Wayne — The Mustard Seed Furniture Bank accepts donations of bedroom and living room furniture, tables, chairs, bed linens and towels. Items must be in working order and

free of rips, tears, stains, burns and animal hair. Donations may be picked up by calling (260) 471-5802. The Mustard Seed is dedicated to providing household furnishings to those in need.

### St. Vincent de Paul Store always in need of donations

Fort Wayne — Donations are always accepted for cars, trucks and vans. Donations are tax deductible. Call (260) 456-3561 for pick up or drop off at the store, 1600 S. Calhoun St.

## VOLUNTEERS

### Volunteers needed for Hospice Home

Fort Wayne — Volunteers are needed to assist the agency in a variety of roles. Duties include patient support and clerical support. Garden volunteers are also needed to maintain the Seasons of Life perennial garden. Volunteer training is being planned. Call Ann Blue at (260) 435-3235 or visit [www.vnhh.org](http://www.vnhh.org) for information.

### Volunteers needed

Fort Wayne — The Franciscan Center Clothes Closet is in need of volunteers. Call Doris Bermes at (260) 744-3977 for information.

### Erin's House seeks good listeners

Fort Wayne — Erin's House is seeking volunteers who are good listeners with a caring and compassionate heart for children and young adults ages 3 to 25. Call (260) 423-2466 for information.

### Volunteer for St. Mary Soup Kitchen

Fort Wayne — St. Mary Parish is in need of regular volunteers for the soup kitchen on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Additional substitutes are needed for all days and shifts. Interested persons 16 and older should call (260) 493-6415. Some lifting is required.

## REST IN PEACE

### Columbia City

Theresa Carmilla Miller, 84, St. Paul of the Cross

### Fort Wayne

Sharon K. Le Febvre, 72, St. Jude

Agnes V. Stefanek, 90, St. Charles Borromeo

Herbert K. Brockmeyer, 43, St. Patrick

### Huntington

Ronald R. Ross, 91, St. Mary

### Mishawaka

Elsie R. Honold, 96, St. Bavo

Lawrence A. Hayes, 70, Queen of Peace

### Notre Dame

Father Arthur M. Shoenfeldt, CSC, 77, Sacred Heart Basilica

Francis Shortsleeve, 86 Cedar Grove Cemetery Chapel

### South Bend

Josephine M. Geissler, 85, Little Flower

Linda L. Rice, 60, St. Stanislaus

Lucille V. Borowiak, 92, St. Adalbert

Lucille A. Sieracki, 77, St. Hedwig

Robert A. Amos, 54, Holy Cross

Rosemary C. Grundler, 79, Holy Family

Louise Fay Singleton, 81, Little Flower

Ernest A.G. Bonek, 79, Christ the King

Mary C. Mannell, 80, Christ the King

Edward S. Tafelski Sr., 91, St. Adalbert

### Sister Elizabeth Weisenback, 85,

Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Sister served at St. Jude, Fort Wayne.

### Sister Raymond

Hunter, 100, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Sister served at St. Augustine, Fort Wayne.

## Christmas TV Mass Specials

### FORT WAYNE

#### Christmas Eve

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Christmas Morning: Live 10:30-11:00 a.m. WISE-TV 33

Celebrant: Bishop John D'Arcy

### SOUTH BEND

#### Christmas Day

6:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

WNDU-TV 16

Celebrant: Father Chris Cox, C.S.C. Saint Adalbert Church



## DIRECTOR of Religious Education

Sacred Heart Parish, a parish of 900 families located on the campus of Notre Dame (although independent of Campus Ministry at ND), worshipping in the Crypt under the Basilica, invites applicants for the position of DRE. Duties include, but are not limited to, children's religious education, sacramental preparation programs, adult formation, and RCIA.

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:

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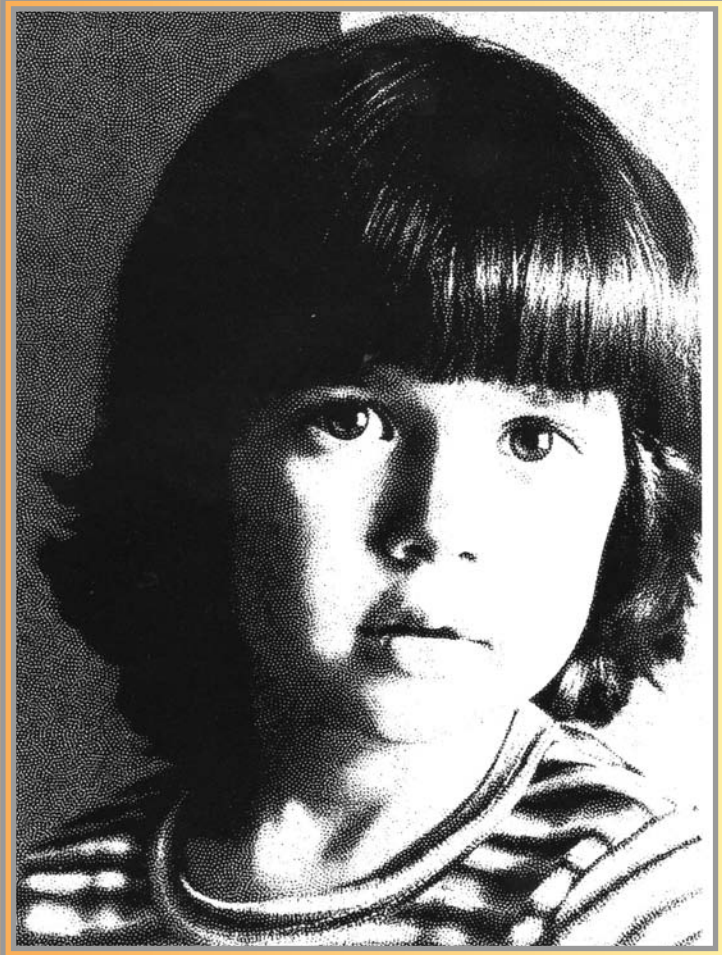
or by email: [John.P.Riley.33@nd.edu](mailto:John.P.Riley.33@nd.edu)

Requests for more information can be addressed to

Chris Miller, DRE at [cmiller4@nd.edu](mailto:cmiller4@nd.edu)

## TV MASS GUIDE FOR JANUARY

| 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.<br><br>"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.                                 |   |
| Jan. 6  | Ephiphany                      | Father Robert Schulte<br>Cathedral<br>Fort Wayne           | Father Neil Wack, CSC<br>Christ the King<br>South Bend       |   |
| Jan. 13 | Baptism of the Lord            | Father Dominique Carboneau<br>St. Aloysius<br>Yoder        | Father Kevin Russeau, CSC<br>Old College<br>Notre Dame       |   |
| Jan. 20 | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | Father Joseph Gaughan<br>Most Precious Blood<br>Fort Wayne | Father William Sullivan<br>St. Thomas the Apostle<br>Elkhart |   |
| Jan. 27 | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  | Father Daryl Rybicki<br>St. John the Baptist<br>Fort Wayne | Father Robert Dowd, CSC<br>Corby Hall<br>Notre Dame          |   |



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# Christmas



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**TODAY'S CATHOLIC**