



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Let us prepare to welcome his shepherd

Christmas Message 2009

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For the 25th time, I have the joy of celebrating Christmas as your bishop and pastor. I can never thank God sufficiently for this splendid privilege. While I have always felt unworthy, Christmas in your midst has always brought me great joy, the joy which St. Paul describes as the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

At this Christmas, we remember that this joy comes from a Mystery, which is both divine and human; and because it is divine has no end. To paraphrase St. Augustine, the voice changes, but the Word remains the same. It will be preached soon by another shepherd — young, energetic and filled with faith, but the Word he preaches is eternal.

The Mystery of Christ. The Incarnation. God assuming human nature. He comes to save us. The voice changes. The Word does not. This should fill us with peace.

It can be said that just Jesus Christ is keeping His promise. "I will not leave you orphans." The Mystery of Christmas preached in these parts for 300 years, beginning in the wilderness, continues, for Jesus Christ is eternal, and the church, which is his body, remains as a light for all. Let us embrace this profound truth for as our local church undergoes change, it remains vital and strong always guided by Christ. Let us welcome Christ at Christmas, and let us prepare to welcome his shepherd with all our hearts.

A blessed Christmas to you all.

With every best wish and prayer, I remain
Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Rev. John M. D'Arcy

DETAIL VIEW OF SLOVENIAN ICON OF MARY, CHRIST CHILD



CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

Mary and the Christ Child are depicted in this detail view of the painting of Our Lady of Brezje at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil commemorating the birth of Christ and ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 10, 2010.

YEAR of our PRIESTS

BY MARK WEBER



FATHER KENNETH J. SARRAZINE

A farm kid on the flat land east of Fort Wayne who has fleeting thoughts of the priesthood might see himself in bright vestments throwing holy

smoke at admiring parishioners and not as a man in a black suit and simple stole,

YEAR OF, PAGE 4

From pastor to rector to bishop, Bishop explains priesthood

BY TIM JOHNSON

HARRISBURG, Pa. — In this Year for Priests promulgated by Pope Benedict XVI, it is easily discerned that priestly formation is a high priority with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. His priestly duties have included pastor at an inner-city parish, seminary rector as well as bishop.

The former rector of Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmittsburg, Md., from March of 1997 to Dec. 9, 2004, was also an instructor of systematic theology, canon law and Hispanic ministry as a full-time faculty member for the two years prior to his assignment.



Meet Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

"I felt very blessed to be invited and sent to teach there," Bishop Rhoades said. "I was very surprised when I was asked to be the rector of the seminary."

That was a big responsibility. Mount Saint Mary's is a national seminary, the oldest in the United States, and seminarians from throughout the United States attend there. The seminary is noted for its strong

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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PUBLISHER: Bishop John M. D'Arcy

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

NEWS EDITOR and STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Lauren Caggiano,
Michelle Castleman, Karen Clifford,
Elmer J. Danch, Bonnie Elbersen,
Denise Fedorow, Diane Freeby, May
Lee Johnson, Sister Margie Lavonis,
CSC, Joe Kozinski and Deb Wagner

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Kathy Denice

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol
kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen (Fort Wayne area)

(260) 456-2824

Jeanette Simon (South Bend area)

(574) 234-0687

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Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260)
456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 114 W. Wayne St., South
Bend, IN 46601. Telephone (574) 234-
0687. Fax: (574) 232-8483.

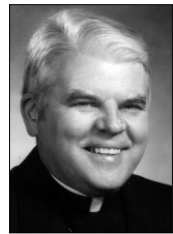
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Busy but splendid days for Bishop John M. D'Arcy



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A triple header: Tiring but beautiful

It began late on Saturday afternoon, when I traveled to the University of Saint Francis. It was the 20th anniversary of The Franciscan Center. Started by several of the famous Tippmann family, including Sally Ley, the center, working out of the former Sacred Heart School, feeds hundreds every day with sack lunches, and their work has increased greatly in these difficult economic times. To commemorate the day, a legendary preacher, Father Benedict Groeschel, a Capuchin Franciscan and founder of the Franciscans of the Renewal, presented a day of prayer. As always with Father Groeschel, there was a large crowd. He sat in the middle of the people due to his serious accident, and presented Catholic spirituality with joy and good humor before a large crowd. Father Groeschel is especially well known through his conversations on EWTN, and he can be heard regularly praying the rosary on Redeemer Radio, 1450 AM on your dial in the Fort Wayne area.

He reminded me before Mass that it was 40 years ago when we first met, and he gave a retreat to the seminarians at St. John's in Brighton. He has been a warrior for Christ, and it was a pleasure to see him.

I celebrated Mass along with Father Groeschel and Father Ron Rieder, OFM Cap, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Huntington, a beloved priest in our diocese, also concelebrated. I preached on the mystery of Advent.

St. Patrick's and Our Lady of Guadalupe

What followed next, I must say was a beautiful experience. Many will remember the painful closing of St. Paul Church and the procession with the Blessed Sacrament and the statue of Our Lady to St. Patrick's. I recall a painful hearing at both churches with heightened anger and resistance. It was not easy for the Hispanic Catholics to make this short journey of about one mile from the place that had become their spiritual home, nor was it easy for the many older parishioners of St. Patrick's. I think of Agnes and Jim McCardle, and also Jim and Mary Feltz. Transitions take time, but Our Lady of Guadalupe had her plans.

The Society of the Divine Word

Two exemplary priests are now at St. Patrick's. That would be Father Chau Pham, SVD, and Father Tom Ascherman, SVD. St. Patrick's, this beloved old church that has always welcomed the immigrant was packed, standing room only. Flags from all the Latin countries. Father Tom pointed out that the Irish flag was also

there. Roses everywhere. The beautiful portrayal of the events that took place at Tepeyac with the apparition to Juan Diego.

Father Tom is the perfect priest to oversee this extraordinary annual event. He received a doctorate in theology from Catholic University, and his doctoral dissertation was on the apparition; indeed, not only on the apparition, but everything surrounding it. He has told me in the past about the conversion of the bishop, from a good bishop to a bishop touched by Our Lady, and by the needs of the native people of Mexico. He preached a beautiful homily in Spanish.

Next year, Bishop Rhoades will be able to honor this feast with homilies in Spanish, and maybe the retiring bishop will have learned enough Spanish then to preach at one of our many churches where the worship takes place in Spanish. I thought of St. Patrick's currently baptizing about 250 children a year. The parish has gone through many changes, but now seems settled with Mass every weekend in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

This Mass will forever remain in my memory. The prayerfulness of the people. The increasing number who went to holy Communion. The devotion to Our Lady, and the reverence of all.

More to come

After some nourishing Mexican tacos I went up to the top floor, to the old gymnasium, to watch a series of dances.

Dancing. So much a part of culture. I thought of my kitchen in Brighton when I was a child, and how members of my parents' families, brothers and sisters and cousins, would come into the kitchen and do Irish step-dancing. They called it kitchen rackets, but I could see how similar it was to these beautiful Latin-American dances.

We had Mexican dancers, and Columbian, and dancers from Ecuador. All different and all beautiful. Father Tom pointed something out to me. The large number of people, including children, who were sitting around the edge of the gymnasium and up in the balcony and watching intently, the children focusing on every step by the dancers all in their native garb. It made us wonder what television has done to us. People used to provide their own entertainment and conversation was part of it. So it was in my home as a boy. Now we sit and look at a box, and people play fantasy football, as if that is humanly nourishing. I urged the people afterwards not to lose their native culture, but to explain it to their children.

Off to Manchester

Off then the next morning to St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Manchester for the installation of Father Thomas Kodakassery, OSB. I have always felt close to this small parish, and Father Thomas is doing very well. Once a month, he offers Mass at Manchester College. I was delighted that there were a significant number of students there from that college. Thanks to Mary Glowaski and Mike Gibson for their good work at that college.

A day for priests in the Year for Priests

On a cold, wintry and windy morning, 62 priests gathered at St. Martin de Porres Parish in Syracuse for a Day of Prayer, which was presented by Bishop Carl Mengeling, bishop emeritus of Lansing. He is a native of the Diocese of Gary and studied at St. Meinrad's with many of our priests.

He gave us a beautiful talk on the five promises, which a priest makes on the day of his ordination. How beautiful to see the attention and prayerfulness of our priests as they listened to this excellent presentation; and what a source of joy to me, in this last Day of Recollection that I will make with our priests as their bishop, to see the large number going to confession as four different priests, including Bishop Mengeling, hearing confessions.

This was followed by a meeting of consultants. According to canon law, the Council of Priests ceases to exist with the appointment of a new bishop. The College of Consultants, however, remains in existence and we met at length over a number of important issues; and it is one of the things I cherish most, and will surely miss; namely, serious consultations with brother priests on important pastoral issues.

Off then, to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for lovely evening prayer and the official installation of our seven new monsignors and the awarding of the Cross of St. Gregory to Professor John Cavadini, chair of the theology department at Notre Dame.

These are splendid days

At St. Patrick's (Parrochia San Patricio) I received a magnificent picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and at Manchester — a Red Sox jacket. Tokens of affection and deeply appreciated.

I am in regular touch with Bishop Rhoades, and I grow in admiration every time we talk. The good Lord has given us, through the Successor of Peter, an exemplary bishop who will enrich our diocese.

I will share my plans more with you in the future. I have planned an opportunity in each end of the diocese to meet with as many as possible to thank God for his blessings on these 24 years. **On Jan. 3, 2010, I will celebrate the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish. A reception will follow in the parish school.**

On Jan. 10, I will celebrate the 11:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. A reception will follow across the street at the Grand Wayne Center. No personal gifts. Those so inclined may make a gift to the Catholic Education Fund, which gives tuition grants to those needing help to attend Catholic schools.

I also plan to have a prayerful meeting with my priests in a couple of weeks — priests and bishop only. I hope to reflect a bit more on these special days in our diocese and in the weeks ahead.

See you next week.

RHOADES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spiritual life. Prayer life includes a holy hour every day of eucharistic adoration besides daily Mass and liturgy of the hours. And the academic program is very rigorous.

Rector, spiritual father

"I really saw my role there as a spiritual father," Bishop Rhoades told *Today's Catholic* from his office in Harrisburg, Pa., in early December. "That is how I thought of the role of being the rector."

Bishop Rhoades gave weekly rector's conferences where he talked to the seminarians about different facets of priestly life and ministry. And while rector, he continued to teach a course on the priesthood.

"It was very rewarding," Bishop Rhoades said. "I would say they were very happy years there, but also very humbling to be a part of the preparation of men for the priesthood."

He said, "I was very much guided throughout my priesthood, but also as rector, by the teaching and the example of Pope John Paul II, and I think the way I led the seminary was very much in accord with the thinking of Pope John Paul when he wrote that wonderful exhortation, 'I Will Give You Shepherds.'"

As rector, he was concerned with spiritual, intellectual, pastoral and human formation.

"It is really joyful for me when I go around now to different dioceses, I see these men who were seminarians doing such wonderful work as priests. It is very edifying for me," he said.

Bishop Rhoades said it is so important in seminary that the habit of prayer, continual study and being faithful to the teachings of the church be developed in the priests, so they can, as Pope John Paul II said, "be shepherds after the heart of Christ."

Preparation as a bishop

Bishop Rhoades' days as a seminary rector was great preparation to be a bishop. As the head of an educational ecclesial community, the rector was in charge of employees, supervised faculty and seminarians, and held a role of spiritual fatherhood.

It involves Christ the Good Shepherd. "In a sense," Bishop Rhoades said, "I think that's how a rector is in the community of a seminary, that's how a bishop is in his diocese."

"And that is how I look at the role of bishop," he said, "not so much as the CEO or the administrator, but really spiritual father of the diocese — both for the priests, but also for the people."

Culture of vocations

Bishop Rhoades credits the movement of the Holy Spirit as the impetus to the great number in the increase of seminarians in the Diocese of Harrisburg — from 11 in 2004 to 26 today — and creating a culture of vocations in the diocese.

"One of the things is we had to make this a priority," Bishop Rhoades said. "From the first day I became bishop I spoke about this. There is a very wonderful young priest who is vocation director (in Harrisburg) and very energetic. We started programs of retreats for young men. They were very successful."

He added, "I think the most important thing was getting all our priests on board that they would promote priestly vocations in the parishes and in the schools, and that our priests participate in these retreats where they told their vocation stories to the young men."

"I think also the importance of doing, in our high schools and our colleges, youth ministry programs that really welcome and introduce the young men to the possibility of God's calling them to the priesthood," he said. "So it really has to be a culture of vocations in the diocese."

And prayer was most important in this culture. "We have 10 perpetual adoration chapels (in the

Diocese of Harrisburg) where people are particularly asked when they make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament to pray for more vocations to the priesthood as well as the consecrated life."

Qualities of a good priest

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the qualities that make a good priest. "I think you have to start with the very human qualities — personality," he said. "One of the things Pope John Paul said was our personalities need to be a bridge and not an obstacle to people's encounter with Christ."

Also priestly formation has its basis in human virtues, he added. "I think generosity of spirit, kindness, thoughtfulness, integrity, truthfulness, courtesy — all those are so fundamental to the Christian life, but they are fundamental to the priestly life, because without those basic virtues they may become more of an obstacle than a bridge to people's encounter with Christ."

"Then you go a step further for a priest, the primary thing is what Pope John Paul wrote was pastoral charity," Bishop Rhoades added, "that in imitation of the charity of Christ we see his self-giving love to the point of the cross, that self-sacrificing life."

He said the strong priestly virtue of self-gift is very much the same for marriage "where a husband gives himself to his wife and to his children, the priest needs to learn that same spirit of selfless, service giving, in this case to his spouse — the church — and to the spiritual children that he begets as a spiritual father."

Bishop Rhoades added some important aspects to priestly life: fidelity to the promises made in the priesthood; obedience; a healthy life of chaste celibacy where one has the affective maturity to live celibacy faithfully; and a detachment from material things — a certain amount of simplicity of life.

"It really is about conformity to Christ the Good Shepherd in the end, it's being Christlike," Bishop Rhoades concluded.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Pope Benedict XVI conveys gratitude to Bishop D'Arcy

The following is a letter sent to Bishop John M. D'Arcy from Cardinal Giovanni Re, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops

Vatican City, Nov. 14, 2009

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of your resignation from the Office of Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, has requested that I convey to you his deep gratitude for your generous episcopal service to the church. The Holy Father is particularly grateful for your willingness to continue in the Office of Bishop beyond your 75th birthday.

Throughout your episcopal ministry, both as auxiliary bishop of Boston and as ordinary of Fort Wayne-South Bend, you have manifested a great loyalty to the Successor of Peter and a strong fidelity to Holy Mother Church. Always placing the spiritual needs of your flock first, you have carried out your apostolic ministry during these 35 years with zeal and tireless dedication.

As bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, you worked diligently to provide sound Catholic education to the young, ensuring that Catholic schools were faithful to their mission and identity. You showed particular attention to your priests, wisely and patiently shepherding them over the years to greater unity and communion and forming them in pastoral charity. Your fatherly and joyful witness has attracted good and holy men to the priesthood, and your prayerful leadership has strengthened and encouraged religious men and women and the lay faithful.

You taught clearly and consistently that each human life is sacred and you defended the dignity of the human person and the meaning of human sexuality in God's plan. In making Christ's voice heard and heeded in every setting, you were not afraid to challenge Catholics to give a full and faithful witness to the faith. The manner in which you exercised the "munus docendi" required of all bishops has been exemplary.

It is the hope of the Holy Father that, free from the burdens of administration, you will experience serene joy in the years ahead, united in faith and charity with the bishop, priests, deacons, religious and laity of Fort Wayne-South Bend. His Holiness wishes you the joy and satisfaction which come through an awareness of the manifold graces which the Lord has accomplished through your almost 53 years of priestly ministry.

May you draw spiritual strength in reflecting on that privilege which is yours as a successor to the Apostles and, aware of the tender intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may you continue to be a herald of hope, clinging to the words you chose for your episcopal motto: "In Aeternum Misericordia Eius."

Invoking upon you grace and peace, and with fraternal affection in our Lord Jesus Christ, His Holiness imparts to you his apostolic blessing. I take this occasion to extend to you my own best wishes and prayers for abundant graces.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Cardinal Re

Papal honors conferred on monsignors, Knight of St. Gregory

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Parishioners, religious, friends and families filled the pews of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 10 in a solemn vespers service to honor seven monsignors and a Notre Dame theology professor who was made a Knight of St. Gregory.

In his homily, Bishop John M. D'Arcy commented that these honors are beautiful and accepted in humility. "They link the presbyterate, that is the college of priests, closer to the Holy Father. And they hold up," Bishop D'Arcy said, "and bring to the light the work of

the particular priests. For example, two of the priests are rectors of our cathedrals."

Bishop D'Arcy referred to Msgr. Robert Schulte at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne and to Msgr. Michael Heintz at St. Matthew Co-Cathedral in South Bend.

"Both cathedrals are places that went through the dryness period in the use of the sacrament of penance," Bishop D'Arcy noted. "Remember the words of John Vianney, 'No pastor can ever accept empty confessionals.'"

The two cathedrals, Bishop D'Arcy said, "are noted for the regular practice of the sacrament



PHOTOS BY TIM JOHNSON

Monsignors receiving papal honors at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 10 include, from left, Msgr. William Schooler, Msgr. Bernard Galic, Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, Msgr. Robert Schulte, Msgr. John Kuzmich and Msgr. Michael Heintz.

of penance and is there anything more central to the mission of Jesus Christ than the forgiveness of sins — for he is our Redeemer — and that forgiveness is exercised through the ministry of the priest."

The pastors of the two largest parishes in the diocese — Msgr. William Schooler at St. Pius X in Granger and Msgr. John Kuzmich of St. Vincent De Paul in Fort Wayne — were honored. "It isn't just because they are the two largest parishes in the diocese, it is because of the vitality that has come forth from both pastor and flock," he said.

"These two parishes both live

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HONORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the spirit of sacrificial stewardship, something so alien to the culture today," Bishop D'Arcy said, "that large amounts of their resources are given away."

He said these parishes show vitality through instruction, outreach, evangelization, as well by their sizes. "And so those parishes are honored and held up," he said.

Also honored was Msgr. Bruce Piechocki of the diocesan Marriage Tribunal, "which defends marriage — defends the perma-

nence of marriage, and that communion of life with love which is marriage," Bishop D'Arcy said. "It defends marriage's fidelity. It defends against an alien culture that marriage is one man and one woman, a sacrament forever.

"These are vital things in the church," Bishop D'Arcy said, "and our great gift that we give to the culture. So the priest responsible for strengthening that life, that respect for marriage, is also honored because of the essential nature of that work."

Another diocesan office, the Office of Vocation, director Msgr. Bernard Galic was honored for his work, especially through "the particular pain that fell upon our church," the bishop noted. "The

director of our Office of Vocations kept laboring, kept seeking young men who would look on this life as a gift of God, look upon it as a great adventure with Jesus Christ, and learn that for him, for that young man, was the greatest, most beautiful thing he could do for his life."

Bishop D'Arcy said, "not only should (Msgr. Galic) be held up, but that work should be held up, strengthened and disciplined and made more beautiful."

Referring to Msgr. Raymond Balzer, Bishop D'Arcy said, "We are always in debt to the priests who are retired, who go out ceaselessly to parishes to help out with confessions or Mass so that the work of Jesus Christ might contin-

ue in this difficult time."

Msgr. Balzer was unable to attend the solemn vespers service, but Bishop D'Arcy noted, "I never met a man who had more of the soul of the priesthood in his heart. He is honored that all retired priests must also be honored."

Professor John Cavadini, chair of the theology department at the University of Notre Dame, was recently honored as a Knight of St. Gregory, (the pope known as a

magnificent reformer of the church) and also named by the pope to the International Theological Commission.

Those are the theologians "closest to the pope," Bishop D'Arcy said, "who advise him how the church should ponder the great issues of the time and give an answer as faithful to the Gospel but will nourish our faith, hope and love of the men and women of this time."

YEAR *of* PRIESTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

anointing a wasted patient struggling into the afterlife.

It turns out, however, that being present at the time of death is one of the most satisfying aspects in the ministry of Father Ken Sarrazine. "It is a special privilege to witness the priestly ministry of Jesus in the lives of the seriously ill and dying" he says, "... the presence of Jesus is so precious. I thank God for his gift of allowing me to be at peace as God calls his sons and daughters from this earth."

Every duty of the priest's life appeals to Father Sarrazine, of course, from baptizing infants or adults. Helping new Catholics find their place in the family of God, or helping other Catholics find their way home again, brings him special joy.

As a youngster in Besancon, Ken Sarrazine was warmly wrapped in a Catholic culture at home and at the St. Louis Academy and had consistent admiration for Father Jesse Lothamer, a son of the parish, Father Joseph Hession, pastor, and Bishop John Francis Noll. These men, as well as his parents, were his heroes, and it was with his parents that he, as an eighth grader, first shared his thoughts of the priesthood.

For Norman and Florence

Sarrazine, there was no hesitation on how to respond to their son's confidentiality. "They brought me to our pastor, Father Carl J. Holzinger, who helped me prepare for our diocesan minor seminary," recalls Father Ken.

The following 12 years were split between Our Lady of the Lake Seminary at Lake Wawasee and St. Mary's Major Seminary, Norwood, Ohio, and finally, ordination by Bishop Leo Pursley on Dec. 22, 1962.

Father's first assignment was as assistant at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, followed by posts as assistant at St. Henry, Fort Wayne, St. Jude, South Bend, St. John the Baptist, New Haven and at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

His first pastorate was at St. Martin de Porres, Syracuse, followed by pastorate positions at St. Joseph, Mishawaka, St. Henry, Fort Wayne, and his present post at St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke, and St. Catherine, Nix Settlement.

After 42 years of priesthood, Father Ken Sarrazine sums it up this way, "I can best describe the joy I have found in the priesthood of Jesus in this diocese in a frequently spoken comment of Msgr. Thomas Durkin describing the joys, peace and challenges of his priestly service to God, "All this and heaven besides."

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Archbishop Sheen knew Jesus was 'way to heaven'

NEW YORK (CNS) — The purpose of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's philosophy and theology, radio and TV programs, books, articles, retreats and conferences was "to help us discover the purpose of life — eternal union with God," said Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York.

"His pivotal insight, central to revelation, was that Jesus Christ was the way to heaven, the truth about how to get there, the life we hope to share for all eternity," he said in a homily Dec. 9 at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The archbishop was the principal celebrant of a Mass at the cathedral to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death of Archbishop Sheen.

Masses were celebrated in all 50 states and in 35 countries — including Pakistan, Fiji and the Czech Republic — to mark the anniversary and to promote the late archbishop's cause for canonization, formally opened by the Vatican in 2003.

In New York, Archbishop Dolan was joined by cardinals, bishops and priests from around the U.S. and abroad, including Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., Archbishop Sheen's home diocese; Msgr. Stanley Deptula, executive director of the Archbishop Fulton John Sheen Foundation, based in Peoria; and Msgr. John E. Kozar, national director of the pontifical missionary societies in the United States.

The body of the late archbishop, who was an auxiliary bishop of New York from 1951-65, is interred in the crypt of St. Patrick's Cathedral. The crypt was open to the public immediately before and after the Mass.

In his homily Archbishop Dolan said it was a blessing to have in the congregation "so many of his family, friends, admirers and those we may call 'clients,' who look to him still with love and gratitude, eager for the wisdom he so effectively imparted, always in

the name of Christ Jesus, whom St. Paul reminds us today, is the very "wisdom of God."

The packed cathedral included members of the Sheen family.

Archbishop Sheen "wanted to get to heaven ... wanted to bring all of us with him ... wanted to be a saint. ... wanted us to be saints, too," Archbishop Dolan said.

"With his voice Fulton J. Sheen gave us the story of Jesus, the 'greatest story ever told,' the way the stained-glass windows of the medieval cathedrals, or the brush strokes of a Raphael, a Fra Angelico, a Giotto once did," he said.

"For him, this Jesus was alive, still active, still powerful, still teaching, still healing, still leading us to heaven, because, you see, the incarnation was still going on: The word was still taking flesh; God was still becoming man," Archbishop Dolan said.

In Rochester, where then-Bishop Sheen was head of the diocese from 1966 to 1969, Father John Mulligan celebrated a midday Mass in his memory at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Father Mulligan, a senior pastor for the cathedral community and one of the diocese's two vicars general, was a young priest during the bishop's tenure.

"He was a very dynamic individual who was full of ideas and enthusiasm," the priest said. "I think it was contagious."

Upon his retirement as bishop of Rochester in 1969, the late prelate received the title of archbishop.

"I've always felt that he brought with him a real commitment to live out the Second Vatican Council," Father Mulligan said after the Mass in an interview with the *Catholic Courier*, Rochester's diocesan newspaper.

Several items in the cathedral pay homage to Archbishop Sheen. One is the baldacchino, or canopy, now located over the cathedral's tabernacle. In his day, it was over

the cathedra, or bishop's chair.

Other items are the pulpit he used, which is still in use today, and his crest, which is displayed along with the crests of all of Rochester's bishops.

It's important to remember "that his spirit lives on and that he continues to inspire us," said Father Mulligan.

Born in El Paso, Ill., in the Diocese of Peoria, John Fulton Sheen was ordained a priest of that diocese in 1919.

He eventually left his central Illinois roots and became known nationwide as the host of pioneering radio and television programs, including "The Catholic Hour" and "Life Is Worth Living." The latter was a television series that aired from 1951 to 1957 and attracted an estimated 30 million weekly viewers.

In February 2008 the Peoria Diocese marked the end of five years of preliminary research into Archbishop Sheen's life and virtues.



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., with Msgr. Stanley Deptula, smiles as he addresses the assembly during a memorial Mass for Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York Dec. 9. The Mass marked the 30th anniversary of the death of the famed television and radio evangelizer. Msgr. Deptula is the executive director of the Peoria-based Archbishop Fulton John Sheen Foundation.



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Death penalty opponents protest Indiana's first execution in two years

MICHIGAN CITY (CNS) — About 20 death penalty opponents gathered in the bitter cold in Michigan City for a peaceful protest and to pray as the state of Indiana prepared for the first execution in Indiana since 2007. At approximately 12:39 a.m. Dec. 11, convicted murderer Matthew Eric Wrinkles, 49, was executed at the Indiana State Prison with a lethal injection of sodium pentathol, procium bromide and potassium chloride. "This is entirely wrong and it makes me a murderer, too," said John Souder Roser from nearby Furnessville. "When the state murders somebody, when they perform an execution, it's me. I am the state and I am not a murderer." Roser was part of the protest organized by the Duneland Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty in the parking lot in front of the prison gates. Marti Pizzini, the coalition's education coordinator, stated she stood steadfast in the cold because "the state shouldn't be allowed to kill someone in the dark of the night without someone noticing." Wrinkles was convicted of the 1994 murders of his estranged wife, Debra, her brother, Mark (Tony) Fulkerson, and Fulkerson's wife, Natalie, in Evansville.

Campaign aims to increase Hispanics in Catholic schools

SOUTH BEND (CNS) — A national task force commissioned by the University of Notre Dame launched a campaign Dec. 12 that seeks to enroll 1 million Hispanic students in Catholic schools by 2020. The Catholic School Advantage campaign comes out of a 65-page report the task force released the same day: "To Nurture the Soul of a Nation: Latino Families, Catholic Schools and Educational Opportunity." Dec. 12 also was the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas, to whom Hispanics have a special devotion. A key finding of the report showed that while more than 75 percent of Latinos in the U.S. are Catholic, only 3 percent of Latino children currently attend Catholic schools while public schools across the country have seen a rapid growth in the number of Hispanics. The report also said public schools have not served Latino students well, saying they are behind their peers on most measures of educational achievement. According to the report, Latino students fare much better at Catholic schools where they are 42 percent more likely to graduate from high school and two and a half times more likely to graduate from college than peers who attend public schools. "Much is at stake. No less than the future generation of leaders for our country," said task force co-chair Juliet Garcia, president of the University of Texas at Brownsville. "Catholic

NEWS BRIEFS

CHEYENNE DIOCESE RECEIVES NEW BISHOP



JAMES BACA, DENVER CATHOLIC REGISTER

Bishop Paul D. Etienne of Cheyenne, Wyo., smiles as he leaves his episcopal ordination and installation Mass at the Cheyenne Civic Center Dec. 9. Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., told Cheyenne Catholics that their new bishop has spent the last 17 years "becoming a good pastor, spiritual director and servant leader." He described being a bishop as "a ministry of loving service to be lived out" rather than a role to be played. A former pastor from the Indianapolis Archdiocese, Bishop Etienne now oversees the Diocese of Cheyenne and its 53,000 Catholics, 36 parishes and 36 missions.

schools must remain a steady and strong conduit for the many new generations of Latinos at their doorstep," she said in a statement.

Catholic influence seen in House health bill, but what about Senate?

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although the ultimate fate of health reform legislation in the U.S. Congress remained up in the air as the end of 2009 neared, one thing is certain: With their unequivocal call to keep the legislation abortion-neutral, the U.S. bishops had a strong influence on the debate. The role of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in the debate over healthcare reform drew criticism and praise, depending primarily on where the commentators stood of the abortion issue. Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., a Catholic who was the main sponsor of an amendment keeping the status quo on abortion funding in House health reform legislation, said the calls and letters to members of Congress from Catholic leaders and pro-life organizations were very helpful in persuading 64 Democrats to support his amendment. But Rep. Patrick Kennedy, a Catholic Democrat from Rhode Island who

supports keeping abortion legal, sharply criticized the bishops for their stance, saying they were fanning "the flames of dissent and discord" by insisting that health reform not expand abortion funding beyond the current, extremely limited circumstances. There was widespread agreement with the often-repeated calls by the USCCB, Catholic Health Association, Catholic Charities USA and other Catholic groups for action this year to help the nation's estimated 46.3 million uninsured.

Pope names Louisville pastor to be bishop of Diocese of Owensboro

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Father William F. Medley, 57, a pastor in Louisville, Ky., to succeed Bishop John J. McRaith as bishop of Owensboro, Ky. Bishop McRaith, 75, resigned last January. Father Michael Clark has been serving as diocesan administrator. The appointment was announced in Washington Dec. 15 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Medley's episcopal ordination will take place Feb. 10 at the Owensboro Sportscenter arena.

Vatican: Pope outraged by sex abuse in Ireland

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI shares "the outrage, betrayal and shame" felt by Irish Catholics over cases of clerical sexual abuse and the way abuse claims were handled by church leaders, and he plans to write a special pastoral letter to the Catholics of Ireland, the Vatican said. The letter "will clearly indicate the initiatives that are to be taken in response to the situation," said a statement issued by the Vatican Dec. 11. The statement was released after the pope and top Vatican officials spent 90 minutes meeting with Cardinal Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, president of the Irish bishops' conference, and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin. Cardinal Brady said the pope's letter, which is expected early in January, will outline several initiatives, including public services of repentance for Irish bishops and priests. "I asked him, in my opening remarks, to teach us, to help us be better shepherds of the people, to lead us on the way of repentance and so, therefore, there will be suggestions about celebrations of lament and repentance involving, first of all, us bishops and

priests," the cardinal told reporters. Calling a papal pastoral letter to one nation's Catholics "quite a significant document," Archbishop Martin said it would be the beginning of a whole process aimed at "a very significant reorganization of the church in Ireland." Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said the statement summarizing the meeting was approved by Pope Benedict and "obviously reflects his style and tone" in discussing revelations about clerical sex abuse.

Senate vote on abortion in health reform called 'a grave mistake'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Senate's rejection of a bipartisan abortion amendment to its version of healthcare reform legislation was "a grave mistake and a serious blow to genuine health reform," according to the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago and three USCCB committee chairmen commented on the Dec. 8 vote in separate statements Dec. 9. Following several hours of debate on the Senate floor, senators voted 54-45 to table the amendment sponsored by Sens. Ben Nelson, D-Neb.; Orrin Hatch, R-Utah; Robert Casey, D-Pa.; and at least five others. Cardinal George said he remained "hopeful that the protections overwhelmingly passed by the House will be incorporated into needed reform legislation." "Failure to exclude abortion funding will turn allies into adversaries and require us and others to oppose this bill because it abandons both principle and precedent," he added. Similar comments came after the vote from Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; and Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, who heads the Committee on Migration.

Bishop Pena of Brownsville retires; Detroit auxiliary to succeed him

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop Raymundo J. Pena of Brownsville, Texas, and named Auxiliary Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Detroit to succeed him. The changes were announced in Washington Dec. 9 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Flores, 48, has been an auxiliary bishop in Detroit since 2006. He is a native of Palacios, Texas, in the Victoria Diocese. Now one of 26 active Hispanic Catholic bishops in the U.S., he will be installed in Brownsville Feb. 2.

Bishop D'Arcy's Christmas week schedule announced

Bishop John M. D'Arcy's schedule for Christmas services is as follows:

On Wednesday, Dec. 24, Bishop D'Arcy will celebrate a Christmas Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St., South Bend. Later that evening, Bishop D'Arcy will return to Fort Wayne to preside at midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, located downtown. The midnight Mass will be televised live in the Fort Wayne area on WISE TV, Channel 33.

In South Bend, WNDU TV, Channel 16, is carrying midnight Mass live from the Vatican with Pope Benedict XVI.

On Christmas Day, Bishop D'Arcy will celebrate Christmas morning Mass at the University of Saint Francis Chapel in Fort Wayne at 10:30 a.m. The Mass will be broadcast live on WISE TV, Channel 33, Fort Wayne.

In South Bend, the Christmas morning Mass from the University of Saint Francis Chapel in Fort Wayne with Bishop D'Arcy presiding will air at noon and 5 p.m. on WNDU-TV, Channel 16, on Christmas day.

Bishop Dwenger Key Club collecting sleeping bags for the homeless

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Dwenger Key Club will be collecting sleeping bags through March 31 for St. Mary's Ave Maria House. Ave Maria House allows the homeless to come in to eat and bathe during the day, but closes at night. The sleeping bags collected will go to help keep the homeless warm at night in the upcoming cold, snowy weather.

Las Posadas celebration Dec. 20 at Victory Noll

HUNTINGTON — One of the most important Christmas traditions in Mexico and Latin America is Las Posadas, which is a reenactment of the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter along the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters will host the event "Las Posadas: Who is Knocking at the Door?" at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20, in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel, located on the Victory Noll campus in Huntington.

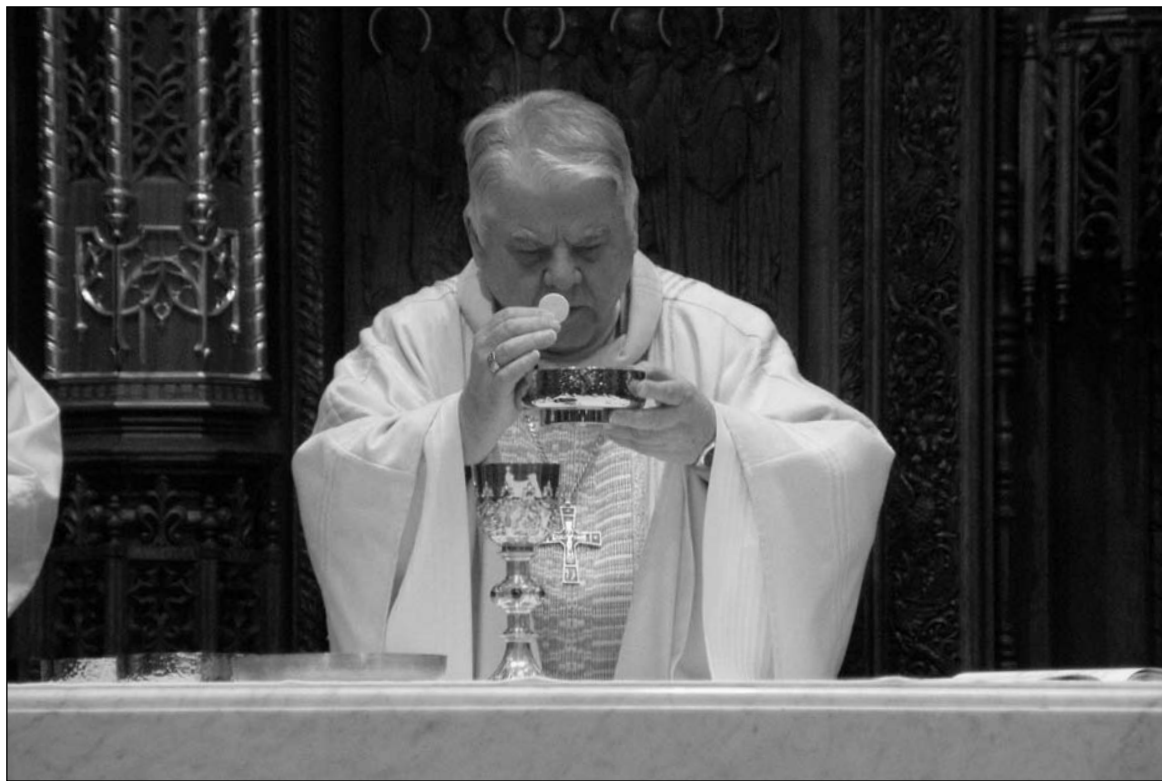
Spanish for "the inns," the Las Posadas celebration divides those attending into two groups, with one half "outside" begging for shelter from the other half of "insiders." Present-day reenactments remind that refugees, immigrants and the homeless live the reality of seeking shelter. Las Posadas closes with a festival atmosphere complete with food, drink and a piñata.

There is no cost for the celebration, and no prior registration is required. Victory Noll is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

For more information on this program, contact Sister Lucille

AROUND THE DIOCESE

BISHOP CELEBRATES FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



KAY COZAD

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated noon Mass on Dec. 8 to a full house at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne to commemorate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. In his homily, the bishop told the congregation that Mary was born the normal way but without sin and was an example of how to live as Christ's disciple. The Blessed Mother is the patroness of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Martinez at (260) 356-0628.

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is a religious community of women dedicated to serving the poor in the name of Christ. Founded in 1922 by Father John Joseph Sigstein, the members of the Victory Noll community now minister to those in need in 16 states.

Bishop Dwenger to hold reverse raffle

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Dwenger Music Boosters will be hosting a reverse raffle on Jan. 9, with dinner beginning at 5 p.m. and the raffle beginning at 6 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person and includes dinner, drinks and the raffle. Tickets for a table of eight is \$300. The grand prize is \$2,000, and only 600 tickets will be sold. Participants must be 21. For more information call (260) 485-3211 or e-mail dermfair@yahoo.com.

Saint Mary's student athletes present check to Sisters of the Holy Cross

NOTRE DAME — The Saint Mary's College Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and their "Belles for Africa" initiative presented a check for more than \$5,150 to the Sisters of the Holy

Cross on Friday, Dec. 11, on behalf of the sisters' group stationed in Uganda.

The initiative began after two Saint Mary's student athletes and four of their classmates spent part of the summer in the small, rural village of Kyarusozzi, Uganda, assisting the Sisters of the Holy Cross with their school and health clinic. After this life-changing experience, seniors Patty Duffy, a soccer player, and Megan McClowry, a cross country runner, wanted to do more. The two, with the help of the SAAC, started the "Belles for Africa" effort to raise money to aid the sisters and their school and clinic.

The fund-raising initiative included several approaches. The six students who went on the trip made a presentation to students, faculty and staff and received donations after the event, students sold Belles for Africa T-shirts, students skipped meals in the dining hall and the money went to the cause, and the cross country team had its own fund raising.

Duffy, McClowry and several members of each of the college's eight varsity teams presented the check to Sister Madeline Therese, who is involved with the international affairs at the convent in the Angela Athletic Facility.

"I am very excited to present the

check to Sister Madeline because I know that the money we raised will help purchase medications and save lives for those at the clinic," said McClowry. Duffy added, "It is a beautiful thing to see people helping out their neighbors, even if their neighbors are half a world away."

Holy Cross Father Jarret appointed superior of Moreau Seminary

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross Father Peter A. Jarret, religious superior of Holy Cross priests and brothers at the University of Notre Dame, has been appointed superior and rector of Moreau Seminary and coordinator of initial formation for the Indiana Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross, effective July 1.

Father Jarret has served as religious superior since 2006, with ministerial responsibility for the nearly 80 Holy Cross religious at Notre Dame. Prior to that appointment, he had served as rector of Keough Hall, and as counselor to Holy Cross Father Edward A. Malloy, then Notre Dame's president, from 2003 to 2005.

As religious superior of Holy Cross, Father Jarret is a Fellow of the University and member of the Notre Dame Board of Trustees.

A member of the provincial council of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Father Jarret serves on the University of Portland's Board of Regents and chairs the board of Life Treatment Center. He also teaches courses on pastoral administration and the sacrament of reconciliation in Notre Dame's master of divinity program.

Parishioners find meaning of Christmas by helping others

GRANGER — Parishioners at St. Pius X provided a literal mountain of presents for families in need in the South Bend community, all as part of the parish's Giving Tree Ministry.

Every year at the beginning of Advent, St. Pius families are invited to take a tag from the Giving Trees at the back of the church. On the tags are the names of children and a list of needs or wants.

St. Pius families purchase at least three gifts per child and leave the wrapped gifts at the back of the church. Parish volunteers, under the direction of Tara Schmitt, director of youth ministry, organize the gifts according to the charities that requested them.

The organizations receiving the gifts are St. Adalbert Church, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Brown Intermediate School, Horizon Elementary, Meadow's Edge Elementary and the Youth Services Bureau of St. Joseph County.

"Unwrap His Love" CD to benefit Whitley County Toys-For-Tots

COLUMBIA CITY — "Unwrap His Love" is a new Christmas CD from Columbia City's St. Paul of the Cross's Youth Worship Choir, Voice of the Spirit (VOTS). Containing four original and two standard Christmas songs, the album was produced in Columbia City at Big Cedar Studio.

The group recorded the album that went on sale Dec. 6. The CD sells for \$7, with \$5 from each sale going to Toys For Tots of Whitley County.

The five-year-old VOTS worship choir provides music once a month at St. Paul's. They also perform at special services throughout the year including the Christmas Eve youth Mass. For the past three years they have been invited to sing at the Community Thanksgiving Service. Membership is open to sixth- through 12th-grade students. Directed by Mark and Chris Schilling, the current members of VOTS include Diane Bear, Taylor Duncan, Emmily Eastman, Macenzie Lane, Gabbi Lawson, Taylor Martinez, Anna McCullough, Stacy Quinn, Laura Peterson, Baily Rentschler, Celia Rentschler, Hannah Schaefer, Dakota Schilling, Brittany Renninger, Katy Weachock and Emily Whiteleather.

CDs can be purchased after each weekend Mass at St. Paul Parish or by calling (260) 691-2447.

Communal intercession theme of conference

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — “People say there is a crisis of faith today, but that’s not the problem. The foundational problem is, there is not enough love.”

Father John Paul Joyce kicked off the Intercessors of the Lamb Conference, held the first weekend of December at the University of Notre Dame, by challenging those in attendance to call upon the Holy Spirit and Our Lady to overcome that crisis.

The two-day conference entitled “The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me” drew about 75 people and featured music, prayer and five energetic talks by Father Joyce. The Long Island native, who has been a member of the Intercessors since 1998, was ordained a priest in 2001. Since then, he has been living and sharing with others the charism of communal intercession (prayer for others).

During his first talk, “The New Dawn,” Father Joyce drew on Advent themes. Calling himself an “Advent Advocate,” he said the Incarnation is all about the impossible becoming possible and said that having the heart of Mary allows Jesus to enter into our hearts. Father Joyce illustrated why this is difficult in today’s culture as technology advances at a breakneck pace and we focus on being more analytical and intellectual.

“But God is calling his people, as Pope Benedict XVI has

said in one of his interviews, calling the church back from her head to her heart,” said Father Joyce. “Imagine that! This man, who’s our Holy Father ... (who’s) brilliant, who’s written so many books. And yet asked one time early in his pontificate what he hoped would be the ultimate achievement of his pontificate, he says, ‘to call the church back from her head to her heart.’”

Father Joyce went on to explain that our heart is called to have five spiritual senses: hands to feel and experience God, eyes to gaze upon the loveliness of the Lord, nose to smell the sweet fragrance of God, mouth to “taste and see the goodness of the Lord!” and ears to hear the word of Christ.

“Many hearts today, my friends, are starving,” said Father Joyce. “Many hearts are famished, because they’re living up here and are stuck. You name the addiction ... from Internet pornography to whatever it is ... I’m famished! And I can’t get here. Well, that’s what Intercessors are for. Contemplative Intercessors who are experiencing God at the level of the five senses of the heart, and then God uses Intercessors as his conduits, as his sacramental bridges, to get the very graces into other hearts of a famished and starving people.”

Father Joyce admitted that we live “on an angry and restless planet because we’re not resting in peace,” but he also said these



DIANE FREEBY

Father John Paul Joyce relaxes in between talks with Dennis Feece and Josh Comeau of Holy Family Parish in South Bend. Feece and Comeau provided music during the two-day conference held Dec. 5-6 at the University of Notre Dame. Father Joyce is a member of the Intercessors of the Lamb, a Catholic religious community founded by Mother Nadine Brown. The community is comprised of priests, consecrated brothers and sisters and lay families whose charism is communal intercession (prayer for others) and whose spirituality is contemplative, Marian and charismatic.

are days of hope.

“If I find myself discouraged or demoralized, maybe that’s where my prayer needs to begin today,” suggested Father Joyce. “Lord, give me your Spirit that gives hope.”

Throughout his talks, Father Joyce drew on Our Lady as the

perfect example, pointing to the trilogy of events in the first chapter of Luke: the Annunciation, the Visitation and

the Magnificat.

“Mary teaches us how to receive,” said Father Joyce. “She teaches us how to listen. Receptivity in the interior life is not just one thing among others. It is, in many ways, the key.”

Receiving, explained Father Joyce, means having a heart that is open and willing to surrender to God and accept his will for us. He said we live by our interior attitudes.

“Many people are very much in control of their lives,” said Father Joyce. “In face, white-knuckled control of their lives. The total opposite of Mary. She gave herself completely to God, and she did not care about her life or even the consequences. Even the consequences of being found pregnant out of wedlock. She could have been stoned to death ... she risks martyrdom in favor of God. Am I willing to risk martyrdom in favor of God? God invites us to enter into the lifestyle of Mary. To live every day ... let it be done to me according to Your Word. Living a surrendered lifestyle, which is in the heart.”

A men’s retreat is scheduled for Jan. 15-17 in Tipton. A women’s retreat is the following weekend. For more information, contact Dave Torma at (574) 291-3381. For more information on the Intercessors of the Lamb, visit www.bellwetheromaha.org.

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Franciscan Center anniversary celebration features Father Benedict Groeschel

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Father Benedict Groeschel spoke at the North Campus of the University of Saint Francis (USF) on Dec. 12 as the Fort Wayne Franciscan Center celebrated its 20th anniversary with a reception and special program of recognition. A popular author, retreat master and activist, Father Groeschel is host of the television talk show "Sunday Night Live with Father Benedict Groeschel," which is broadcast on the Eternal Word Television Network.

Father Groeschel expressed delight at being on the USF campus, a university that is known to be well-founded in Catholic doctrine. But the outspoken Franciscan priest noted in his remarks that not all colleges have remained true to the church.

He pointed out that we are emerging from a difficult period in the history of the Catholic Church. The decades of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s saw much confusion among Catholics about matters of

faith, he said, and many "sad examples" of the decline of the faith exist, especially in some so-called Catholic colleges around the nation. He railed against such institutions of higher learning, especially those which appear to support pro-abortion forces.

He pulled no punches with his audience, telling parents to do their research before sending their child to college. "Be very careful when you pay money to send someone to a Catholic college," he warned. He spoke of being on a secular college campus in California and seeing 500 students in attendance at Mass. That was better, in his mind, than what he's witnessed on some "phony Catholic" campuses.

However, Father Groeschel takes consolation in the fact that he's seeing a huge resurgence in Catholic studies today among ordinary, devout people. He believes that we are at the "edge of a new era in the Catholic Church in the U.S."

Young men and women are more dedicated to their faith and much more interested in traditional Catholic teaching than ever. "It's



JENNIFER SIMERMAN

Father Benedict Groeschel, a priest of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, was the guest speaker at The Franciscan Center's 20th anniversary celebration held Dec. 12 at the North Campus of the University of Saint Francis. He spoke of the importance for Catholic universities and colleges to be well-founded in Catholic doctrine. He poses with Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in this photo.

about time," he said.

Jim Christie, executive director of The Franciscan Center, opened the dedication portion of the event by recalling the center's modest

beginnings as a homeless shelter on Pontiac Street. At that time, founder Sally Ley, a Secular Franciscan and cofounder, and the late Jean Kelly, prepared and

served sandwiches to those in need on a daily basis. A short historical video was shown, which revealed the 20-year time span over which more than one million people have been served.

Ley was in attendance to receive Christie's congratulations for a job well done. "It's about sharing Christ's love," Christie said in acknowledgment of Ley's service to the center.

Today, The Franciscan Center is located at 4643 Gaywood Dr., Fort Wayne, in the former Sacred Heart School building. Programs run out of the center include St. Peter's Sack Lunch Program, which feeds more than 1,100 weekly; St. Anthony's Food Pantry, which serves more than 200 weekly; and St. Joseph's Medicine Cabinet where nursing students from USF check blood pressures and 125 people receive medicine each week. The homeless shelter was turned over to Vincent House 10 years ago.

Father Groeschel can empathize with the work of the Franciscan Center. He and seven Capuchin priest colleagues left their order in 1987 to begin the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal with the mission of preaching reform and serving the poor.

His appearance and address are the culmination of a busy time for the Franciscan Center. Other events commemorating the 20th anniversary year were a Hunger Walk, a dinner auction and Turkey Tuesday in November.

Father Groeschel ended his remarks on a high note. "Have hope," he said.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE ADORED



MARK WEBER

Representing the blended cultures of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, membership, Ginny Perkins, Chien Nguyen and Miguel Mendez presented Bishop John M. D'Arcy a framed image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at an evening Mass celebrating her feast.



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CHRISTMAS CAROLS HERALD HIM

BY VINCE LABARBERA

Singing and caroling at Christmas time is one of the oldest folk customs of the holiday season worldwide. The practice has been present, in fact, since the time when Christianity and the Christmas season were still in their budding stages. In the beginning, music compositions and songs at Christmas were in the form of chants and hymns. "Carol" originally meant "circle dance," a derivative of the French word *caroller*, the interpretation of which means dancing around in a circle. The words and lyrics to accompany this festive dance were added later to the tradition — hence Christmas caroling.

Initially, the church looked down upon carols and carol singing as a pagan custom and they could not be included in religious services. However, throughout the countryside, simple folk songs and Nativity carols were written and began to gain popularity.

In 1223, St. Francis of Assisi introduced carols into the formal worship of the church during a Christmas midnight Mass in a cave in Greccio, in the province of Umbria, Italy. That night, the songs and music that accompanied this sacred and formal event were not hymns but carols. Ever since then, carols have caught on with the people and were at their prime in the Middle Ages, when they were nearly always a part of the mystery plays.

There was a time when wandering minstrels and waits, or watchmen that guarded the old-walled cities in the night, used to pass their time by singing carols and also sang them to the people passing by. They would go from home to home, singing carols and entertaining people, and maybe get a treat in return. Later, groups of musicians began singing carols and playing them for various events held during the Christmas season.

As religious observances in the United States and England were closely linked, the popularity of Christmas carols grew in both countries in the 19th century. Many Christmas traditions relatively recent such as Santa Claus and reindeer bear no relation to Christmas carols.

Today, carol singing has become an important part of the Christmas season, and a number of caroling events are organized throughout the world during the festive season, especially on Christmas Eve. The origin of several popular, religious Christmas carols follows:

"Silent Night"

"Silent Night" (German: "Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht") is a very popular Christmas carol. The original lyrics of the song "Stille Nacht" were written in German by

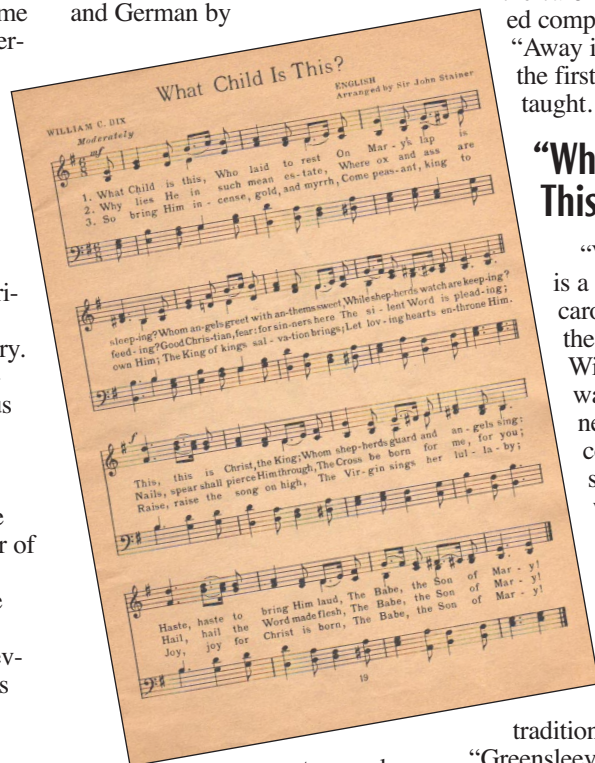
the Austrian priest Father Josef Mohr and the melody was composed by the Austrian headmaster Franz Xaver Gruber. In 1859, John Freeman Young published the English translation that is most frequently sung today. The version of the melody that currently is sung differs slightly (particularly in the final strain) from Gruber's original. The lyrics and melody are in the public domain.

The carol was first performed in the Nikolaus-Kirche (Church of St. Nicholas) in Oberndorf, Austria, on Dec. 24, 1818. Mohr had composed the words much earlier, in 1816, but on Christmas Eve brought them to Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for the church service.

In his written account regarding the composition of the carol, Gruber gives no mention of the specific inspiration for creating the song. According to the song's history provided by Austria's Silent Night Society, one supposition is that the church organ no longer was working so that Mohr and Gruber therefore created a song for accompaniment by guitar. "Silent Night" historian, Renate Ebeling-Winkler Berenguer says that the first mention of a broken organ was in a book published in the U.S.

Some believe that Mohr simply wanted a new Christmas carol that he could play on his guitar. The Silent Night Society says that there are "many romantic stories and legends" that add their own anecdotal details to the known facts, too numerous to report here.

The carol has been translated into more than 44 languages. It sometimes is sung without musical accompaniment. The song was sung simultaneously in English and German by



troops during the "Christmas truce" of 1914, as it was one of the few carols that soldiers on both sides of the front line knew.

"Away In a Manger"

"Away in a Manger" was first published in 1885 and used widely throughout the English-speaking world. The song originally was published with two verses in an Evangelical Lutheran Sunday School collection, "Little Children's Book for Schools and Families" (1885), edited by James R. Murray (1841-1905), where it simply bore the title "Away in a Manger" and was set to a tune called "St. Kilda," credited to J.E. Clark. Other sources say the author of "Away in A Manger" is unknown and that the music was composed by William J. Kirkpatrick in 1895.

For many years the text was credited to the German reformer Martin Luther. Research has shown, however, that this is nothing more than a fable. In the book "Dainty Songs for Little Lads and Lasses" (1887) it bears the title "Luther's Cradle Hymn" and the note, "Composed by Martin Luther for his children, and still sung by German mothers to their little ones." A possible reason for the spurious attribution to Luther is that the 400th anniversary of his birth was in 1883. It is believed the words were either based on a poem written for this anniversary or were credited to Luther as a marketing gimmick. This song has never been found in Luther's works.

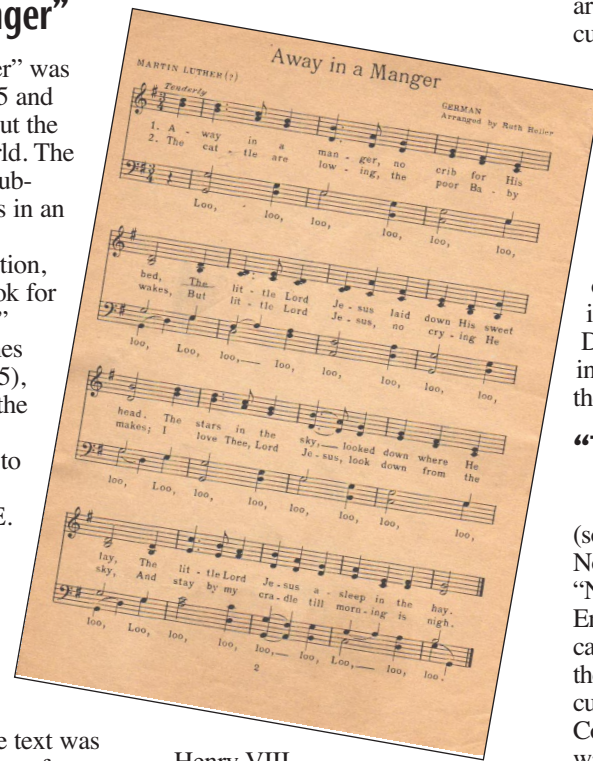
Ironically, years ago, many Catholic churches avoided singing the carol because of its purported composer. Today, however, "Away in a Manger" often is the first carol all children are taught.

"What Child Is This?"

"What Child Is This?" is a popular Christmas carol written in 1865. At the age of 29, writer William Chatterton Dix was struck with a sudden near-fatal illness and confined to bed rest for several months, during which time he went into a deep depression. Yet out of his near-death experience, Dix wrote many hymns, including "What Child is This?" It later was set to the

traditional melody of "Greensleeves," a traditional English folk song and tune.

The "Greensleeves" tune is found in several late 16th century and early 17th century sources. There is a persistent belief that "Greensleeves" was composed by



Henry VIII for his lover and future queen consort Anne Boleyn. However, Henry did not compose "Greensleeves," which probably is Elizabethan in origin and is based on an Italian style of composition that did not reach England until after his death.

The hymn "What Child Is This?" is used across the Western Christian church. A variation was used extensively in the 1962 movie "How the West Was Won" as the song "Home in the Meadow," lyrics by Sammy Cahn, performed by Debbie Reynolds.

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

The popular Christmas carol, "O Come All Ye Faithful," is based on the traditional melody of the Latin hymn, "Adeste Fidelis," attributed to John Francis Wade, an Englishman. The text itself has unclear beginnings and may have been written in the 13th century by St. Bonaventure or King John IV of Portugal. Though it was more commonly believed the text was written by an order of monks — the Cistercian, German, Portuguese and Spanish orders have, at various times been given credit, or that the tune was written by one of Wade's contemporary Roman Catholic Jacobites — it seems more likely that Wade probably was the author.

The original four verses of the hymn were extended to a total of eight, and these have been translated into many languages, many times, though the English translation by Frederick Oakeley is particularly widespread.

Before the emergence of J.F. Wade as the probable composer, the tune had been purported to be written by several musicians; from John Reading and his son, to Handel and a Portuguese musician, Marcos Antonio da Fonseca, who wasn't born until after the tune was first published. There are several similar musical themes written

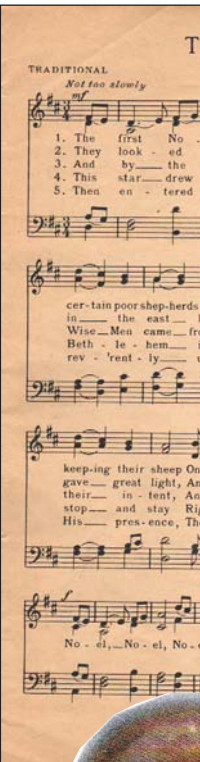
around that time, though it is difficult to determine whether these were written in imitation of the hymn, the hymn was based on them, or they are totally unconnected.

The earliest existing manuscript shows both words and tune. It was published in the 1760 edition of Evening Offices of the Church. Wade included it in his own publication of "Cantus Diversi" (1751). It also appeared in Samuel Webbe's "An Essay on the Church Plain Chant" (1782).

"The First Noel"

"The First Noel" (sometimes "The First Nowell" or just "Noel") is a traditional English Christmas carol, most likely from the 18th century. In its current form it is of Cornish origin, and it was first published in "Some Ancient Christmas Carols" (1823) and "Gilbert and Sandys Christmas Carols" (1833), edited by William B. Sandys and arranged, edited and with extra lyrics written by Davies Gilbert. The melody is unusual among English folk melodies in that it consists of one musical phrase repeated twice, followed by a variation on that phrase. All three phrases end on the third of the scale. The refrain, also unusual, merely repeats the melody of the verse. It is thought to be a corruption of an earlier melody sung in a church gallery setting. A conjectural reconstruction of the earlier version can be found in the "New Oxford Book of Carols."

The word Noel comes from the French word Noël meaning "night," from the Latin word *natalis* ("birth"). It may also be from the Gaulish words "noio" or "neu" meaning "new" and "helle" meaning "light" referring to the winter solstice when sunlight begins overtaking darkness. It is presently the idiomatic term for Christmas. In common with many traditional songs and carols the lyrics vary across books.



HISTORICAL TONE

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

The words of this carol are based on a traditional French carol literally known as “Angels in our countryside.” Its most common English version was translated in 1862 by James Chadwick. The carol quickly became popular in the West Country, where it was described as “Cornish” by R.R. Chope and featured in Pickard-Cambridge’s Collection of Dorset Carols. There also is a Scottish Gaelic translation of the carol,

which literally is known as “Angels We Have Heard on High.”

The song commemorates the story of the birth of Jesus Christ found in the Gospel of Luke, in which shepherds outside Bethlehem encounter a multitude of angels singing and praising the newborn child. It is most commonly sung to the hymn tune “Gloria,” as arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes. Its most memorable feature is its chorus: “Gloria in Excelsis Deo!” (Latin for “Glory to God in the highest”) where the sung vowel sound “o” of “Gloria” is fluidly sustained through a lengthy rising and falling melismatic melodic sequence: Glo-o-o-o-o-O-o-o-o-o-O-o-o-o-o-O-ri-a in Ex-cel-sis De-o! “Gloria in Excelsis Deo” is itself the name of an older famous hymn. The phrase also appears melodramatically in the Latin version of the carol “O Come All Ye Faithful,” though somewhat less extended: Glo-o-o-O-ri-a in Ex-cel-sis De-o.

In England, the words of James Montgomery’s “Angels from the Realms of Glory” are sung to this tune, except with the Gloria in excelsis Deo refrain.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” was written by Charles Wesley, brother of the Methodist movement founder John Wesley. It first appeared in “Hymns and Sacred Poems” in 1739, under the topic of “Hymn for Christmas-Day.” The original opening couplet was “Hark! how all the welkin rings / Glory to the King of Kings.” The version known today is the result of alterations by various hands, most notably George Whitefield, Wesley’s coworker, who changed the opening couplet to the familiar one

CAROLS, PAGE 12



MERRY CHRISTMAS

to our readers...



At noon on December 16, diocesan employees in Fort Wayne offered Mass in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. One of the petitions at that Mass was for you and your family...

*If you are traveling,
We prayed for your safety.*

*If a member of your family is ill,
We prayed for improved health.*

*If a family member is unemployed,
We prayed that a job comes your way.*

*If a child is expected,
We prayed for the Christ Child's
gentle assistance.*

*For you and yours,
We asked the blessings of
The Holy Family.*



The family is
the Church in miniature.

-John Paul II

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT YOUR PARISH



Sacred Heart Parish Notre Dame, Indiana CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE in CRYPT

**Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve Mass
4:00 pm Family Mass**

**Friday, December 25 Christmas Day Masses
9:00 and 11:00 am**

**Friday, January 1 Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation
9:00 am**

**Sunday, January 3 Epiphany of the Lord
6:30 am Crypt Mass
This is the Only Crypt Mass this day!**

**11:30 am Parish Mass in the Basilica
with the Three Kings**



Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve - December 24
4:00 pm - Holy Cross Church (Family Mass)
5:00 pm - St. Stanislaus Church
Midnight Mass 12:00 am - St. Stanislaus Church



Christmas Day - December 25
9:30 am - St. Stanislaus 11:00 am - Holy Cross
Mary, Mother of God Vigil (New Year's Eve)
5:30 pm - Holy Cross Church
Mary, Mother of God - January 1, 2010
9:30 am - St. Stanislaus Church



St. Monica Church

MISHAWAKA

Christmas Holiday Mass Schedule

December 24, 2009 - Christmas Eve

4:30 PM Children's Liturgy,
includes Children's Chime Choir
and Children's processions

10:00 PM - begins at 9:30
with carols sung by St. Monica Adult Choir

December 25, 2009 - Christmas Day

10:00 AM

January 1, 2010 - New Year's Day

10:00 AM

222 West Mishawaka Avenue

Christ the King Catholic Church

52473 State Road 933 N

South Bend, Indiana 46637

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2009

"Children's Mass"- 4:00 PM

Vigil Mass - 6:00 PM

Sacred Concert - 11:30 PM

Midnight Mass- 12:00 AM

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 2009

Christmas Day Mass - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31, 2009

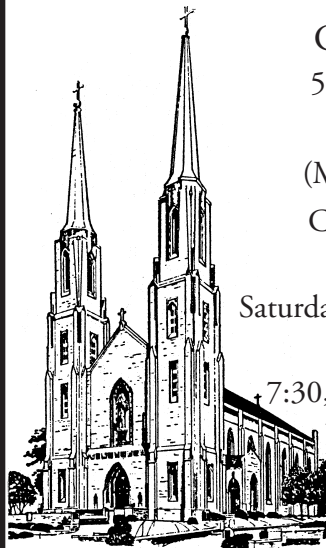
4:00 PM Vigil Mass

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2010

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

1100 South Calhoun Street - Fort Wayne



Christmas Eve Masses:

5:00 PM (Children's Mass)

Midnight Mass

(Music begins at 11:15 PM)

Christmas Morning Masses

8:30 & 11:00 AM

Saturday, Dec. 26 - No 5:00 PM Mass

Sunday, December 27

7:30, 9:00 & 11:30 AM 5:00 PM

New Year's Eve 5:00 PM

New Year's Day

9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Visit the Cathedral during this Season of Grace.

CAROLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

we know today. One of the tunes originally used for the carol also was used as a tune for "Amazing Grace." Wesley himself, however, envisaged his lyrics sung to the same tune as his Easter hymn, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

The melody that now is almost always used for this carol often is cited as being based on a chorus composed by Felix Mendelssohn in 1840, part of his "Festive Song" cantata. This cantata, with words by Adolf Prolz, was written, incidentally, to commemorate the printer Johann Gutenberg and the invention of his printing press.

Mendelssohn actually wrote two pieces called "Festive Song," one as Op. 68 and another with no opus number. It is the second that is the source of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," as verified in the book "Mendelssohn," written by W.S. Rockstro in 1895. Unfortunately, recordings of the work from which comes "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" are almost nonexistent.

This hymn was regarded as one of the Great Four Anglican Hymns and published as number 403 in "The Church Hymn Book" in the 19 century.

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" is both a poem and Christmas carol written by Edmund Sears, pastor of the Unitarian Church in Weston, Mass. It first appeared on Dec. 29, 1849, in the "Christian Register" in Boston. Sears is said to have written these words at the request of his friend, W. P. Lunt, a minister in Quincy, Mass. In 1850 Richard Storrs Willis, a composer who trained under Felix Mendelssohn, wrote the melody called "Carol," a widely-known tune to the song in the United States. In the United Kingdom the tune called "Noel," which was adapted from an English melody in 1874 by Arthur Sullivan, is the usual accompaniment.

"Joy to the World"

The words to "Joy to the World" are by English hymn writer Isaac Watts, based on Psalm 98 in the Bible. The song first was published in 1719 in Watts' collection, "The Psalms of David: Imitated in the language of the New Testament," and applied to the Christian state and worship. Watts wrote the words as a hymn glorifying Christ's triumphant return at the end of the age, rather than a Christmas song celebrating his first coming as a babe born in a stable. Only the second half of Watts' lyrics are still used today.

The music was adapted and arranged to Watts' lyrics by Lowell Mason in 1839 from an older melody which was then

believed to have originated from Handel, not least because the theme of the refrain "And heaven and nature sing ..." appears in the orchestra opening and accompaniment of the recitative "Comfort Ye" from Handel's "Messiah," and the first four notes match the beginning of the choruses: Lift up your heads and Glory to God from the same oratorio. However, Handel did not compose the entire tune.

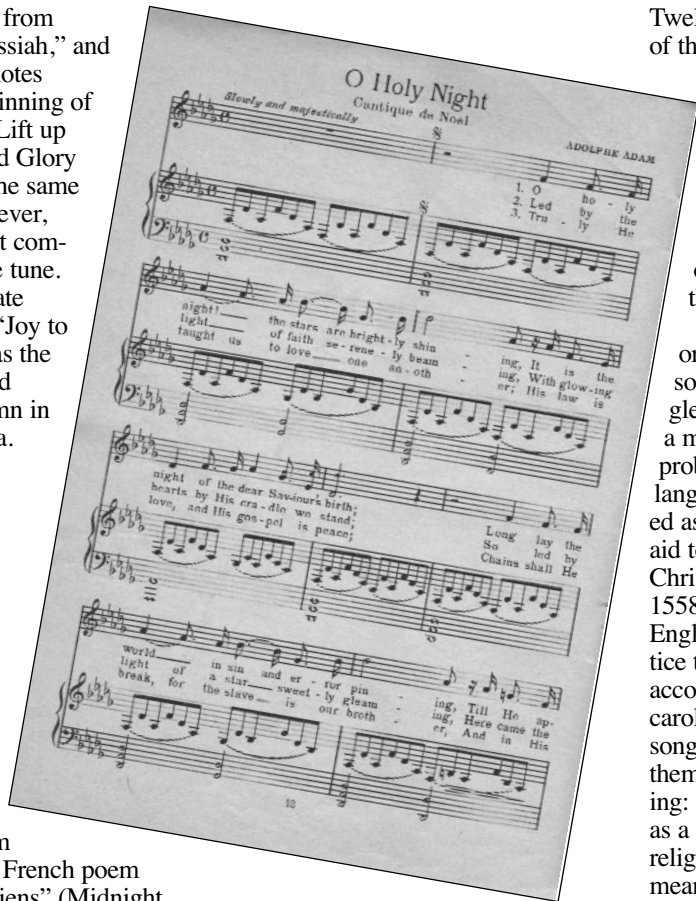
As of the late 20th century, "Joy to the World" was the most-published Christmas hymn in North America.

"O Holy Night"

"O Holy Night" ("Cantique de Noël") is a well-known Christmas carol composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847 to the French poem "Minuit, chrétiens" (Midnight, Christians) by Placide Cappeau (1808-1877), a wine merchant and poet. Cappeau was asked by a parish priest to write a Christmas poem. It has become a standard modern carol for solo performance with an operatic finish. In the carol, the singer recalls the birth of Jesus. It was translated into English by Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight, editor of "Dwight's Journal of Music" in 1855, and lyrics also exist in other languages.

On Dec. 24, 1906, Reginald Fessenden, a Canadian inventor, broadcast the first AM radio program, which included him playing "O Holy Night" on the violin. The carol therefore appears to have been the first piece of music to be broadcast on radio. It later appeared in an edition of carols by

Josiah Armes, published by Oxford in 1936, subsequently increasing its popularity.



"The Twelve Days of Christmas"

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" probably is the most misunderstood part of the church year among Christians who are not part of liturgical church traditions. Contrary to much popular belief, these are not the 12 days before Christmas, but in most of the Western church are the 12 days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany (Jan. 6; the 12 days count from Dec. 25 until Jan. 5). In some traditions, the first day of Christmas begins on the evening of Dec. 25 with the following day considered the first day of

Christmas (Dec. 26). In these traditions, the 12 days begin Dec. 26 and include Epiphany on Jan. 6.

In the Middle Ages, this period was one of continuous feasting and merrymaking, which climaxed on Twelfth Night, the traditional end of the Christmas season. In Tudor England, Twelfth Night itself was forever solidified in popular culture when William Shakespeare used it as setting for one of his most famous stage plays, titled "Twelfth Night." Often a Lord of Misrule was chosen to lead the Christmas revels.

The traditional English carol originally was a secular love song, and sounds to be by a single woman, whose "True Love," a man, sent her gifts. Initially, it probably was sung in the French language. The song was not created as a coded reference or memory aid to important articles of the Christian faith. In particular, from 1558 until 1829, Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. At that time, according to some sources, the carol was adopted as a catechism song for young Catholics. For them, it had two levels of meaning: the original surface meaning as a love song, plus later hidden religious meanings. The hidden meanings parallel the verses of the Anglican catechism song "A New Dial" about the numbers on a sundial, and, in modern times, the religious connotations in the popular song "Deck of Cards."

Nevertheless, the religious symbolism of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is as follows with A Partridge in a Pear Tree referring to Jesus Christ:

- 1 True Love refers to God
- 2 Turtle Doves refers to the Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens refers to faith, hope and charity, the theological virtues
- 4 Calling Birds refers to the four Gospels and/or the four evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings refers to the first five books of the Old

Testament, the "Pentateuch," which gives the history of humanity's fall from grace.

6 Geese a-laying refers to the six days of creation

7

Swans a-swimming refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments

8 Maids a-milking refers to the eight beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing refers to the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit

10 Lords a-leaping refers to the 10 commandments

11 Pipers Piping refers to the 11 faithful apostles

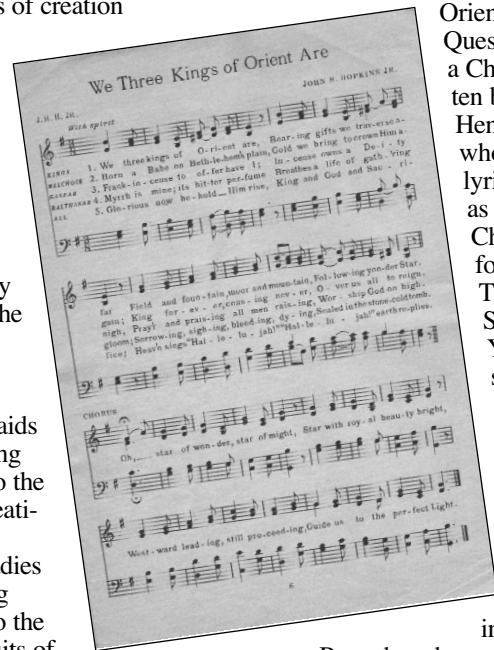
12 Drummers Drumming refers to the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

"We Three Kings"

"We Three Kings," also known as "We Three Kings of Orient Are" or "The Quest of the Magi," is a Christmas carol written by Rev. John Henry Hopkins, Jr., who wrote both the lyrics and the music as part of a Christmas pageant for the General Theological Seminary in New York City. It is suggested to have been written in 1857, but did not appear in print until his "Carols, Hymns and Song" in 1863. Hopkins composed the song

in Williamsport, Pa., where he was a pastor at Christ Episcopal Church (which still stands at the corner of Fourth and Mulberry Streets).

Aside from being a writer and editor, Hopkins also was a stained-glass artist and book illustrator.



Christmas TV Mass Specials



FORT WAYNE

Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass live from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception WISE-TV 33

Celebrant: Bishop John D'Arcy

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

Celebrant: Bishop John D'Arcy

SOUTH BEND

Christmas Day

Noon & 5:00 p.m.

WNDU-TV 16

Mass taped from Fort Wayne with Bishop D'Arcy

St. James Restaurant



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- Bar B Que Ribs

• Fish - Lobster - Prime Rib
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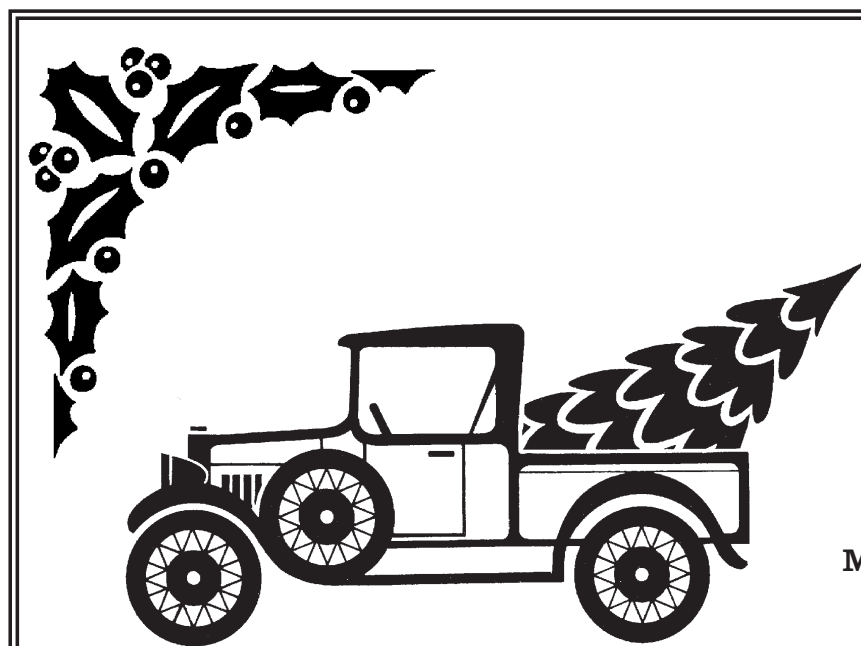
Friday-Saturday 7 AM - 11 PM

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EDITORIAL

Finding room at the inn

"No room at the inn." Those were the words the Holy Family heard as they sought shelter in Bethlehem as the birth of Christ neared. The only shelter the Holy Family was offered was a stable where the Savior was born under the most humble of conditions — in poverty.

Who would welcome the Christ Child? At first shepherds and later the Magi from the East.

As we near the holiday season, families will travel, often finding shelter — room at the inn — with family members. But what about our brothers and sisters who do not have a place at the inn. How will we welcome them? How can we recognize them?

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, there are many opportunities to assist those who have no place at the inn and offer examples in which we can meet Christ at the manger.

Catholic Charities, with its various ministries throughout the diocese, assists the refugees and the poor. The Children's Cottage Child Care Center in Fort Wayne offers an infant, toddler and pre-school child care program and before and after-school care. The South Bend food pantry offers food to those in need. And the Villa of the Woods in Fort Wayne provides residential housing for independent elderly persons. These are in addition to the counseling, adoption, foster care, pregnancy services, senior employment and training services offered by the diocese's comprehensive social and community services agency.

Many of our parishes offer food pantries to assist the poor. The St. Vincent de Paul Society has parish chapters and central operations in the large cities of the diocese.

The Center for the Homeless in South Bend provides services to homeless individuals and families. They offer on-site services providing mental-health counseling, medical services, job training and placement.

Vincent Village, celebrating their 20th anniversary this year, offers transitional shelter and affordable housing for homeless families.

The Women's Care Center, which is one of the most successful pregnancy help centers in the nation, operates centers throughout Fort Wayne, South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Bremen and Plymouth. They offer pregnancy tests, crisis pregnancy advocacy with respect for the dignity of the life of the mother and child. They offer post-abortion care.

The Christ Child Society has chapters in Fort Wayne and South Bend. They provide coats, mittens and hats to underprivileged children, offer layettes to babies of parents in need. In Fort Wayne, the society operates a Crib Club at the Women's Care Centers.

The Franciscan Center in Fort Wayne, also celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, operates a Sack Lunch Ministry, food pantry and medicine cabinet for those in need.

Our Father's House in Warsaw provides emergency assistance with food, clothing, furniture, diapers and other types of aid.

St. Augustine Church, South Bend, and St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne, operate soup kitchens. Near St. Mary Church is the Ave Maria House, which allows homeless people a place to come in off the streets, wash clothing, shower and access the computer during the daytime hours.

In the early fall, *Today's Catholic* featured the St. Martin Center in Garrett, which offers food and clothing items.

St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne offers a thrift shop and community center. They offer classes to help the Burmese population and others learn English.

The University of Notre Dame, the University of Saint Francis, and some parishes work together to assist Habitat for Humanity and help build homes.

This list is not comprehensive and we apologize to any we have unintentionally missed, but it shows the services provided within our own diocese, perhaps within our own parishes, that help us shelter and meet the Christ Child.

Please think of supporting these agencies during this time of need. Let us welcome Christ as the shepherds and the Magi did with our gifts.

We wish you all the blessings of Christ in this Advent and Christmas season. We do not publish Dec. 27. Our Jan. 3 issue will be a tribute to Bishop John M. D'Arcy followed by a welcome issue for Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades who will be ordained the ninth bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend on Jan. 13 at 2 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Today's Catholic editorial board is Kay Cozad, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.

COMMENTARY

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

The greatest gift of all

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

The economic crisis our country is experiencing provides us with a wonderful opportunity to focus more on the true meaning of Christmas, rather than on the materialistic spirit that often permeates our Western culture. Since so many people are unemployed or under employed and many family incomes are shrinking, a number of people will have to limit the type of gifts they give. And you know what? I don't think it is such a bad problem to have. Maybe we will become more in tune with the reason this time is known as the feast of Christmas rather than the "holiday" season.

Gift giving is good but often we tend to go overboard and to measure a person's love and care for us by the gifts they give us. And sometimes we give gifts just because someone gives a gift to us. We shudder in horror if someone brings us something and we did not get anything for him or her. It can cause a lot of unneeded stress.

The sharing of gifts is meant to be a sign of one's love and God gave us the greatest gift of all — Jesus. Like I heard in a homily at Christmas Mass a couple of years ago, Christmas is God's way of telling us he loves us personally. That sums up the message of Christianity. How utterly profound that is.

Whether we recognize it or not, God's love touches every human being and the world. Without this divine love nothing would exist. God's love, whether apparent or not, is the glue that keeps the world together. That is what gives us hope.

Material gifts don't last forever (except maybe diamonds). Many get lost, broken, lose their usefulness or we get bored with them. God's love never fades. It is eternal, always there. God is always faithful, even when we are not. God loves us so much that he desires to be with us, morning, noon and night. His care for us is so great that God even became a human being for us. This is what we celebrate at Christmas.

God's gift is love and the way God chooses to love is through us. We are his ordinary instruments. God can't give a hug, but we can.

Maybe during this Christmas season we can give the kind of gifts that no amount of money can buy. We could give of ourselves rather than merely material things. We could work on mending or renewing old relationships. Or we do that charitable act that we think about a lot but never seem to get around to doing. We could visit or call people who we know are lonely or need some comfort.

Finally, there is no problem with giving gifts to others at Christmas, but remember the significance behind them and emphasize the love, not the monetary value.

Try to take more time to ponder the true meaning of Christmas and less time in the malls. If the value of Christmas is merely measured by the things we get, then it might be a very sparse Christmas for a lot of us. I hope it is a beautiful season for you and those you care about.

Indiana Knights to take the plunge

Winter has arrived and while most of us seek a nice warm happy place to spend the season, many members of the Indiana Knights of Columbus are planning a not-so-warm adventure. Beginning in January members of the Indiana Knights of Columbus are preparing to strip down and take the plunge into freezing waters to raise money for the Indiana Special Olympics. Whether you are a member or not, come join the goose-bump parade, raise \$75 or more and take the plunge!

Indiana Special Olympics provides year-around training and conditioning for children and adults with intellectual disabilities in more than 20 different sports venues. Throughout the year more than 10,000 athletes across the state of Indiana compete in alpine skiing, aquatics, ballroom dancing, basketball, flag football, golf, soccer, volleyball, track and field, just to name a few of the events.

These special athletes compete at various levels at similar ages and demonstrate a courage and determination to compete and finish with a spirit of friendship and love, with their Indiana Special



THE INDIANA KNIGHTS

BY ROBERT HARTENSTEIN

Olympic community. The lives of these very special athletes are changed forever because of the opportunities to experience a sense of accomplishment and an outpouring of love.

In addition, Indiana Special Olympics Unified Sports brings together athletes without intellectual disabilities to train and compete on the same team to learn new sports and develop a higher level of skills. Indiana Special Olympics could not exist without the help of many volunteers who serve at all levels. Now is a great time to take the plunge and join the many supporters who are "freezing for a reason." For information about volunteer opportunities for the 2010 Polar Plunge, contact Lindsay Lambert at (800) 742-0612, ext. 234.

The Polar Plunge schedule for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be:

Fort Wayne
Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010
Registration: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Mirror Lake Park
University of Saint Francis
Plunge: 12 p.m. Mirror Lake
After splash bash: Hutzell
Athletic Center

University of Saint Francis
For more information about the Polar Plunge or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Scott Furnish at (800) 742-0612, ext. 236, or visit www.soindiana.org.

All funds raised by the Polar Plunge program go to support the Indiana Special Olympics. What a great way to start out a new year and change the life of someone forever.

Robert Hartenstein is the director of communications for the Indiana Knights of Columbus.

The rule book

Wouldn't it be wonderful if mourning the loss of a loved one came with a rule book — what to do, what not to do and how long to do it? Unfortunately, like almost anything in life of any importance, grief does not come with an instruction manual. I have come to learn that the one unrivaled rule of grief is — there are no rules!

I must admit, from my experience, since losing my father and my young husband in the same year and all the subsequent losses my heart has endured, our understanding of grief as a culture has come a long way.

Since the time of my parents' generation, when grief was not shared and each mourner was left to his own devices, experts in the field have developed guidelines and stages by which the bereaved can navigate.

The experts will tell you that in general it is best to wait one to two years following a loss to make any major decisions such as selling a

home, leaving a career or remarriage. Stages including shock, anger, sorrow, depression and others are the hallmark of those who have blazed the trail for us. Now we see that grief is multidimensional and in no way as orderly or predictable as a stage. Those in mourning will move in and out of any emotion as their need takes them.

Current guidelines I have found helpful include paying close attention to your body, mind and heart's response to the loss, expressing your feelings in constructive ways, and being gentle with yourself.

Many bereaved speak gratefully of the overwhelming support they receive from family and friends. But there are just as many who are challenged with well-wishers who will tell them in no uncertain terms how, when and where to grieve — offering sage advice, often unsolicited.

Following the death of my husband, I, like many who are newly bereaved, found myself bombarded with uninvited advice on very per-



KAY COZAD

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

sonal decisions ranging from whether to move and when to what to feed my preschool-age daughters. The well-intended guidance only proved to confuse me more during a time when my only hope was living to the next moment.

As I began to educate myself on how a young widow should grieve, by reading, attending seminars and searching for a support group that fit my unique needs, I was inspired by a statement that changed the course of my grief and has fueled my bereavement ministry as well. Alan Wolfelt, founder of Center for Loss and

HOPE, PAGE 16

Jesus is answer to every human need



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday in Advent Lk 1:39-45

This weekend observes the last Sunday in Advent. The first reading is from the Book of Micah, who is regarded as one of the Minor Prophets, in large part because of the book's brevity.

It contains only seven chapters. (By contrast, the Book of Isaiah has 66 chapters. The author was a contemporary of Isaiah, the author of the first section of the Book of Isaiah.)

Very few biographical facts about the author of Micah are known. He came from a small village some 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem. However, nothing is known of his background.

As did so many prophets of ancient Israel, Micah was determined to call his people, the Chosen People, back to God and away from sin. He argued for piety and for loyalty to the covenant with God. Furthermore, he warned that indifference to God only led to disaster, personal as well as national.

In his day, piety was in short supply. Greed and exploitation overwhelmed the economy, merely indications of rampant personal greed. Religious practices were sparse and often insincere and poorly presented when they did occur.

Amid all this, Micah promises

that a savior will come. This savior will lead the people away from sin and to God. The savior will come from Bethlehem.

Here, Micah refers to David, who was born in Bethlehem. David was so important. As king of Israel, his royal role was not primarily political, but rather it was religious. His task was to see that the people obeyed God.

Micah forecasts that when this savior becomes king, all will be well. All will be at peace.

For its second reading, the church this weekend gives us a lesson from the Book of Hebrews. Heavy with its Hebrew symbolism, this epistle also is renowned for brilliantly extolling Jesus as Lord and as the Lamb of God.

In Hebrews, Jesus appears as the perfect victim and priest. His sacrifice on Calvary was sublime, perfect, and utterly unique. Also, it was eternal. Its effects of reconciling humanity with God will never cease. Thus no other sacrifices are necessary. All has been accomplished.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is the story of the Visitation. Mary travels from her own home to a place in the hills of Judah. Traditionally, it has been thought that this place is the site now called Ein Karem. Once a few miles from Jerusalem, it has been absorbed by the growth of the city and for all practical purposes is today a part of Jerusalem.

Mary goes to meet her cousin, Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah. Elizabeth herself is pregnant. Since Elizabeth was past the childbearing age for a woman, her conception was regarded as miraculous. Her child had a special destiny. He was holy. Elizabeth's unborn child will be John the Baptist.

Elizabeth realizes that Mary is

expecting a child, but Mary's child will be the messiah. Elizabeth's unborn child understands the profound character of all that is transpiring, and the unborn child senses God in the presence of Mary and her own unborn infant. Elizabeth and her unborn testify to the Messiah.

Reflection

It is the last weekend of Advent. Christmas will be within the week. For almost everyone, it will be a busy, hurried day, even if a day of excitement, anticipation and joy.

Nevertheless, there is time to make Christmas a personal spiritual event. So, in these readings during Advent's last weekend, the church calls us to Jesus. He is everything, the church emphatically and joyfully declares. In the words of Hebrews, in the words of Luke, Jesus is the answer to every human need.

The writings of Micah remind us that when we allow Jesus to come to us, all peace and happiness will abide with us.

READINGS

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

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

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

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

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

Friday: Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

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

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

The stories of Advent are so well known that we often tell them without thinking of the meaning and the reasons behind them. We might forget that there were reasons behind all the actions that the major participants in the nativity took. This quiz looks at the motivation of our Biblical ancestors... hence; this quiz looks at the Why's Men!

1. When Joseph discovered his betrothed (fiancée) was pregnant, he decided to end their betrothal quietly. Why?

- Because he had not decided if he wanted children.
- Because he did not want to create legal trouble for Mary.
- Because that way he would not have to pay child support

2. Joseph changed his mind about this. Why?

- The religious authorities forbade him to separate from her.
- He was visited by an angel who told him about Mary's pregnancy.
- He realized this is the only way he would get to be famous.

3. According to Luke, Zechariah's neighbors and relatives were surprised that he and Elizabeth (Mary's cousin) wanted to call their son John. Why?

- It was not a family name.
- John was a name used only by non-Jews.
- The name John was usually reserved for an only child.

4. Zechariah did not actually say the name John to them. Why?

- It included the name of God (Jah) and could not be spoken.
- He had been struck dumb and had to write it out.
- He was not present, having gone to watch a Roman ball game

5. Joseph took his pregnant wife on a journey. Why?

- He was trying to seek employment in Bethlehem.
- Because the Roman authorities required this to complete a census.
- Because Jews would not walk through Samaria, and Bethlehem provided a detour.

6. According to tradition the couple lodged in a stable. Why?

- Joseph was rather cheap.
- There was no room at the inn.
- Jews were not lodged in buildings in Gentile cities.

7. Shepherds were the first, according to Luke, to visit Jesus. Why did they visit?

- They were ordered by the temple priests to find out who Joseph was.
- They wanted to check out the latest woodworking tricks.
- They were told by an angel what was happening.

8. King Herod was not pleased to hear about Jesus' birth. Why?

- He was concerned that the population of Israel was growing too fast.
- He was not fond of children.
- He heard rumors about a new king and feared a rival.

9. The newborn Jesus was visited by Magi. Why?

- They were sent by the Romans to find out what the fuss was.
- They had followed a star.
- They were missionaries of Zoroaster sent to convert the baby.

10. They brought three gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Why those?

- We do not know, though we can interpret them symbolically.
- These three items were free of customs dues.
- Gold was a currency, frankincense was a German baron, and myrrh was what every kid dreams of for Christmas.

11. The Magi left for the east by another route. Why?

- Without the star they had lost their way.
- They were warned in a dream to avoid Herod.
- Convinced Jesus was the Messiah, they wanted to visit the major city of Damascus.

12. The holy family fled into Egypt. Why?

- They too feared Herod.
- They wanted to avoid paying Roman taxes so had to leave the empire.
- Joseph wanted to visit his mummy.

ANSWERS:

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

The priest as sacred person

Sometimes there is confusion over the relationship between the sacred and the profane. When that happens, there can be a mistake about the relationship between the priest and the laity.

Very often, people incorrectly think of the profane as meaning “ungodly.” They think that if the sacred is where God is, then the profane must be where God is not. And since the profane also refers to the daily, ordinary world, sometimes we conclude the profane is a wicked and fallen realm.

This false vision creates a series of mistakes.

First, it leads some to think the laity live in the real world and the priest lives in an unreal world. The laity struggle with morality, and sometimes have to compromise their principles. The priest wouldn’t understand because he lives in a fairytale rectory.

Second, it leads some to think that the priest has nothing to say to the real world. The ideals that are all right for church won’t work in

the school of hard knocks. The priest cannot understand the pressures the married person is under. He can’t understand the decisions the profane businessman has to make.

Third, it leads some to think that the laity live in an inferior world. The profane world is not as good as the sacred world, but that’s where most of us have to spend our time.

All of these mistakes flow from a false understanding of the sacred-profane relationship.

The origin of the word profane shows that it is intimately connected to the sacred. *Fanum* is the Latin word for temple. The Greek word for temple was “*temenos*,” and meant a space carved out from other use. It was a space set aside for the worship of God.

The area in front of the temple, in front of its gates, was called the “*pro-fanum*” (profane). In this sense, the whole world is in front of the gates of heaven. The profane world is directed toward the

heavenly Jerusalem.

Let’s try an example. On a 10-acre farm we would find a place for our house and barn. We would plow up five acres for corn, and another three for rutabagas. But if we set aside a space for the worship of God, it would be a sacred space. “*Sancire*” meant to fence off or draw a boundary around. The sacred is what has been set aside. This land doesn’t serve our needs any more, it serves God.

It is therefore not true that sacred is good and profane is bad. We need the house, the barn and the crops. They are part of good creation. But we must return thanks to God for them.

Now, we can not only set aside space, we can also set aside time. Israel called it the Sabbath; Christians set aside a sacred day in honor of Christ’s resurrection. Sunday is sacred time.

And we can also set aside things and use them only for worship. There is the sacred altar, sacred chalice, sacred art, sacred



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music and sacred clothing (vestments).

And there are persons set aside permanently to lead the worship of God. Sacred persons. The priest is ordained (ordered) toward the end

of serving in the temple. He does not also work in a bank, he does not also teach school — even though banks and schools are good things. He has one duty. A sacred responsibility.

With anonymity comes loss of humanity

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

Literature aficionados may recall that opening line from Charles Dickens’ “*A Tale of Two Cities*,” a novel set in London and Paris about the French Revolution. But that famous phrase written 150 years ago also applies to how information is spread today via the Internet.

It is the best of times for obvious reasons. We literally have information on virtually any topic at any time of the day at our fingertips.

Just tap out the topic of your interest, and you can read/learn about anything you ever imagined.

The concept for those of us old enough to have relied upon the old Funk & Wagnalls’ encyclopedias for information still resonates with me. The ability to answer any question about any topic in a blink of the eye is something those of us from that age bracket will never take for granted.

The hours spent in libraries, oftentimes in a futile search for information, are haunting memories from my education. To this day, I still don’t think I know how to efficiently move about and maximize my time spent in search of information in a library.

Fortunately, it doesn’t matter anymore. I have all the access to information I need at my laptop on the Internet.

But like so many other advantages that come to us in life, there is a flip side, an equal and opposite action if you will, an insidious side that entraps and corrupts. It is the worst of times too.

Besides the obvious access to the seedier side of life that is so readily available on the Internet, we have allowed the creation of the individual who is empowered by anonymity, which in turn allows that person to abandon human decency as it pertains to the

treatment of others.

I, along with two partners, own a Web site that chronicles Notre Dame football. It caters to the fanatics. The editors of the site pour a steady stream of information to our subscribers by reporting on games, practices, press conferences, interviews, high school football recruiting, etc., which in itself is a good and positive thing. It provides educated, well-thought feedback on what is happening in the Notre Dame football world.

But with such a venue comes the creation of the “message board” world. Our pay message board is called “The Four Horsemen Lounge,” named after the famous Notre Dame backfield from 1924. People come to this message board for “serious discussion of Notre Dame sports,” or at least that’s how we described it upon its inception.

But that’s not what it is, or at least, that’s only a small part of what it is now. Subscribers who join the site create a message board name like ND4ever or Rockne32 to identify themselves. This anonymity has created some interesting interplay from subscriber to subscriber or subscriber to editor. As an editor of the site, when I state an opinion, my full name appears. But only myself and the other editors are identified.

That anonymity has created a world in which disrespect for one another is rampant, where cruel, judgmental, vulgar comments are fostered, and where the cloak of namelessness allows for no accusation or insult to be too far “out there” to hurl.

Several years ago, when the Web site was created, the concept had a purity to it. Notre Dame fans sharing ideas with other Notre Dame fans and reading about the program through the eyes of the people reporting on the process



TIM PRISTER

FROM THE SIDELINES

who are up close and personal.

Those elements still exist to some extent because there remain some intelligent, thoughtful and respectful individuals.

What concerns me is the next generation of Internet readers because they are growing up in this anonymous world in which hiding behind a name like WeisGuy1 empowers a person to be as nasty and demeaning as he would like toward player, coach or fellow subscriber without the repercussions of identification or accountability.

That’s not to say that those from the older generation are not among the more outspoken and disrespectful. But most of those people grew up in an era when the expression of an opinion bore a degree of responsibility. You couldn’t hide behind the wall. The old fashioned “letter to the editor” required a full name and address sent to the newspaper — and verification that you sent it — before your opinion was printed.

These truly are the best and the worst of times that we live in when it comes to the acquisition of knowledge and the sharing of thoughts on the Internet. Unfortunately, with those benefits comes the creation of a monster that is a hateful and destructive beast.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 20, 2009

Luke 1:39-45

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

MARY	HASTE	JUDAH
THE HOUSE	ZECHARIAH	ELIZABETH
HEARD	LEAPED	HER WOMB
FILLED	HOLY SPIRIT	LOUD
AMONG	WOMEN	FRUIT
MOTHER	MY LORD	COME TO ME
MY EARS	FOR JOY	BELIEVED

BLESSED WOMEN

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

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HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Life Transition in Colorado, said that each of us is the expert of our own grief journey.

Think about that for a moment. Within that single statement there lies an innate truth that our culture has lost sight of. We each have within us the knowledge of what we need to mourn in healthy ways — our personal rules of mourning. And the journey is comprised of identifying those needs and discovering ways to meet them.

My heart demanded that I slow to a snail’s pace in the aftermath of my husband’s death. Eventually

I was able to create a new normal and regain my energy and passion for life. But my heart always knew just what I needed all along the way, even when I didn’t.

It’s important to surround yourself with others who wish to support you. They listen when you need to talk and allow you to express your unique and personal pain. However, it is equally and perhaps even more important to listen to your heart and discover your own personal response to the pain and joy of grief.

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and news editor of *Today’s Catholic*. She can be reached at kcozad@todayscatholicnews.org.

Sports

BISHOP DWENGER SAINTS TO HOLD BASKETBALL CAMP The Saints basketball camp for children in grades K-8 will be held on Jan. 9, 16, 23, and Feb. 6, 2010. Cost of \$40 includes a T-shirt, and no special equipment is needed. K-third grade will be held from 9-10:15 a.m. and the fourth through eighth graders from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Registration forms are available under the Athletics/Camps tabs at www.bishopdwenger.com. For more information, call Coach Scudder at (260) 496-4700 or e-mail dscudder@bishopdwenger.com.

CYO hoopsters complete two weekends of hardwood action

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The 74th running of Catholic Youth League (CYO) hoops action is well underway with two weekends of games completed.

Host sites each weekend through Feb. 13, 2010 include St. Aloysius, St. Vincent, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Queen of Angels and New Haven.

Between the boys and girls, there are 16 diocesan schools represented among the three leagues.

Teams in the Gold League are made up of eighth graders from "large schools" while the White League features seventh graders. Schools with smaller enrollment typically combine their seventh and eighth graders to battle in the Blue League.

There have been a few changes in the make-up of the leagues this season. A number of schools have been forced to drop

their girls' team this season and join with other teams due to lower numbers.

On the boys' side of things, Paul Gerardot will head the St. Louis-St. Rose Twins as they return to action in the Blue

League where St. John-New Haven will also compete.

To recap last seasons' boys' championship runs, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel won their second straight title when they defeated a scrappy Queen of Angels team, 35-19, in the Blue League.

In the seventh-grade league, Mark Eifert's undefeated St. Vincent Panthers won their third straight CYO championship in as many years getting by St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, 45-24.

In the Gold League Division, the St. John, Fort Wayne Eagles defied the odds and came off a 3-3 league finish to take first place medals defeating St. Jude, 51-40.

The Gold League girls' championship was claimed by St. Jude

when they downed St. Charles, 40-32. St. Aloysius finished a perfect season with a tournament win over Hessen Cassel, 19-16. In the seventh-grade tournament, the top seeded St. Vincent Panthers won the championship game over St. Charles, 30-22.

The following scores were reported in Week 2 play:

Girls:

St. Therese 29-St. Charles 7
19 (North 9, Pittenger 6)
St. Aloysius 18-St. Jude 7 27
(Freiburger 10, Hanline 16)

Boys:

St. Therese 27-Huntington 36
(Palmer 18, Schriber 15)
St. John 7 34-Precious Blood
7 32 (Brouch 14, Kahlenbeck 18)
St. Aloysius 47-Precious
Blood 8 17
(Ryder/Helmuth/Thiele 13,
Hostetler 7)
St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 40-
St. Louis/St. Rose 18 (Scott 14,
Castleman 8)
St. Charles 7 34-Decatur 7 14
(Glaser 10, Irwin 8)
St. Charles 8 37-Decatur 8 19
(Fener 11, Ellsworth 11)



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Our Lady of Hungary looks for mighty Inter-City Catholic League basketball season

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA — The smallest school in the ICCL boys' basketball league is looking as though it may be one of the mightiest this season.

Dominique Sanders hit a driving layup with eight seconds remaining to give Our Lady of Hungary a 37-35 win over St. Monica at Marian High School. The victory gives the Bulldogs a rare 2-0 start to the season.

"A lot of our eighth-grade players played varsity last season," explains Our Lady Coach Ben Domonkos. "That year of varsity experience rather than playing at the colors level really makes a difference. It was a great game."

Tyran Ottbridge led Our Lady of Hungary with 13 points, while Kirk Barron tallied 11 for St. Monica. The snake-bitten Comets have lost their first two games by a combined 5 points.

Christ the King won a battle of the unbeaten at Alumni Gym, downing Holy Cross, 47-27. Matthew Monserez led a balanced Kings' attack with 11 points, while Pat Connors scored 10 for Holy Cross.

Two other teams advanced to the 2-0 mark for the season. St. Joseph (South Bend) used a stingy defense to throttle St. Matthew, 41-8. In the nightcap at Marian, St. Joseph (Mishawaka) outran St. Jude, 49-23. The league's leading scorer, Michael Markris, poured in 21 to lead the Wildcats.

Three schools dented the win column for the first time this season. St. Pius turned in the largest offensive output of the season so far, racing to a 63-27 triumph over Queen of Peace. Denton Gillis racked up 22 for Pius, while teammates Greenan Sullivan (16) and Eric Mossey (13) also scored in double figures. Anthony Piraccini netted 13 for the Pumas.

Holy Family pounded Corpus Christi 32-13, despite a 10-point outing for the Cougars' Ricky Entzian. Brian Mischler's 13 points led St. Anthony to a 42-22 victory over St. Thomas.

The showcase game next Sunday pits Our Lady of Hungary against St. Joseph (Mishawaka) in a battle of 2-0 squads. Tipoff is scheduled for 3 p.m. at the Marian High School gym.

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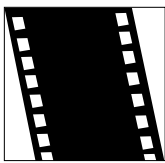


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MOVIE CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS) – Following are capsule reviews of theatrical movies recently reviewed by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Invictus” (Warner Bros.)

Uplifting sports drama based on actual events about South African President Nelson Mandela’s (Morgan Freeman) campaign to unite his country behind the national rugby team (led by Matt Damon), once a widely hated symbol of white privilege under apartheid, as it became an unlikely contender in the 1995 World Cup competition. Adapted from John Carlin’s book, “Playing the

Enemy,” director Clint Eastwood’s account effectively chronicles how Mandela transformed the race for the championship into an opportunity to break down lingering racial prejudice and to demonstrate the generosity and openness to reconciliation of the newly empowered black majority, a salutary tale whose moral and artistic merits counterbalance the elements listed below, making it probably acceptable for mature teens. Brief scenes of violence, at least one use of the F-word, a few instances of crude and crass language and some mild sexual references. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

“Armored” (Screen Gems)

Negligible heist flick about six guards employed by a Los Angeles armored car company who attempt to pull an inside job, during which only an Iraq War hero (Columbus

Short) exhibits scruples and smarts; his greedy colleagues, led by his godfather (Matt Dillon), instead demonstrate the old adage about the paucity of honor among thieves. Working from a flimsy script, director Nimrod Antal keeps the nondescript action moving along without undue complications. Considerable, though not excessive, action violence, including gunplay and knife use, some profanity, much crude language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

“Up in the Air” (Paramount)

Polished but morally ambivalent comic drama about an emotionally isolated, though contented, single businessman (George Clooney) who spends his life in chain hotels and airports as he travels from city to city firing employees on behalf of downsizing corporate clients, until his rootless lifestyle is threatened by a tech-savvy new colleague (Anna Kendrick), who wants their company to terminate workers via the Internet, and by his deepening feelings for a fellow executive wanderer (Vera Farmiga)

with whom he initiated a casual romp. Director and co-writer Jason Reitman’s screen version of Walter Kirn’s novel is initially engaging and adroitly acted throughout, but the script winks at commitment-free encounters, while what appear at first to be the life-altering events of the plot turn out to be mere incidents with little spiritual impact. Off-screen adulterous and nonmarital sexual activity, brief rear nudity, much sexual talk including lesbianism and masturbation references, a few uses of profanity, much rough and crude language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

3 on 3 basketball tournament

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary School, 735 W. Calvert St., will have a basketball tournament Tuesday, Dec. 22, with registration beginning at 6:30 p.m. and first game starting at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per team, subs are an extra \$5 per head. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Hungary School.

All family rosary

Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be recited on the last Sunday of the month, Dec. 27, at St. Mother Theodore Chapel from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The intention is for all families.

Advent vespers

Mishawaka — Father Daniel Scheidt will lead sung vespers on all the Sundays of Advent at 5 p.m. at Queen of Peace Church.

Luers to hold Trivia Knight

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will have a Trivia Knight, Saturday, Jan. 23, in the Bishop Luers gym. The price is \$100 per table with a maximum of 10 people per table. Pre-payment is encouraged to hold a table. Beer, wine, margaritas and soft drinks will be available. Bring snacks to share. Round sponsorships are available for \$50. There are 11 rounds and individuals names or company names will be at the top of each round sheet. To reserve a

table or for information e-mail Pat Landon at tplandon@msn.com or call (260) 747-6110.

Theology of the body series for young adults planned

South Bend — St. Joseph Parish Center will host a theology of the body series on Mondays beginning Jan. 11 to Monday, Feb. 8, from 7-9 p.m. This five-week series is for all young adults, single or married. Dr. Mary Healy's book, "Men and Women are from Eden," will guide discussions and can be purchased for \$10 at the initial session if requested in advance. This event is co-hosted by the diocesan Office for Campus and Young Adult Ministry, the Office of Family Life and St. Joseph Parish.

DONATIONS

Mustard Seed Furniture Bank can use your donations

Fort Wayne — The Mustard Seed Furniture Bank accepts donations of bedroom and living room furniture, tables, chairs, bed linens and towels. Items must be in working order and free of rips, tears, stains, burns and animal hair. Donations may be picked up by calling (260) 471-5802. The Mustard Seed is dedicated to providing household furnishings to those in need.

St. Vincent de Paul Store always in need of donations

Fort Wayne — Donations are

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

Dismas House has immediate needs

South Bend — Dismas House needs support to provide toiletries, laundry and dish soap, trash bags, paper towels and toilet paper. Also bath towels, wash cloths, twin sheets, blankets, pillows and pillow cases. Items may be dropped off Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 521 S. St. Joseph St. Contact (574) 233-8522.

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Decatur

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Arabella O. Arriaga, 87, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

Geraldine Seitz, 84, St. Joseph

Doris Marie Plant, 89, St. Charles

James Chandler, 80, St. Jude

Howard R. Fritz, 92, St. Charles

Martha Smith, 77, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Wayne F. Lomont, 63, St. Vincent de Paul

Mishawaka

Marie A. Williams, 87, St. Joseph

Ruth M. Kalil, 91, St. Monica

Mary Virginia Hull, 88, St. Joseph

Notre Dame

Amelia K. Barcza, 96, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Frederick J. Crosson, 83, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Larry O. Lamm, 53, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

South Bend

Michael J. Swartz, 56, Holy Family

Jadwiga Harriet Kosmala, 83, St. Adalbert

Jesus M. Beserra, 79, St. Adalbert

Ernest J. Dobrzykowski, 83, Our Lady of Hungary

Loretta C. Szymanski, 89, St. Casimir

Andrew Beidinger, 79, Our Lady of Hungary

Henrietta Kusnierek, 97, St. Anthony de Padua

Claudia P. Kent, 94, Christ the King

Geraldine R. Niemier, 79, St. Casimir

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Visit www.diocesefwsb.org for a complete calendar of events in the diocese.



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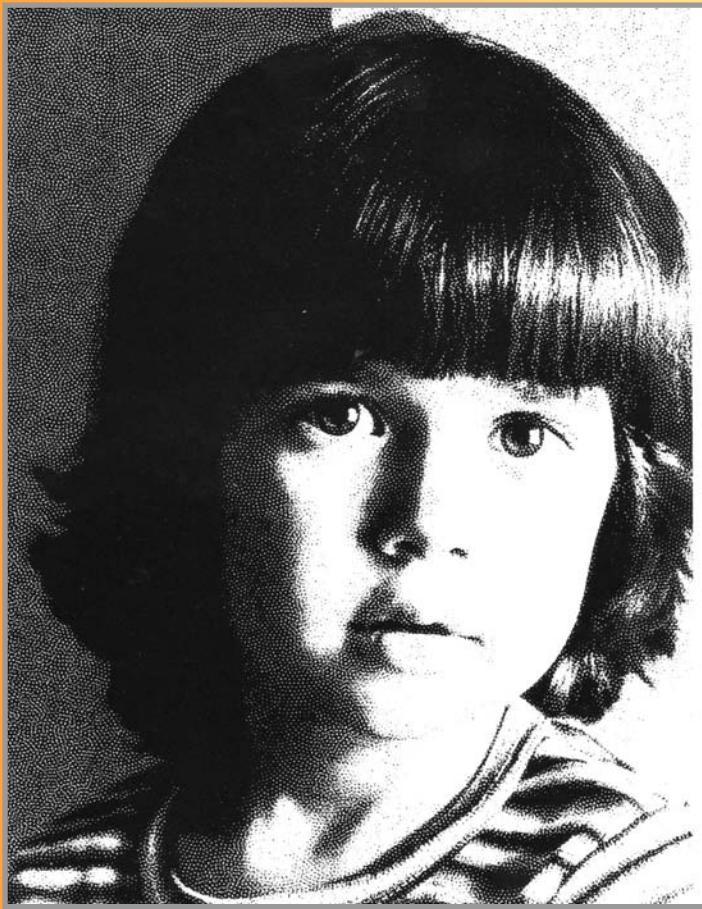
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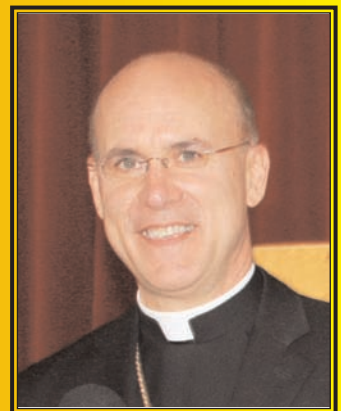
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Join others in expressing a warm welcome to **BISHOP KEVIN RHOADES**

as he becomes the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Today's Catholic offers our readers an opportunity to convey expressions of prayerful best wishes and friendship to the new shepherd of our diocese.



The January 10, 2010 issue of Today's Catholic will include a special pull-out section with a glossy cover and full coverage of the installation ceremonies of Bishop Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, presided by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein with many bishops, priests, and dignitaries in attendance.

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