

## Bishop John M. D'Arcy

A tribute and thank you to the eighth diocesan shepherd

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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## Bishop D'Arcy celebrates Christmas

BY KAREN CLIFFORD



KAREN CLIFFORD

Bishop John M. D'Arcy stands in front of the Nativity scene at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend at the 4 p.m. Christmas vigil Mass.

SOUTH BEND — It was a Mass that combined elements of the past and future into an afternoon of celebration, song, praise and reminiscence for all in attendance.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated his 25th and final Christmas vigil Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at 4 p.m.

Bishop D'Arcy said the Incarnation "shows God at his merciful best, condescending from the very center of the Trinity, sending his Son to live among us, transform us, and to make us children of God. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church it says that with the coming of John the Baptist, the forerunner, the predictor, finally the restoration of man to the likeness of God has begun."

According to St. Matthew Rector Msgr. Michael Heintz, the 4 p.m. vigil is one of the best attended of the Christmas Masses at the cathedral. The number of families in attendance with small children contributed to the atmosphere of joy and innocence in the celebration of Christ's Incarnation.

Four second graders were selected to carry the baby Jesus on a platform processing to the front of the church where Bishop D'Arcy placed Jesus in the manger. The children's participation in the procession was a part of their preparation for their first Communion in May.

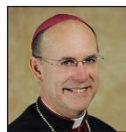
One of the second graders participating in the procession, Luke Krizman, shared his excitement about the Christmas vigil Mass: "This Mass is important to me because Christmas is about celebrating Jesus' birthday. I go to Mass with my family and sing songs for Jesus, along with the children's choir."

In his homily Bishop D'Arcy spoke of making time for Christ in a technology-driven world. He joked that

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## Bishop Rhoades comments on the new evangelization

BY TIM JOHNSON



### Meet Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

HARRISBURG, Pa. — "If I had to summarize what my vision would be, it would be the new evangelization. I was very much formed by Pope John Paul II. Both he and Pope Benedict have talked about it," noted Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades from his Harrisburg, Pa., office in early December.

"That's really my vision — the new evangelization — and all its various aspects. That includes the return of the non practicing. ... By new evangeliza-

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## Installation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

BY VINCE LABARBERA

The installation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be held at special liturgies in both South Bend and Fort Wayne on Jan. 12 and 13, respectively.

At St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St., South Bend, a solemn vespers service will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. Retiring Bishop John M. D'Arcy will preside at the evening prayer and Bishop Rhoades will give the homily. A light reception will immediately follow the ceremony.

In Fort Wayne, the installation Mass will begin at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the Cathedral of the

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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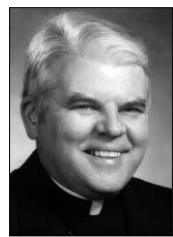
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# Column is a conversation with the people of the diocese



## NEWS & NOTES

**BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY**

### Coming to an end; and yet, a new beginning

It is late Sunday afternoon and I am sitting in my office watching the snow increasing in intensity and looking at our beautiful Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. I just celebrated Mass there for the feast of the Holy Family and preached on this beautiful feast. It is hard to believe that this is (I think) the second last column that I will write as the bishop of this diocese. I began this practice as soon as I became bishop; and somehow by the grace of God, I have written a column every week missing only once a year while on vacation.

The idea of this column has been to tell you what a bishop does and to share with you the extraordinary activity that goes on in our parishes. This is what I will remember most and cherish most, and what I hope to still enjoy; namely, the throbbing, spiritual life of the diocese. I usually prepare these remarks late on Sunday evening, sometimes after I have returned from South Bend. I always wondered what I would write about, but once I started taping the remarks they came full-force. There was always something interesting and joyful. There was always the life of the diocese and of parishes. There was always the splendid example and sacrifice of our priests.

### People seem interested

I was always encouraged in meeting people around the diocese who spoke to me about these columns and how they enjoyed them. I have no illusion that it has been great literature or deeply insightful. I always saw it as a conversation with the people of the diocese, an attempt to teach and to bring alive for everyone all that was happening so that our love for the Catholic Church might grow.

### A heart that is full

This is a great transition in my life and it is the intensity of prayer, for me personal prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, which helps me to understand this precious moment. On the one hand, there is the difficulty of laying down a precious responsibility. I am currently reflecting and putting together in my mind some thoughts that I will share with my beloved priests when I meet with them on Jan. 5 at Sacred Heart, Warsaw; a place where we have met so many times over the years. Over 24 years, I have made every Day of Recollection with priests except one, and part or all of every retreat. In addition, we have met to ponder difficult things and to

give thanks to God at special moments. This meeting will be to share with them some things in my heart.

### A responsibility of love

It is the laying down of a responsibility of love that is on the one hand difficult and on the other hand beautiful. The responsibility, so sacred, is something you carry in the center of your being. Indeed, the same could be true of any good pastor of a parish. I think it is somewhat like being married. Indeed, that is the ancient image which is given of the relationship of a bishop to his diocese. The episcopacy has been described as an "Officium Amoris," an "Office of Love" or a "Work of Love." The Second Vatican Council had as a central focus the spiritual renewal of the Office of Bishop. It has been said that the bishops who left Rome after that extraordinary meeting realized that the Office of Bishop would never be the same again.

### Challenges to be met

My strongest realization as I live out these final days filled with joy, but also trying to comprehend every thing that has happened, is to put it all in the context of God's love. I find myself not concentrating so much on those times when I should have done better, areas of incompleteness. I am aware of them, but the grace I am receiving is one of gratitude to God for all that has been accomplished.

In my prayer, I place these years into the hands of Christ and of his mother, the Blessed Mother Mary, as my mother called her when she prayed to her at night alone in her room after she had lost her husband. Our Lady has been with me since I was a boy, and I can remember riding my bicycle during the month of May up to Our Lady of Presentation Church to attend May devotions.

### A period of time

The realization that the church does not belong to any of us. The parish does not belong to the pastor and the diocese does not belong to the bishop. There is a temptation to think it so. Both the parish and the diocese belong to Christ. What an extraordinary gift it is, that the diocese is placed in the hands of a bishop and the parish in the hands of a priest for a period of years. It is important when the time comes to give it up, and to do so with joy and acceptance. It is a time to give thanks to God that he allowed me to care for this diocese in the name of Christ for so many years.

Almost a quarter of a century. In my prayer, I have always felt unworthy of such a gift and that has intensified as the days slip down to a precious few. Unworthy, but at the same time very grateful and thankful to Christ and his mother for their constant protection.

### The promises made

On the anniversary of my ordinations: Feb. 2, 1957, as a priest; Feb. 11, 1975, as a bishop; and May 1, 1985, as bishop of this diocese; I always try to sit down with the Ordination Service and read over the beautiful words.

I will do it again on or near the Installation of our new bishop and this time with immense gratitude; sorry for my sins and failings, but trusting always in God's mercy.

### Rise; let us be on our way

Those words taken from the Gospel of Mark represent the striking title of a book Pope John Paul II wrote about his years as Archbishop of Krakow. He was sentimental about those years, but grateful and filled with thanksgiving. So am I. Pope John Paul II even referred to his guardian angel that protected him. I am also grateful to my guardian angel for, among other things, bringing me back and forth, often late at night, between our two major cities. I believe that this beloved angel kept me from serious accidents, sometimes just barely. However, in his special angelic wisdom, he chose not to protect me from an occasional speeding ticket.

I remember one night, after the chrisim Mass, when I had stopped as a result of an invitation to visit briefly with the Holy Cross priests at their provincial house. They had been to the chrisim Mass and renewed their promises. So it was very late when I approached Fort Wayne, and I was trying hard to get home at a reasonable hour. Suddenly the lights flashed behind me, and I will never forget the words of the firm, but gracious, state trooper as he gave me a slip, "Be careful now, Bishop, this is a warning. After all, I cannot give a ticket to the man who gave me the sacrament of confirmation."

### Recent events

I am grateful to Mike and Dee Dee Dahm, and Steve and Marilyn Steckbeck, and a number of other people who have worked to prepare the house where our new bishop will be living. It is where the legendary priest, Father Tom O'Connor, lived next to the historic St. Mary's Parish. They have done a wonderful job. It will be a comfortable, but modest, home for our new bishop. I will be meeting with Bishop Rhoades this week, and I hope he can attend two events related to vocations: The luncheon of the Serra Club and The Andrew Dinner — we have two, one in Fort Wayne and one in South Bend, and this has been a great instrument for the recruiting of priests.

Congratulations to Father David Voors and the people of St. Mary, Decatur, for the erection of a beautiful facility — a gymnasium for their school with a beautiful hardwood floor. It was a joy to bless it this week. That parish is very devoted to the continuation of their school and it was a joy to be among them.

And I will look forward to seeing you next week in this same place for the final time. God bless you all.

## RHOADES

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tion it is not a new message — it's the Gospel, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever — what's new is new ardor, new methods and expression — that's what John Paul said. And I think that's where we're challenged."

Bishop Rhoades said, "We have to be able to reach people, especially young people who are especially plugged in to new technologies and just be creative in our ways of bringing the Gospel to people today."

Bishop Rhoades has a devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and sees it as "the first evangelization of America, so many converts after (Our Lady's) apparition to Juan Diego."

Bishop Rhoades was ordained to the episcopate on the feast of St. Juan Diego, Dec. 9. The three roses in Bishop Rhoades' coat of arms represent Mary and shows the roses that were in St. Juan Diego's tilma.

"I think that's also a connection because the evangelization of America received such a great impetus and really moved forward after that appearance on American soil in Mexico. So I think that is why the title Mary, Star of Evangelization, the Virgin of Guadalupe (used in the prayer of Catholics in the Diocese of Harrisburg this Marian year), they all kind of go together."

### Reaching out

And reaching out to the Hispanic and other cultures is all a part of evangelization.

Bishop Rhoades is interested in languages, but "Italian and Spanish are the two that I would be the most comfortable with," he told *Today's Catholic*.

He spent one summer in Spain as a deacon, both serving a parish and also studying Spanish at the University of Salamanca, at the request of Bishop Joseph T. Daley in 1982.

After ordination to the priesthood, he was given an assignment in York, Pa., as an assistant pastor, but also asked to serve "one day a week in Hispanic ministry. And that's where I met and worked with Father Pistone, at a Spanish parish in York. Then there was a mission out in the orchards near Bendersville, near Gettysburg, that was without a priest, so I filled in there two days a week to take care of the migrant Mexican community there."

Bishop Rhoades noted, "Really I learned Spanish more from the people — mostly being immersed in it. That's where it really began.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades meets Pope Benedict XVI at a 2007 visit.

That experience in York and in Bendersville." That only lasted two years. In 1985, Bishop Rhoades was sent back to Rome for studies from 1985-1988.

But he returned to Hispanic ministry. "In 1988 when I came back, I was working in the diocesan office but also in charge of the Spanish community in Harrisburg," Bishop Rhoades said.

From 1988 to 1995, he was very involved in Hispanic ministry and then, in 1990, he was made pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, a predominant Spanish-speaking, poor intercultural, multicultural parish. There were African-Americans, several Vietnamese, Italians and a large number of Hispanics, mostly from Puerto Rico but also Mexico and other Latin American countries.

His charge at St. Francis was to bring these multicultures together. "So now it was time to integrate, and that was a big job in 1990," Bishop Rhoades said. "But thanks be to God it worked."

Bishop Rhoades said the Vietnamese would come to either the Spanish or English Masses at St. Francis, because "their faith was so strong, the language wasn't important. (They were) coming to receive the Eucharist."

The parish would have parish festivals, where "we would have food from all the different countries, which was really a lot of fun," he said.

St. Francis had a soup kitchen that fed hot lunches to 200 people Monday through Saturday. People came by all the time with

their needs, Bishop Rhoades noted, "so we had a very active outreach to the poor and needy. Even though we were a poor parish, a lot of other parishes helped us out with support" of initiatives that included a distribution of Christmas gifts to the poor children of the neighborhood, turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas — "all those material needs." They also had an active youth group and tuition assistance program to get the children of the parish into Catholic schools.

The parish was seen as a "beacon of hope" in that neighborhood that saw a lot of crime and ethnic tension, "and here you had a Catholic church where everyone was together. I think it was a real sign," he said.

Even the music was a part of it, he noted. During the Forty Hours devotions, prominent in every parish in the Diocese of Harrisburg, St. Francis would have Spanish, English, Vietnamese and gospel music choirs.

"It was beautiful," Bishop Rhoades said. "All gathered to praise and worship the Lord in the holy Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament. So all the different ethnic groups could come together and then you would be hearing the singing — praising God in their own languages — all at the same liturgy"

He added, "It was important also to be a multicultural parish that everyone was represented and felt like the parish was their home. That was the goal that everyone saw it as their spiritual home, no one felt excluded, that everyone felt that they belonged, that this wasn't just for the Anglo community, or just for the Spanish-speaking community or catering just for the Black community — no, this was for everyone as equal brothers and sisters together."

"Working with different cultures, I find enriches us," Bishop Rhoades said. "We learn the universality of the church."

### Work with the deaf

This inclusion is also pertinent to the ministry of the deaf in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

As a seminarian in Philadelphia, Bishop Rhoades' first apostolic assignment in education was to teach deaf children at Archbishop Ryan School for the Deaf. "I had never even met a deaf person until then, but I loved it."

Bishop Rhoades studied sign language at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and then as bishop of Harrisburg, sent his cathedral pastor to study sign language there.

"So now there is a small deaf community in Harrisburg that has been growing, because they see the church is interested in them," Bishop Rhoades said.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

## Masses of thanksgiving to be celebrated

As I will conclude my time as your bishop, I will celebrate a final Mass in each of our cathedrals to give thanks to God for my pastoral service among you.

- On Jan. 3, the feast of the Epiphany, at 11 a.m., at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend. A reception will follow in St. Matthew School.

- On Jan. 10, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, at 11:30 a.m., at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, with a reception to follow across the street at the Grand Wayne Center.

NO PERSONAL GIFTS PLEASE.

Everyone is welcome at either or both of these events.

LETTER FROM BISHOP D'ARCY TO PRIESTS

## Suspension of Communion from the cup to be lifted

My Dear Brother Priests,

I have consulted with the other bishops of Indiana and also our regional vicars, as well as our College of Consultors. There was a general, though not unanimous, consensus that it is time to consider the lifting of the suspension of Communion from the cup. We have also consulted particular health officials. Taking everything into account, this suspension is lifted effective on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 10.

Please be sure to tell the people in your announcement that they have every right to refrain from receiving the Precious Blood from the cup if they wish.

I thank all of you and our dear people for the collaboration in this matter.

With every best wish and prayer, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

## INSTALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Immaculate Conception, downtown. The Archbishop of Indianapolis, Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, will preside in the presence of Archbishop Pietro Sambi, STD, JCD, apostolic nuncio to the United States. A reception will follow at the nearby Grand Wayne Center.

Attendance at both liturgies and the receptions is by invitation only, which includes two invited guests from each of the 80 parishes in the diocese.

Planning is underway to accommodate an expected overflow crowd of invited guests in Fort Wayne at the nearby Grand Wayne Center where the installation Mass can be viewed on a large screen. The installation liturgy will be broadcast live by IndianasNewsCenter, Fort Wayne,

on MyTV, digital Channel 33.2. Comcast subscribers can view the telecast on Channel 252, while Verizon FIOS customers can see it on Channel 9.

Plans are underway to stream both the installation liturgy and the solemn vespers prayer service on the diocesan Web site [www.diocesefwsb.org](http://www.diocesefwsb.org) as well as on WNDU.com in South Bend. Also, Redeemer Radio — Catholic Radio 1450 AM — is planning a live broadcast of both services, which can be heard in South Bend on Holy Radio WHLY (1580 AM) and in Fort Wayne on WLYV (1450 AM).

In addition, a two DVD recording set of both the solemn vespers prayer service and the installation Mass will be available for \$10 from the Catholic Communications Office, telephone (260) 744-0012. Included with the DVDs will be a commemorative prayer card blessed by Bishop Rhoades.

# Health reform, Pope Benedict named top story, newsmaker of 2009

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The debate over healthcare reform topped the religious news stories of 2009, and Pope Benedict XVI and President Barack Obama were again the top newsmakers, according to the annual poll conducted by Catholic News Service.

The continued effects of the recession on the U.S. and global economy took second place among the 30 news stories on the ballot. The controversy over Obama's commencement address at the University of Notre Dame in May and the decision to award the president with an honorary degree came in third.

Most first-place votes on the newsmakers list went to either Obama or Pope Benedict, although the pope was the clear winner this year. The late Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts was a distant third.

The poll was the 48th annual survey conducted by CNS. This year's ballots were distributed Dec. 4 and the deadline for returns was Dec. 10.

When the editors' poll was first conducted in 1962, the overwhelming choice for top story was the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Last year, editors chose the election of the first African-American U.S. president and controversy surrounding the role of Catholic voters in the campaign as the top religious story of the year. Pope Benedict and Obama were the top newsmakers.

Editors were asked to vote for the top 10 news stories from a list of 30 selected by CNS staff, and the top five newsmakers from a list of 22. Votes were weighted by the rankings editors gave — 10 points for a first-place vote, nine points for second, etc., and five points for top newsmaker, four for second, etc.

## 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

### TOP STORIES

#### 1. Health Reform

*The role of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in the debate over health care reform drew criticism and praise, depending primarily on where the commentators stood on the abortion issue.*

#### 2. Recession/Economy

#### 3. Notre Dame Controversy

#### 4. Encyclical "Caritas in Veritate"

#### 5. Visitation of U.S. Women Religious



### TOP NEWSMAKERS

#### 1. Pope Benedict XVI

*In his fourth year as pope, Benedict XVI traveled to the Middle East and Africa, released an encyclical and proclaimed a Year for Priests.*

#### 2. President Barack Obama

#### 3. Sen. Ted Kennedy

#### 4. Justice Sonia Sotomayor

#### 5. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan



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Eleven different stories received first-place votes, including three that did not make the top 10.

With 29 editors and CNS staff members submitting ballots, the maximum points a story could have received was 290. The most a newsmaker could receive on the five-point scale was 140, because one editor voted only for top sto-

ries and not newsmakers.

Rounding out the top five for religious news stories were the papal encyclical "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth") and the Vatican-ordered visitation of U.S. women religious, which was to continue into 2010.

Pope Benedict took first place in the CNS poll for his travels to the Middle East and Africa, his

outreach to Anglicans and traditionalist Catholics and his proclamation of a Year for Priests. Obama, whose first year as president included the Notre Dame controversy, his reception of the Nobel Peace Prize and a fight over abortion funding in health reform legislation, was second.

The next three top newsmakers were separated by only one

vote each. The late Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts was third, new Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor fourth and Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, named to head the New York Archdiocese in February, was fifth.

Here are the choices for top 10 stories and top five newsmakers of 2009, followed by points received in the weighted ballot count and, in parentheses, the number of first-place votes received.

### STORIES

1. Health reform, (8) 211.
2. Recession/economy, (6) 192.
3. Notre Dame controversy, (3) 154.
4. Encyclical "Caritas in Veritate," (2) 109.
5. Visitation of U.S. women religious, 94.
6. President Obama's first year, (2) 86.
7. Year for Priests, (2) 82.
8. H1N1 flu outbreak, 77.
9. Africa, (1) 60.
10. Anglicans, (2) 59.

Also receiving first-place votes were climate change, sainthood causes and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

### NEWSMAKERS

1. Pope Benedict XVI, (13) 102.
2. President Barack Obama, (9) 73.
3. Sen. Ted Kennedy, (1) 34.
4. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, (2) 33.
5. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, 32.

Also receiving first-place votes were U.S. women religious and Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame.

## Bishop D'Arcy to bless new St. Mother Theodore Guérin statue

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Bishop John M. D'Arcy will bless a new statue, that of St. Mother Theodore Guérin, on Wednesday, Jan. 6, following the 12:10 p.m. Mass in the cathedral. The statue is located in front of the diocesan chancery at the corner of Jefferson Blvd. and Calhoun Street in Fort Wayne.

St. Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Terre Haute, became the eighth saint whose ministry was

prominent in the United States to be canonized. She also was the first canonized saint from Indiana. St. Mother Theodore Guérin is considered a co-foundress of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

St. Mother Theodore Guérin was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 15, 2006.

After entering the Sisters of Providence of Ruillé, France, Aug. 18, 1823, she came to the United States from France in 1840 to establish a congregation of women religious in a dense forest adjacent to a remote com-

munity known as Saint Mary-of-the-Woods near Terre Haute.

In her new homeland, she and her companion sisters began their mission and opened an academy for girls less than nine months after their arrival in Indiana. Soon thereafter, under St. Mother Theodore Guérin's leadership, schools were founded throughout the state before expanding into other areas such as Chicago, Boston and Los Angeles.

Her influence is found in Fort Wayne's Catholic school history. In 1845, Msgr. Julian Benoit built the first Catholic school in

Fort Wayne on the northeast corner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception grounds — now the chancery site. The three-story brick school was named St. Augustine Academy for Girls. Msgr. Benoit requested that the Sisters of Providence staff the school.

St. Mother Theodore Guérin suffered from illness most of her life. She was treated for a disease at an early age, and the treatment is believed to have damaged her digestive system. Eventually, her condition overtook her, and she died May 14, 1856.

Pope John Paul II said St. Mother Theodore Guérin was "a perfect blend of humanness and holiness." People who knew her did not forget her. Each had a story to tell about her kindness, her love, her goodness and her devotion. She was an inspiration for others in many ways.

Mother Theodore's presence is still strong throughout the congregation. Her remains rest in a tomb under the floor of the church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

# LOCAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Blackberry cell phones are nicknamed "crackberries" because of their addictive nature. He reminded the congregation that Pope John Paul II said that "technology was for the dignity of the person not vice versa."

The bishop then challenged the congregation to find Christ's divinity in their lives by prayers, thanksgiving and giving witness to others. "One of the ways we witness is joy. If the Holy Trinity is within you, that is the source of peace and it gives you strength."

Bishop D'Arcy spoke of a number of ways that we can keep the transformation of the Incarnation in our lives year round. "Maybe there is someone here who has been away from church. Christ is asking you to complete it. But he gives you free will."

"Maybe someone is being called to be a priest or a religious to complete it not for themselves but for others. Maybe God is calling people in a difficult or trying marriage to forgive. Maybe young people are being called to turn away from a way of life that includes drugs and alcohol. He will strengthen us if we pray and through the sacraments," Bishop D'Arcy emphasized.

"We are called upon to believe two things about Jesus Christ; that he is the Son of God and he is the Eternal Word and became man for our salvation. He came as a savior to die on the cross for us. Let us love him with our whole heart and look for ways to complete his mission in our souls and in our lives," he concluded.

The children's choir captured the purity of the occasion with their singing of Christmas carols. Julie Considine, who has been a music teacher at St. Matthew School for 27 years, also directs the children's choir for this Mass every year.

"The church is filled with the



KAREN CLIFFORD

The children's choir sings "O Come All Ye Faithful" during the Christmas vigil Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

families of children we teach and the choir loft is filled with our present students and older brothers and sisters who have chosen to sing with us," says Considine. "The sense of excitement in the rehearsals and at the Mass itself is electrifying."

## Midnight Mass

Bishop D'Arcy returned to Fort Wayne to celebrate the midnight Mass and the Christmas day Mass, both televised live on WISE-TV, Channel 33.

At the midnight Mass, Bishop D'Arcy reflected on how difficult it is to find time to reflect and ponder the words spoken to her, as Mary did, and to find contemplative time to think about "a fresh wonder at Christmas — the coming of God in the flesh, made man for our salvation."

He said the moment of Christmas flies by with activities — mostly good such as preparing meals, greeting visitors and "doing

all these beautiful things that we do at Christmas — thinking of others and buying gifts," he said.

He spoke again of the "omnipresent" technology, and how recently the Blackberries went blank across the hemisphere. "Maybe (it's) God's way to say we need more time to ponder," Bishop D'Arcy noted, "and turn off the Blackberries."

Bishop D'Arcy asked the faithful in the cathedral and watching on television to take a few moments to ponder: What does it mean — what was waited for all of the centuries; talked about by prophets; spoken about by John the Baptist who called all to repentance.

"It's the coming of God becoming man, showing the condescension, mercy and love of God. Christmas shows us who he is. One who cares and loves and gives the ultimate gesture — becoming our brother — to offer himself for our salvation. God in the flesh."

Citing the Magnificat prayer, a prayer which he said should be our prayer at Christmas, Bishop D'Arcy encouraged the faithful to "recount what God has done for us. We also recount what he has done in our individual lives. We

recount the goodness of our parents who brought us to be baptized. We recount our holy marriage day. We recount the day we are made priests or bishops. We recount all the good people he gave us to set us for life. We recount his forgiveness for sins. (The Magnificat) is the perfect prayer. It brings us out of ourselves and focuses us on God."

Near the conclusion of the homily, Bishop D'Arcy said, "We make our act of faith, in God becoming man — in every way man except sin — in every way God transforming us, purifying by his blood our sins. How could we not give thanks? How could we not complete the work of the Incarnation in our souls?"

"This is the joy to which everyone is called," he said. "We're incomplete. But at Christmas he gives us the chance to complete his work in our souls."

"Love asks love," he concluded. "Each one returns it in his or her own way. ... The One asking us for the completion of the work of redemption in our souls is our God, who is also our Savior. Let us respond to him with all our hearts."



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## Sainthood causes advance for Popes John Paul II, Pius XII

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI advanced the sainthood causes of Pope John Paul II and Pope Pius XII, declaring that both had lived lives of “heroic virtues.” In signing the decrees Dec. 19, the pope confirmed the recommendations of Vatican officials who have studied the causes for several years. Both popes can be beatified once a miracle is attributed to their intercession. The decree on Pope John Paul was expected, and it fueled hopes for a beatification ceremony sometime next year. Church experts are already studying a possible miracle, the cure of a French nun from Parkinson’s disease, the same disease from which Pope John Paul suffered. The decree on Pope Pius came as a surprise. His sainthood cause has been a point of contention with some Jewish groups and others who say he failed to do enough to protect Jews during World War II — an accusation strongly rejected by Vatican historians. After the Congregation for Saints’ Causes unanimously recommended the heroic virtues decree for Pope Pius in 2007, Pope Benedict put the cause on hold and put out the word that both critics and supporters should stop pressing the issue. In the end, Pope Benedict paired the announcement of Pope Pius’ “heroic virtues” with that of Pope John Paul, who is remembered for his acts of friendship and bridge-building with the Jewish community.

## Senate health reform bill remains ‘deficient,’ USCCB chairmen say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Senate should not approve its current health reform bill “without incorporating essential changes to ensure” that it “truly protects the life, dignity, consciences and health of all,” the chairmen of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said. In a letter sent late Dec. 22, about 36 hours before the Senate voted Christmas Eve morning, the USCCB urged opposition to the Senate bill and pledged continued efforts to incorporate needed changes during the work of the House-Senate conference committee. “For many months, our bishops’ conference has worked with members of Congress, the administration and others to fashion health care reform legislation that truly protects the life, dignity, health and consciences of all,” said the letter signed by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Bishops William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., and John C. Wester of Salt Lake City. The three chair the USCCB committees on Pro-Life Activities, on Domestic Justice and Human Development and on Migration, respectively. “We regret to say that in all the areas of our moral concern, the Senate healthcare reform bill is defi-

## PALESTINIAN LIGHTS CANDLE INSIDE CHURCH OF NATIVITY



CNS PHOTO/DEBBIE HILL

Palestinian Catholic Samar Basir, 26, lights a candle while holding his niece, Salina, at the Church of Nativity in the West Bank town of Bethlehem Dec. 24.

cient,” the three chairmen added. “Therefore we believe the Senate should not move this bill forward at this time but continue to discuss and approve changes that could make it morally acceptable.”

## Pope clears way for Australian’s canonization, advances other causes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI formally recognized the miracle needed for the canonization of Blessed Mary MacKillop, the Australian founder of a religious order dedicated to educating the children of the poor. Although the nun was briefly excommunicated in 1871 during a disagreement with local church authorities, Pope Benedict visited her tomb in Sydney in 2008 and praised her as one of the most outstanding figures in Australia’s history. In other decrees signed at the Vatican Dec. 19, the pope recognized the martyrdom of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the chaplain to Poland’s Solidarity labor union, who was murdered by members of the communist government’s secret police in 1984. The move clears the way for his beatification. He also recognized the heroic virtues of Sister Mary Ward, founder of the Congregation of Jesus and of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who — like Blessed Mary MacKillop — drew the ire of church authorities for the uncon-

ventional structure she gave her order. A miracle attributed to her intercession is needed before she can be beatified. The decree that prepared the way for Blessed MacKillop’s canonization sometime in 2010 recognized that the 1995 cure of a woman suffering from an invasive and inoperable cancer was a miracle granted through the intercession of the Australian nun.

## Archbishop Schnurr succeeds Archbishop Pilarczyk in Cincinnati

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, 75, as head of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He is succeeded by Coadjutor Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, 61. The resignation and succession were announced at the Vatican Dec. 21. Pope Benedict named Archbishop Schnurr coadjutor archbishop of Cincinnati Oct. 17, 2008. As coadjutor, he automatically becomes head of the archdiocese upon Archbishop Pilarczyk’s retirement. Archbishop Pilarczyk turned 75 in August, the age at which bishops are required by church law to submit their resignations to the pope. He had been archbishop for 27 years, longer than any other currently serving archbishop in the United States.

## Vatican official calls for ‘new thinking’ to address climate change

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (CNS) — The world must confront its current moral crises, ranging from hunger to environmental destruction, with “discernment and new thinking,” said the head of the Vatican delegation to the United Nations climate change conference. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican’s nuncio to the U.N., invited delegates during a plenary session Dec. 17 to “a new and deeper reflection on the meaning of the economy and its purposes, and a profound and far-reaching revision of the model for development, to correct the malfunctions and distortions.” The archbishop’s address in Copenhagen came as negotiations slowed on a climate change pact to build upon the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which obligated industrialized countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a specific amount every year through 2012. No agreement had been reached by midday Dec. 18, the conference’s final day. “With realism, trust and hope we must assume the new responsibilities which call us to the scene of a world in need of a deep cultural renewal and a rediscovery of fundamental values on which to build a better future,” Archbishop Migliore said. He called attention to efforts being made to reduce energy consumption around the globe. He

said efforts should not only revolve around scientific and technical solutions, but must include changes in personal habits and lifestyle. “The wisest and most effective programs focus on information, education and the formation of the sense of responsibility in children and adults toward environmentally sound patterns of development and stewardship of creation,” he said.

## House kicks off push to move comprehensive immigration bill forward

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a packed House hearing room Dec. 15, nearly two dozen members of Congress, flanked by dozens of kids wearing T-shirts reading “Future Voter” opened the push for a new comprehensive immigration reform bill. The legislation — called Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America’s Security and Prosperity Act of 2009, or CIR ASAP — was unveiled before a roomful of advocates from churches, community groups and others with interests in fixing the current immigration system. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., who has shepherded the process of drafting the bill, said the bill would carry the name of Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas, founder of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Ryan Dwyer, immigration policy adviser for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, outlined for Catholic News Service some of the differences between the new legislation and previous immigration reform bills. They include new standards for immigrant detention; no “touchback” provision, which in previous bills would have required undocumented immigrants to return to their home countries to apply for legalization in the U.S.; the end of a program that gave local law enforcement agencies the authority to enforce federal immigration laws; a prohibition on creating a national identification card; and provisions allowing spouses and minor children to continue with their applications for naturalization or status adjustment even after the death of the family member that is a U.S. citizen or legal resident.

## Pope elevates West Virginia co-cathedral

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has elevated the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston to the status of a minor basilica. Although Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston only recently received the decree for the co-cathedral’s title of basilica minor from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments recently, it was dated Nov. 9, the solemnity of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. Bishop Bransfield called the designation “a beautiful gift for the parish” and said it “distinguishes the Charleston community as well as the entire Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.” The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart is the 63rd minor basilica designated in the U.S.

## Bishop Dwenger to offer SAT prep classes

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger will be offering SAT Prep classes beginning Jan. 19 to help students become familiar with the SAT and PSAT formats. The 14-class series will include diagnostic testing — six on the verbal section and six on the math section — and will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. The fee for the class is \$170 and includes the text for the course. For more information visit [www.bishopdwenger.com](http://www.bishopdwenger.com), or call (260) 496-4700.

## Bishop Luers offer sporting, performing arts events on WebTV

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School has recently collaborated with inCommand Broadcasting LLC of Dallas, Texas, getting its own designated WebTV.

“We have been broadcasting our home sporting events and performing arts concerts,” said Monica Zwick, director of public relations for Bishop Luers. “We really want to spread the word.”

Zwick said WebTV is linked to their Web site, [www.bishopluers.org](http://www.bishopluers.org).

“We do charge \$5 for each event that you watch,” Zwick said. “All events are archived and if you can't watch them live, you can watch them at your convenience.”

inCommand Broadcasting is enabling and issuing Internet TV channels to schools to broadcast both audio and video live (and On-Demand) over inCommand's IP — TV network via the Internet (just like TV, but even better because it is interactive). This technology has not only provided great expanded communication capabilities for schools, but has empowered schools to achieve fundraising abilities.

## 'Ways of Praying' series begins Jan. 9 at Victory Noll Center

HUNTINGTON — Beginning in January, Victory Noll Center will present “Ways of Praying,” a program of study and reflection to deepen a relationship with God.

Sessions will be once a month from January through June, from 9 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of each month. Each session will present different ways of praying, beginning with praying the Scriptures in the opening class on Jan. 9.

The program continues on Feb. 13 with “Hildegard: The Prayer of Art.” Additional sessions include “The Cloud of Unknowing: Beyond Words” on March 13, “Dominic: Prayer Postures” on April 10, “Ignatius Loyola: Discerning Prayer” on May 8, and finishing with “Dorothy Day: Prayer as Reflective Writing and

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## PRESCHOOLERS COOKIES SWEETEN OUR FATHER'S HOUSE



PROVIDED BY SACRED HEART SCHOOL

The Sacred Heart preschool students of Lili Polk's and Cindy Hollowell's classes, along with parent volunteers, frost and decorate cookies to be distributed by Our Father's House to families in the area. Nearly 2,000 cookies were decorated and wrapped for the Christmas season.

Service” on June 12.

The cost for the course is \$125 for the entire series or \$25 for individual sessions. For those who sign up with a friend or family member, the price for the series is discounted to \$100 per person.

Registration is required by Jan. 4.

Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

To register or for more information about the program or Victory Noll Center, contact Director Sue Wilhelm at (260) 356-0628, ext. 128, or by e-mail at [suewilhelm@olvm.org](mailto:suewilhelm@olvm.org).

No one is ever turned away from a program because of inability to pay. Payment plans or other arrangements may be made by contacting Victory Noll Center.

Victory Noll Center is a ministry of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters and is dedicated to fostering spiritual and personal growth in an ecumenical and multicultural environment.

## Marian High School students awarded science grants

SOUTH BEND — Ken Andrzejewski, chairperson of the Marian High School Science Department, has announced that the following advanced research students have been awarded junior

research grants from the Indiana Academy of Science for 2009-2010: Michelle Baranay — \$300, Aaron Bulger — \$254, Chloe Deranek — \$218, Andrea Freeze — \$45, Katie Hansen — \$134, Michael Hunckler — \$300, Mark Imus — \$300, Greg Janowiak — \$300, Samuel Leung — \$300, Dana Lind — \$300, Emily Lohr — \$300, Evan Merryman — \$295, Yae Eun Oh — \$150, Jasmine Podell — \$150, Claire Sieradzki — \$300, Abby Suckow — \$285, Tim Trippel — \$99 and Stephanie Van Overberghe — \$300.

This is a total of \$4,330 in grants for 18 Marian students.

## Area educator receives national recognition

SOUTH BEND — A local teacher has received national recognition for outstanding performance in education, Renaissance Learning announced today.

Meredith Smith, who teaches at Corpus Christi School, was awarded Reading Model Classroom by the Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., based company. Model Classroom certification indicates that Smith's efforts to adopt Renaissance Best Classroom Practices to a high degree have resulted in measurable improvements in student performance.

“Meredith exemplifies the kind

of commitment to the success of every student that is at the heart of effective teaching,” said Judi Paul, chairman of the board at Renaissance Learning.

To receive Renaissance Model Classroom certification, an educator must demonstrate that their students are maintaining high-quality practice for a minimum of 12 weeks. In addition, educators must be actively working with individual students to meet Renaissance-recommended standards and be helping each student work at the level that promotes the most growth.

In addition to national recognition, Smith will receive a certificate in recognition of this class wide achievement, more opportunities for professional development and other benefits to share with the class and school.

Renaissance Learning, Inc. is the world's leading provider of computer-based assessment technology for pre-K-12 schools.

## Bag lunch and book discussion in January at Victory Noll Center

HUNTINGTON — William P. Young's novel “The Shack” will be the subject of the opening Bag Lunch and Book Discussion on Wednesdays in January at Victory Noll Center.

Participants are invited to bring

their own lunch for the book talk, which is designed to stir thoughts about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, forgiveness and eternity.

The lunchtime sessions will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays on Jan. 6, 13, 20 and 27.

Victory Noll Center will provide beverages for the lunch. There is no cost and no registration is required. A freewill offering will be taken. Possible discussion questions about “The Shack” may be sent to Victory Noll Center director Sue Wilhelm at [suewilhelm@olvm.org](mailto:suewilhelm@olvm.org).

Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

For more information about the program or Victory Noll Center, contact director Sue Wilhelm at (260) 356-0628, ext. 128, or by e-mail at [suewilhelm@olvm.org](mailto:suewilhelm@olvm.org).

## DeGeyter and Ogden state Spell Bowl champs

SOUTH BEND — Matt DeGeyter of St. Bavo Parish in Mishawaka and Michael Ogden of St. Pius X Parish in Granger are Sunday Mass servers in their respective churches. In addition to being a server, Ogden is also a cantor and a minister of the Eucharist at St. Pius X.

Both young men also helped their Penn High School Spell Bowl team “serve up” a state championship on Nov. 14 at Purdue University, West Lafayette, as Penn recorded a perfect score of 90, the only school to achieve perfection.

Ogden is a senior at Penn High School in Mishawaka. He correctly spelled 223 out of a possible 225 words in his four-year Spell Bowl career at Penn, including 71 of 72 this past season. He was nine out of nine in the state finals this year, while also being a member of the 2006 and 2008 Penn state championship teams.

DeGeyter is also a senior at Penn High School. He correctly spelled 143 out of a possible 144 words in his four-year Spell Bowl career, including 72 of 72 words this season. He also was nine out of nine in the state finals this fall, while also being a member of the 2006 and 2008 Penn state champs.

Both were co-captains of their team this season. Their coach is Pete DeKever, a member of St. Bavo Parish.

## Corrections

In the Dec. 20, 2009, issue of *Today's Catholic*, the title on the Our Lady of Guadalupe gift to Bishop John M. D'Arcy should have read “Our Lady of Guadalupe honored,” rather than “adored.” Catholics honor the Blessed Mother.

In the Bishop Kevin Rhoades article, he was rector at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. In the same story, Pope John Paul II's “I Will Give You Shepherds,” is called an apostolic exhortation.

## Angel Tree program connects children to the parent in prison

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — For more than 100 children in the area, there will be one less person at the Christmas dinner table due to incarceration. However, thanks to the Angel Tree program, more children can feel connected to their parent(s), even when prison bars separate them.

Locally, Mark Michuda, of the Knights of Columbus Anthony Wayne Assembly 4th Degree, is responsible for introducing the program to the diocese. Last year, he and some St. Aloysius, Yoder, parishioners participated in a prison ministry program called Christmas Behind Bars whereby they went to several prisons to visit inmates. It was a pivotal moment there that spurred his dedication to the cause: "I walked by the visitation room to see a woman greeting probably her husband as he entered the room in his orange jump suit," he recalled. She started crying uncontrollably as they embraced, I sensed the pain and hardship that woman must be going through.

Inspired to take action, he asked a fellow volunteer about the availability of other prison ministry programs. She told him about the national Angel Tree program, which strives to keep children connected to their parent in prison.

While it's important to minister to the inmates, the children are often the most vulnerable parties in the situation. In Allen County alone, Michuda noted there are 1,000 children who have a parent away in prison or jail.

Michuda justified the need for this ministry: "It's the children who suffer and they have done nothing wrong," he said. "Statistics show that children who



LAUREN CAGGIANO

**Gifts are placed in the sanctuary of St. Henry Church Dec. 19 at the beginning of a prayer service.**

have a parent in prison become high risk. Many end up in prison themselves."

Last year Michuda worked with the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish to serve 30 families of inmates. This paved the way for the larger scale event at St. Henry Parish on Dec. 19. Families of inmates were invited to the parish center for an afternoon of activities, including a prayer service, gifts, lunch and card making. Children received personal messages from their parent and had an opportunity to reciprocate the action through the Christmas cards to be sent back to the parent.

The ministry does not stop here, however, according to Michuda. The group intends to do a follow-up with the families and offer support groups, counseling and spiritual direction if they desire.

**For more information** about the Angel Tree ministry, visit [www.angel-tree.org](http://www.angel-tree.org).

## Father Tom O'Connor 2010 Light of Christ Award: Encouraging the next generation of servants

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, in cooperation with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is now accepting nominations for the 2010 Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award.

This award is presented each year in March to an individual whose work reflects the strong values exemplified by Father O'Connor during his many years as a priest. This year the award committee invites nominations of persons of faith whose work among the disadvantaged encourage a just society and peaceful resolution of conflict. The award carries with it a gift of \$1,000 given in the name of the recipient to his or her designated project, school, faith community or non-profit organization. In the words of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award has been designated to encourage "the next generation of Father Toms."

Father O'Connor, who died March 17, 2004, at the age of 74, served as pastor of St. Mary's Parish for 34 years and is considered by many to be an icon of Catholic faith in action.

Father Tom believed that providing food to the hungry was a matter of both justice and charity. He was instrumental in the creation of the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen that has operated since opening on Jan. 22, 1975, the Matthew 25 health and dental clinics, St. Mary's Thanksgiving Day dinner, and an annual Christmas box distribution that helps more than 500 families each year. He was also part of the steering committee that created Vincent House/Vincent Village Transitional Housing.

Father O'Connor was actively involved in ecumenical and interfaith activities and was a strong advocate for peace both locally and in the wider community. He was also a strong advocate for civil rights.

Father O'Connor was honored during his lifetime with many



**Father Tom O'Connor standing outside of the old St. Mary's Church.**

awards and accolades, including the prestigious national Catholic Extension Society's Lumen Christi Award, which was described by the society's president as "the church's equivalent of the Nobel Prize."

Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award nominations are open to persons of all faith traditions. Previous award winners are Cliff Kindy, 2007, for his work in nonviolence; Sister Janet Gildea, M.D., 2008, for her efforts among diverse cultures, and William Critell, 2009, for his dedication to education among the disadvantaged.

### Nomination guidelines

Each year the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award committee seeks nominations of persons of faith, high-school age or older, whose activities serve as an example and encouragement to youth. One category is designated each year in which to receive nominations, and only one nominee in the designated category will be selected as the

winner. The committee may defer selecting a winner in any given year. Application information is available from the St. Mary's Church Office, (260) 424-8231, and is available online at [www.stmarysfw.org](http://www.stmarysfw.org) and [www.diocesefwsb.org](http://www.diocesefwsb.org).

For the 2010 award the committee is seeking nominations of persons whose work among the disadvantaged serves to encourage a just society and peaceful resolution to conflict locally, nationally or globally.

### How to apply

1. Nominations are to be made by letter from someone who knows the nominee well.

2. Nominees must come from a strong faith background and be of good character. Nominations are open to persons of all faiths.

3. The nomination must include the following information in the order listed:

- Nominee's name
- Contact information
- Age and school or occupation

• Faith affiliation

• Where the cash award is to be directed, should the nominee receive the award

• Name and contact information of the person submitting the nomination

• Names and contact information of three references

• A brief narrative no more than two pages in length explaining why the nominee should be considered for the award

4. E-mail submissions (Word document attachment) are preferred and should be sent to [jan.stmarys@verizon.net](mailto:jan.stmarys@verizon.net) with Father Tom Award in the subject line. E-mail nominations must be received no later than 4 p.m. on Jan. 22, 2010

5. Letters of nomination may be mailed to Father Tom O'Connor Award Committee, St. Mary's Catholic Church, P.O. Box 11383, Fort Wayne, IN 46857-1383, and must be received no later than Jan. 22, 2010

Thank You, Bishop D'Arcy...



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## ST. AUGUSTINE CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS WITH CHILDREN



MAY LEE JOHNSON

Holy Cross Father Leonard Collins reads the Christmas story to the children of St. Augustine Church, South Bend, on Christmas Eve at the children's Mass.

## CHILDREN GATHER AT THE ALTAR



TERESA BRITO

Father Dale A. Bauman, pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Pierceton, is joined by the children of the parish during the eucharistic prayer on Christmas Eve as they celebrate a children's Mass. Children provided music before the 4 p.m. Mass.

# Decatur parish blesses new gymnasium

BY TIM JOHNSON

DECATUR — After an escorted tour with Father David Voors, pastor, to bless the new gymnasium at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and St. Joseph School in Decatur, Bishop John M. D'Arcy praised all involved who made the effort possible.

The \$1 million facility is located across the street from St. Joseph School and replaces a smaller gym in the school building which dates to 1925. Construction funds were used from an over- \$3 million campaign that included the gymnasium and a parish hall, which now is in the planning stages, according to St. Joseph School Principal Karla Hormann, who also serves on the building committee.

Despite a tough economy in Decatur where the unemployment rate was as high as 18 percent, Hormann told *Today's Catholic*. "We're just about done collecting (money for the parish hall), so it's all come in very well and everybody's still giving, even if they've already (completed) their pledge."

Planned gifts assisted the building campaign known as BOOH, Building On Our Heritage, and anchored with the diocesan-wide Legacy of Faith campaign drive. "If it wouldn't have been for all the parishioners in this area and giving, even after they had passed on, and remembering the school, we wouldn't be here," Hormann told *Today's Catholic* after the gymnasium blessing on Dec. 18.

From studies, the parish determined a new gymnasium, a parish hall and work on the pre-



TIM JOHNSON

**Bishop John M. D'Arcy joins students from St. Joseph School, and parishioners and donors of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur to bless the new \$1 million gymnasium.**

school facilities were priorities. The parish's daycare and pre-kindergarten program has almost 100 children. But a donor provided the funds for the upgrades to the preschool facilities, so BOOH money was not used for those improvements.

"Think of all these people and many others who gave money so you can have this gym and grow up to be like Michael Jordan, and LeBron James and all those great players," Bishop John M. D'Arcy told the students of St. Joseph School, parishioners and donors from St. Mary of the Assumption Parish. "So we thank (the donors). They are a sign of God's love."

In a brief homily at the blessing, Bishop D'Arcy reflected on a reading from St. Paul.

"Paul knew all about sports," Bishop D'Arcy said. "He said

everybody runs and only one wins the prize. Run to win the prize, the prize of eternal life."

"We hope that you always will play fair," he told the students and families gathered in the new gymnasium, "that your time in this gym and in the church always is seen as preparing you for life. Every day, if you have gifts — in studies, in art, in music, in athletics — you thank God for those gifts and foster them."

Bishop D'Arcy encouraged the students to enjoy the wonderful years of youth "and to prepare yourselves for life to be married, single, priests or religious. We hope that everybody is trying to find what God wants them to do in their life."

"Study hard, play hard. It's a joyous gift to be young. You are only young a short time," he said. "Learn to love God early and pray to him every night."

Bishop D'Arcy proceeded with the blessing of the building, going from room to room and sprinkling the facility with holy water.

"With praise and thanksgiving, let us ask God, through whom all things are accomplished, to bless this new building and bless all who will use it, especially the children," he prayed.

The gymnasium, which seats 300, will be used strictly as an athletic facility. It could be rented out for tournaments.

"And hopefully we'll see a lot more CYO games down here too," Hormann said. "We have a nice gym, come on down."

St. Mary Parish dates to 1840. The first school building opened in 1881 and the present-day school facility was built in 1925.

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## EDITORIAL

## A holy season of endings and beginnings

As the church celebrates the feast of Epiphany this Sunday, there is a long standing tradition of announcing the events and holy days for the coming year. Currently, as the diocese is in transition, the winter air sparkles with excitement as we announce the installation of our new ordinary, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, on Jan. 13. The faithful of the diocese look forward to the fresh new year with hopeful anticipation. And with that hope we pause to express our heartfelt gratitude to Bishop John M. D'Arcy for more-than-24 years of episcopal ministry here.

This issue of Today's Catholic is dedicated to the learned man, who came to this diocese from Boston in 1985. With a bitter-sweet sentiment, as the diocese moves into the future, we look back for a moment at the innovative and prayerful service our bishop has provided to the faithful of the area.

During Bishop D'Arcy's tenure this diocese has seen much positive growth and change. His careful attention to the needs of the parishes and their priests brought a new focus to the diocese.

Under Bishop D'Arcy's initiative, new offices, including the Office of Spiritual Development, Hispanic Ministry and Catechesis, have been established to enhance the spiritual growth of the faithful of the diocese. His attention to sacred liturgy and eucharistic adoration has renewed the prayerful reverence of each congregation. And the establishment of new parishes, church and school expansions and renovations, and new building construction has broadened the opportunity for the faithful to gather, catechize and worship together.

Bishop D'Arcy's financial innovations, such as the Annual Bishop's Appeal and the Legacy of Faith endeavor, continue to support and strengthen the diocesan churches and schools in myriad ways. His foresight and commitment to evangelization, using all available forms of media and technology, including the long-running TV Masses, the diocesan newspaper, the Web site and podcast, have delivered the good news of Jesus Christ and his church to the far corners of the region.

Ecumenical efforts by Bishop D'Arcy with Protestant denominations has encouraged long-term gatherings and dialogue. And community outreach initiatives like the Women's Care Centers and Vincent Village is a legacy Bishop D'Arcy leaves that will serve those in need, both Catholic and non-Catholic, for many years to come. His commitment to strengthening the Catholic identity of this diocese is renown.

The diocese was blessed with two eucharistic congress opportunities, one in 2000 in celebration of the millenium jubilee and the other in 2007 during the diocese's own 150th jubilee year, both held on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, to celebrate our faith together as Catholics. And the list of bishop's initiatives goes on. Look to the special section for the extent of Bishop D'Arcy's significant achievements.

We are grateful to Bishop D'Arcy for all the ways he has encouraged growth and movement in congregations across the diocese, but also for the example he has been for us as a man of strength and enduring faith, even in the face of adversity. He is a compassionate and an attentive leader. His accessibility to the faithful, both young and old, has been an inspiration to us. He is truly a bishop for the people.

In his remarks at a recent gathering Bishop D'Arcy related his episcopacy to a marathon — 24 and-a-half years of an ongoing ministry. With its challenges and joys he said he continues to "enjoy every day of it." His joy can be seen by any observer.

As he steps into retirement he hopes to continue to serve the diocese in those priestly duties he holds so dear, including celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, offering the other sacraments and teaching and preaching as he assists where he is needed. He also looks forward to providing spiritual retreats for priests and others as well as assisting the new bishop with confirmations. As the last days of Bishop D'Arcy's ministry come to pass, he continues to encourage the people of the diocese to welcome Bishop Rhoades with love and to look forward to the future with hope.

We at Today's Catholic join the faithful of the diocese in bidding Bishop D'Arcy farewell. We remain grateful for his exemplary pastoral care of the diocese for more than two decades and wish him God's grace in his well-deserved retirement.

**Today's Catholic editorial board** is Kay Cozad, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Msgr. 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

## Who is Hannah's House?

Throughout our community, there are many needs to be met, services to be delivered and helping hands to be extended. At Hannah's House, we are honored to be one of the many organizations working every day to make a difference, and we applaud the efforts of our fellow servants.

This certainly includes the admirable work done by Hannah and Friends, the not-for-profit started by Charlie and Maura Weis that endeavors to improve the quality of life for children and adults with special needs. And while there is room in our community for two charities that share the name Hannah, recently there has been increased confusion over our two organizations that we hope to clarify.

As a 17-year-old organization, Hannah's House is proud of the support we've provided to hundreds of young pregnant women in need of a safe, welcoming home. Our services are essential in our community, providing expectant women with a nurturing, life-affirming place to live while awaiting the birth of their child. During their time with us, women receive job training and have the opportunity to continue their education. They learn the life skills they need to return to the local community stronger and more self-confident. And, we support them as they choose whether to raise their baby or place their child with adoptive parents.

The homelike environment of Hannah's House has provided hundreds of women this affirmation, enrichment and support since its beginning in 1993 as a joint effort of the Women's Care Center, Bethel College, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. When asked to describe Hannah's House, our mothers use words like nurturing, patience, life as a gift, being loved, stepping stone, responsibility, growth as a woman, better person, a good mother and many others. Hannah's House has been a blessing to each expectant mother and her unborn child who have lived with us, and it also presents to our community a clear and obvious witness to the sanctity and giftedness of life.

The media coverage surrounding Charlie Weis recently has included questions about whether or not Hannah and Friends will remain here if Weis and his family move away. Because of the confusion over our two organizations and our similar name, many in our community have questioned whether Hannah's House will be staying in Michiana. The answer is yes. We are not going anywhere.

We at Hannah's House in Mishawaka want our community to

know that our maternity home has made a significant difference in the lives of all the expectant mothers who have lived within its walls since 1993, and has improved the quality of life for all the babies born to them. Lessons learned at Hannah's House will live on in mother, child and future generations. And, we are committed to continuing to provide this crucial support.

Whether they remain in the Michiana community or chose another venue, we wish Charlie and Maura Weis the best in the enterprise they have begun with the creation of Hannah and Friends.

We ask the local community to include both Hannah's House and Hannah and Friends in your generous and loving support.

Hannah's House  
Mishawaka

## Christmas memories warm the heart

In a past issue you wanted stories about people's happy memories of our past Christmases. My father, in the '40s, dug out the front yard evergreen each Christmas, brought it in the house and decorated it. After Christmas he planted it again. He did that for the next eight or more years, until it was too large. There was not any money for a tree. This holds beautiful memories for the six children.

Blessed Christmas to you.

Ann Mullins  
Fort Wayne

## Planned Parenthood wants massive government bailout

Planned Parenthood is in an all out fight to get millions of dollars of our tax money from the government through what they call "healthcare reform." Planned Parenthood has two corporations — the abortion side and the family planning side and received \$350 million of our tax money for family planning services last year. However at the end of the day, all the money that Planned Parenthood has is put into one pot, so a large chunk of our tax money is already helping to fund abortions. Do you want more of your hard earned money to fund abortions?

Many of the Democratic Senators are currently trying to pass something that they call "healthcare reform." President Obama has promised Planned Parenthood that abortion would be included as "basic health care." He has also promised America that, "No federal funds will go to abortions." If abortions are included in the healthcare

reform bill, where does he think the money will come from?

It has been reported that as much as 68 percent of Americans do not want to pay for abortions.

Please call your Senators and Representative today to let them know that you want an explicit exclusion of abortion coverage in any healthcare reform bill. Call Senators Richard Lugar at (202) 224-4814 and Evan Bayh at (202) 224-5623. Call Rep. Mark Souder at (202) 225-4436 or visit [www.StopTheAbortionMandate.com](http://www.StopTheAbortionMandate.com) for more information.

Christine Passino  
Churubusco

## Attention to semantics

I appreciate the good work you and your staff do in providing news of the diocese and beyond. I do have a criticism of something in the Dec. 20, 2009 edition — a caption above a photo of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration.

It said "Our Lady of Guadalupe adored." Since when do Catholics adore Mary? I have always thought that adoration belonged to God. Sometimes non-Catholics criticize Catholics for adoring Mary — and now our diocesan newspaper seems to confirm that. Some other, probably more appropriate terms could have been used — honored, praised, celebrated.

Catholics may well overlook this, but some non-Catholics could use this to strengthen their prejudices.

Teresa Paukert  
South Bend

## Gratitude for the Vatican

The Holy Father has asked me to acknowledge the offering of \$52,865.83, which you sent from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as Peter's Pence for the year 2009.

His Holiness is well aware that your people's faith motivated their contributions. He is appreciative of their willingness to assist him in the exercise of his ministry and he prays that the Lord Jesus may grant them an increase of the joy and peace that flow from fidelity to the Gospel.

With affection in the Lord the Holy Father cordially imparts his apostolic blessing to you and to all the clergy, religious and laity of the diocese.

With personal good wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,  
Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone  
Secretary of State  
Vatican

# Inside and outside the Vatican, 2009 was busy year for pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Looking back on 2009, it's difficult to imagine a busier year for 82-year-old Pope Benedict XVI. The Year of St. Paul. The Year for Priests. A major social encyclical. A Holy Land pilgrimage. A first meeting with President Obama. Ten new saints. An African trip and an African synod. A Facebook debut. A controversial concession to Catholic traditionalists. An unexpected overture to disaffected Anglicans.

And those are just the highlights, of course. Being pope is a day-in, day-out ministry, and over the course of the past year Pope Benedict met with more than 200 dignitaries and groups, held talks with more than 300 bishops and celebrated more than 50 major liturgies.

The year brought moments of deep personal satisfaction, as when the German pontiff prayed in silence before Christ's empty tomb in Jerusalem, or when he arrived

on his first African visit to a tumultuous welcome by hundreds of thousands of Cameroon residents. But the pope's disappointment was also evident in 2009, in part because he felt misunderstood by some of his own faithful and the mass media over difficult decisions or statements.

In January, the pope announced that he was lifting the excommunications of four bishops of the Society of St. Pius X to open the way toward reconciliation talks with the traditionalist group — a move that had been opposed by some bishops in several countries.

Media attention quickly focused on the fact that one of the four, Bishop Richard Williamson, had given interviews denying the extent of the Holocaust. Suddenly the German-born pope was on the defensive, having to assure Jewish leaders and others that his initiative aimed at church unity and in no way represented a backtracking on the church's teachings against anti-

## THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

Semitism. One of the most remarkable documents of 2009, in fact, was the pope's subsequent letter to the world's bishops expressing his amazement that even some Catholics had misunderstood him and attacked him "with open hostility."

The pope's visit to Africa in March was a weeklong experience of intense liturgies, discussions with bishops and moving encounters with youth, the disabled and even a group of Pygmies. But the media impact was over-

shadowed by the pope's remarks to reporters on the first day of the trip, when he spoke of the church's strategies against AIDS and said, "One cannot overcome the problem with the distribution of condoms. On the contrary, they increase the problem." The comment drew widespread criticism, although some experts agreed that over-reliance on condoms was a problem in African countries.

The Synod of Bishops for Africa in October brought the continent back into the Vatican spotlight. The pope presided over the synod's assemblies and, at the conclusion, received 57 pastoral proposals to elaborate into a future document on the church in Africa.

In May, Pope Benedict traveled to Jordan, Israel and Palestinian territories. The eight-day trip was a biblical pilgrimage, an interfaith mission and a political balancing act all rolled into one. The pontiff visited a mosque in the Jordanian capital, prayed at the Yad Vashem

Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, and blessed cornerstones for new Christian churches and facilities in the region.

In June, the pope closed the Year of St. Paul and opened the Year for Priests. In weekly talks and liturgical celebrations focusing on St. Paul, the pope sketched a detailed portrait of the man considered the model of Christian conversion and the archetypal missionary.

In launching the Year for Priests, the pope said the church must acknowledge that some priests have done great harm to others, but it also must thank God for the gifts the majority of priests have given to the church and the world.

In July, the pope issued his long-awaited encyclical on economic and social justice, "Charity in Truth." It called for reform of international economic institutions

LETTER, PAGE 12

## Epiphany calls us to God



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Epiphany of the Lord Mt 2:1-12

This weekend, the church celebrates the ancient feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, reflecting upon the visit of Magi "from the East" to the crib side of the newborn Savior.

The first reading is from the third and last section of Isaiah. After four generations of exile in Babylon, survivors or descendants of survivors, of the long past Babylonian conquest of the Holy Land finally were able to return to their homeland.

It was because Persia, in turn, had overtaken Babylonia. Persia's King Cyrus allowed the exiles to leave Babylon and to return to the Holy Land. However, homecoming was bittersweet. The land to which they returned after so many years was desolate and unyielding.

The prophets insisted that, in spite of this desolation, times would change for the better, because God would not forget the Chosen People.

This reading rejoices in God's salvation. God will vindicate the people, delivering them from all their woes. So, the prophecy predicts a great new day!

In the second reading, from the Epistle to the Ephesians, is the frank and direct statement that God intends salvation not only for the Chosen People but also for the

gentiles. No one is beyond the range of divine love and mercy.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading. Among the four Gospels, only Matthew and Luke refer to the conception, birth and very early life of Jesus. Mark and John are silent on these subjects.

Between Matthew and Luke, only Matthew has the story of the Magi. This story is one of the most profound and expressive revelations in the New Testament. Better to understand it requires recognizing the symbols and images contained in the passage.

First, the Gospel speaks of visitors "from the East." "From the East" was a phrase referring to much more than a direction of the compass. It meant a distant and unknown place. What was the origin of these visitors? All that is known is that they were "from the East."

Who, and what, were they? Scholars have not agreed on a translation. Some think that they were astrologers, in a time when astrology was heavily associated with theology and philosophy. Others think they were nobles, or kings. Another term is Magi, its meaning unclear.

How many were in their number? We do not know, because Matthew does not tell us. Art and legend have seen them over the centuries as three in number.

Regardless, they were gifted, learned and very sincere, earnestly seeking God.

Herod tried to remove any competition this newborn king might create. He discovers that according to the Scriptures, the Savior indeed will be born in Bethlelem.

Central to the story is that in searching for the Lord, the Magi followed a star in the sky. God was guiding them.

### Reflection:

A modern Christmas song has an especially relevant message for Epiphany. The song is "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem," words by Adger M. Pace, music by R. Fisher Boyce and arrangement by Tom Fettke.

In effect, it prays that by following the beautiful star of Bethlehem in our own lives, we will reach the "land of perfect day."

The Epiphany is much more than a commemoration. It is a call to follow God's beckoning to live in a place of endless light and warmth, the kingdom where Jesus reigns supreme.

Too often we allow ourselves to slip into the role of Herod. We ignore, or outright reject, life in God by choosing to live as our instincts or limited human understanding suggest to us.

We live in darkness and in coldness, for many of us literally speaking. The wonder is that there is a land of perfect day, and Christ, the light of the world, guides us to it.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13 Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 Mt 2:1-12  
**Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Is 2:7-8,10-12a Mt 4:12-17,23-25  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4,7-8 Mk 6:34-44  
**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2,10-13 Mk 6:45-52  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2,14,15bc,17 Lk 4:14-22a  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15,19-20 Lk 5:12-16  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a,9b Jn 3:22-30

## A history of the new temple built by King Herod the Great

The history of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, where King Herod's temple stood, goes back to Abraham, the father of the Jewish religion, in the 18th century B.C. On this mount where God ordered Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, God intervened and a ram was sacrificed instead. This event sanctified for all time the steep rocky summit we call the Temple Mount.

Eventually King David (1000-970 B.C.) captured Jerusalem and placed there the ark of the covenant, a portable chest on top of which the presence of God dwelt between two angels facing each other. This ark was housed in a tent. When King David built himself a beautiful palace, he felt the ark should not just be housed in a small tent, but in a grand temple. David's son Solomon (970-930 B.C.) eventually built the first temple for the Israelites. This temple was destroyed by the Babylonians from southern Iraq in 587 B.C. Many Israelites were taken into exile in Babylon.

When the Persians from Iran conquered Babylon in 538 B.C., they allowed the Israelites who wished to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. This new temple of Zerubbabel, a Judean prince who organized the rebuilding, was begun in 537 B.C. and dedicated in 515 B.C.

Father John McKenzie says the temple of Zerubbabel was of the same dimensions and structure as the temple of Solomon, but much inferior in the richness of its decorations. Eventually,



### HIRE HISTORY

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

with the Jewish conflict with their Seleucid or Syrian rulers like Antiochus IV (175-164 B.C.), the temple was probably severely damaged. This temple stood until the beginning of Herod the Great's new temple in 19 B.C.

The temple of Herod was built on massive quarried blocks still visible today at the Wailing Wall or Western Wall in Jerusalem where many Jews congregate to pray. Often they write out a prayer intention on a small piece of paper and place it in a crack in the wall. Baedeker says that politically Herod wanted to gain the favor of his Jewish subjects, so he rebuilt the temple by combining the requirements of the Jewish religion with elements of the Graeco-Roman style. He extended the area of the temple to its present size of 985 feet by 1,575 feet.

The outer forecourt was for temporal business and open to anyone. The inner forecourt was on a higher level and only Jews were allowed access. It was divided into three parts: the Women's Courtyard, the

HIRE, PAGE 12

# The many moral questions in healthcare reform

The Catholic Church in the United States has done a public service during the recent healthcare debate by keeping a crucial proposition in play: no reform should reverse the 32-year-old national consensus that keeps the federal government out of the business of funding abortions. Defending that proposition will not get any easier in the weeks ahead, but it must be done.

The defense of the inalienable right-to-life is not the only moral principle involved in the healthcare debate, however. There are several other such principles and social justice concerns at stake. Here are some of the most important:

- The principle of solidarity teaches us to cherish a sense of responsibility across generations. How is that principle honored in a reform of health care that dramatically reduces the funding of Medicare for senior citizens, as bills in Congress now do?
- The principle of cross-generational solidarity also raises grave questions about the real costs of the plans that have emerged from the House and the Senate — real costs, as distinguished from the numbers being pulled out of hats on Capitol Hill. One experienced Catholic public-policy analyst estimates that the bill brought before the Senate will increase total federal spending by about \$4.9 trillion (that's \$4.9 million million) over the next 20 years. There is no way to pay for this, even with spending reductions and tax increases. Does saddling our grandchildren with an Everest of debt satisfy the demands of cross-generational solidarity?
- The principle of subsidiarity teaches us to be wary of concentrating too much power in the

national government. Yet the House bill that (barely) passed in November puts the federal government squarely on the hook for controlling healthcare costs because it requires Americans to buy government-approved insurance. Voters will rightly turn to their representatives and insist that the government make that insurance affordable. Thus the sea change: the U.S. government will become responsible for containing all healthcare costs, which will inevitably involve both rationing and a decline in the quality of care.

Moreover, does anyone seriously propose that a federal government incapable of producing and distributing flu vaccine efficiently is capable of managing a national healthcare system well? Subsidiarity teaches us to be deeply skeptical about affirmative answers to that question. Common sense suggests that any government, given such power, will never give it up. If we make a mess of this now, we're stuck; ask the British and the Canadians.

- The principle of the common good teaches us to avoid public policy that destroys jobs; that moral imperative becomes even more urgent under current circumstances. The taxes that proposed healthcare reforms will impose on all but the smallest employers who don't offer health insurance, and the tax surcharge that will be laid on higher income persons who own small businesses, are both likely to discourage hiring and force layoffs. That's bad public policy at any level of unemployment. It's unconscionable when the unemployment rate hovers around 10 percent.
- The politicization of medical



## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

decisions — which will inevitably follow the kind of healthcare reform now being proposed — will put new pressures on the right-to-life principle, as well as on the principles of the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity. Decisions that should be made by patients and doctors will be made by regulators as governmental intrusion trumps moral and medical judgment. How this builds a free and virtuous society, as Catholic social doctrine bids us do, is not clear.

For all its virtues, today's American medical system does not afford access to needed care for some, so it fails the tests set by Catholic social doctrine. We can meet those tests and fix the system's gravest problems by working incrementally, testing results as we go: changing the liability laws that distort insurance costs, reforming the insurance industry to mandate portability and coverage of pre-existing conditions, lifting the ban on interstate competition in health insurance, and covering the uninsured by tax credits and small business reforms. That would be healthcare reform that satisfies Catholic principles across-the-board.

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

## HIRE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Courtyard of the male Israelites with the incense offering, and the Priests' Courtyard with an altar on which animals were sacrificed. In the center was the temple with a white marble façade and golden capitals. The temple of Herod maintained the three-fold division of Solomon's temple: the vestibule, the holy place and the holy of holies.

The holy place contained the altar of incense, the seven-branched lampstand, and the table of the shewbread or consecrated unleavened bread. The holy of holies was empty and dark and entered only by the high priest once a year on the Day of Atonement, the 10th day of the seventh month.

Father McKenzie says King

Herod put 10,000 men to work and trained 1,000 priests as masons so they could work on the most sacred parts of the temple. The building was begun in 19 B.C. and finished in 10 years, but the work of decoration was not completely finished until A.D. 64. Six years later in A.D. 70, the Romans burned down and destroyed the temple at Jerusalem and it has never been rebuilt since.

Later on the Christian emperor Justinian (A.D. 527-564) built a church to the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Temple Mount. The Muslim caliph Al Walid I (A.D. 705-715) turned Justinian's church into the El Aqsa Mosque that is there today. Earlier his father the Muslim caliph Abd el Malik (A.D. 687-691) built the Dome of the Rock over the spot where Abraham tried to sacrifice Isaac. This golden-domed structure is there today. The Muslims say that from this rock Mohammed ascended into seven heavens and then returned to Mecca.

## LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

and practices, and said the global economic crisis stemmed in large part from the moral failures of greedy financiers and investors.

The pope gave a copy of his encyclical to President Barack Obama when the two leaders met for the first time at the Vatican in July, along with a copy of a recent Vatican document on biomedical ethics. In their private talks, which the Vatican said took place in an atmosphere of "great serenity and great cordiality," the president "explicitly expressed his commitment to reducing the numbers of abortions and to listen to the church's concerns on moral issues," the Vatican said.

As the year wound to a close, the pope buffed up his "green" credentials in his message for World Peace Day 2010.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for January 3, 2010

Matthew 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Epiphany, Cycle C, the visit of the Magi from the East to Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BETHLEHEM	KING HEROD	JERUSALEM
STAR	HEARD	PRIESTS
PROPHET	JUDAH	RULER
SECRETLY	SEARCH	DILIGENTLY
CHILD	MOTHER	TREASURES
GIFTS	GOLD	MYRRH
WARNED	A DREAM	DEPARTED

### GIFTS

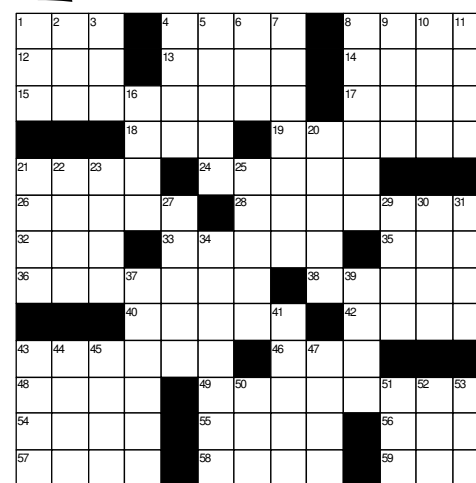
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E J M S T S E I R P H J
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O P D L G J T E U H A M
R E I U F S E A R C H H
P D K R J U B D E O F R
P Y L T E R C E S D D G
    
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## The CrossWord

January 3, 10 and 17, 2010



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-13; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22; Is 62:1-5, 1Cor 12: 4-11; Jn 2:1-12

### ACROSS

- 1 Eastern Standard Time
- 4 Fifth book in the New Testament
- 8 Thomas' name meant
- 12 \_\_\_ Dolorosa
- 13 Talk
- 14 Jerusalem will do in splendor
- 15 Three Kings' feast
- 17 Capital of Norway
- 18 Umpire
- 19 Rock moss
- 21 \_\_\_-pope (false)
- 24 Gift of belief

- 26 "Gone With the Wind" actress
- 28 Jesus does to right hand
- 32 A little bit
- 33 Darkness covers
- 35 Grain
- 36 Spice in Italian seasoning
- 38 Gossip
- 40 Great ape
- 42 365 days
- 43 Carried on camels
- 46 "Blessed \_\_\_ you among women"
- 48 Copied
- 49 Tangled

- 54 Judean desert is
- 55 As previously cited
- 56 Easter month (abbr.)
- 57 Drudge
- 58 Pilots
- 59 "\_\_\_ kingdom come"

### DOWN

- 1 Adam's wife
- 2 Drink slowly
- 3 \_\_\_ Chi
- 4 Pain
- 5 Wheat waste
- 6 Convert into leather
- 7 Hair dresser
- 8 Cough drop
- 9 Want
- 10 Island
- 11 Element
- 16 Fussbudget
- 20 Restless
- 21 Second highest in pitch
- 22 Approach
- 23 Moon waves
- 25 Moses' brother
- 27 Jerusalem's shall overflow
- 29 Ninth hour prayer
- 30 Information
- 31 Magi followed
- 34 Disneyland town
- 37 Bad calf for Hebrews
- 39 Raise these and look about
- 41 Urchin
- 43 Narrow waist insect
- 44 Dueling sword
- 45 Air (prefix)
- 47 Cincinnati baseball team
- 50 BB association
- 51 Chapeau
- 52 Ephesians (abbr.)
- 53 Arid

Answer Key can be found on page 15

# Sports

**BAREFOOT BASKETBALL GAME IN FORT WAYNE HELPS SAMARITAN'S FEET** Bishop Dwenger Coach Matt Kostoff and Wayne Coach John Leitz will coach their basketball games barefoot Jan. 15 to bring awareness to Samaritan's Feet, an organization that sends shoes worldwide to help impoverished children. Donations of money and new athletic shoes will be taken. The reserve game starts at 6:15 p.m. with varsity to follow. Cost for game tickets is \$5. For more information, contact Melissa Wheeler at (260) 496-4700, or e-mail [mwheeler@bishopdwenger.com](mailto:mwheeler@bishopdwenger.com).

## Faith an important part of life for Kentucky basketball coach

BY MARGARET GABRIEL

LEXINGTON, Ky. (CNS) — Although University of Kentucky basketball players now have a chapel service available to them before every game, at the request of new coach John Calipari, the team won't see Calipari there.

The chapel services let players know that Calipari believes faith is an important element of their lives. His absence demonstrates, among other things, that he believes faith is a private affair, something that is between the player and God.

Seated in his large, sunny office in the university's Joe Craft Center — adorned with his recently acquired Wildcat memorabilia — Calipari talked about the role of faith in his life in an interview earlier this year with *Cross Roads*, newspaper of the Diocese of Lexington.

Although he believes in making opportunities for expressions of

faith available to his team, he also said his attendance would give an impression he does not want to convey.

"I don't want players to think that they have to go," said Calipari, head coach at the University of Memphis until he came to Kentucky in the spring. He also coached at the University of Massachusetts and for the NBA's New Jersey Nets.

"It's important to me that people know I have a strong faith," he said. "I couldn't have handled the jobs I've had by myself."

One of the ways Calipari feeds that faith is by attending Mass during the week. In Lexington, he has been seen at the Cathedral of Christ the King and at Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Church.

In coming to the high-profile Kentucky program, Calipari became the highest paid college basketball coach in the country. Heading into a Dec. 5 game against North Carolina, his

Wildcats had a 7-0 record for the 2009-2010 regular season.

Calipari credits God's plan for his life and the life of his family. "I believe that things happen for a reason," he said.

As in Memphis, Catholics in Lexington are a minority. Like many families in the diocese, the Calipari family is interdenominational.

"When we got married, my wife was a better Methodist than I was a Catholic," Calipari said. He met his wife, Ellen, while he was working as an assistant coach at the University of Kansas.

Something — Calipari doesn't remember exactly what — pushed him back toward the Catholic Church eight to 10 years ago and he began attending Holy Rosary Church in Memphis. "They called me a 'Metholic,'" Calipari said. "I would go to the Methodist church with my family on Sundays and to the Catholic church during the week."

## St. Nick 6K run and 3K walk a success

SOUTH BEND — St. Joseph Parish in South Bend recently held its first-ever St. Nick 6K Run and 3K Walk, a fundraiser to support St. Joseph Grade School. St. Joseph pastor Holy Cross Father John DeRiso, associate pastor Holy Cross Father John Patrick Riley and Holy Cross Deacon Kevin Grove all participated in the race, which was inspired by their own interest in competitive running.

Over 170 registrants participated in the 6K run, while over 60 others registered for the 3K walk. With the combined efforts of many volunteers, the race was a great success its first year, and the parish is planning to host the December event annually.

### Overall winners:

First place: Ryan Greutman (19:11)

Second place: Justin Kowalski (19:23)

Third place: Matthew Manning (19:25)

Fourth place: Craig Sauers (20:39)

Eighth place and first female to cross the finish line: Madison Woods (23:46)

### Winners in each age group:

#### Female

10 and under: Jillian Woods  
11-15: Madison Woods  
16-19: Ellen Conneer  
20-29: Joanne Almond  
30-39: Rachel Kaser  
40-49: Ana Kroll  
50-59: Jane Schmid  
60-69: Rita Kirzeder  
over 70: Mary Connolly

#### Male

10 and under: Connor Ratigan  
11-15: Joseph Zielinski  
16-19: Joshua O'Brien  
20-29: Justin Kowalski  
30-39: Ryan Greutman  
40-49: Sean O'Connor  
50-59: Steve Gorsuch  
60-69: Dave Ferency  
over 70: John Miller

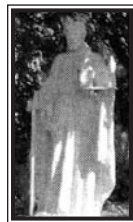


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## St. Therese boys hope for a successful season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In his 34th season coaching a game he loves, Coach Mike Palmer spent his first 12 years at Bishop Luers, but has been with St. Therese ever since. This year's bunch is off to a 2-3 start, but Palmer is hopeful his Crusaders' solid shooting and quick, aggressive style will lead them to a successful season.

There are 10 players listed on the combined roster: three eighth graders and seven seventh graders, which includes transfer big-man, Quinton Gardner. Mike Reed and Matt Palmer add to the offensive attack for St. Therese.

Early achievements include a solid showing in the preseason tourney with 14-19 team shooting from the free throw line in the 43-29 win against New Haven.

Beaten by Queen of Angels in

the first round of the 2009 Blue League Catholic Youth League (CYO) tourney, St. Therese is hopeful to move forward with a full roster and have a good shot at this year's championship

"One of our goals is the same as it has been for several seasons — to beat

Hessen Cassel. They have had strong teams and ruled the league for the past several years," explained Palmer.

The two teams have already met in the pre-season at the Queen of

Angels Invitational over Thanksgiving weekend.

Hessen Cassel won by a bucket, 28-26. The Crusaders will face the Squires once again when CYO regular season play resumes on Jan. 9. Palmer recalls winning the championship in 1979, then a few more times after the leagues were divided by size, but not once in the last decade. "It would be great to have a shot at the title this season," concluded Palmer.



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# Vatican Observatory findings told in 'The Heavens Proclaim'

REVIEWED BY YORK YOUNG

Have you ever just looked at the night sky and marveled at what you see, wondering how it all fits together? Stars, the Earth's moon, other planets, sometimes even unusual streaks of light, combine for an astonishing visual feast that can lead us to wonder how it all came to be.

If you open yourself to the possibilities, it's almost as if "The Heavens Proclaim," the title of a new book on astronomy written by several different scientists for the Vatican. You may be asking what the Vatican is doing putting together a book on astronomy, but it's a natural fit. The Vatican has had astronomical observatories in operation for more than 100 years now.

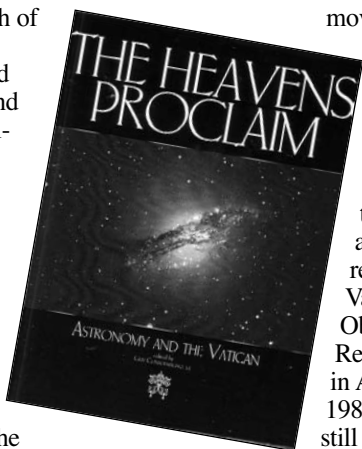
The Catholic Church, despite stereotypes and misinformation presented by those who find it more entertaining to belittle the church than listen to it, has long been interested in science for science's sake. And modern popes have reiterated the church's position that faith and reason (science) are compatible.

"The Heavens Proclaim" (Vatican Observatory Publications and Our Sunday Visitor, \$39.95) took the opportunity of the International Year of Astronomy

(2009) to set forth much of what the Vatican Observatory has learned over the past century and how the church's contribution has continued to grow in the area of observing and learning about the heavens God has created.

Opening with beautiful imagery and Scripture passages that talk of the stars and other celestial objects, the history of the church's interest in science includes a detailed look at how our current calendar (the Gregorian calendar) came about. The development of the new calendar revolved around the movement of the sun (previously it had focused on the movements of the moon, but that soon proved so inefficient that, in October 1582, 10 days had to be skipped to shift the calendar to its true position). Also covered and explained is the story of Galileo's run-in with the church — not as dramatically confrontational as those stereotypes would like you to believe — which was as much misunderstanding as anything else.

The history of the Vatican Observatory is a fascinating story by itself. The development of it was encouraged by Pope Leo XIII in the late 19th century; then it was

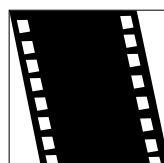


moved to Castel Gandolfo (the papal summer residence) when electric lights began to clutter the Roman sky; and finally resulted in a Vatican Observatory Research Group in Arizona in the 1980s, which is still in operation.

The scientists that manned the observatories over the years have mostly been priests, but in the modern day, many of the researches that use the Arizona observatory for specific experiments and research are laymen and women.

To be sure, a few of the chapters in this table-coffee book are overly scientific, but the general writing is very accommodating to the average reader and the photos are spectacular.

Written in English and published by special arrangement with Our Sunday Visitor, this one-of-a-kind book is another example of how the Vatican, and the Catholic Church, is instrumental in showing us how to build up God's kingdom on Earth.



MOVIE CAPSULES

**NEW YORK (CNS)** – Following are capsule reviews of movies issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

**"Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" (Fox)**

Harmless but mostly routine comedy with music, mixing animation and live action, in which the familiar trio of harmonizing rodents (voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler and Jesse McCartney) have a series of slapstick misadventures, eventually winding up in the inept care of a gadget-obsessed slacker (Zachary Levi), becoming school students, and entering a singing competition that pits them against a group of chipmunk divas (voices of Amy Poehler, Anna Faris and Christina Applegate). A bit of gently rude humor aside, director Betty Thomas' extension of the 50-year-old franchise, which includes hit recordings, a pair of TV cartoon series and this feature's 2007 predecessor, "Alvin and the Chipmunks," is unobjectionable, though its positive lessons about choosing loyalty over selfishness come wrapped in an entertainment package that feels somewhat shop-

worn. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

**"Nine" (Weinstein)**

Glossy but morally shallow musical drama — set in 1965 Italy and based on the life of Federico Fellini — in which a celebrated film director (Daniel Day-Lewis) suffers a creative and personal crisis, scrambling to conceal the fact that his latest work, about to go into production, has no script, and struggling to maintain his relationships with his wife (Marion Cotillard), his mistress (Penelope Cruz), his favorite actress and muse (Nicole Kidman) and his costume designer confidante (Judi Dench). Director Rob Marshall's adaptation of Arthur L. Kopit and Maury Yeston's 1982 Broadway hit, itself an homage to Fellini's "8 1/2," treats adultery as a symptom of sophistication, and present the Catholic Church as, by turns, irrelevant, repressive and hypocritical. Pervasive negative portrayal of Catholicism, brief nongraphic adulterous sexual activity, recurrent adultery theme, partial upper female and rear nudity, a couple of uses of profanity, a few crass terms. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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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

### Young adult retreat

**Mishawaka** — A young adult (18-35 years) mini-retreat will be held Sunday, Jan. 17, from 1-6 p.m. at the convent of Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, 1515 W. Dragoon Trail. An afternoon of prayer, inspiration and quiet is planned. "Faith and Reason in Today's World and How do we bring Christ to it?" will be presented by Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart. Sunday Mass at 5 p.m. Cost \$5.

### Bishop Luers alumni: Winter homecoming

**Fort Wayne** — A winter homecoming party will be Saturday, Jan. 16. Boys basketball game Bishop Luers vs. Blackhawk Christian will be followed by an adult party in the café. Cost of \$5 per person includes two complimentary drink tickets and snacks.

### Apostolate of Fatima general meeting planned

**New Haven** — The Apostolate of Fatima will meet at St. John the Baptist hall Saturday, Jan. 2, after the 7:15 a.m. Mass and rosary. Confession and meditation precede the Mass.

### Cash for gold

**Fort Wayne** — Raise cash for yourself and funds for Bishop Luers High School Tuesday, Jan. 12, from 9 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. in the Foyer, room 139. Cash will be paid for gold and Bishop Luers earns an additional 10 percent of the total of all payouts.

### Pro-life bus trip

**Fort Wayne** — The University of Saint Francis pro-life group will have a bus trip to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., leaving Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 9 p.m. to attend the Vigil Mass at the Basilica on Jan. 21, and the Youth Rally before the March on Jan. 22. Return trip Saturday, Jan. 23, around 5 a.m. Cost is \$90, or for Saint Francis, IPFW and Ball State students, \$75. Bring a sleeping bag or arrange for a hotel on your own for Jan. 21. Contact (260) 399-8066 or gdodd@sf.edu by Jan. 5.

### The Little Flower Holy Hour

**Fort Wayne** — The Little Flower Holy Hour will resume in 2010. Please note that the time has changed from 7:15 to 7 p.m. Father Fernando Jimenez will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests

and vocations. Father Fernando is the associate pastor at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

### Spaghetti dinner planned

**South Bend** — The Knights of Columbus Council #5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner, Thursday, Jan. 14, from 4-6 p.m. Adults \$7, children ages 5 to 12 \$2.50. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, beverages and dessert.

### Knights plan fish fry

**Fort Wayne** — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 8, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

### St. Pius X senior group

**Granger** — The St. Pius X senior group (55+) meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon starting with Mass. On Jan. 12 Diane Schlatterbeck will speak on the topic "Look How Far We Have Come." For information call (574) 272-0732 or (574) 271-7853.

### Knights plan Sunday breakfast

**Granger** — The Knights Council #4263 will have a breakfast Sunday, Jan. 10 after the 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses at St. Pius X in the gymnasium.

### Free throw contest announced

**Granger** — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will have a free-throw contest Saturday, Jan. 9 at the St. Pius X School gymnasium. Registration for boys and girls begins at noon with the contest beginning at 1 p.m.

### Square dances being planned

**New Haven** — St. Louis Besancon will host a square dance on Saturday, Jan. 9, and Feb. 13 in the hall. Music by Bill Werling and Breakaway. Tickets are \$10 and include one beer and snacks. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with dancing from 8-11 p.m. All proceeds benefit the St. Louis Academy Home and School Association.

## REST IN PEACE

### Angola

Oswald G. Marcher, 86, St. Anthony of Padua

Dolores Dee Putnam, 80, St. Anthony of Padua

### Auburn

John E. McArdle, 69, Immaculate Conception

Karen A. McArdle, 63, Immaculate Conception

### Avilla

Mary Ann Stark, 66, St. Mary of the Assumption

### Bristol

Nancy A. Ashley, 72, St. Mary of the Annunciation

### Decatur

William J. Wiseman, 62, St. Mary of the Assumption

### Fort Wayne

Nora Irene Askins, 94, St. Charles Borromeo

John A. Rodermund, 59, Sacred Heart

Eugene R. Vachon, 83, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Joseph Barbieri, Jr., 83, St. Joseph

David Erwin Jr., 81, St. Charles Borromeo

Elizabeth Ann

Johnston, 50, Sacred Heart

Urban Meese, 89, St. Charles Borromeo

Lucille R. Ward, 94, St. John the Baptist

Harry J. Meyer, 85, St. Anne Home Chapel

Rosemary Husted, 87, St. Jude

Robert D. Sluyter, 75, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Howard Rorick, 79, Queen of Angels

### Goshen

Ronald D. Major, 69, St. John the Evangelist

### Mishawaka

Jeannette Poelvoorde, 84, St. Bavo

Betty L. Calderone, 73, St. Bavo

Anne V. Hums, 93, St. Joseph

### New Haven

Sally R. Oechsle, 77, St. John the Baptist

### Notre Dame

James R. Troyer, 91, Crypt of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Paul Boasco, 95, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

### South Bend

Michael D. Chiddister, 57, Holy Family

Carol J. Hesseling, 68, Christ the King

Eugene A. Rozycki, 98, St. Hedwig

Thomas J. Varga, 84, Corpus Christi

Sophie Stanoy, 90, St. Casimir

Dionisio Gallegos, 76, St. Adalbert

Helen L. Nowacki, 92, Holy Family

Nancy Ann Sniadecki, 57, Holy Family

Yukiko Kletka, 73, Christ the King

Margaret Bubich, 100, St. Matthew Cathedral

Patricia M. Smuda, 74, St. John the Baptist

Henry Black Jr., 84, Little Flower

Dolores G. Farrington, 81, St. Matthew Cathedral

Ella E. Nemes, 86, St. John the Baptist

### Waterloo

Darold E. Comment, 89, St. Michael the Archangel

### 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.

### Epiphany Vespers

**Mishawaka** — Father Daniel Scheidt will lead sung Vespers (the church's official evening prayer) on Sunday, Jan. 3, at 5 p.m. at Queen of Peace Church.

### Epiphany Concert

**Mishawaka** — Queen of Peace children's and adult choirs and school students will present an Epiphany choral concert on

Thursday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. in the church. Music performed will include Christmas pieces from around the world and assembly sung carols.

## DONATIONS

### Blood donations needed

**Fort Wayne** — The American Red Cross is in need of blood donations. To make an appointment call 1-800-GIVELIFE or 1-800-448-3543.

## The CrossWord

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# Pope's Christmas marked by calls for charity, security incident

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Christmas with a call for unselfish charity and solidarity with the suffering, and underlined the message two days later by lunching with the poor at a Rome soup kitchen.

The pope's Christmas was marred by a security scare on Christmas Eve, when a mentally unbalanced woman rushed the 82-year-old pontiff and knocked him to the marble floor of St. Peter's Basilica. The pope was unharmed but French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray suffered a broken hip when he fell in the confusion.

The incident occurred as the pope processed into the basilica at the start of the 10 p.m. Mass. Amateur videos posted on YouTube showed a woman wearing a red sweatshirt leaping over the security barrier and grabbing the pope's vestments, as Vatican security guards swarmed above them.

The alarmed congregation inside the basilica broke into applause when the pope quickly



Pope Benedict XVI walks near a figurine the baby Jesus as he prepares to give Communion during Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 24.

CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

rose to his feet and continued the procession down the main aisle, looking somewhat shaken. The liturgy proceeded without further incident.

Vatican sources confirmed that the woman was the same person who attempted to rush the pope at midnight Mass last year but was tackled by guards before she could reach the pontiff. The woman, 25-year-old Susanna Maiolo, an Italian and Swiss citizen, was taken into custody for psychiatric evaluations.

In his Christmas Eve homily, the pope said conflict in the world stems from the fact that "we are locked into our own interests and our desires." He said many people have become "religiously tone-deaf" and unable to perceive God, absorbed by worldly affairs and professional occupations.

"For most people, the things of God are not given priority. ... And so the great majority of us tend to postpone them. First we do what seems urgent here and now. In the list of priorities God is often more or less at the end. We can always deal with that later, we tend to think," he said.

Despite this mentality, he said, a path for discovering and appreciating God exists for everyone. It is a path marked with signs, he said, and at Christmas God's sign is that "he makes himself small; he becomes a child; he lets us touch him and he asks for our love."

On Christmas Day, the pope delivered his message and blessing "urbi et orbi" — to the city of Rome and to the world — from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica. He prayed for peace in world trouble spots like the Holy Land, Iraq, Sri Lanka and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The pope then offered Christmas greetings in 65 languages, saying in English: "May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies; and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the savior has been born for us."

The pope's Christmas message included a call for "an attitude of acceptance and welcome" for the millions of people who migrate from their homelands, driven by hunger, intolerance or environmental degradation.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

*This month's featured selection:*

**"Miracle on the Hudson" By William Prochnau and Laura Parker**

*Reviewed by Kay Cozad*

"Miracle on the Hudson: The Survivors of Flight 1549 Tell Their Extraordinary Stories of Courage, Faith and Determination" with William Prochnau and Laura Parker (Ballantine Books, ISBN: 978-0-345-51994-8)

*Today's Catholic* offers "Miracle on the Hudson" with William Prochnau and Laura Parker as its January book club choice commemorating the anniversary of this incredible and inspiring human survival story. No one will soon forget the startling images posted on all the major networks and the Internet of the passenger plane that crash landed in the icy waters of the Hudson River in January of 2008.

The US Airways Airbus A320, Flight 1549, took off from New York's LaGuardia Airport headed for Charlotte, N.C. The plane, loaded with 155 passengers, met its fate only moments after takeoff when an unexpected collision with a flock of geese knocked out both engines. As the damage became apparent to veteran pilot, Chesley B. Sullenberger, he was able to expertly navigate the plane away from causing harm on the ground — toward the dark, icy waters of the river, ironically in sight of where the 9/11 terrorist attacks took place.

The story, as told by Prochnau and Parker, both seasoned journalists, begins with the morning of this remarkable flight. Descriptions of the weather and seating for the flight are personalized by passenger accounts, and the reader's imagination bears witness to a clear and frightening mental picture of the flight.

Throughout the book, the authors intersperse somewhat disturbing historical information of other flights that have crashed into bodies of water with much more dismal results, as well as informational details concerning geese and their flight patterns.

The chronicle leads the reader in detail through the harrowing three minutes the passengers endured after the collision with the geese. Accounts of both diversity and commonality in perception, faith and attitude, fill the pages. One passenger uses her cell phone as a lifeline to her husband, while others refuse to call their loved ones, hoping to spare them the anguish of witnessing their demise.

But the truly inspiring part of the tale emerges after the plane has crashed into the water. Each of the 155 passengers and all crew members had miraculously survived and began to discover what they were truly made of. The dialogue from the various passengers provides a sense of each survivor's experience. Some blindly push forward in survival mode, while others remain calm and find ways to assist those in need.

Virtual strangers reached out to lift spirits, encourage and save the lives of those around them. A young mother found assistance with her infant son through the most unlikely passengers. Panic among the passengers was curtailed by those who shared their calm. One man even remained behind to dislodge the seat cushions to pass out to frightened survivors.

And, of course, the story would not be complete without the description of New York's well-known first responders, who were on site in a matter of minutes after the crash occurred. Though the frigid air and river currents were challenging, the first responders would not be deterred until all the passengers were accounted for safely back on shore.

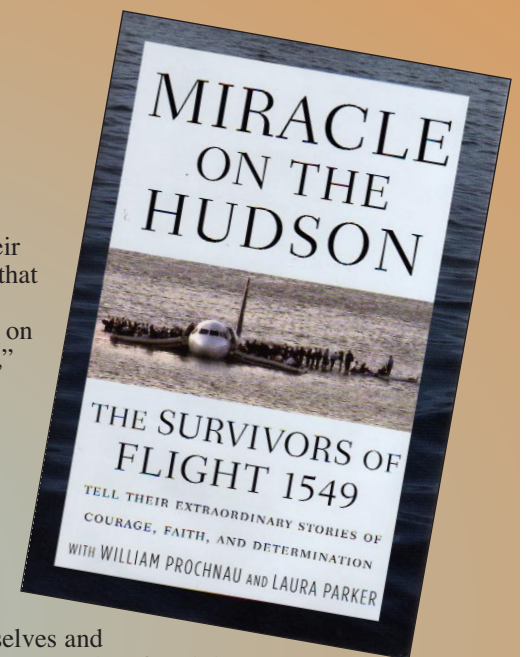
The book closes with an account of the current status of each passenger interviewed. Reading the different perspectives of the same event illustrates the diversity of human nature in the face of crisis. Yet an innate survival instinct was present in all, as a great many of the passen-

gers met their worst fears that day.

"Miracle on the Hudson," is an easy, interesting read about one winter day when 155 strangers learned a little bit about themselves and their fellow man as they faced the crisis of their lives.

### Questions for reflection:

- Many of the passengers on Flight 1549 reconciled their emotions and turned to prayer when they thought they might be dying in the crash. How do you think you would face your own death? What part would your faith play in facing similar circumstances?
- Some of the passengers jumped into the river because others in front of them did. Have you ever followed someone without knowing if your actions were right? Why? What were the consequences? What did you learn?
- Many believe it was miraculous that all 155 passengers and crew members on Flight 549 survived. Do you believe in miracles? Explain.



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