

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## Court of honor

Fourteen Quinceañeras celebrate feast of Christ the King



TESS STEFFEN

Fourteen young couples honored the feast of Christ the King in a combined Quinceañeros celebration at St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne. The Spanish Mass, which had a standing room only congregation, included an honor guard of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from the Anthony Wayne Assembly.

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — In Mexican culture there is a traditional celebration for a girl's 15th birthday marking the transition from girlhood to womanhood. "Quinceañeros" is an important event in the life of the young lady (la quinceañera), her family and friends. Although it is richly festive and symbolic, with the girl sometimes beginning the party wearing flats and finishing with heels, the occasion has deep religious meaning highlighting God, family and friends. The occasion requires that the young lady has received her first Communion and the sacrament of confirmation.

To honor the feast of Christ the King at St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne, 14 young ladies who had already celebrated their Quinceañeros individually with Masses and parties at St. Patrick, reprised their observances in a combined celebratory Mass to honor the feast of Christ the King.

In an all-Spanish Mass celebrated by Divine Word Father Thomas Aschman, the girls and their escorts recited a "dedication to the king," offering their youthfulness and stating that because Jesus is king of the universe, he should be king of their lives.

To symbolize this offering, the young couples lined the center aisle of the church and stood in tribute as several parents brought up the gifts in the offertory procession. Adding solemnity was an honor guard of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from the Anthony Wayne Assembly.

After Communion, each girl was met by her par-

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## Advent is upon us

Reflection and tradition highlight a beautiful season

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Greater needs, few donors hit food pantries

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Hessen Cassel School remembers beloved principal

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## Going for state title

Bishop Dwenger vies for Class 4-A football win

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## Advent reading

Some good books to cozy up to the fire with for your holiday reading

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## Cultural orientation vital to successful refugee resettlement

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Thousands of refugees arrive annually in the United States to escape persecution in their native countries and to make a better life for themselves. Their transition to a new land and a different culture is not easy, however, and they require a great deal of assistance in that effort.

In Fort Wayne, refugee resettlement falls under the auspices of one agency, Catholic Charities, but the success of their work depends on the support of schools, churches, safety personnel, health care professionals, the law community and many other local agencies.

Recently, representatives of all those entities met at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center downtown to share ideas and formulate interactive programs. The two-day workshop provided a broad overview of the U.S. refugee admissions program and cultural and community orientation as provided overseas and in domestic resettlement programs, and gave participants an opportunity to expand and strengthen their local agenda.

The workshop was facilitated by direc-

tor Sanja Bebic and refugee training specialist Colleen Mahar-Piersma of the Cultural Orientation Resource Center at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C.

"We love what we do ... and feel a sense of purpose," said Bebic, speaking for all those in attendance.

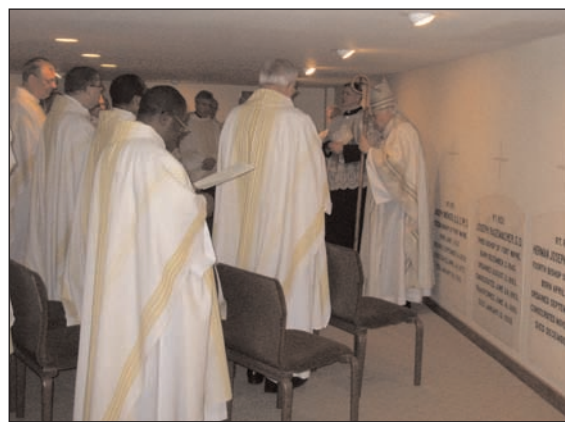
Calling her audience "stakeholders" in the process, she outlined their tasks. They ease the newcomer's transition to a new community, she said. They help him find employment so he can become self-sufficient; they help him overcome language barriers; they help him meet his psychological and social needs. In short, they must have compassion and the heart to serve. "We need to start with trust-building, not paperwork," said Bebic.

The U.S. program was founded by the Refugee Act of 1980, which defines a person eligible for refugee status as one who has a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion.

Currently, the largest number of refugees arriving in the U.S. come from Africa (Burundi and Somalia), East Asia

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## MASS FOR DECEASED PRIESTS



MARK WEBER

Following a noon Mass for deceased priests in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, Bishop John M. D'Arcy and 21 priests gathered in the cathedral crypt to recite prayers for the dead and sing the Salve Regina. The memorial Mass was offered for Msgr. William M. Faber, and Fathers William G. Hodde, Robert J. Hoevel, Elden J. Miller, James J. O'Connor and Deacons Fred J. Larson and Louis McDougall.

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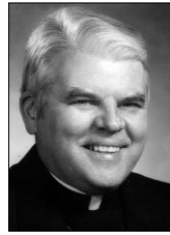
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# Responding with our whole humanity is an act of love



NEWS  
& NOTES

**BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY**

## The season of Advent and the Down Jones average

Could the contrast in the Scriptures and the culture be any greater this year as we prepare for Advent?

Everywhere we hear questions and concerns like these: "How long will it last?" "The high price of housing!" "The collapse in the markets." "The up and down prices of gas." By way of contrast, the Gospel reading for the feast of Christ the King, as we came to the last Sunday of the year, is about the identification of Christ with the one who is homeless, the one in prison, the sick and the dying. The government must address the financial situation for the good of our people, but as the Scripture says, "Where your heart is, there also will your treasure be." As the Scriptures these Sundays, and especially the past Sunday, reminds us — our treasure is in heaven.

I have been reflecting on the second part of Pope Benedict's encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est," ("God is Love"). He says when we respond to another who is in difficulty, we should be responding with our whole humanity. It is an act of love. It is given freely, and nothing is asked in return. At the conclusion, he speaks of all the saints, especially Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, who have set such an example in living this way. He refers to St. Martin of Tours, a bishop whose feast we celebrated recently, and the pope tells of this event: Martin once gave half of his cloak to a poor man when they met at the gate of his residence. That night, the Lord appeared to him wearing the cloak, thus showing his identification of Christ with those in need. When some of the followers of John the Baptist came to Christ to ascertain his identity, he told them to go and tell John what they have seen — the deaf hear, the dumb speak, the

lame walk and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Why is it that Christ has so identified himself with those that are poor, in need and hungry? These, more than those who claim to be holy, are the special object of his love; and so it must be for us who claim to be his followers.

## And the question of waiting

Nobody waits today. E-mails must be answered immediately (except by me). Texting every hour on the hour. Answers must come quickly. But Advent is waiting, as the people of the covenant waited for the messiah. So we, in the first weeks of Advent are waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ in our lives.

In the later weeks of Advent, the readings focus on waiting for Christmas.

Also, in Advent, we wait for the coming of God in our hearts, which only comes when we are open to him.

It is surely a time to slow down, come

some very beautiful things — a lifelong relationship with a good woman, children, grandchildren, family and things deep within the human heart. He should know why he is giving it up. He is giving up something beautiful for something beautiful.

I am sure my presentation did not come up to Father Mike's systematic and comprehensive review of the teaching of the church on the priesthood, but I prepared well, and was pleased to present the understanding of the priesthood as I first accepted it in my home parish from my family, and how it matured through the years with the teaching of the church. I was very impressed with the readings they were doing, one even from an article which I did years ago. But I was more impressed with the caliber of two Holy Cross seminarians, one candidate for the Diocese of Albuquerque, one Holy Cross priest and two lay people. It was a seminary course and it was a joy to be with them for over an hour.

## The teachers' council

Many years ago, we formed a teachers' council as a good fit for the relationship of our teachers with their bishop and with the diocese. In the first two years, I attended every meeting, and I promised after that to attend twice a year, and I have kept that promise. I learn about our teachers and their struggles. I see their appreciation when we were able to improve

salaries and healthcare and working conditions. I see how important to them, is the Catholic identity of their schools. I know that some are single moms, and these meetings help me become more aware of their needs. This week, one of the things we spoke about was the need to do more in our schools for the handicapped. I also learned how important it is to them when the parish priest has a regular presence in the school.

## Finally, Saint Mary's

A special weekend at South Bend celebrating the Sunday Mass at the basilica in the late morning, and then in the evening my annual visit with the students at Saint Mary's College. A chance for Mass with them, followed by a discussion and some sharing.

Have a blessed Advent, and I will see you all next week.

It is surely a time to slow down, come with love to our neighbor in need and prove to ourselves the authenticity of our following of Christ.

with love to our neighbor in need and prove to ourselves the authenticity of our following of Christ.

Advent is a time of quiet prayer and an open heart. It is a time of great grace, especially the grace of realizing how close he really is — in the Word, in the poor, in the Eucharist.

## A professor once again

What a joy to give a class at the University of Notre Dame as part of a course taught by Father Michael Heintz, Ph.D. The focus of the course is on the ministerial priesthood. It may surprise you that many seminaries have not presented a full course with a focus on the priesthood. The recent apostolic visitation of seminaries, of which I took part in a small way, has as one of its purposes to see that every seminary has such a course. How right this is. A man becoming a priest gives up

# Vatican calls for greater vigilance over financial operations

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said the current market crisis calls for a new international agreement to effectively monitor global financial operations and give poorer countries a greater voice in economic policies.

In particular, steps are needed to curb the abuses of offshore financial institutions, which may see as one of the causes of the financial meltdown, said a statement drafted by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

The statement, reported by Vatican Radio, came in preparation for the U.N.-sponsored International Conference on Financing for Development, which was to take place Nov. 29-Dec. 2 in Doha, Qatar. The conference, to be attended by representatives of developed and developing countries, was expected to propose steps to respond to the current crisis.

The Vatican statement said it was important that solutions do not favor rich countries at the continuing expense of poorer countries.

"There is a need to avoid triggering a chain of mutual protectionism. Instead, cooperation should be strengthened regarding transparency and vigilance over the financial system," it said.

"It is important that the political examination among the richest nations, although necessary, does not lead to solutions based on exclusive agreements," it said.

The statement said that under the present economic system, "the poor countries are financing the rich countries" through the movement of private capital and government reserves, which are

invested in established markets or offshore institutions.

It said offshore institutions have been the vehicle for massive transfers of wealth, some motivated by tax evasion and some recycled from illegal activities.

The document said that in addressing the crisis, experts must not forget the economic fragility of Africa and the urgent local needs of the continent. When designing a response, it said, world leaders should follow the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity, which are key elements of the church's social teaching.

## PATRICK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ents, who gave her a kiss and a rose, which she took to the altar of the Blessed Mother.

In his homily, Father Ascherman said that the presence of the young people dressed so colorfully emphasized the glory of the feast of Christ the King, the kingdom of God and the destination of all of us, a place where there are no language barriers, no color lines and where everyone is welcome.

Father displayed his white alb and described how children presented for baptism wear white, how first Communicants and brides wear white, symbolizing purity and the kingdom of heaven, and how, when one's body is brought into church for a funeral, the casket is draped in white as a final reminder of baptismal vows when we are told to avoid stain throughout our lives. The gold in his vestments represents our membership in the royal family of heaven.

To give meaning to their dedicatory prayer offering to help those most in need, the food eaten at the highly festive party following the Mass, was sold, with the proceeds contributed to a "school roof fund" at St. Patrick Parish, which already has \$36,426.99 on hand.



Jazmine Dominguez approaches the altar of the Blessed Mother to present a rose on the feast of Christ the King.

Sister Alodia Carney, OLVM, contributed to this story.



CNS PHOTO/CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI greets the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square during his weekly Angelus address at the Vatican Nov. 23.

## Self-interest can lead the world to ruin, Pope Benedict XVI says

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Without the practice of Christian charity, the world today risks a disastrous fixation on personal self-interest, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope made his remarks at a noon blessing Nov. 23, the feast of Christ the King. Addressing pilgrims from his apartment window above St. Peter's Square, he said Christ made it clear that his kingdom, while not of this world, works within human history to bring about all that is good.

"If we put into practice love for our neighbor, following the

Gospel message, then we make space for the rule of God and his kingdom is realized among us. If instead everyone thinks only of his own interests, the world can only go to ruin," the pope said.

The pope said Christ used clear language to describe how people will be judged by God, as related in the Gospel of St. Matthew.

"The images are simple and the language is popular, but the message is extremely important: it is the truth about our ultimate destiny and about the criteria by which we will be evaluated: 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you wel-

comed me,' and so on," he said.

"Who does not know this passage? It is part of our civilization. It has marked the history of the peoples of Christian culture: the hierarchy of values, the institutions, the various humanitarian and social works," he said.

The pope said Christians need to remember that the kingdom of God is not a question of honors and appearances, but of justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. God will welcome those who work daily to carry out his teachings, not the hypocrites who talk about Christ but fail to put his commandments into practice, he said.

## Pope prays for victims of 1932-33 Ukrainian famine

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI prayed for the victims of the 1932-33 "Great Famine" that left millions dead in Ukraine and other parts of the Soviet Union.

In an apparent reference to the Soviet policies of collectivization and food confiscation that provoked the famine, the pope condemned ideologically based governmental actions that violate basic human rights.

He made the remarks at a noon blessing at the Vatican Nov. 23, at a time when many Ukrainians were commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, or "death by hunger," the name given to the famine that occurred in the Soviet Ukraine.

Speaking in Ukrainian, the pope recalled that the famine under the Soviet regime of Josef Stalin caused millions to die of starvation.

"I express the strong hope that no longer will any political order, in the name of an ideology, deny



CNS PHOTO/CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS

Pilgrims wave Ukrainian flags as Pope Benedict XVI gives his Angelus address in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Nov. 23.

the rights of the human person and his freedom and dignity, and I assure my prayers for all the inno-

cent victims of this tremendous tragedy," he said.

He prayed that Mary might help nations to "proceed along the way of reconciliation" and confront current problems "in mutual respect and in the sincere search for peace."

Historians disagree about the exact death toll from the famine, but many estimate that between six million and eight million people died across parts of the Soviet Union. Ukraine, the agricultural heart of the Soviet Union, was the hardest hit.

The government of Ukraine, which became independent in 1991, has condemned the famine as an act of genocide against Ukrainians and wants the United Nations to issue a similar statement. The United States and Canada are among the governments that have also recognized the famine as genocide.

Russian officials recently called the famine a "humanitarian tragedy" but have rejected accusations of genocide. Russia has accused the United States of trying to politicize the catastrophe.

## Poll shows overwhelming support for immigration reform among Catholics

WASHINGTON — A recent Zogby poll of Catholics nationwide showed overwhelming support for reform of our nation's immigration laws, with Catholics supporting a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million undocumented persons in the country.

The poll conducted Oct. 17-20, included a sample of 1,000 people who self-identified as Roman Catholics and was commissioned by Migration and Refugee Services of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (MRS/USCCB). It had a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percentage points.

About 69 percent of Catholics polled supported a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, provided they register with the government; 62 percent supported the concept if they were required to learn English. The U.S. Catholic bishops have long endorsed a path to citizenship for undocumented persons that would include requirements to register with the government and to learn English.

"These results show that, like other Americans, Catholics want a solution to the challenge of illegal immigration and support undocumented immigrants becoming full members of our communities and nation," said Johnny Young, executive director

of Migration and Refugee Services of the USCCB. "It is clear that those opposed to a legalization of the undocumented are a minority," he added.

In other findings, 64 percent of Catholics opposed the construction of a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico, while three out of four Catholics agree that the church has a moral obligation to help provide for the humanitarian needs of immigrants, regardless of their legal status.

Todd Scribner, education coordinator for MRS/USCCB, stated that the poll results demonstrated that the efforts of the U.S. bishops to educate Catholics on the realities of immigration are bearing fruit.

"Catholics are generally in agreement with their bishops that there needs to be a comprehensive and humane solution to our immigration problems," Scribner said. "The strong educational efforts of the bishops, through the Justice for Immigrants Campaign and their own teachings, have helped generate support in the Catholic community for comprehensive reform."

The U.S. bishops launched an educational initiative in 2005, entitled the Justice for Immigrants Campaign, to educate Catholics on the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

# Food pantries facing double whammy of greater need, fewer donors

BY MARY IAPALUCCI

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. (CNS) — While economic indicators continue to tumble, the number of people turning to parish food pantries continues to climb. In many cases, pantries are struggling to meet the increased demand.

"We used to be able to fill up the shelves. Now, soon as it's there, it goes out," said Father Tom Coby, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Riverhead, where the number of people seeking help has nearly doubled in recent months.

According to Mary Rubert, coordinator of social ministry at the parish, they used to serve between 350 and 400 people a month. In August, that number rose to 454. It jumped to 560 in September and more than 600 people in October.

Across the country it's the same story. At People of Progress, a food bank and emergency assistance charity in Redding, Calif., executive director Melinda Brown said that she's seeing "more and more new people, and a lot of working people, which is new."

The working people are getting food from the charity to make their paychecks stretch to the end of the month, she said. "We're seeing people who have never asked for help before."

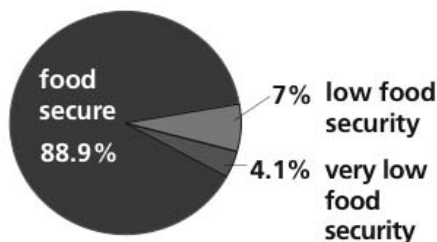
A new report from the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture showed that in 2007 13 million households experienced "food insecurity," meaning their access to adequate food was limited by a lack of money and other resources. That was 11.1 percent of all U.S. households.

About one-third of food-inse-

## Food Security

About 13 million U.S. households did not have enough food at some point in 2007.

### ALL HOUSEHOLDS



### CONDITIONS AT HOUSEHOLDS WITH VERY LOW FOOD SECURITY

worried food would run out.....	98%
adults cut size or skipped meals.....	96%
could not afford balanced meals.....	94%
were hungry but did not eat.....	65%
lost weight.....	45%
adult did not eat for whole day.....	29%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

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CNS GRAPHIC/NANCY WIECHEC

**Just about 89 percent of U.S. households were "food secure" in 2007. That means household members had access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.**

cure households (4.7 million, or 4.1 percent of all U.S. households) had very low food security, that is, the food intake of some household members was reduced and their normal eating patterns disrupted during 2007.

In the San Francisco area, George Slepnickoff has noticed a lot of new faces among those wait-

ing for lunch at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in San Mateo.

"It's seem like the line is getting longer every day," said Slepnickoff, a parolee who is staying in a friend's carport as he works with the society to line up permanent housing. St. Vincent de Paul officials say they have seen a marked increase in meals served since August at the agency's locations in South San Francisco and San Mateo.

The San Mateo location served 1,800 meals in October, compared with 1,500 for a typical month, according to Lorraine Moriarty, executive director.

In the central Oregon city of Bend, "requests have increased tremendously," said Christine King, who directs social services for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul there. Food pantry shelves are now depleted early each week.

The most frightening statistic, King said, is the number receiving aid for the first time in October — about triple what was normal just a year ago.

King said more families are being forced to apply for food stamps and now that food prices have risen, the food budget runs out earlier in the month. This winter, with high heating costs, could put more families over the edge, she added.

"The supply and demand are not meeting," said Veronica Kennedy of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Portland, adding that the charity's central emergency services office is "inundated with big lines."

Things aren't any better in America's heartland. When three other family members moved in with Pam Andrews and her husband last year, she started visiting Catholic Charities' Branch I food shelf in Minneapolis. Now she needs the food shelf more than ever to stretch the family's monthly budget, she said.

Andrews, 56, had used the food shelf off and on over the years when she and her husband hit rough times. However, whenever they were doing well, Andrews said she volunteered at the shelf and donated food "to give back."

Even with the help provided by the food shelf, however, there's still not enough food, she said. The three adults have skipped breakfast regularly for about four months so the two children — ages 9 and 2 — get their fill.

Andrews is aghast at the price of milk, lunch meat and coffee, items she said she can't get at the food shelf.

"You can barely touch beef now," she said. "And fresh produce is completely out of sight."

At food pantries around the St. Louis metro area, bad economic news is old news. Even so, a dramatic increase has been seen in the requests for free food in recent months.

"Hunger is winning," said Circle of Concern director Glenn Koenen. On World Food Day, Oct. 16, he said there were "more hungry people in St. Louis, more hungry people in Missouri and Illinois and more hungry people around the world."

A record number of people are asking Circle of Concern and other food pantries for help, he noted. Demand is up 20 percent from last year at his agency.

"At Circle we now feed as many people in a week as we did in a month just a decade ago," Koenen said. "Without more resources winter will be bleak for many of our neighbors."

Melaney Swenson, director of Catholic Charities of Idaho's regional office in Boise, said what's scary about the current economic downturn isn't the number of homeowners coming in looking for mortgage help. It isn't the increase in the number of people who have lost good-paying jobs and need counseling for the first time. What's scariest is that the worst is yet to come.

"I've never seen anything on this kind of scale before," she said Nov. 11.

Only the agency response to Hurricane Katrina could begin to compare with the impact of the country's current economic crisis, she said. The difference between the demand for aid then and now is that people were able to donate generously to rebuild Gulf coast communities. Today, people just don't have the money to give, Swenson said.

It's particularly devastating when a landlord loses a home, because all his renters are left to find housing. Swenson said Interfaith Sanctuary, a family shelter that opened in downtown Boise last year with the help of a diocesan loan, reported that it is at or near capacity every night.

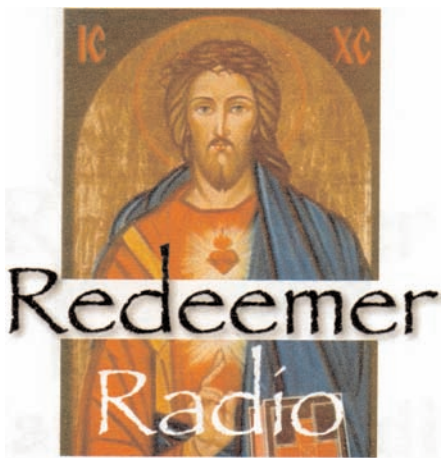
Many of the new clients she's seen are homeless for the first time, or have a history of chronic homelessness but have been in stable housing and were thought to have escaped the latest plight. "Losing your home is a terrible place to be," she said.

New York City budget cuts will keep more than 20 parishes in the Queens borough from opening their homeless shelters this winter.

Eva Vitti-Sterling, parish manager at St. Andrew Avellino Parish in Flushing, said the closing of the shelter ends a mutual relationship that has lasted more than a quarter-century.

For 26 years parishioners had provided home-cooked meals for the men, stayed overnight in the shelter, talked with and played games with the men, and made them breakfast in the morning, she said.

The men "felt safe here," and were able to leave their "meager belongings" under the beds during the day, Vitti-Sterling said. Parishioners had the "joy of sharing," as is stated in their parish mission statement: "We strive to be a caring, welcoming and inclusive Christian community growing in our faith formation and our commitment to serving others."



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# Catholic survivor of Great Depression has not lost hope in economy

BY ED LANGLOIS

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Although Mary Barnes did not know much about the 1929 stock market crash that occurred when she was 5, she knew something was awry in the world.

Barnes, born Mary Oster, and her seven siblings, were shielded from the family's budget woes by their parents.

But on the family farm in South Dakota, dust smothered the crops, and one year when plants actually grew the air was thick with grasshoppers. She also remembers many hungry-looking men and women wandering past the farm looking for work.

Now 85, Barnes lives in decidedly undusty Portland, where she raised four children of her own. When she recommends the need to be thrifty, her brood teases her for having "a Depression mentality."

"I think we're more cautious and we're more frugal," Barnes said of her generation. "Also, we are more appreciative of the things we have. We used it up, wore it out and made do."

Her health is excellent; she suffers a few aches and pains and a little blood pressure irregularity. Most days, she walks 18 blocks to St. Ignatius Church in Portland for daily Mass.

As an economic dip not unlike what happened in the 1930s bears down on the United States, Barnes is unperturbed. Many of Oregon's elderly have fretted considerably as the 2008 stock drop has cut into their retirement savings, but Barnes is confident it will bounce back.

She has not bothered looking at her investments, much less moved them.

Many economists agree with Barnes that there will be short-term pain, but that the markets will recover in the next two

years. There are safeguards in place to prevent a financial cataclysm like the Great Depression, they say.

"Let's hope so," Barnes told the *Catholic Sentinel*, newspaper of the Portland Archdiocese.

Looking back at her growing-up years, Barnes said the family farm was seven miles from the nearest town, which had 100 residents. The farmhouse had no electricity in the Depression years. She never liked the out-house and heartily welcomed indoor plumbing when it finally came.

Like her sisters, she was a tomboy who milked cows and worked in the fields.

"I really don't know how we managed," Barnes said. The family had ample food, maybe because they butchered their own meat, raised chickens, baked their own bread and grew vegetables and fruit when the weather allowed. The mother churned butter and sold it to the store for credit.

"Everybody lived pretty simply," she said, "but everyone was in same boat."

To get by, people helped one another. Her father hired workers, mostly farm youths from big families. The Osters took them in, fed them and tended to their clothing.

When dust storms appeared on the horizon, her mother would light a candle and huddle with her children to recite the rosary. As fierce as the summer sandstorms were, winter brought deep snowdrifts that did not melt until April.

Barnes recalled listening to radio programs with her family and hearing results from the 1932 presidential election. She was confident that the new president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, would change American lives profoundly, including life around the Oster farm, where planting trees was

required to fight the Dust Bowl and where federal road projects put local men to work.

Barnes joined the Coast Guard during World War II when she was in her early 20s. She came to Portland in 1952, invited by a priest who asked her to do clerical work at a magazine published by the Jesuits. She later worked in banks' loan departments.

She draws a pension from the Southern Pacific Railroad, where her husband, who died 11 years ago, worked for more than 40 years.

To deal with today's economic problems, Barnes prescribes cooperation she remembers from her days on the farm. For example, she admires the idea of community gardens.

Perhaps because of her days of wind, dust and poverty, Barnes is still resourceful and generous. She supports her parish, the Archdiocese of Portland and other charitable groups with significant donations.

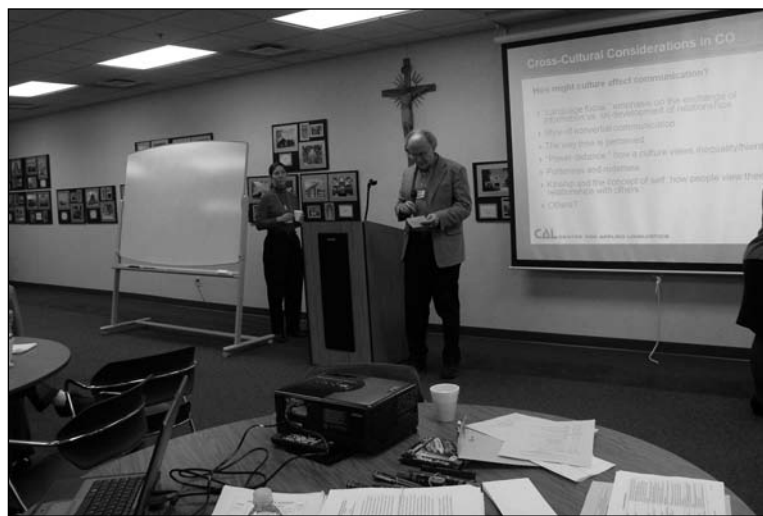
She also gives in smaller ways. She often bakes sweet rolls for the parish Bible study and is also sure to make extra rolls for any unexpected guests.

**Editor's Note:** Share your stories with *Today's Catholic* about growing up during the Depression. What can families learn about that time in American history that can help us with today's economic downturn? How did the church, faith interact with the tough economic times? How did you deal with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays during the Depression? Send your comments before Dec. 5 to editor@fw.diocese-fwsb.org or mail to Today's Catholic, Attn. Tim Johnson, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856.

Mary Barnes, a survivor of the Great Depression, holds a photo at her home in Portland, Ore., in late October. Barnes, who says she emerged from the Great Depression cautious and appreciative, grew up on a farm in South Dakota in the 1930s.



CNS PHOTO/ED LANGLOIS, CATHOLIC SENTINEL



KATHY DENICE

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend hosted the Cultural Orientation Resource workshop in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center on Nov. 18-19. Shown here is a workshop participant with workshop presenters.

## CULTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(Burma and Vietnam), Latin America (Cuba), and the Near East and South Asia (Bhutan, Iran, Iraq). In all, refugee numbers totaled more than 60,000 nationally in 2008.

Bebic pointed out that cultural orientation is required by law to help these new residents adjust to life in the local community and elsewhere. That orientation is

broad-based and includes assistance with housing, employment, transportation, education, health issues, money management and cultural adjustment. In addition, refugees need help in understanding their rights and responsibilities and tapping into community services.

It's a huge task, but the dedicated professionals gathered for last week's workshop were eager to share their knowledge and gain further perspective from the day's presenters. They left with new ideas to apply to the ongoing process of refugee orientation in the Fort Wayne area.

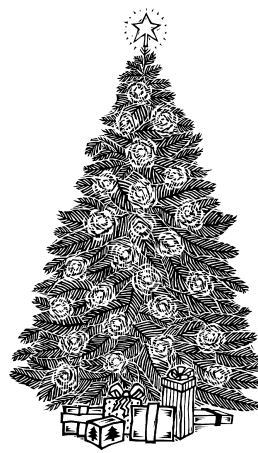
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## Japanese martyrs beatified in Nagasaki

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian martyrdom is the fullest expression of human freedom and reflects the supreme act of love, said a top Vatican official at a Mass beatifying 188 Japanese martyrs. "It is not the punishment or the torture that creates a martyr," but rather the fact the person suffered and died for Christ, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, former prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, said during the beatification Mass in Nagasaki, Japan, Nov. 24. The 188 17th-century Japanese martyrs were tortured and killed in different cities between 1606 and 1639 after the Japanese government outlawed Christianity. According to Vatican Radio, more than 30,000 people attended the ceremony in the city's baseball stadium to celebrate the beatification of Jesuit Father Peter Kibe Kasui and 187 companions. After his Nov. 23 Angelus address to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict XVI said the martyrs' beatification marked a significant event for the Catholic Church and all of Japan. The pope asked people to "rejoice" and pray the beatified martyrs' "victory in Christ over sin and death fill us all with hope and courage."

## Same-sex marriage not a matter of human rights, says Maine bishop

PORTLAND, Maine (CNS) — Allowing same-sex couples to marry would strip marriage of its essential component — the creation of new life — and render it meaningless and "open it up to endless revision and redefinition." Bishop Richard J. Malone of Portland said in a letter to Catholics in the statewide diocese. The bishop defended traditional marriage, writing that he believes opposing its redefinition is a matter of faith, reason and a concern for the good of society. "To claim that marriage is a civil right open to all forms of relationships is a misnomer," he said in the mid-November letter drafted after several Christian ministers at a news conference days earlier called for the state to legalize same-sex marriage. "Marriage is an institution that predates civilization, ordained by God, and exclusive to one man and one woman who are given the responsibility to procreate the human race and to nurture, educate and pass on shared values and mores to their offspring," Bishop Malone wrote.

## 'Don't water it down,' says young Catholics

LINTHICUM, Md. (CNS) — Megan Nappi didn't mince words as she sat in a circle with young adults from Baltimore and Washington, surrounded by some of the nation's leading adolescent catechesis experts during the four-day National Symposium on Adolescent Catechesis. Asked what advice she would give on teen faith formation, the University of Maryland student and member of Our Lady of the Fields Parish in Millersville told the 100 attendees there: "Don't water it down." The response drew audible gasps, and

## WOMAN DISPLACED BY WAR SLEEPS ON BELONGINGS



CNS PHOTO/FINBARR O'REILLY, REUTERS

A woman displaced by war sleeps on her belongings at the Don Bosco center in Goma, eastern Congo, Nov. 20. Fighting in eastern Congo has displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians, and more than 1,500 people have taken shelter at the Salesian-run center.

even applause, from the gathering of academics, educators, youth ministers, bishops, catechists and other leaders. The symposium, held Nov. 5-8 at the Maritime Institute and Conference Center in Linthicum, was a project of three national Catholic youth formation groups brought together in one organization called the Partnership for Adolescent Catechesis.

## Book on Rwandan Marian apparitions to be released on anniversary

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Like many stories from Africa, the story of Mary appearing to three young girls in Rwanda "wasn't told" beyond the continent, said best-selling author Immaculee Ilibagiza. So Ilibagiza wrote the first English-language book about Mary's apparitions in the 1980s at an all-girls Catholic high school in the remote Rwandan village of Kibeho, the only Vatican-recognized Marian apparitions in Africa. "Our Lady of Kibeho" was to be released Nov. 28, the anniversary of the first apparition in 1981. Calling "Our Lady of Kibeho" "the most important book I will write," Ilibagiza told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview Nov. 20 that she can remember hearing about the apparitions from her father at the dinner table, a place where her close family gathered nightly to share the stories of the day and talk about religion. "My dad said, 'You won't believe what happened; the Virgin Mary appeared to a girl in Kibeho,'" Ilibagiza recalled. She said she learned the details of the Marian apparitions from family talk, village chatter and the tape recordings of the

visionaries and Kibeho onlookers that the local priest recorded and played to his parish.

## Vatican opens Pope Benedict bookstore outside St. Peter's Square

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a world filled with conflicting messages, people should be able to find books that explain Catholic Church teaching near every Catholic Church, said the Vatican secretary of state. Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Pope Benedict XVI's top aide, spoke at the Nov. 18 opening of the Pope Benedict XVI International Bookstore just outside St. Peter's Square. The store is a joint operation of the Vatican publishing house, the Vatican newspaper's photographic service and the Vatican's stamp and coin office. The Vatican publishing house also operates the tiny Pope John Paul II International Bookstore in St. Peter's Square and the Pope Paul VI International Bookstore near Rome's Spanish Steps in the building that houses the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

## Southern California fires leave thousands homeless in four counties

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Catholic communities in four Southern California counties rushed to the assistance of dozens of parish families who were left without their homes by a week of wind-driven brush fires that began Nov. 13. Three wildfires scorched 42,000 acres and destroyed nearly 1,000 residences in Southern

California. At least two of the three fires were contained by Nov. 19, and that same day local officials said the third fire, in Los Angeles County, was close to being contained. News reports said that one of the fires might have been started accidentally by some college students. Twenty people, including firefighters, were injured. One fatality was reported; a 98-year-old man died during the evacuation process near downtown Santa Barbara. The largest concentration of destruction took place north of Los Angeles in Sylmar's Oak Ridge Mobile Home Park, where 484 homes out of 600 in the park were lost to the fire. Those included 39 homes of parishioners of St. Didacus Church and the home of Barbara Barreda, principal of St. Elizabeth School in Van Nuys. Another parishioner's home was severely damaged, and many parishioners were evacuated to nearby shelters.

## Washington vicar for administration named auxiliary bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Msgr. Barry C. Knestout, vicar for administration for the Washington Archdiocese, as an auxiliary bishop of Washington. The appointment was announced Nov. 18 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Knestout, 46, a lifelong resident of the archdiocese, has held the post as vicar and as moderator of the curia for the archdiocese since 2007. He will be ordained a bishop Dec. 29 during ceremonies at St. Matthew Cathedral in

Washington. Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl praised the appointment during a press conference at the archdiocese's pastoral center, calling the new bishop "a native son of this archdiocese. He was born, formed in the faith and educated here. He enjoys extensive personal experience of this church and a sense of continuity with its pastoral life."

## Group prays that U.S. treasury secretary will halt foreclosures

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Berenice Ramos never thought she and her family would have their house lost in foreclosure. Ramos, 39, is a financial planner. "What about that, huh?" she said as she shook her head. Her husband has been in the flooring business for 20 years. Ramos herself took in additional income cleaning houses. "This was our third house," she told Catholic News Service about the house where she and her husband and three children lived for three years until it was foreclosed on in November. They bought the house for \$580,000 and had a monthly payment of \$3,000. But after a two-year freeze on the interest rate ended, the payment shot up to \$4,600. By the time they were forced out of the house, the payment had neared \$5,000, said Ramos, a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Antioch, Calif. The family now rents a house two blocks from the home they lost. Asked if she knew others whose homes have gone into foreclosure, Ramos replied, "Too many, too many." Ramos and about 100 other members of the Oakland, Calif.-based PICO National Network converged on the sidewalk outside the Treasury Building, next to the White House, for a prayer service Nov. 18.

## Kenyan cardinal says church will resist moves to legalize abortion

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — The Catholic Church will resist any moves to legalize abortion in Kenya, said Cardinal John Njue of Nairobi. Cardinal Njue, president of the Kenya Episcopal Conference, led hundreds of Catholics into the streets to demonstrate against the Reproductive Health and Rights Bill 2008, which would legalize abortion. He said the bill should be opposed at all costs. Urging legislators to vote against the measure, he reminded them they were sent to parliament by voters to make good laws. The cardinal, who celebrated Mass at Nairobi's Holy Family Minor Basilica Nov. 15 after the demonstration, described abortion as murder and said it showed disrespect for life and human dignity. "We have come here not to condemn anybody, but (to condemn) the act itself. We hope the lawmakers we have sent to parliament will confine (themselves) to making good but not destructive laws such as this attempt to have abortion legalized in the country," said the cardinal. Without elaborating further, Cardinal Njue said the forces behind the move to have abortion legalized in the country were foreign.

## University of Saint Francis presents Living Nativity

FORT WAYNE — In 1223, Francis of Assisi led a group of worshippers in the Italian village of Greccio in their celebration of our Lord's birth by reenacting the first Christmas. Thus began the tradition of a Christmas crèche. As Advent begins, the staff and students of the university present a Living Nativity as a witness to the power of the presence of God's love incarnate in the world. The character of St. Francis will narrate the Christmas story and those gathered will sing "Silent Night." The Living Nativity will be staged in the amphitheater next to the Pope John Paul II Center on the shore of Mirror Lake on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. Parking is available off Leesburg Road. No charge for admission. A petting zoo with the animals for the Living Nativity will be available for children from 5 to 6 p.m. free of charge at the Living Nativity site.

Another display at University of Saint Francis is St. Francis and the Christmas Crèche open Dec. 4-12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (weekdays only) and Sunday, Dec. 7, from 12-8 p.m.

Learn about St. Francis' devotion to the birth of Jesus at this beautiful display of Nativity scenes from around the world. In addition, there will be short presentations on Franciscan tradition in adjoining classrooms on Dec. 7. This is a free event located in the Lupke Gallery in the North Campus Building.

## Bishop Luers offers events for fall, winter

FORT WAYNE — An open house for holiday fellowship, brunch and to support Bishop Luers High School will be Dec. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the home of Mike and Kathi Stonczek, 4220 Old Mill Rd. Items will be gathered for the Luers Knight dinner/auction in April 2009. Make reservations by Dec. 10 to the school at (260) 456-1261.

The drama department's Christmas production will be "Children of Eden," performed on Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. in the café. Limited seating is available for \$8 each and must be purchased in advance or reserved. To purchase or reserve tickets, call Sue Mathias at (260) 456-1261 ext. 3114.

The annual Christmas concert will be presented by the performing arts department on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. in the gym. The concert is free of charge. Enter through door No. 5.

A scholarship exam for interested eighth-grade students will be Saturday, Dec. 6, from 8-11:30 a.m. Students will take a test to qualify for scholarship money available based on their academic ability and placement on the test. A total of \$10,000 is available towards freshman year tuition. A test fee of \$10 per student is payable at the door.

Visit [www.bishopluers.org](http://www.bishopluers.org) for more details.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## ST. JOSEPH-HESSEN CASSEL BLESSES BLESSED MOTHER STATUE IN MEMORY OF ROBERT HERBER



TIM JOHNSON

Father Thomas Lombardi, pastor of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish, blesses a statue of the Blessed Mother surrounded by students, staff and parents of St. Joseph School on Nov. 19. The statue is a memorial to Principal Robert Herber who died in June. Herber had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother and the rosary. St. Joseph School Principal Louise Schultheis told Today's Catholic that students contributed money to wear jeans for a day and were able to raise half of the money to purchase the statue. Father Lombardi offered the additional funds.

## Redeemer Radio releases results of fall sharathon

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, WLYV Fort Wayne, would like to thank the thousands of listeners who made the "Cast Your Vote for Catholic Radio" Fall Sharathon an astonishing success. In the midst of economic worries and political uncertainty, the supporters of Redeemer Radio contributed more than \$170,000 during three days of sharathon from Oct. 22-24. The sharathon exceeded the station's goal of by more than \$20,000, with donations being pledged even after sharathon officially ended.

Chris Langford, president of Redeemer Radio, declared, "All of us at Redeemer Radio feel very blessed by the tremendous response of our listeners to our fall sharathon. Even during these challenging times, our generous listeners went above and beyond the total from last fall sharathon, thus enabling Redeemer Radio to continue serving our Catholic community and proclaiming the truth and beauty of our Catholic faith for many months to come. I would also like to thank our staff and the host of volunteers and gift donors who made this successful pledge drive possible."

The "Cast Your Vote for Catholic Radio" Fall Sharathon was hosted by Jerry Usher at the studios of Redeemer Radio. Usher is the host of Catholic radio's most popular national program, "Catholic Answers Live," heard on Redeemer Radio weekdays from 6 to 8, mornings and evenings. Throughout sharathon, Usher was joined by local and national guests who gave of their time and shared their perspectives on the vital importance of Catholic radio to the local community. Other local Catholics and non-Catholics volunteered, answered phones, took pledges and assisted the Redeemer Radio staff.

Especially notable was the participation of priests and parishes from across the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Twenty-two priests gave of their time in the studio, and 17 parishes were represented. Usher commented, "... Redeemer Radio is blessed with more priests participating than the total from all the other sharathons I have anchored this fall."

The contributions of local Catholics during the "Cast Your Vote for Catholic Radio" Fall Sharathon will go a long way in permitting Redeemer Radio to carry on its mission to evangelize the Catholic faith through radio and to serve the Catholic commu-

nity, in harmony with the diocese and Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

Looking ahead to the start of its fourth year of operation, Redeemer Radio is a local independent Catholic radio apostolate that serves the Catholic community of Fort Wayne, northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio by broadcasting the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith. The station is operated by a local nonprofit group of lay Catholics, financially separate from the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and dependent on the support of listeners.

## Matthew Kelly to speak in Huntington

HUNTINGTON — Matthew Kelly, world renown speaker and author, will present his Christmas message on Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 860 Cherry St.

The presentation is open to the public, with babysitting provided in Gollner Hall.

Kelly is author of several books including New York best sellers, "Rhythm of Life" and "The Dream Manager" and travels across the country with speaking engagements. Originally from Australia, Kelly currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio where he conducts retreats as well.

## Bishop Dwenger holds Christmas concert

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Dwenger High School music department's Christmas concert, Sounds of the Season, will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14, beginning at 2 p.m. in the main gym. Performing ensembles include the Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Concert Choir and Advanced Choir. Admission is free.

## STUDENTS REMEMBER THE DECEASED



CAROLYN KIRKENDALL

St. Joseph Catholic School students processed to St. Rose Cemetery, Monroeville, to pray the rosary and visit the gravesites of families and friends. They do this annually to commemorate the month of November dedicated to the Poor Souls.

## 'What Would Mary Do?'

Moms foster faith, friendship in new group

BY CAROLINE B. MOONEY

LAFAYETTE — After conversations at school events, two friends felt a need to give busy Catholic moms a chance to get together and explore their faith. "We want to be as formed in our faith as our kids are," said Noreen Beardmore, a parishioner of St. Boniface Church.

"Last November, Lara (Behr, a parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception) and I called about 20 moms and invited them to talk with us about what they would want out of such a group," she told *The Catholic Moment*, newspaper for the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. "They fired out a lot of stuff and basically said that if they were going to leave their chaotic houses, meetings would have to be substantive."

Thus, the "What Would Mary Do?" (WWMD) group was formed.

The group began meeting monthly in December 2007. Most meetings include speakers, with time allotted for socialization. All mothers are welcome to attend.

"This is not a group that has all the answers, but it is to remind us that we are not alone," Beardmore said. "We're not talking about being 'uber-moms' — we are all in this together. We always want to have time to socialize so moms have the opportunity to hear another strong Catholic mother's ideas.

"Moms today are busy," Beardmore said, "we are pulled in 10 different directions. With our busy lives, friendships suffer and this is a great chance to forge new friendships and spend time with old friends."

About 35 women attended a recent WWMD meeting with the theme "Our Kids are Catholic (But Can You Tell?)" — Building the Christian Virtues in Our Children," at the cathedral. Speakers for the evening were Grant Freeman, campus minister at Central Catholic Junior-Senior High

School, Lafayette; and Lisa Cooley, school counselor at St. Mary and St. Lawrence schools here.

Cooley spoke about how to develop character and moral values in children, and how to combat the problem of bullying, using examples from the book "Building Moral Intelligence" by Michelle Borba. "Moral intelligence is the capacity to understand right from wrong," Cooley said. "It means to have strong ethical convictions and to act on them so that one behaves in the right and honorable way."

She identified several virtues — empathy, conscience, self-control, respect, kindness, tolerance and fairness — which, if "they were combined into one, could eliminate bullying and teasing. That's our goal, but it's not a perfect world."

Jennifer Page, a cathedral parishioner, said she found herself agreeing with many points the speakers made. "The talks were a good reminder of a lot of things we should be doing."

Cari Gothard, also from the cathedral, said she enjoys the meetings because "it brings together all moms. Preschool, grade school, high school, even some college moms — we're all moms. No matter what age our kids are, moms have the same problems, just at different levels. That's what I like. How can I connect with this mom who has a senior in high school when I have a kindergartner? We have the same problems, but she's more experienced. We get great support. The meetings are good and they get great speakers every time."

"In my opinion, you just can't have too many programs like this," said Monica Water, parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas, West Lafayette. "I love these programs. They are repeating what we are all trying to do. I think it's great that they put it in all of the church bulletins — the meetings are not just for one parish, it's open to everyone."

## Christ Child's holiday benefit aims to keep children warm

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

SOUTH BEND — It's Nov. 20, 2008 in South Bend, Indiana, and 476 guests prepare to sit down for a delicious lunch at the Gillespie Center near Saint Mary's College. The South Bend Christ Child Society is holding its annual Holiday Benefit Luncheon and a program that includes a silent auction, raffle baskets and a fashion show. Those in attendance are ready to unwind and enjoy.

But what most do not comprehend is the months of work that have led up to this event. Jan Williams, who is chairing the Holiday Benefit Luncheon for her second year, describes the underlying reason for holding the luncheon. "At the heart of the mission is to help keep the children of our community warm," Williams explains. "All efforts have that in mind, so if we can have fun raising the money to help this mission along we will. We stretch every nickel in order to purchase as much clothing as we are able and to serve as many children as possible."

South Bend Christ Child President Sue Uhran, stresses that all proceeds from the event go to clothe the children of the Michiana area. "No one at Christ Child is paid," Uhran remarks. "The proceeds from all of our fund raising activities go directly back into the purchase of new clothing for over 4,000 children in our community."

Back in August of this year, Williams met with her committee and by September silent auction solicitations to the community were started. Underwriting for the benefit, which is a significant portion of the money received for the event, was led by Mary Liddell.

"We have about 30 underwriters who have given at least \$100 donations each, but together they covered about \$10,000 in funds for our mission. That is one third of the goal we set to make by hosting this fundraiser," Williams stresses.

Williams acknowledges it has taken many volunteers to bring this event together. Sixty women have offered support in this year's event including asking businesses



KAREN CLIFFORD

Sherry Burke bids on the Christmas gift decoration in the silent auction.

to donate auction items, publicity, assisting in the silent auction and raffle baskets tables, decorations, greeting and modeling in the Talbot's fashion show.

"The Christ Child Society is made up of women who are "go-givers," says Williams. "They are women who do what needs to be done, so when they see a need to fill, no matter what kind of job it is, someone steps up. And usually it is a team rather than just one person."

On the afternoon before the event volunteers gathered for the extensive set up of the luncheon. Holiday benefit cochairman Andrea Incropera suggested the autumn theme for the occasion. "I was adamant about not doing a Christmas theme before Thanksgiving." The outcome includes table decorations of autumn flowers tied together with fall ribbons, in front of a hurricane glass with a cinnamon colored candle inside.

Making of the decorations began in August, according to decorations chairman Ann Riley. The process of putting together 48 centerpieces was at times slow.

There were 485 ribbons and numerous wire flowers to cut. Riley recalls one funny story from a decorations volunteer; "when she went to get a manicure she was asked — 'what happened to your hands?' Cutting those wire flowers took its toll."

Kay Houser, chairman of the silent auction sends kudos to those who asked for auction items. "I think solicitations take a very special kind of person. I asked two people and my heart was pounding out of my chest," Houser recalls. Approximately 200 articles were donated to the silent auction and included items that ranged in value from a framed oil painting at \$1,000 to a \$10 dinner gift certificate at a local restaurant.

Raffle Basket volunteers Anne Eme and Roberta Heeter were excited about the enthusiasm and sales of the four raffle baskets. Each basket had a theme; A Night on the Town, Basket of Holiday Cheer, Pamper Me Package and A Dash to the Finish (a homemade quilt). Each basket had a value of at least \$250 and all items were donated by local business and Christ Child members.

Proceeds from the entire event which included underwriting, silent auction and raffle basket sales, and miscellaneous contributions came to over \$30,000.

One of the highlights of the event was the testimonial of two Christ Child clients, Graciela Caballero Rhodes and Kathe McMillen. Both expressed gratitude to Christ Child's contributions of new clothing and shoes. "The staff is wonderful, never judging and always supporting. On several occasions they just listened to me," McMillen remarks.

And Rhodes adds, "At Christ Child I find coats to stop wind and shoes to keep away the wet, every year, without fail. A mother can never be happier when her children are safe and warm."



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## 'THE VIRGIN WEIGHED WITH THE WORD OF GOD'

In a Christmas refrain, St. John of the Cross wrote:

*The Virgin weighed  
With the Word of God  
Comes down the road  
If only you'll shelter her.*

In an arresting manner, he points out that if our hearts allow her space and love — if we “shelter” her as it were — she will truly lead us to Christ. We learn to absorb her redemptive attitudes. And during Advent — a season in which we are called to prepare to give birth to Christ in our hearts and in our world — we will, I believe, profit immeasurably by journeying with Mary.

One of the foundations of Mary's spirituality was and is joy — a virtue so needed in our church and our world. Some sociologists characterized the past century (20th) as a “sad century.” And so many observers of our contemporary scene conclude that the situation does not seem to have improved. In our quest for success, our spiritual instincts seem to have been sterilized.

We must never forget that joy is a constant in our spiritual tradition. Thomas Merton, in “Seeds of Contemplation,” states simply and succinctly: “Do not look for rest in any pleasure, because you were not created for pleasures ... you were created for spiritual joy.”

Moreover, Christ himself, in His Last Will and Testament commanded

us to be depositories of joy: “I have told you this that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete” (Jn 15:11).

Sometimes word-pictures can be helpful in elaborating a truth. In the case of joy, we might turn to John of the Cross' image: “The Virgin weighed with the Word of God.” He leaves no doubt that the Word attached himself to Mary. And redemptive reality remains constant. Our God is Emmanuel — God with us. In baptism, he has given each of us his irrevocable promise that he will walk with us throughout our earthly pilgrimage.

On the Lord's part, this attachment is a reminder of how much he loves each one of us. We are in his heart. And joy — humanly and spiritually — springs from the heart that loves. Through our dialogue of love with the Lord we slowly become transformed and even externally we begin to radiate joy.

The fact that Jesus is our invisible companion on our earthly pilgrimage has so many ramifications. It means I can speak to him and in times of difficulty, I can rely upon his strength and support.

Mary's prayer, the Magnificat, is also a prayer of memory. She not only notes the “great things” God has done for her on a personal level but also his faithfulness to his people Israel. In our own life, we should also be trying to cultivate a type of prayer of memory — learning to decode times of God's faithfulness to ourselves, especially in helping us to get through difficult moments. This has always been a staple in the spirituality of God's people. Thus the psalmist could cry:

“When my soul is downcast, I remember ...”

One of the handmaids of joy is the virtue of contentment — a virtue which seems to have slipped through the cracks in our anxious age. The present Holy Father wrote:

*“Each one of us  
Is a result of a thought of God.  
Each one of us is willed.  
Each one of us is loved.  
Each one of us is necessary.”*

In the pontiff's mind, each one of us is called upon to contribute to the building up of the kingdom of God in our world (a kingdom of justice, love and peace) and in our own hearts. Such, of course, is a lifelong process. In decoding the direction God wishes us to take in our lives, we should go to Mary and “Seat of Wisdom” and ask her to aid and assist us in our search.

Finally, before we leave this reflection, we return to the image of Mary as the Woman of the Word. She not only heard God's word but nourished it within.

As we begin Advent, we should pray for the grace to realize that we are called to the same vocation. We must take time (that most overlooked of God's blessings) to nourish the Word within ourselves. Like Mary, we must reflect upon God's words (both in Scripture and through life's events) in our hearts.

**Msgr. Thomas McDonnell** is a retired priest from the Archdiocese of Boston. He has dedicated his life to the urban poor and disabled. A cancer survivor, he is the author of “Walking in the Dark Valley: When Cancer is a Constant Companion.” This is the first of a series that will be offered by *Today's Catholic* through Advent.

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love

# A simple but powerful truth

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

I have to admit that it is rare for me to remember a homily the next day, let alone several years later. But I do remember one such homily that a Holy Cross priest gave one Christmas at our motherhouse. He said that while he was praying about what he was going to say in his homily God told him, "Just tell them that I love them." It was a simple but powerful message.

The greatest expression of God's love was the sending of his only Son, Jesus, whose mission was to reveal to the world God's love for each person. Jesus commissioned his followers to show this same love. Jesus is God's Christmas gift to us. As the saying goes, Jesus is the reason for the season!

The season of Advent helps ground us in why we celebrate. It is quite a contrast to the secular holiday season that often begins with Christmas displays even before the witches and goblins are taken off the store shelves.

Surrounded by the material hype and the message to buy, buy, buy, it is not easy to keep Advent and to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. We often get so caught up in the frenzy that we sometimes forget why we give gifts. Gifts are signs of love and for us the greatest gift of all is Jesus. Maybe our present economic crisis with so many out of work or with limited cash flow will help us to realize this more deeply this year.

It takes a strong individual to shelter himself or herself from the material whirlwind. I want to offer some suggestions for what we can do to help us stay focused.

First of all, we can reflect on the daily Advent Mass readings. These biblical readings remind us of the history of our salvation and what life was like without the Messiah. The Jewish people longed for a savior. Do we long for Jesus in our lives or do we take his presence for granted? Do we try to recognize Jesus in all we meet? Do we even think about or talk to him during the day?

Another suggestion is to send

cards with a religious message, ones that remind the receiver that it is Jesus' birthday and that the wonder of the season is that God would actually become a human being to show us just how much he loves us. We can also tell each person what he or she means to us. (I always feel cheated when someone I haven't heard from for a long time merely signs his or her name.

I want to know what is happening in their lives.)

We can also share God's message of love to the less fortunate by helping the poor, visiting the lonely, serving at a soup kitchen, patching up some of our relationships that need healing or doing

those important things that we tend to procrastinate about. Or maybe we need to spend less time shopping and more time with friends and family.

And lastly, remember that a gift should express one's love. It is the act of giving that is important, not the size or price of the item. We must go against our culture that tries to teach us that more is better. We must resist the temptation to judge a person's love for us by the type of gift given. Sometimes people would rather have some of our personal time than receive whatever material gift we can purchase. Another way to show our love is to make our own gifts or to do something that involves giving of ourselves. An example would be to promise to baby-sit a certain number of times free of charge or to dedicate a Saturday to work around someone's home. Use your imagination. All it costs is some personal time.

As a footnote I would like to say that the usual way God tells us that he loves us is through the love we receive through other human beings. Jesus tells us over and over that we share in his mission to "reveal the father's love." These days give us many options to do just that. And hopefully we will continue to express this love throughout the New Year.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

**We must go against  
our culture  
that tries to teach us  
that more is better.**

# Advent traditions are treasured by the Peterson family

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — We live today in a world of instant gratification. We seek the perfect life; lots of nice things and lots of pleasures we think will make us happy. Yet as we search for these elusive objects and obsessions, we often find emptiness and feel isolation. With the coming of the Advent season, there is an opportunity for the Christian community to pause, reflect and prepare together for the coming of God's incarnate Word through the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Peterson family of St. Pius X treasures the simplicity and spiritual anticipation of the season through their family Advent traditions. Parents Kate and Waylon take out a calendar prior to Advent each year to look at the family's work and school schedules and develop an activity for each day of the season. Then the family makes a paper chain. The links are connected and numbered for each day of Advent and indicate a special activity for that day. Each day the children take turns pulling links. To help keep straight whose turn it is they alternate the colors of the paper.

Kate emphasizes that a mix of silly and spiritual activities are required for their children who range in age from 9 months to 11 years of age. "Some days are really busy so we do something small. On a weekend day we may do something more involved. The notion is to get all the kids in the spirit of Advent," says Kate.

Examples of their simple activities include cutting out paper snowflakes to hang on the windows at home, making cookies for friends, visiting an older friend in the parish or simply listening to music and dancing. "Sometimes on a cold day you just need to get some of that energy out," Kate laughs.

Two outings that the family looks forward to every year is purchasing food at the grocery store for delivery to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana and buying gifts for the Homeless Center. Waylon notes the family trip to the grocery



KAREN CLIFFORD

Louisa Peterson adds a straw to the manger after making a sacrifice.

store educates the children on several levels.

"They love that they can throw in almost anything they want and it is a great way to teach them math so they stay within a budget and understand the cost of groceries," says Waylon.

The trip to the Homeless Center brings home the concept of giving back to the community, Waylon emphasizes. "One of my favorite traditions is that every year I take the Friday off before Christmas to go shopping with them and they buy gifts for each other and gifts for the guests at the

Homeless Center with their own money. We will deliver the gifts to the center in person and it reminds us how God has blessed us. I do not take many days off each year unless it is for vacation where we go somewhere so the kids understand that it is a priority for dad and not just mom, to be committed to family and our community," says Waylon.

Spiritual pursuits during Advent include saying the rosary together, and an activity inspired by Mother Teresa. In her biography, Mother Teresa had an empty manger and straw. Each time a sacrifice was made at the convent by one of the nuns, a piece of straw was added to the manger. The sacrifice was not something that a person boast-

ed about, but rather it was a private encounter between the nun and God. In the Peterson household, the manger is put in a room which is not used frequently, to make this experience more personal.

"The idea is to make a nice big bed of hay for baby Jesus by Christmas," Kate notes.

While Adam at 9 months is too young to participate this year, each of the four Peterson girls has their favorite activities during Advent.

Rose, 3, enjoys taking the links off the Advent chain on the fireplace mantel and watching it get shorter as Christmas draws near. "I like the pink candle of the advent wreath," she adds.

Caroline, who is the eldest of the Peterson children, enjoys the Messianic Prophecies that announce the coming of a Savior in her Catechesis of the Good Shepherd class.

"Last year in catechesis we looked up some Old Testament readings, usually the prophets, and we would hear about what each prophet would say about Jesus. An example might be, 'For a child is born to us, a Son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace from Isaiah 9:5,'" explains Caroline.

Both Margaret, 9, and Louisa, 6, enjoy watching the bed of hay in the manger grow through their sacrifices. "Sometimes I let one of my sisters take the first hot chocolate during snack time," says Margaret. Louisa adds, "Once I played with Rose when I didn't want to."

Caroline and Margaret both enjoy expressing their own unique talents during Advent. Caroline plays the violin during Mass at St. Pius, while Margaret likes to show her artistic gift through making aluminum foil people or a play mobile out of a cardboard box for other family members.

One of the concluding activities during Advent for the Petersons is the reenactment of the Nativity story by the entire family. It is with childlike innocence that Louisa describes the characters family members portray. "There usually is a lamb, a sheep, a donkey and an angel. Caroline usually reads the Gospel and daddy is Joseph. And mommy is always Mary because she is always pregnant."

**"The notion is to get  
all the kids in the  
spirit of Advent."**

KATE PETERSON

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## EDITORIAL

## Unite in prayer for our leaders

A week ago, the bishops of the United States concluded their Annual Fall meeting in Baltimore. This year, of course, they held this meeting in the wake of an historic presidential election in which Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States.

Speaking for the bishops' conference, Cardinal Francis George stated that the bishops welcomed this moment of historic transition. It is right that we as Catholics acknowledge the historical significance of the election of the first African-American to the presidency. It is a moment of pride especially for the African-American community which, through the decades, has suffered discrimination in our country, a discrimination which has, please God, lessened in our own day. We must pray that the election of an African-American president is a sign of an ending once and for all to racial hatred and discrimination in our country.

Our response also as Catholics should be one of continuing prayer for our new president. This is a duty that we have in the Lord. St. Paul stated in his letter to Timothy: "First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth." — 1 Tm 2:1-4.

Finally, as Cardinal George pointed out, the church stands ready in her many institutions to continue its cooperation with the government in our work for economic justice and opportunity for all. As the cardinal put it, "our efforts to reform laws around immigration and the situation of the undocumented; our provision of better education and adequate health care for all, especially for women and children; our desire to safeguard religious freedom and foster peace at home and abroad. The church is intent on doing good and will continue to cooperate gladly with the government and all others working for these goods." To the extent that we share the desire to build up the dignity of each human person in our country, we as Catholics must be united in mind and sentiment with the president-elect.

At the same time it seems clear that the president-elect fails to acknowledge (and one should say gravely fails to acknowledge) the dignity of each human person from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death. His voting record as a senator and his campaign promises to pro-abortion groups show clearly his desire to promote nationwide restriction-free on-demand abortion. Cardinal George addressed this by stating that the aggressive pursuing of pro-abortion policies by the Obama administration would not bring about national unity (which was proclaimed as a desire during the Obama campaign), but rather would bring about the alienation of tens of millions of Americans, not to mention an escalation in the continual destruction of innocent unborn human life.

It is no secret that Catholic voters were divided in their support for a presidential candidate. However, now that a president has been elected, we must be more united than ever in praying for and supporting our new president but also in standing firm in word and deed in our opposition to the greatest human rights problem in our country, the continual slaughter of millions of unborn human beings.

### Advent: Journey to the light of truth

Last year Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that Advent season is a time of watchfulness, prayer and conversion.

While many of us can easily become captivated in the commercial revelry of the season with gift shopping, parties, etc., it is also important that we take time to commit ourselves to quiet times of prayer, reflection and reconciliation. As Catholics, let us remind ourselves who we are, what we are and what is the meaning of the season. We must stand for these truths — truths that are challenged by the secularization of the season.

As the pope said in his general audience in 2007 just before Christmas, "If the light of God, the light of truth is turned off, life becomes dark and without a compass."

May we utilize this Advent season to bring our lives closer to the light of God and the light of truth.

**Today's Catholic editorial board** consists of Ann Carey, Kay Cozad, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson, Vince LaBarbera and Mark Weber.

# 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

## St. Aloysius worth preserving

By now, many readers of *Today's Catholic* have heard of the recent recommendation in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to merge their rural schools into the neighboring Fort Wayne Catholic schools. Is this really the best idea for the students of these schools? As a parishioner, parent and teacher in the diocese, I can attest to the academic excellence of these smaller, rural Catholic schools. They have a rich tradition that has provided priests, valedictorians and salutatorians in the Fort Wayne area schools. They have operated in the

black regardless of smaller enrollment because the parishioners stand behind their schools, believing in the future of their children both academically and spiritually. These schools are not a drain on the diocesan finances.

At St. Aloysius, the parishioners are truly committed to their school, realizing its far reaching effects on the future. This is evidenced by the record-breaking 87 percent commitment to our not too distant capital campaign and successful completion in 2001 of a \$1.5 million expansion to the existing campus. Five new classrooms, two offices, activity center, library and storage facilities were added. This expansion project was given full approval

by Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

St. Aloysius's ISTEP scores are soaring at 93.8 percent, above the diocesan average of 83.7 percent. As a teacher, I have firsthand knowledge of the fact that smaller class sizes are beneficial to academic success.

St. Aloysius School has been a cherished tradition in rural Allen County for the past 132 years, and today they operate a very modern facility, with a quality atmosphere very conducive to learning. St. Aloysius is a legacy worth preserving for the next generations to come.

Pat Wyss  
Fort Wayne

## Making truthful choices of conscience

One recurrent theme in bioethical discussions is the idea that each of us possesses a basic awareness of the moral law. This distinctly human faculty, which Western culture has referred to as "conscience," helps us to choose correctly when confronted with basic moral decisions. Even children, when taught about right and wrong, instinctively seem to recognize a law higher than themselves. Deep within his conscience man discovers that law, which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Conscience has been aptly described as man's most secret core and his sanctuary.

As creatures of conscience, then, we are moved to pursue good and to avoid evil. Yet, in our fallen nature, we are also drawn, mysteriously, towards wrong and harmful choices. The dictates of conscience may become muted or drowned out by other voices around us. As we grow older we may even acquire a certain finesse in justifying personal choices that are not good, choices strongly contrary to the law of our own being. The inner sanctuary of conscience is delicate and easily transgressed, requiring great attentiveness on our part if we are to remain faithful to it.

I recall a powerful story about conscience involving a young couple who cohabitated for many years. Neither of them were thinking much about marriage, and one day the fellow learned that his girlfriend was pregnant. Being Catholic, he approached his priest. All three of them met one afternoon, had rather lengthy discussions, and finally reached a decision together. They decided that abortion was not an option. They talked about the possibility of marriage at some time in the near future.

Later the same day, the parents of the young woman came by the couple's house. They had been fairly open and accepting of this

"live-in" situation. Over dinner it came out that she was pregnant. Things changed as a result of this revelation. After the meal, the mother pulled her daughter aside saying, "Look, you've got a life to live. You don't want to spend the rest of your life with this guy. C'mon, dear, you've got to get an abortion."

The next day, the young man and the young woman ran into the priest again. The fellow brought up the discussion with the mother and said they were reconsidering the abortion option. The priest replied, "We reached a decision on that already." The young man quickly answered, "What do you mean? If I make a decision today, I can change it tomorrow." The priest responded simply, "For certain kinds of decisions, you can't change your mind. If you go back on your decision now, I won't know who you are anymore..."

The young man was shaken by this answer, but when he reflected on it later, he understood that the priest was right. Certain kinds of personal choices touch us at the very core of our being. Accepting or rejecting a temptation to serious wrongdoing like abortion involves our hearts in a far deeper way than many of the lesser decisions we have to make each day, so that in the end, it is our moral choices that define who we are and what we become. By acting against an upright conscience, we violate and disfigure who we are, and become less human. That's why the priest told the young man that he would not know who he was anymore.

I recall another true story about the gentle proddings of conscience that involved a mom with three children. When she found out she was pregnant yet again, she became fearful and began telling herself she couldn't support the burden of another child. She finally decided it would be necessary to have an abortion. She arrived at her decision just before going in for her next checkup. The doctor,



### MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

unaware of her plans, began a routine ultrasound to find out how the pregnancy was progressing. She had brought along her three children, and they were busy playing together on the floor of the examination room. As the doctor ran the scanner over her belly, her little son glanced up from his toy airplanes, pointed to the screen and said, "Look, Mommy — a baby!" She left the doctor's office that afternoon with a new awareness that she couldn't end the growing life within her.

Through the eyes and heart of a child, we are often reminded of what a pure and upright conscience ought to look like. To form our conscience as adults means to learn virtue, by repetitively and determinately choosing what is good, true and moral. Doing so brings order to our lives and engenders peace in our hearts. Ultimately, we discover how to be fully human only to the extent that we faithfully follow that delicate voice of a properly-formed conscience.

**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., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org)

# Exploring Abraham

## What was the background of Abraham, the founder of the Jewish nation?

The Book of Genesis says that the father of Abraham, formerly Abram, was Terah who lived in the famous ancient city of Ur in what is now southern Iraq. The time was around 2000-1800 B.C. Terah had two other sons besides Abram, namely Nahor and Haran. Haran became the father of the famous Lot mentioned in Genesis, but Haran died young, before his own father Terah. The two remaining sons of Terah took wives: Abram married Sarai and Nahor married Milcah, the daughter of Haran.

Ur was a Sumerian city. Father John McKenzie says their language was akin to Turkish, Finnish, and Hungarian. The Sumerians organized their city as a temple community. The god is the king of the city. The people are the servants of the temple.

The Sumerians furthered writing, art, crafts and commerce. They also made laws, such as the code of Ur-Nammu, about 2050 B.C. They invented the cuneiform script used for records and even-

tually developed literature, such as the story of the great flood.

The Bible calls this city "Ur of the Chaldees." J. Packer says clay tablets found at Ur explain that it was located in the district of the Kaidu people. The famous Chaldeans, on the other hand, were not known until 1,000 years after Abraham.

The Bible says Terah decided to take Abram, Lot and Sarai to the fertile land of Canaan. The reason for this migration may be the disturbances at the end of the third dynasty of Ur suggested by the discovery of mass burials. Also then the Euphrates River probably separated Ur from the plain.

But, on their way, they settle in Haran or Carrhae, formerly in Syria, now in eastern Turkey, 22 miles southeast of Urfa or ancient Edessa. It was at Haran that God called Abram to lead his people to the land of Canaan and become a great nation. So Abram abandons the pagan gods of his past, follows the true God, and becomes the founder of the Hebrew nation.

E. Blake mentions that inscriptions show Haran was in existence around 2000 B.C., the time



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

## HIRE HISTORY

of Abraham. This city was of great strategic importance because it lay on the road between Nineveh in ancient Assyria or northern Iraq and the fords of the Euphrates River at Carchemish, a town on the west bank of the river at the Syrian border of southern Turkey. Haran was also a religious city, like Ur, worshiping the moon god. Today people in Haran live in the same type of houses that Abraham did, namely mud brick houses shaped like cones or beehives four to five meters high. These high ceilings soften the burning summer sun.

Father Richard Hire, is pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse.

# We do not know the future



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

## First Sunday of Advent Mk 13:33-37

This weekend the church begins Advent. It also begins the use of biblical readings from Year B of its three-year cycle.

It also is the start of a new liturgical year. Each liturgical year is carefully planned so that the seasons, and the major feasts, guide us through our very own worship into a closer relationship with God in Christ.

The liturgical readings are chosen to teach us about the Lord, to relay to us the Lord's message, and to make us better aware of God's mercy for us as humanity and for us individually.

The first reading is from the third section of Isaiah. When it was composed, the Jews were in a quite difficult situation. The exiles had been allowed to return to the Holy Land from Babylon, but this return brought the exiles home to no paradise. Life was miserable.

The prophet called for faith in God, not only as almighty, but as true to the covenant, to the belief that God would protect the Chosen People.

The prophet appeals to God, in the name of the people, for relief. However, the prophet does not say that the people are being treated unfairly, at least in terms of God's

care for them. The prophet makes clear that sin has led the people away from God, and this estrangement has produced their woes.

Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the next reading. Counseling the Christian of Corinth was a challenge for Paul. Not only did temptation and vice surround them at every side, but also they argued among themselves. Paul had to call them to faithfulness, and also he had to try to influence them to put their differences with each other aside.

He saw disciples as having enormous religious potential, able themselves to draw more closely to God and also able to infuse the goodness of Christianity into the circles in which they moved.

St. Mark's Gospel is the source of the last reading. It offers us a theme found quite often in the New Testament, namely that Christ will come to earth again, but in this Second Coming the Lord will be the victor.

By the time the Gospels were written, even in the case of the Gospel of Mark, the oldest of the four as they now exist, Christians were numerous enough, and geographically distributed enough, to catch the public eye. Yet they were not numerous enough to be able to stand against their enemies. The culture was an enemy. Soon, the political system would be an enemy.

Problems if not dangers lay ahead. The atmosphere was tense, uncertain, and frightening. Thoughts of the Second Coming naturally were appealing. The reading, quoting the Lord, reminds us that we in fact do not know the future. Life for anyone of us can change dramatically and suddenly.

However, the only permanent reality is God. If we are with God, we need not fear.

## Reflection

Advent is much more than a religious gloss over the hurry of preparing for Christmas. It is a call for personal conversion, to bring Christ into our hearts and lives.

Using Mark's Gospel, it builds on the belief that nothing else is as permanent, or as important, as the reality of God, and the reality of our need to be one with God in Christ.

Advent is an opportunity to confront ourselves with this reality, an opportunity to achieve this union with God.

The very busy nature of the season merely serves to remind us to sharpen our focus.

If we respond to this opportunity, then Christmas becomes not a national holiday, not even a religious commemoration, but the moment when we truly bring God into our lives, having prepared ourselves for this wondrous encounter.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 63:16b-17, 19b;64:2-7 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 1Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37

**Monday:** Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

## THE CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

Everyone looks forward to Thanksgiving except turkeys. This quiz looks at the forerunner to this bird and country.

- The Byzantine nation occupied, at times, all the territory now included in**  
a. Turkey. b. Siam. c. Indonesia.
- This Byzantine Empire got its start with Constantine, who moved the Roman capital there. Which town did he choose?**  
a. Izmir (Smyrna) b. Byzantium c. Nicaea
- What was he most famous for?**  
a. juggling two frozen turkeys at once  
b. legalizing Christianity  
c. establishing the monastery at Athos in the Crimea
- Though Latin was officially used for a while, the commonly used language was**  
a. Ottoman b. Lydian c. Greek
- This meant in some ways that these folks were culturally closer to**  
a. the language of, and culture referenced in the Gospels  
b. the language and culture of Rome  
c. the Muslims
- In the seventh century rumors began to trickle in about these Arabs forming a new religious group which expanded rapidly:**  
a. Muslims b. Melkites c. Yemenis
- And indeed the Byzantines were soon beginning centuries of conflict with these enemies, who rapidly conquered**  
a. North Africa.  
b. China.  
c. France.
- The Byzantines had a secret weapon. What was it?**  
a. Greek fire, a type of flame thrower  
b. They had invented tungsten steel  
c. the Scutum or self-directing shield
- But under pressure from Muslims they at times asked for help from the West (Catholics). What condition did the papacy generally demand after the 11th century?**  
a. union with the Roman Church  
b. the conversion of the Byzantines to Islam  
c. that they give up the drachma and adopt the euro
- One set of efforts by the Latins to wrest control of the Holy Land, which had been taken from the Byzantines, was a series of**  
a. pogroms b. jihads c. crusades
- Notoriously these efforts, always viewed with unease by the Byzantines, resulted in this catastrophe:**  
a. the sacking of Constantinople  
b. the death of the high priest Callistus  
c. the death of Pope Benedict XVII
- Though the Byzantines nominally recovered, they were soon besieged by the Ottoman Turks. Later attempts to return to the Roman fold**  
a. were agreed to by the emperor and the people, which is how the empire was saved.  
b. were rejected by the emperor though the people loved the idea.  
c. were rejected by the people who dismissed the emperor's deals with Rome.
- As a result, this happened in 1453**  
a. the pope conceded the rights of the eastern churches to be autonomous  
b. the Muslims were all converted to eastern, not western, Christianity  
c. Constantinople fell to the Turks
- Though the empire fell, the culture survived largely in this body:**  
a. the Turkish Janissaries  
b. the Orthodox Church  
c. the Republic of Bosnia
- Today the Christian community in Turkey**  
a. is a tiny minority  
b. is the dominant group in politics and finance and the army  
c. is the only community allowed into former Byzantine churches like Hagia Sophia.

### ANSWERS:

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

# Options are available at wake or vigil services for deceased

**Are there options on what can be done at a wake service for the deceased, ie, hymns and readings as opposed to the recitation of the rosary. T.C., Fort Wayne.**

The Order of Christian Funerals, the collection of rites used by the church in ministering to the family of the deceased, actually proposes a vigil or wake service to be held at the place of visitation (home, funeral home, church) sometime prior to the celebration of the funeral Mass. In fact, there are a number of related rites that are beautifully written and are very helpful to the loved ones who are grieving, for example, when the casket is closed.

The vigil service consists of a brief service of the word, followed by a litany of intercession and the Lord's Prayer. This is the perfect time for someone from the family to speak in remembrance, offer a eulogy, as eulogies are not a part of the Catholic funeral Mass.

There is, of course, an old and venerable tradition of praying the rosary at the funeral home, and this is also a beautiful way of pray-

ing together on behalf of one who has died. While not to be discouraged, the official rites of the church would seem to prefer the vigil service be celebrated.

There are pastorally sensitive ways of incorporating both the rosary and the vigil service during the times of visitation, at different times, for example, during the "calling hours"; some pastors in fact may incorporate a decade of the rosary as an element of the vigil service.

**In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus says, "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." This was said prior to his crucifixion. Would anyone understand his meaning? J.J. Wabash.**

It's important for us to remember that — during Jesus' earthly ministry and prior to his death and resurrection — a great many of the Lord's teachings and parables were understood only dimly, if at all, by his disciples. We have the benefit, when hearing or reading the Scriptures, of knowing how the story ends, so to speak. That is,

## THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

before we've even picked up a copy of the New Testament, we have been instructed by our parents, teachers or catechists in the grand narrative of salvation contained in it — culminating in the saving death and resurrection of Jesus: the paschal mystery.

The full significance of his life and ministry can only be understood in light of this paschal mystery, which shapes not only the collective memory of the disciples, but also the very composition of the Gospels — and our reading of them today must be guided by the same mystery.

A couple Sundays ago, the text of John's Gospel observed the fol-

lowing, "But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken," John 2:21-22, revealing this very aspect of the proclamation of the Gospel and its composition.

The paschal mystery is the "lens" through which all the teaching and miracles of Jesus must be understood and perceived.

For us, this means that the central mystery of the faith, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again," must also be the lens through which we read the whole of the Scriptures, Old and New Testaments; that's why the sacred liturgy is the best and most privileged context in which the Scriptures are encountered. At Mass, the central event which formats our understanding of the Scriptures is made present sacramentally on the altar, and in fact shapes and transforms us as readers and hearers of the word.

**At one point, the disciples misinterpreted Jesus as a ghost walking on the water. What exactly is a ghost? Does the church believe a soul can be trapped in this world? Anonymous**

Mark 6:49 says that, seeing the Lord walking upon the waters, the disciples "cried out, thinking it was a ghost." The Greek word translated as "ghost," phantasma, might better be translated as "an apparition" or even "a dream" —

the English word "ghost" is loaded with connotations that I am not sure the New Testament authors would understand; in short, the disciples are not characterized as thinking about a ghoul or a soul of one who had died; rather, it's more like they couldn't believe what they were seeing and weren't sure who or what was walking on the water.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church 2116-2117 makes it clear that we should not practice "divination" or the conjuring up of spirits, etc., as such actions are an affront to the omnipotence and providence of God (our attempt to wrest away control of things from him who creates, sustains and orders all things for our good and his glory).

Popular media may offer accounts of how particular places are haunted or about individual ghost-hunters or ghost-whisperers.

Catholics should not partake of such practices or put much stock in them. We believe that at death the individual soul faces particular judgment, and we should entrust their soul to God's mercy.

As a norm, before being too credulous about accounts of "ghosts," we are better advised to seek a rational or scientific explanation for various phenomena which might be uncritically categorized as "ghosts."

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

# When the media makes the news

Having been in the sports media for the past 27 years, I've seen a fairly dramatic change in the way business is conducted.

We used to report and comment on the news; now we often make the news.

Following Notre Dame's second straight football setback this month — an ugly 17-0 loss to Boston College — a major Midwestern newspaper printed an editorial on the Fighting Irish program under fourth-year head coach Charlie Weis.

Except they left out one small detail: it was an analysis, not a news story, and it wasn't appropriately noted. So when the writer made the claim that Weis was on the "hot seat," other news organizations such as ESPN picked up the story and declared that Weis was on the hot seat. His job, they intimated, was in jeopardy.

Now make no mistake, Weis and the Irish haven't exactly been tearing up the college football world. Following back-to-back BCS bids in 2005-06, the Irish went 3-9 last season in a year that everyone around Notre Dame knew would be a transition season. But 3-9? That was a pretty dramatic swing.

This year, the Irish were improving at 5-2 (two road losses, which can be expected from a young team) while holding a 17-3 half-time lead at home against Pittsburgh. Well, the Irish lost that game in four overtimes, and then went to Boston College and laid an egg. Suddenly, a promising season had taken a dramatic turn for the worse.

Now I've never seen a hot seat, let alone sat on one, although I'm sure one would come in quite handy during some of these cold Midwestern nights. But Weis apparently was sitting on one of these hot seats because, well, because the media said so.

Eventually, the media got around to asking Jack Swarbrick if Weis' job truly was in jeopardy. Swarbrick, Notre Dame's new athletic director, said that Weis' job was secure, and his performance would be evaluated upon the conclusion of the '08 season.

There have been countless instances when coaches have received the dreaded "vote of confidence" from their employers, only to be out of a job a few days later. Maybe Swarbrick isn't telling the whole truth. After all, what could he say with three games remaining in the regular season? He had two choices: say nothing, which adds further suspicion, or say the university supports its employee.

One week later, after the Irish squeaked by Navy despite dominating most of the game, Weis announced that he would continue calling plays in the absence of offensive coordinator Mike Haywood, who had been excused for "personal reasons" for the second straight week. Haywood had returned home during Navy week to attend the funeral of a cousin very near and dear to the family.

So when Weis said he would call plays for the Syracuse game and that Haywood would be leaving midweek again, the speculation and assumption within the media was that Haywood was unhappy and looking for an escape from Notre Dame.

Is Haywood unhappy at Notre Dame? That's not the point. Haywood left midweek to interview for the University of Washington head-coaching job. Weis had permitted Haywood an opportunity to better himself even though Haywood's absence would be a distraction in Notre Dame's preparation for the upcoming opponent. Yet the immediate assumption within the media was that Weis had "thrown Haywood under the bus" for Notre Dame's



## FROM THE SIDELINES

BY TIM PRISTER

offensive struggles.

Weis has a rather storied history of rubbing people the wrong way, and he's hardly carved a path to the College Football Hall of Fame. So he's not one of the nation's most beloved, sympathetic figures. Who knows, maybe in the not-so-distant future, Swarbrick may be singing a different tune about the Notre Dame head football coach.

But the media has an obligation for an accurate portrayal of the truth, and Weis often is judged by the image he presents and the pose he strikes. Losing doesn't help his cause. Yet for the past couple of weeks, fiction has overruled reality.

I've always enjoyed being a sportswriter, and I'd be less than honest if I didn't admit to getting caught up in the frenzy of my business as it relates to intercollegiate athletics. I've speculated and portrayed athletes and coaches inaccurately as well, based upon the information available at that moment. Often, your professional integrity is compromised by a deadline.

So it's difficult to embrace a business that often aims for impact instead of accuracy, controversy over fairness. Sometimes, there's much more at stake than the outcome of a game.

**Tim Prister** is a 1978 graduate of Marian High School and a 1982 graduate from the University of Notre Dame.

# SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for November 30, 2008

Mark 13:24-37

Following is a word search based on a Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent, Cycle A, about the Second Coming. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

DARKENED	NOT GIVE	FALLING
POWERS	THEY WILL SEE	SON OF MAN
CLOUDS	ANGELS	FOUR WINDS
EARTH	FIG	SUMMER
GENERATION	PASS AWAY	NO ONE
KNOW	FATHER	ALERT
IN CHARGE	WATCH	MIDNIGHT

## THEY WILL SEE

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

# Sports

**BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM AIMS FOR STATE TITLE** The Bishop Dwenger Saints' football team, after defeating Lowell, 38-22, for a semi-state title on Saturday, Nov. 22, at Fort Wayne's Zollner Stadium, will compete for the Class 4-A state title in Indianapolis. The Saints (14-0) will take on Indianapolis Cathedral (11-2) at 3:30 p.m. at Lucas Oil Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 29. The game will be broadcast live on Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio 1450 AM, and Comcast Channel 81.

## Children's book aims to start movement about baseball, giving

BY CHARLIE HARTLEY

BASKING RIDGE, N.J. (CNS) — Two New Jersey Catholic mothers of Little League baseball players are celebrating what they characterize as their "miracle — a one-in-a-million shot" — the publication of a hardcover children's book they wrote together.

Titled "A Glove of Their Own," the 32-page hardcover volume of rhyming poetic verse is the first published book for Debbie Moldovan and Keri Conkling. The poem is a fictional vignette about a group of about 10 boys and girls in the 8 to 12 age range, who are playing baseball with a scant amount of worn-down baseball equipment. Most don't have their own mitts and have to borrow and share.

But an older man watching them play brings them a full bag of baseball gear that he had kept from his days as a coach. The gift brings joy to the boys and girls and inspires the narrator, a child, to give back to other people and causes.

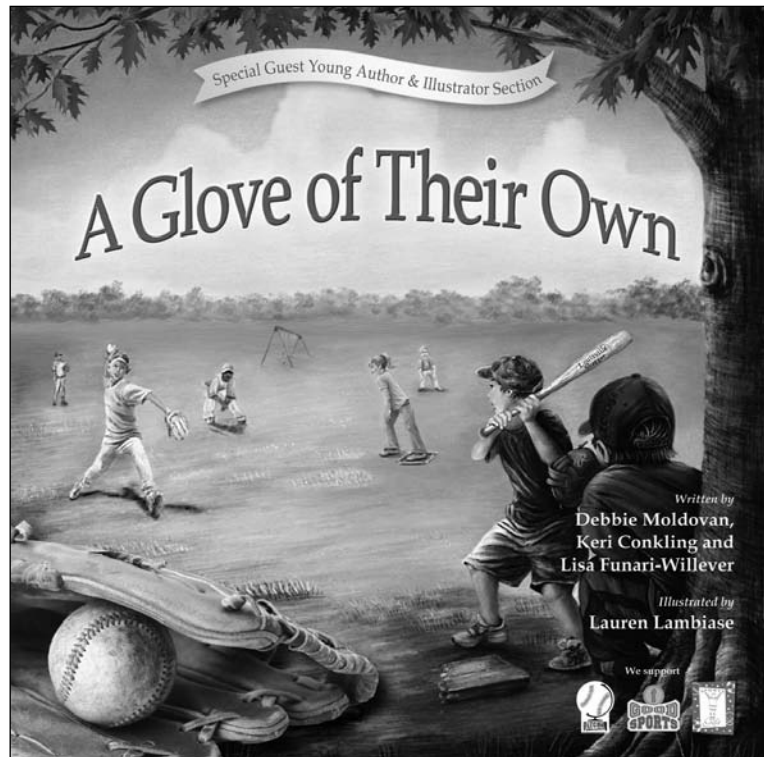
The book arose from an event in the Moldovan family three years ago. The 39-year-old mother of two boys and one girl asked her son, Tyler, what he would like to do for his upcoming ninth birthday. He didn't want presents, he told her, just friends to come to his house and play baseball in his backyard.

Moldovan and her husband, Rob, held what they called a "grand-slam birthday party" in their Basking Ridge backyard. The 17 boys who attended played Wiffle ball, kept track of the game on a wooden scoreboard built by Rob Moldovan and brought along their extra baseball equipment for donation to kids who did not have their own.

Some 100 pieces of equipment — gloves, cleats, baseball pants and more — were given to Pitch in for Baseball in Fort Washington, Pa., a charitable organization for improving the lives of children in need through baseball.

After the party that same day, moved by the abundance of generosity and pure baseball bliss she witnessed, she went to her computer and wrote a poem in two hours. It was, she said, a "story that had to be told."

"Knowing there were kids in our country and all over the world who wanted to play baseball but had little or no equipment was upsetting to me," said Moldovan, who has also written about a dozen unpublished poems. "I couldn't get the thought out of my head that every child should have



This is the cover of "A Glove of Their Own," a 32-page hardcover book of rhyming poetic verse by Debbie Moldovan, Keri Conkling and Lisa Funari-Willever. It is about a group of boys and girls who play baseball with worn equipment until a generous older man brings them new equipment. The authors hope the book inspires a movement of improving children's lives through baseball.

'a glove of their own.' I saw the joy that baseball brought to my children and wanted all children to have that experience."

Moldovan let the poem sit quietly on her computer for about two years because "it was a really personal story," said the mother of Tyler (now 12), Austin, 10, and Cayla, 7.

Enter 37-year-old Conkling, the mother of 7-year-old Holly and 5-year-old Will, who became "instant friends" with Moldovan in September 2006. One day in September 2007, while Conkling visited her friend's house, Moldovan shared her baseball poem. Conkling read it and was instantly moved. She also saw how the story could be improved by adding more emotions about the children.

"Keri added such soul to the book," Moldovan said.

Bob Salomon, a Little League coach and friend of Conkling's, read the manuscript too, and "my whole arm was full of goose bumps," he said. "I knew when she read the story I was going to bring it to a national level."

Despite having no experience in the publishing industry, he started researching children's book publishers and came across Franklin Mason Press in Trenton, a company with a dual mission: to produce high-quality books and support children's charities with donations from each book sold.

Lisa Funari-Willever, founder of Franklin Mason Press and the mother of an 8-year-old Little Leaguer, knew right away that "A Glove of Their Own" had potential. She became the third author of the book, providing editorial adjustments. "She made the book sing," said Moldovan.

The thing about this book is that "everybody's heart is in the right place," Funari-Willever said.

Franklin Mason Press has chosen three charitable organizations — Good Sports, Pitch in for Baseball and Sports Gift — to be its designated partners for this book. Ten cents from the sale of each book will automatically be donated to each charity. And when each organization sells books through its membership or fundraisers, the publisher will donate \$3 per book.

"Our entire story is about divine intervention, the little miracles which happened to us from the very beginning," said Moldovan. "It's just a matter of all of us keeping our eyes open and realizing how God brought us together to do something bigger and better than we knew we could."

**Editor's Note:** "A Glove of Their Own" costs \$15.95. Copies may be ordered online at: [www.agloveoftheirown.com](http://www.agloveoftheirown.com).

## CYO quarterback corner

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — As Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) grid-iron action comes to a close, the quarterbacks from each team have many fond memories from Sunday afternoons. These guys are the on-field leaders, the dynamic on the offense, the signal callers. They throw the ball with authority; they have the ability to see holes and contribute significantly to their team's success. Here is a little bit more about the CYO quarterbacks from the 2008 season:

**John Cassell**, Sts. JAT Knights No. 15; Height/Weight: 5-foot, 11-inches, 123 pounds. Birthday: Nov. 22, 1994; Home parish: St. Joseph, Fort Wayne. Where will you be attending high school? Homestead. Parents: Dennis and Kelly. Sibling(s): Kevin; Family pets: Dixie and Murphy; Favorite video game: "Madden '09"; Favorite pizza topping: Cheese. What will you remember most about CYO football? Playing St. John, Fort Wayne in overtime.

**Gus Schrader**, St. Jude Eagles, No. 18; Height/Weight: 5-foot, 7-inches, 125 pounds. Birthday: July 23, 1995; Home parish: St. Jude. Where will you be attending high school? Bishop Dwenger; Parents: Thad and Annette; Sibling(s): Aubrey, Elise; Family pets: Major, Keegan; Favorite video game: "Mario GoKart" for Wii; Favorite pizza topping: Onion; What will you remember most about CYO football? Robby's interception against PB/QA.

**Jacob Britton**, St. John, New Haven, Raiders, No. 16; Height/Weight: 5-foot, 10-inches, 148 pounds. Birthday: June 19, 1994; Home parish: St. John the Baptist, New Haven; Where will you be attending high school? Woodlan; Parents: Ron and Tami; Sibling(s): Jarod; Family pets: Magnum, Molly, Mandy and Bear, one hermit crab; Favorite video game: "Madden '09"; Favorite pizza topping: Ham; What will you remember most about CYO football? How we became known as the "Dirty Dozen" because we had a great season with only 13 players and went to South Bend and won the diocesan playoff.

**Nick German**, St. Vincent Panthers, No. 3; Height/Weight: 5-foot, 7-inches, 125 pounds. Birthday: Aug. 22, 1994; Home parish: St. Vincent, Fort Wayne; Where will you be attending high school? Bishop Dwenger or

Culver Academy; Parents: Therese and Greg; Sibling(s): Molly and Gregory II; Family pets: Dog — Zoe; Favorite video game: "Madden '09"; Favorite pizza topping: Cheese; What will you remember most about CYO football? I will remember the friendships I have made with the kids at my school as well as kids on the teams we have played against. My coaches have taught me so much. In the CYO we can compete and have fun doing it, whether we win or lose.

**Thomas "T" Starks**, St. John, Fort Wayne-Hessen Cassel Eagles, No. 22/No. 5; Height/Weight: 5-foot, 10-inches, 138 pounds. Birthday: Dec. 21, 1994; Home parish: St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; Where will you be attending high school? Concordia Lutheran; Parents: Dawn and Thomas Sr.; Sibling(s): Emma; What is your favorite video game? "NCAA Football '09"; Favorite pizza topping: Pepperoni; What will you remember most about CYO football? The Sunday excitement for game day. I will never forget my teammates or coaches. CYO Football taught me a lot and it was great to be able to play for Coach Carroll. I will miss my middle school football games.

**David Hamel**, Queen of Angels/Most Precious Blood Royal Reds, No. 12; Height/Weight: 5-foot, 9-inches, 138 pounds; Birthday: March 4, 1995; Home parish: Most Precious Blood; Where will you be attending high school? Bishop Luers; Parents: Robert and Cheryl; Sibling(s): Lexie, Olivia; Favorite video game: "Madden '09"; Favorite pizza topping: Pepperoni; What will you remember most about CYO football? Having a great time with the kids from the other teams, hitting people and getting hit.

**Austen Edwards**, St. Charles Cardinals, No. 12; Height/Weight: 5-foot, 4-inches, 113 pounds. Birthday: Dec. 17, 1994; Home parish: St. Charles; Where will you be attending high school? Bishop Dwenger; Parents: James and Sheila; Sibling(s): Lindsay, C.J.; Family pets: Dog — Jack, Cat — Baxter; What is your favorite video game? "Mario-Kart"; What is your favorite pizza topping? Pepperoni; What will you remember most about CYO football? Defensive tackling.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

## SPIRITUAL

### Advent reflection

Huntington — Victory Noll Center, 1900 W. Park Dr., will offer the program "Soul Mosaics: Preparing for Our Guest" from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. The cost is \$30 and includes a light supper. All supplies provided.

### Create your personal mission statement for 2009

South Bend — Geraldine Bryan, LCSW, staff therapist at Samaritan Counseling Center will offer a free presentation to learn the goals and benefits of creating your personal mission statement for 2009 on Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 12-1 p.m. at Samaritan Counseling Center, 17195 Cleveland Rd. Bring a sack lunch. Reservation to (574) 272-0274.

### Taize prayer services to begin

Huntington — Victory Noll Center will present "Christ! Our Light in Darkness," for the first in a series of Taize prayer services at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9. Regular services will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month beginning January 13. Services last approximately one hour. There is no cost to attend and no registration is required.

### Community sing along

Fort Wayne — The Fort Wayne Bach Collegium is sponsoring a community-wide Messiah sing-

along Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. at Queen of Angels Church, 1500 W. State St. Opportunities for soloists are available. Bring your own score, or one will be provided. Admission is \$5 and includes holiday cookies and coffee during intermission. Call (260) 482-9411 or visit [www.bachcollegium.org](http://www.bachcollegium.org) for more information.

### Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Our Lady of Angels Convent, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "The Fragrance of Christ." Bring your Bible. The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, Dec. 12, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

### Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Tom Shoemaker will celebrate the holy hour at MacDougal Chapel Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7:15 p.m. Father Tom is pastor of St. Jude Parish.

## MISC. HAPPENINGS

### Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7.50, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$7.50 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

### Fresh cut trees offered by scouts

Fort Wayne — Fresh cut Christmas trees, wreaths and greens are being sold by the St. Vincent Boy Scouts beginning Nov. 28 at the Scout lodge, 8865 Auburn Rd. Hours are Monday-Friday 4-9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Foresters plan Christmas party

Fort Wayne — The National Catholic Society of Foresters Court 870, will have a potluck Christmas party Sunday, Dec. 14, from 1-4 p.m. at the St. Henry Parish Center, 2929 E. Paulding Rd. Call (260) 447-2357 for information.

### Blood drive

Yoder — A blood drive will be Sunday, Dec. 14, at St. Aloysius Parish gym from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## REST IN PEACE

### Decatur

Mary H. Schnepf, 89, St. Mary of the Assumption

### Elkhart

Mary F. Montagano, 78, St. Thomas the Apostle

Misael Adame, 11, St. Vincent de Paul

### Fort Wayne

William F. Swiss, 84, St. Vincent de Paul

Ernest B. Wolansky, 80, St. Jude

Paul H. Regelsperger, 69, St. Joseph, Hessen-Cassel

Catherine M. Winter, 90, Most Precious Blood

### New Carlisle

Isabel W. Trojan, 84, St. Stanislaus

Natalie L. Mrozinski, 88, St. Stanislaus

### Notre Dame

Sister Mary Margaret Koester, 82, Our Lady of Loretto

### South Bend

Hedwige Rose Horvath, 86, St. Matthew Cathedral

Joseph F. Dillon, Sr., 87, St. Matthew Cathedral

Joseph J. McCaffery, Jr., 87, Christ the King

Jesus Borrego, 55, Our Lady of Hungary

Dolores Jurczak, 81, Holy Family

### Yoder

Judith A. Barnabee, 67, St. Aloysius

## Jerome Henry, former Catholic Social Services director, dies

FORT WAYNE — Jerome "Jerry" Henry Sr., father of 17 children, including Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, died Sunday at age 82. Henry spent more than 20 years serving as director of the Catholic Social Services, beginning in 1968. From reports in the Fort Wayne *Journal Gazette*, Nov. 24, Henry's service at Catholic Social Services won him the Sagamore of the Wabash award from then Gov. Evan Bayh. A 1944 graduate of Central

Catholic High, Henry spent two years serving in the Navy during World War II and held a master's degree in social work from Indiana University. He was known as a champion for the less fortunate.

He leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Marganelle, and 16 of those children. Tim Henry, one of their sons, died in 1977. Henry also had 57 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren.

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For our kids, this means making those trips to the doctor a little easier.

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for Incoming Freshman  
Marian High School



Saturday, December 6, 2008  
8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



**PHOENIX Institute**

Phoenix Institute, a small family oriented foster care agency, is looking for people to foster abused and neglected youth. Phoenix Institute is looking for stable and supportive families, single parents, married couples, families of color, empty nesters, people who rent or own. To become a foster parent, you don't need a lot of money, a fancy house, or extensive parenting experience. What you do need is a commitment to learning and working as part of a team, a sense of humor, flexibility, and patience. And you need to want to provide a stable and supportive home to a child. Phoenix Institute has a staff with a rich history of working in foster care. Free training - 24 hour staff support - reimbursement provided.

2200 LAKE AVENUE - SUITE 260  
FORT WAYNE 46805 - (260) 424-0411  
[WWW.PHOENIXFOSTERCARE.COM](http://WWW.PHOENIXFOSTERCARE.COM)

# New books for Advent reading

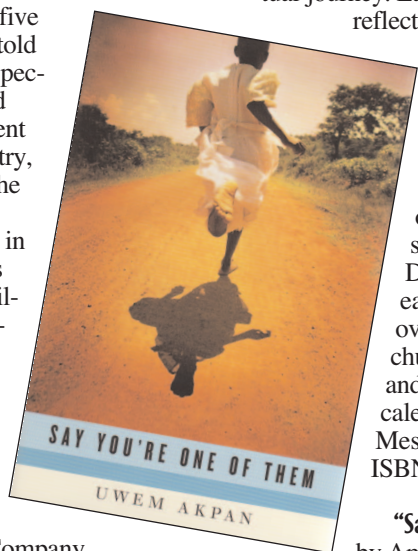
BY KAY COZAD

The following are recent releases that have been sent to Today's Catholic. Summaries were taken from press releases and include publisher and ISBN number.

**"Saints at the Dinner Table,"** by Amy Heyd cooks up a delicious menu of meals with each chapter dedicated to a saint who inspired her original recipes. The author combines a brief introduction to each saint, a reflection, an inspired menu, a dinner prayer and questions for a meaningful dinner discussion. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-851-8

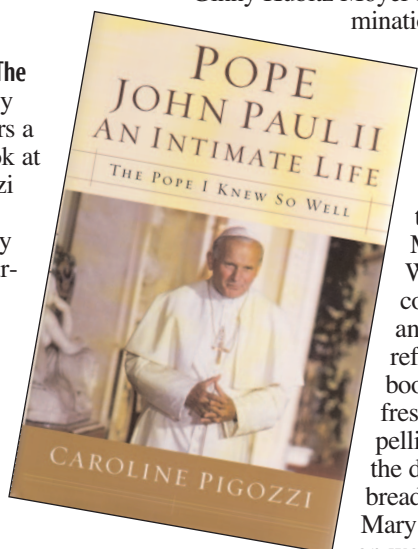


**"Say You're One of Them,"** by Umen Akpan is a collection of five stories, each told from the perspective of a child from a different African country, that portray the horror and beauty found in the life issues facing the children. His narrative prose brings the sights, sounds and feelings of Africa to life. Little, Brown and Company, ISBN: 978-0-316-11378-6



**"God and Country: Reflections for Catholics in the Military,"** by Father Michael Ortiz is a pocket-size prayer book for Catholic men and women in the U.S. military offering traditional Catholic prayers in addition to reflections that include Scripture, a brief inspirational story and a question to ponder. Ortiz, a military chaplain, ends each meditation with space for personal notes. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-577-7

**"Pope John Paul II: The Pope I Knew So Well,"** by Caroline Pigozzi offers a behind-the-scenes look at this great man. Pigozzi reveals the details of Pope John Paul's daily life, his sometimes surprising philosophies, his accessibility to ordinary people and his drive to unify the church. Faith Words, ISBN 0-446-50550-1



**"First and Second Timothy, Titus,"** by George T. Montague, S.M., and **"The Gospel of Mark"** by Mary Healy, are two of a 17-volume series, that integrate Scripture with Catholic doctrine, worship and daily life. Readings from the Letters of Timothy and the Gospel of Mark are supplemented by sidebars with background information, quotes from saints and church fathers and reflection and application sections to make

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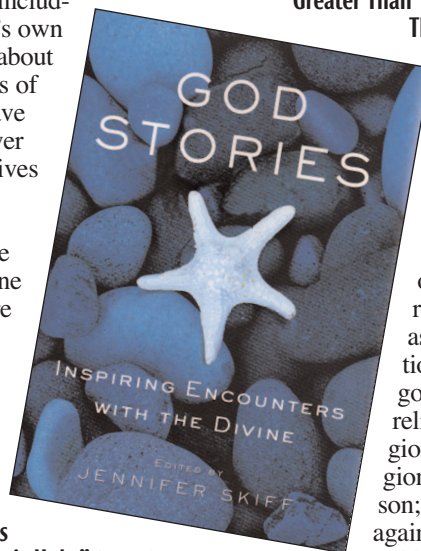
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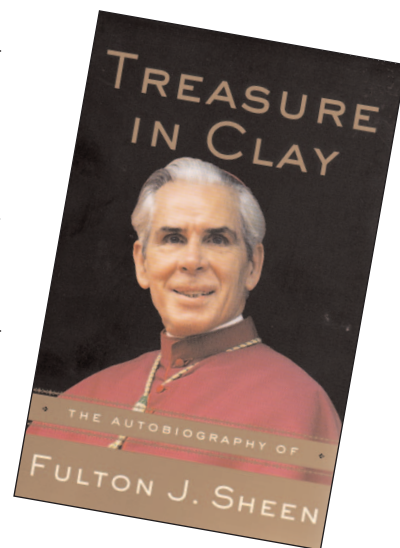
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