



### Our Lady of Guadalupe

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Dec. 23, 24

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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC



TIM JOHNSON

This stained-glass window in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception depicts the Nativity of the Lord. Christmas is on Saturday, Dec. 25. The 150th anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral was celebrated on Dec. 8 with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as the celebrant.

## Cathedral celebrates 150th anniversary of dedication

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — The feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and to whom the cathedral in Fort Wayne is dedicated, marked a very special celebration on Dec. 8 — the sesquicentennial anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, celebrant of the Mass for the grand occasion, noted the historical significance of the cathedral: "December 8, 1860, 150 years ago today, the first bishop of Fort Wayne, Bishop John Henry Luers, celebrated a Pontifical High Mass on this, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and solemnly consecrated this beautiful cathedral."

At the dedication, Bishop Rhoades said, "The cathedral was filled to overflowing. It was a glorious celebration for the Catholic community of Fort Wayne, for the diocese that was established just three years earlier, and indeed for the whole city of Fort Wayne."

That tradition continued at the 150th anniversary Mass. The church was filled by the faithful. Eleven priests with association to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception concelebrated with Bishop-emeritus John M. D'Arcy, Rector Msgr. Robert Schulte, parochial vicars Father Dale Bauman and Father Celso Gomes

and Vice Chancellor Father Jason Freiburger.

Parishioner Phil Didier provided a brief history of the cathedral before the celebration of the Mass. And Bishop Rhoades also spoke of the history of the church. A special tribute was given to Father Julian Benoit, "to whom, we are chiefly indebted for the speedy erection of the cathedral."

### Early history

Julian Benoit, who as a seminarian had been recruited by Bishop Simon Bruté, the bishop of Vincennes, to come to Indiana as a missionary, had arrived in the United States in 1836. He was ordained the next year at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., where Bishop Bruté had served as a superior, and then set out to come here to Indiana.

Bishop Rhoades had also served as rector of the Mount Saint Mary's Seminary from 1997-2004 before his appointment as bishop of Harrisburg, Pa.

The whole state at that time was part of the Diocese of Vincennes, until 1857 when the Diocese of Fort Wayne was established to cover the northern half of Indiana. Father Benoit, 31 at the time, arrived in Fort Wayne in 1840. There was just a little frame

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## TV Mass viewers

Christmas Midnight Mass from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne will not be televised this year. An hour-long Christmas Morning Mass, however, with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presiding from the University of Saint Francis Chapel in Fort Wayne will air live from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on WISE TV, channel 33.

In South Bend, a prerecorded Christmas Morning Mass from the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Provincialate Chapel in Mishawaka with Msgr. Michael Heintz presiding can be seen on WNDU TV, channel 16, from 7-8 a.m. and again from noon to 1 p.m.

Beginning on Sunday, Jan. 2, the TV Mass in Fort Wayne will air on WFFT TV, Fox channel 55, at its regular time of 10:30 a.m. This is a permanent change. The TV Mass will no longer be seen on WISE TV, channel 33. For cable subscribers, the Fox station is on Frontier channel 5 and Comcast channel 12.

## POPE GREETS CHILDREN AS HE ARRIVES TO CELEBRATE MASS AT ROME PARISH



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI greets children as he arrives to celebrate Mass at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Rome Dec. 12. Changing the world for the better comes from the humble individuals who silently carry God's light and love to everyone around them, the pope said.



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# The mystery of Christmas



IN TRUTH  
AND  
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

In the history of humanity, it was never imagined that God would become man. It was beyond anyone's dreams that God, who is supreme, all-powerful, and eternal would become a newborn baby. Yet, the heart of Christianity is precisely this: *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)*. When we contemplate this mystery, we cannot help but be filled with wonder and awe. We become like the shepherds and the magi: all we can do is approach the mystery in adoration.

The event of the Incarnation surpasses all human knowledge. Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote: *Of all the works of God, this surpasses reason more than any other, since one cannot conceive of God doing anything more wonderful than that true God, the Son of God, should be made true man*. We express our reverence for this great mystery when, while reciting the Nicene Creed at Mass, we bow at the words: *by the power of the Holy Spirit, he was born of the Virgin Mary and became man*. At Christmas Masses, we genuflect when we recite these words.

The greatest scholars of the Church bowed down at the mystery of the Incarnation. They realized that their insights, reflections and writings could not exhaust nor fully explain the awesome truth, the wonder and the drama, of the mystery of Christmas.

The mystery of our redemption began with the Incarnation. The wood of the manger pointed to the wood of the cross. Notice that in Christian art the crib is often shown in relation to the cross. In Byzantine icons of the Nativity, the swaddling clothes resemble the shroud in icons of the resurrection. In icons of the Nativity, the stable is a cave with a black interior that recalls the empty tomb and the jaws of hell. We keep in mind the intimate bond between the mystery of the Incarnation and the Paschal mystery. The famous hymn in Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians speaks of both these mysteries in the context of humility, the humility of the Incarnation pointing to the humility of the death on the cross. *He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross (Phil 2 7-8)*.

At Christmas, let us spend some time in prayerful meditation on the infinite magnitude of the gift that God our Father gives us in the Incarnation of his Son. Saint John wrote: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)*. In sending his Son, God has opened for us a share in his divine life! Saint Bonaventure wrote: *In his generous love, the Father lavished upon us all he was, all he had, all he could*.

The radical newness of the Incarnation, its uniqueness in world religions, is a testament to the truth of Christianity. The very



CNS PHOTO/PHILIPP BERNARD, REUNION DES MUSEES NATIONAUX/ART RESOURCE

Mary, Joseph and a choir of angels adore the infant Jesus in the painting "Nativity" by Philippe de Champaigne. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil commemorating the birth of Christ and ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jan. 9.

idea that God would be conceived in a mother's womb, that the true and perfect God would become true and perfect man, that God would take the road of infancy and childhood, even become an unborn baby, makes this truth even more astounding. After all, God could have come as an adult, like Adam. The first man was created by God as an adult, but the new man, the new Adam, came as an infant! He chose to be conceived in Mary's womb and to be nine months inside her body. He came in weakness and in littleness. Pope Saint Leo the Great wrote that *He disdained neither birth nor the earliest stages of infancy*. He was a real baby. He cried when he was hungry. Though he did not cease being God, God the Son made his own our infant littleness. He became like us in all things but sin.

The Son of God came into the world as an infant, as a little and lowly Messiah, born in poverty and obscurity. His cradle was a manger, a trough where animals ate. When Jesus was presented in the temple, his parents made the offering of the poor. Early on, he was a refugee, whom Mary and Joseph took to Egypt to escape the sword of Herod. One author writes that *His material poverty is the outward sign of the metaphysical poverty of the assumed human nature*.

There were a lot of legends that circulated through apocryphal gospels about miracles performed by the child Jesus. Saint Thomas Aquinas was very firm in rejecting these stories, insisting that Jesus' first miracle was at the wedding feast in Cana. Saint Thomas said that if Jesus had worked miracles as a child, men would have thought that his Incarnation was a fantasy. But it was not. Christmas is more than a cute

story; it is an awesome and mysterious Truth.

The Incarnation of the Son of God brings hope to our lives. The German philosopher Martin Heidegger described man as "a being towards death." There is certainly some truth to that. But the Incarnation of the Son of God allows us to describe man as "a being towards eternity." Heidegger wrote a lot about the existential anxiety (angst) of the human condition. Christ's Incarnation allows us to overcome that anxiety and to live in hope. In becoming man, God brings eternity to us. He came that we might have eternal life. Human destiny is changed. Our race is saved from despair. We can live in hope!

I wish all of you a very blessed Christmas. When I give the following blessing at Christmas Midnight Mass, I will offer it for all the people of our diocese:

*When he came to us as man, the Son of God scattered the darkness of this world, and filled this holy night with his glory. May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness.*

*God sent his angels to shepherds to herald the great joy of our Savior's birth. May he fill you with joy and make you heralds of his gospel.*

*When the Word became man, earth was joined to heaven. May he give you his peace and good will, and fellowship with all the heavenly host.*



# Green Bay bishop becomes first in US to approve Marian apparitions

BY SAM LUCERO

CHAMPION, Wis. (CNS) — Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay has approved the Marian apparitions seen by Adele Brise in 1859, making the apparitions of Mary that occurred some 18 miles northeast of Green Bay the first in the United States to receive approval of a diocesan bishop.

Bishop Ricken made the announcement in Champion during Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. More than 250 invited guests filled the shrine chapel to hear Bishop Ricken read the official decree on the authenticity of the apparitions. He also issued a second decree, formally approving the shrine as a diocesan shrine.

As he declared, "I do hereby approve these apparitions as worthy of belief," the congregation burst into applause, with many in attendance moved to tears.

"This is now an official declaration and an explicit recognition of what has been going on in the development and expression of people's faith in our Lord Jesus," Bishop Ricken said in his homily. "Mary always leads us to Jesus. We hold Mary in such high regard because she is the mother of our savior Jesus Christ. So she is probably the greatest evangelist and catechist who ever lived. ... She has been sent out all these years since Christ's death and resurrection to proclaim this good news."

Bishop Ricken said the proclamation was a desire of many people. "So many of you have asked for this in one way or another," he said. "I regard this also as a simple declaration in that it already states what has been going on here so quietly for so many years."

"I think today is a gift we give back to the Blessed Mother for all the prayers she has answered in this place. All the solace and comfort she has given to troubled souls," said Bishop Ricken.

"In many ways it is also a thank-you gift to Adele Brise, that Belgian immigrant who came here to this country. ... We owe a great deal to her witness because she was simple, she was uneducated in our terms today. She was a humble soul, but she was obedient."

Bishop Ricken added that the message Brise answered in teaching children the faith is the same message people are called to today.

"We need this message today as much as they needed it 150 years ago; the message to proclaim the Gospel, each one of us, in our families and in our workplace. We need to have that same zeal for souls that Adele Brise had," he said.

Catholics must provide children "adequate catechetical formation" so they understand the Gospel and



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GOOD HELP

**Adele Brise is pictured in a habit in an undated photo. In 1859, when she was 28 she saw apparitions of Mary near her home in what is today Champion, Wis. Brise taught the Catholic faith to children and began a community of Third Order Franciscans.**

"are able to defend and explain the teachings of the Church," he added.

The bishop's decree comes nearly two years after he opened a formal investigation into the apparitions. On Jan. 9, 2009, he appointed three theologians to study the case.

The theologians' names were not released by the diocese. But Father John Doerfler, vicar general and chancellor, said all three had expertise in Marian theology and "general experience in examining apparitions," adding that two are internationally recognized.

Brise was 28 when Mary appeared to her three times in October 1859. The first appearance took place while Brise was carrying a sack of wheat to a grist mill about four miles from Robinsonville, now known as Champion.

A few days later, on Oct. 9, as Brise walked to Sunday Mass in Bay Settlement, about 11 miles from her home, Mary appeared to her again. After Mass, Brise told the pastor what she had seen. He told her to "ask in God's name who it was and what it desired of her," according to a historical account found on the shrine's Web site.

On the way home from Bay Settlement, Mary again appeared to Brise. When Brise asked who the woman was, Mary responded, "I am the Queen of Heaven, who

prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same."

She told Brise to "gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation. Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the cross and how to approach the sacraments."

Brise devoted the rest of her life to teaching children. She began a community of secular Franciscans and built a school next to the shrine. Brise's father, Lambert, built a small chapel near the spot of the apparitions. When a brick chapel was built in 1880, the trees where Mary appeared were cut down and the chapel's altar was placed over the spot.

A school and convent were also built next to the chapel. The current chapel was dedicated in 1942 under the title of Our Lady of Good Help. Today, the shrine, which sits on six acres of farmland, receives thousands of visitors each year.

Brise died July 5, 1896, and was buried in a small cemetery near the chapel. Although she was sometimes photographed in a habit, she never took vows as a religious.

Karen Tipps, who for 18 years has been a volunteer and caretaker of the shrine with her husband, Steve, said Bishop Ricken's decree

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## PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec. 19, 11:30 a.m. — Mass at St. Patrick Church, Walkerton
- Tuesday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. — Mass for diocesan employees at Marian High School Chapel, Mishawaka
- Wednesday, Dec. 22, 11:30 a.m. — Mass and luncheon with diocesan seminarians and Serra Club, St. Francis Convent, Mishawaka
- Friday, Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m. — Christmas Eve Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Saturday, Dec. 25, 12 a.m. — Christmas Midnight Mass at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m. — Televised Christmas Mass, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne

## God's grace, mercy are more powerful than sin, evil, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In keeping Mary free from sin, God showed how his grace and mercy are greater and more powerful than sin and evil, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Unfortunately, every day we experience evil that manifests itself in many ways in interactions and events, but it has its roots in the human heart — a wounded, sick heart that is incapable of healing by itself," he said before praying the Angelus Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The mystery of the Immaculate Conception is a source of "hope and comfort," the pope told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the feast, a major public holiday in Italy.

"Amid life's trials and especially its contradictions, which people experience both inside themselves and all around them, Mary, the mother of Christ, tells us that grace is greater than sin, that God's mercy is more powerful than evil and that God knows how to transform it into good," he said.

In his English remarks, the pope prayed that through Mary, "our hearts and minds might be kept free from sin, so that like Mary we would be spiritually prepared to welcome Christ."

"Let us turn to her, the immaculate one, who brought Christ to us, and ask her now to bring us to Him," he said.

Later that afternoon, Pope

Benedict continued the feast day celebrations by making an afternoon visit to the heart of Rome's tourist and shopping district to pay homage to Mary at a statue erected near the Spanish Steps.

The pope blessed a large basket of white roses grown in the Vatican gardens, which were then set at the foot of a column

topped by a statue of Mary. The statue commemorates Pope Pius IX's proclamation in 1854 that Mary, by special divine favor, was without sin from the moment she was conceived.

He told the crowds gathered for the event that Mary

tells everyone that "we are called to open ourselves to the action of the Holy Spirit so as to be able to reach our final destination, to be immaculate, fully and definitively free from evil."

Mary looks upon everyone with love and is an advocate on everyone's behalf, he said.

"Even if everyone spoke badly of us, she, the mother, would speak well, because her immaculate heart is in harmony with God's mercy," he said.

Mary looks upon everybody just as God looked upon her: as "chosen and precious" in the eyes of God even though as a young girl, she seemed insignificant to the rest of the world, he said.

The pope thanked Mary for watching over everyone and prayed she would give people the strength to "reject every form of evil and to choose the good, even when it comes at a high price and means going against the current."

Mary looks upon  
everybody just as God  
looked upon her:  
as 'chosen and precious'



# Bishop celebrates Mikolaj at St. Casimir

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

**SOUTH BEND** — About 100 people of all ages turned out for a special Polish dinner feast known as Mikolaj. After dinner, guests were treated to some traditional Polish carols (with English translations) and then a visit from St. Nicholas, otherwise known as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

"Mikolaj has been celebrated in Polish homes for years," said organizer and St. Casimir parishioner Ann Sommers. "On St. Nick's eve, children put out their shoes or stockings and the next morning they will find an apple, orange or some candy. I usually got an apple and chocolate. I carried on the tradition with our children. They still get an ornament for St. Nicholas Day."

According to Sommers, the late Father Joseph Fey began a parish-wide celebration in 1989. It only lasted a year or two, but when the church celebrated its centennial in 1997-98, the church committee brought the tradition back.

"That year, we sponsored an event a month for the entire centennial year and Mikolaj was December's event," noted Sommers. "Mikolaj started out as a parish function, but now more than half are people from other parishes that have heard about it, came and now come back year after year. One year we even had



Pictured is Bishop Kevin Rhoades with children and visitors to St. Casimir Church in South Bend at their annual Mikolaj or St. Nicholas celebration.

some teenagers that came to eat with us before they went to their high school winter formal! We average about 110-120 people."

The evening begins with a prayer followed by a traditional Polish meal of pierogi, noodles, roast beef, herring and breads.

"Last Saturday we worked from 7:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. making 270 pierogi," said Sommers. "It's a lot of work but just as

much fun."

After the meal, parishioner and organist Christine Gerschoffer played the piano and sang the "kolendy" or Polish Christmas carols.

When it came time for the children to get a visit from St. Nick they received a surprise with the role of St. Nick being played by Bishop Rhoades. He gave the visitors gifts of fruit and candy

and all the children received a St. Nick prayer card.

Once the present distribution ended, Bishop Rhoades had the chance to tell the guests a story about an experience he had that has made St. Nicholas a special person in his life.

While on travels overseas, Bishop Rhoades was riding on a train that took him by the place where St. Nicholas is buried. He

felt an overwhelming need to visit the site and pray and asked his traveling companions to change their plans so they could go and pray at the site. The travelers agreed to the stop and the group went to pray at the site where St. Nick is laid to rest.

"When we got up the next day we read in the paper that the train we had been traveling on was bombed by terrorists and 80-some people died," Bishop Rhoades said. "I've always said St. Nicholas saved my life."

Bishop Rhoades also had the children read aloud the prayer card about St. Nicholas and discussed how St. Nicholas was a bishop, the purpose of his staff and how he is the patron saint of little children.

"Boys and girls remember, the original Santa Claus is a bishop," laughed Bishop Rhoades.

It was a memorable evening for everyone who attended and the community sent Bishop Rhoades home with a gift of a compact disc of Polish Christmas carols.

"The goal of the program is to start the holiday season and rekindle some of those memories of Busia (grandmother) and Dzia Dzia's (grandfather) house. It's a very simple, very family-oriented event," said Sommers. "I hope people leave with a happy heart and a full belly. This is definitely not commercial. It's Polish customers, family and friends."

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## BRISE

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"is the fulfillment of everything we've worked for: to make the shrine a beautiful place of pilgrimage; to try and promote the message of what happened here."

While the declaration will not change the way longtime pilgrims view the shrine, it will change the way the rest of the world sees it, she said.

"The shrine has had pilgrims for more than 150 years ... but in the church view and the world

view, having the bishop go to this length to get the commission going, it's what others need for affirmation of what happened here," said Tipps.

She believes that the timing of the apparitions' approval was part of a divine plan.

"It's now because this message is meant for this time in history," Tipps told *The Compass*, Green Bay's diocesan newspaper. "If you look at the state of our children right now, there's no hope. There's no faith. There's nothing to live for."

She said a "crisis in catechesis" exists today, much like it did when Brise was told to teach children

their catechism.

At a news conference in the shrine's crypt following Mass, Bishop Ricken said he has had a strong devotion to Mary since his childhood. "When I came and found that this shrine was dedicated to her and to her intercession, I was so pleased and happy to see that so many good things have come about here — story after story. It's living proof that something authentic is here."

Just across the room from where the bishop stood were dozens of crutches and canes left there by people who say they were cured through Mary's intercession.

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# Priests to be beatified were joyful as they awaited execution by Nazis

BY GUNTER SIMMERMACHER

LUBECK, Germany (CNS) — As the Nazi executioner beheaded three Catholic priests and a Lutheran pastor, one after another in a matter of minutes, their blood flowed together, creating a powerful symbol for ecumenism in northern Germany.

On June 25, the three Catholic martyrs of Lubeck — Fathers Johannes Prassek, Eduard Muller and Hermann Lange — will be beatified in the historic city's Sacred Heart Church, a stone's throw away from the Lubeck Cathedral, the ministerial home of the Rev. Karl Friedrich Stellbrink, their Lutheran counterpart. Rev. Stellbrink will be honored in a special way that day as well.

The four were executed in Hamburg Nov. 10, 1943. All had been found guilty of disseminating anti-Nazi material — such as the homilies of Cardinal Clemens von Galen of Munster — and other “treasonous” activities.

Although they were just four of more than 1,600 victims of Nazi political executions that year, their case drew the particular attention of Adolf Hitler and propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels. Hitler reportedly intervened personally in the case of the four clerics, formulating the charges and instructing prosecutors on their strategy.

After the four were sentenced to death June 23, 1943, in a trial widely considered a farce, Goebbels wrote in his diary: “I urge that the death sentences will in fact be carried out.” An appeal for clemency by Catholic Bishop Hermann Berning of Osnabruck was rejected.

Father Franz Mecklenfeld of Sacred Heart Church told Catholic News Service that news of the beatification was received with “immense joy” by his parishioners.

It also is being followed “with great interest in the city of



Three Catholic priests and a Lutheran pastor from the northern German city of Lubeck were executed by the Nazis in Hamburg Nov. 10, 1943. The three Catholic martyrs, pictured clockwise from bottom left, are Fathers Eduard Muller, Johannes Prassek and Hermann Lange, who are to be beatified in June. Rev. Karl Friedrich Stellbrink is pictured at bottom, right.

CNS PHOTO

Lubeck,” traditionally a Lutheran stronghold. In September, the daily *Lubecker Nachrichten* published a series of articles on the lives of the four martyrs.

“The martyrs have a great significance for the city,” Father Mecklenfeld said. “They have become ‘shining towers’ in the city of Lubeck,” where the skyline is famous for its seven Gothic church spires.

The notion of beatifying the three Catholics when their Lutheran companion cannot be honored in the same way has given rise to some controversy. The Rev. Heinz Russmann, a Lutheran pastor in Lubeck, wrote that the beatification would represent a painful division that would be harmful to ecumenism.

Either all four should be beatified, or none, he wrote.

His view is shared by the conservative local politician Hans-Lothar Fauth, a Catholic, who has said that all four have long been

publicly acclaimed as saints, regardless of denomination, and therefore require no official recognition.

Father Mecklenfeld said his parish always has been sensitive about maintaining the ties among all four martyrs.

Ecumenical relations in Lubeck are marked by the shared martyrdom. Pope Benedict XVI, a German, has recognized the significance of that friendship.

In an address to the German ambassador to the Vatican Sept. 13, he said the friendship among the clerics while in jail “represents an impressive witness to

ecumenical prayer and suffering which in many places flowered among Christians of different denominations during the dark days of national socialism. We may regard these witnesses as shining lights on our common ecumenical path.”

Father Lange's writings bear out the pope's sentiment. In a July 1943 letter, he wrote: “The suffering borne in common over the last years has brought the two Christian churches closer to one another. The shared imprisonment of the Catholic and the evangelical (Lutheran) clergy is a symbol of this community of suffering, but also of reconciliation.”

Rev. Stellbrink, 49 when he died, has been described as a prickly character who initially was an eager supporter of the Nazi party. The World War I veteran soon became disillusioned with Nazism, especially its anti-clericalism, and began to criticize it. He was expelled from the party in 1937 for refusing to denounce his friendship with Jews.

In 1941, he met Father Prassek at a funeral and increasingly began speaking against the Nazis by building a friendship with the younger priest, who had resolutely opposed Hitler's regime.

Rev. Stellbrink was the first Protestant cleric to be executed in Germany. Unlike his Catholic friends, he received no support from his church, which rehabilitated him only 50 years later, noting its “pain and shame” at the disgraceful treatment of the heroic pastor.

Father Prassek, 32, regularly preached against Nazism and min-

istered illegally to forced laborers from Poland, even learning Polish for that purpose. Just before his arrest Father Prassek was honored for his courage in rescuing people during the carpet bomb attack on Lubeck — the first on any German city — on Palm Sunday 1942.

Like his companions, he expected to be executed after their arrest. On the day of the court's judgment, he wrote: “God be praised, today I was sentenced to death.” Later, physically broken after more than a year of torture and hardship in jail, he looked forward to his execution.

“To be allowed to die fully conscious and quietly prepared is the most beautiful thing of all,” he wrote.

Father Muller, also 32 and a priest for just three years when he was executed, was a quiet man, popular among local youth. Though regarded as mostly apolitical — he never preached publicly against Nazism — he acknowledged Hitler's ideology as irreconcilable with Christianity and refused to collaborate with the Hitler Youth, which had courted him.

Father Lange, 31, was parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Church and ministered to youth and men at the parish. A reform-minded Catholic, he was perhaps the most politically active of the four. He distributed pamphlets and privately accused Germany of war crimes. He even told a soldier that a true Christian could not fight on the German side in the war. Father Lange's residence was raided by the Gestapo a year before his arrest.

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## WikiLeaks cables show Vatican as horrified by Irish clergy's sex abuse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A spate of U.S. diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks portray the Vatican as horrified over clerical sex abuse in Ireland but also deeply concerned that the procedures used by Irish investigators of the scandal were "an affront to Vatican sovereignty." The cables, released Dec. 10-12, touched on a wide range of issues, from the Vatican's efforts to deal with leftist governments in Latin America to its recent moves to welcome disaffected Anglicans into the Catholic Church. One cable offered a highly critical assessment of the Vatican's communications apparatus and said Pope Benedict XVI was surrounded by advisers who make sure dissenting voices are not heard. Another reviewed the Vatican's efforts to position itself as an intermediary with Iran in case an international crisis erupts and stated that in 2007 the Vatican had helped secure the release of British sailors detained in Iranian waters. The cables offered a rare glimpse at Vatican diplomacy in action, but through the lens of the U.S. policy experts who authored the reports. Most of the cables regarding the Vatican were written by officials of the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See, sometimes after personal meetings with Vatican diplomats. The Vatican issued a disclaimer Dec. 11, saying the reliability of the cables must be evaluated carefully and with great prudence. "Naturally these reports reflect the perceptions and opinions of the people who wrote them and cannot be considered as expressions of the Holy See itself, nor as exact quotations of the words of its officials," it said in a statement.

## Syrian patriarch urges Iraqi government to ensure safety of citizens

BEIRUT (CNS) — Syrian Catholic Patriarch Ignatius Joseph III Younan called on the Iraqi government to ensure the safety of all Iraqi citizens, especially Christians, "who are defenseless, honest and peaceful people." In his homily at a Dec. 10 memorial Mass that venerated the "46 new martyrs" of the Syrian Catholic Church in Baghdad, the patriarch said the presence of government officials at the liturgy "helped to inspire some trust and feelings of some protection" for the faithful, despite a prevailing mood of being anxious for the future "since the cover-up of the terror targeting Iraqi Christians is still going on after such a period of time." He reminded those present of the pleas of all Christians in Iraq and abroad, "that it is the responsibility of the Iraqi government to carry out proper and thorough investigations to uncover the terrorist groups who did plan and finance the carnage, of whatever religious or political allegiance they may be, and to bring them publically to

## FIREFIGHTER PLACING WREATH ON STATUE OF MARY



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A firefighter adjusts a rosary after placing a wreath on a statue of Mary high atop a column at the Spanish Steps in Rome Dec. 8. Since 1857, firefighters have honored Mary by placing a wreath on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

justice. We need deeds and not just ... promises, that our Christian faithful feel really safe in their churches, houses and places of work. They also need that the government ensure equality in the work places, since the Christians fear vengeance and harassment from many fundamentalist and self-proclaimed leaders in parts of the city as well in the civil and administrative areas," he said. Fifty-eight people died in the attack on the Syrian Catholic Church in Baghdad Oct. 31 after military officials tried to end a terrorist siege of the church.

## Prayers, lobbying precede House DREAM Act vote

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the Senate set to make another stab at passing the DREAM Act, supporters of the legislation were quickly back in the halls of Congress and at senators' district offices urging them to vote for it. The House Dec. 8 voted 216 to 198 for the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act. A day later, the Senate voted to table its consideration of a similar bill, amid threats by Republicans to oppose any legislation that came to a vote before bills dealing with federal appropriations and tax credits were settled. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., promised to bring the bill back for a vote before the lame duck session con-

cludes, around Dec. 17. Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony and his coadjutor, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, were among those lauding the House vote and pressing the Senate to take the next step. President Barack Obama and his administration have been pushing hard for the bill, which he will sign. "The young men and women who will benefit from the passage of the DREAM Act have not intentionally broken any laws," said a statement from the Los Angeles prelates. "Their only interest is in becoming a vital part of our great nation and to help improve our country over the coming years."

## New Vatican missionary museum opens in Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For almost 400 years, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples has sent missionaries around the world. Now, in the new Propaganda Fide Missionary Museum, the public can see many of the items they sent back to Rome. The new museum also documents how certain challenges to faith recur. For example, there's a letter written in the mid-1600s by King Leopold of Germany, the Holy Roman Emperor, to the Shah of Persia asking him kindly, but forcefully, to respect the religious freedom of Christians in Persia. The museum — and its holding of paintings, photographs, sculptures and other

objects — is located at the congregation's headquarters, itself a jewel of Baroque architecture with facades by Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Francesco Borromini. Located near the Spanish Steps, the exhibition space begins with Borromini's Church of the Adoration of the Magi, which is open to the public for the first time. Inaugurating the museum with a news conference Dec. 9, a Vatican official said the Three Kings who followed the star to Jesus' manger in Bethlehem are an icon of the goal of the Church's missionary activity. "The Magi symbolically represent the kings of the pagan peoples, who are guided by a comet to their first encounter with Christ and come to faith," said Francesco Buranelli, secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church and former director of the Vatican Museums.

## Hundreds protest late-term abortion doctor's arrival

GERMANTOWN, Md. (CNS) — About 300 people stood outside a Germantown abortion clinic in biting cold weather for several hours Dec. 6 to protest the arrival of LeRoy Carhart, a doctor from Nebraska who performs late-term abortions. Carhart left Nebraska to come to Maryland after his state passed a law prohibiting abortion after the 20th week of pregnancy. The doctor also will perform abor-

tions at a clinic in Iowa. The *Washington Post* reported that Carhart chose the Maryland location based on a number of factors, including which jurisdiction had the most favorable laws for abortion. The Rev. Patrick Mahoney, director of the Christian Defense Coalition and a lead organizer of the protest, said, "We don't want Maryland to become the late-term abortion capital of America." One of the first things the Presbyterian minister asked the crowd to do was kneel and pray to God, asking His forgiveness and His guidance on how to proceed. The crowd — consisting of many families with young children, young adults and some elderly people — knelt in prayer on the cold grass. "We will not be silent. We will stand. We will pray, and we will march," Rev. Mahoney said. He also encouraged people to visit the Web site, <http://kickout-carhart.com>, for updates and information on Carhart. Many of the pro-life protesters held signs and wore T-shirts with pro-life slogans. Only a handful of pro-choice supporters gathered outside of the abortion clinic that is part of a larger business park.

## Court panel hears oral arguments in appeal on same-sex marriage ruling

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco Dec. 6 took up the question of the constitutionality of California's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage, a hearing that may well have been a prelude to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the initiative. A group of faith-based supporters of Proposition 8, including Catholics, along with Imperial County, is appealing an Aug. 4 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker that the initiative is unconstitutional under the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Proposition 8 — approved by more than 7 million voters in 2008 — provides that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid in California. In a separate ruling Aug. 12, Walker said same-sex marriages in California could resume unless a higher court were to issue a stay within six days. On Aug. 16, a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit issued the stay, preventing such marriages while the case was being appealed. It was another three-judge panel of the appeals court that heard the oral arguments, but it may be several months before the judges issue their ruling, which could then be appealed to the full circuit court or directly to the Supreme Court. The judges could conclude, however, that the Proposition 8 supporters lack legal standing to bring the appeal in the first place. The hearing was devoted first to the question of standing and then the constitutionality issue, and the judges sharply questioned whether the supporters of the initiative could demonstrate they have been harmed by it.



## Poetry contest winners announced

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School students whose poems were selected as winners of the 2010 "Happy Sad Mad — Poems About Feelings" Poetry Contest sponsored by the Children's Services and Young Adults' Services departments of the Allen County Public Library. Nearly 1,000 students from 57 schools entered the contest. The winners read their poems at an 11 a.m. awards ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 4, in the Allen County Public Library theater downtown. The ceremony will be aired in January 2011 on Comcast Channel 55 and Frontier Channel 25.

Winners included the following

- Grade 10 — Katelyn Smith, second place, "Promises You Meant"
- Grade 11 — Heather Lothamer, first place, "Table Shopping" and Emily Hentz, honorable mention, "Alarm Clock Animosity"
- Grade 12 — Seth Boyden, first place, "Melted Sunshine"; Natalie Kocks, second place, "Letting Go"; Matt Spieth, third place, "Life as I Know It"; Scott Zimmerman, honorable mention, "The Mood that Sways"

## New members invested in Order of Malta

NEW YORK — St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City was the site of the Nov. 12 installation Mass where 110 new members were inducted into the Order of Malta, American Association. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, and principal chaplain of the American association, was the celebrant of the Mass and presided at the installation ceremony. Joseph H. Millet, president of the association invested the members in the name of the Prince and Grand Master of the Order, Fra' Matthew Festing.

Professor Frank K. Reilly of the Sacred Heart Parish, Notre Dame, and George A. Resnik of the St. Joseph Parish in South Bend were invested as Knights of Magistral Grace.

The Order of Malta is one of the oldest Lay Religious Catholic orders in the Church, founded in 1099. The charism of the order is to grow the personal sanctification of members, through its defense of the faith and service to the sick and poor.

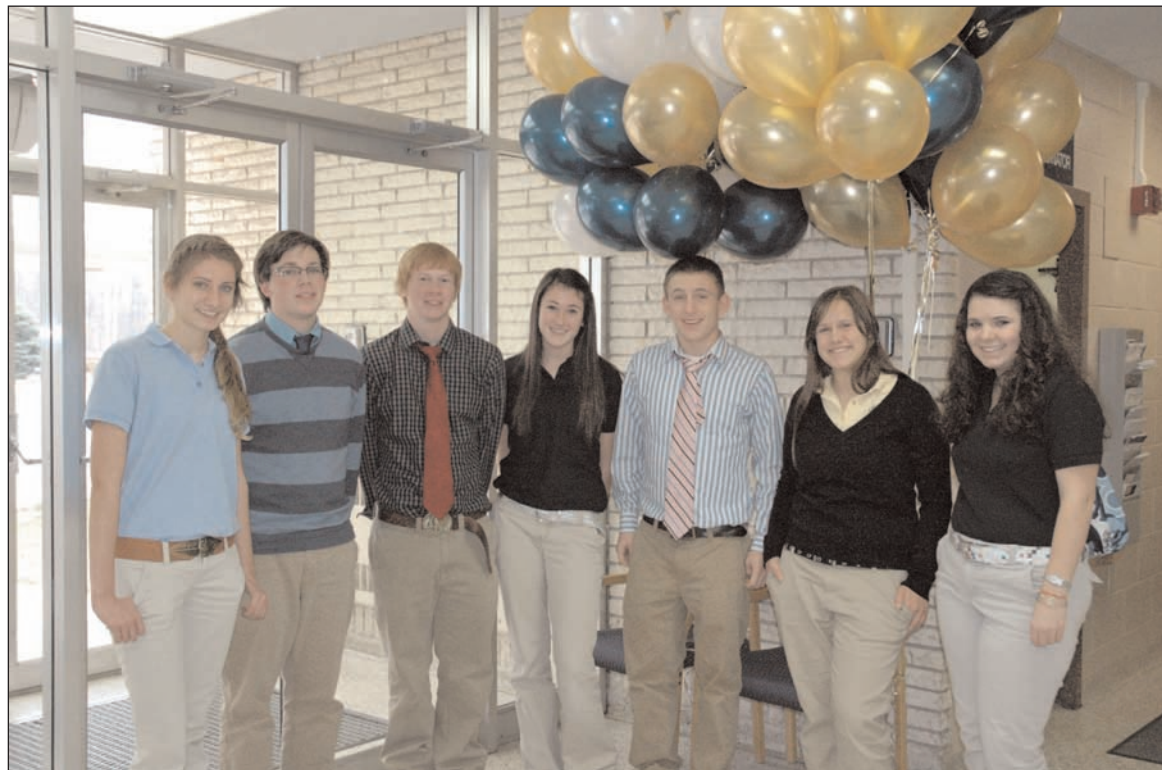
## Ecumenical Thanksgiving service in Pierceton

PIERCETON — St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Pierceton, hosted a Community Thanksgiving Service with the Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Pierceton on Nov. 24.

Three pastors — Rev. Holly White from the Methodist church, Father Dale Bauman, pastor of St. Francis Parish, and Rev. Steve Mullins from the Pierceton Presbyterian Church — came together to celebrate a community

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## BISHOP DWENGER STUDENTS WIN POETRY CONTEST



PROVIDED BY BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Dwenger poetry contest winners include, from left, Emily Hentz, Seth Boyden, Matt Spieth, Natalie, Kocks, Scott Zimmerman, Heather Lothamer and Katie Smith.

service. The last community service took place 15 years ago.

Each pastor provided a message of Thanksgiving and the members of the congregation were invited forward to give their own testimonials of thanks. Refreshments followed in the parish hall.

The three pastors will get together in January to plan more community services.

## Newest group of Providence Candidate-Associates makes commitment

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — Twenty people made their first commitments as Providence Associates during a Mass, Saturday, Nov. 13, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Another 60 Providence Associates from across the United States renewed their commitments the same day.

Providence Associates enter into a relationship with the Sisters of Providence for the opportunity to participate in the life and mission of the Sisters of Providence. Some ways associates are able to participate are mutual and intentional prayer; appropriate community gatherings; reflection and prayer groups; Sisters of Providence retreats and spiritual enrichment programs; social justice activities, eco-justice projects and events; and congregation ministries.

Camille Snyder of Fort Wayne is among those who made their first

commitment.

In four years since this relationship opportunity was introduced, more than 140 people have chosen to become a Providence Associate, in addition to 26 who are preparing to become associates after a year or more of candidacy. Three people in Taiwan are making a commitment as well.

Providence Associates are women and men (at least 18 years of age) of diverse faith traditions who seek a formal relationship with the Sisters of Providence. They may have known the sisters for a long time or have just recently heard about the sisters. Associates are drawn to this relationship with the Sisters of Providence for many reasons, but primarily, they wish to deepen their spiritual life and they see themselves as being called to respond to the Providence vision through their own particular way of life.

For information about Providence Associates, contact Sister Diane Mason, assistant director of Providence Associates, at either (708) 364-7917 or [diamason@spsmw.org](mailto:diamason@spsmw.org) or visit [www.ProvidenceAssociates.org](http://www.ProvidenceAssociates.org).

## St. Thomas seventh graders take part in annual economics mall

ELKHART — Seventh graders at St. Thomas School, Elkhart, in Dave Chamberlin's social studies class participated in the free market system by choosing and making

products to sell to the rest of the school community as part of the annual economics mall held Dec. 7. Many items carried a holiday theme such as ornaments, stockings and snow globes, while others served more practical purposes like pencil holders and tie racks.

Students got first-hand experience in starting a business. They had to decide on a product to make and the necessary materials, borrow money to purchase materials, pay or barter for any help they received, and price their products competitively for a fair profit margin.

It took three months of hard work but the students had a great time and learned a good deal about the free enterprise system.

## Father Poorman appointed executive VP at the University of Portland

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross Father Mark L. Poorman, associate professor of theology and former vice president for student affairs at the University of Notre Dame, has been appointed executive vice president and associate professor of theology at the University of Portland, effective July 1.

Father Poorman's responsibilities in the newly restructured position will include general oversight of the divisions of university operations, financial affairs, university relations and supervision of the student life division.

"Father Poorman is a gifted administrator, an accomplished faculty member and award-winning teacher, as well as a devoted priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross," Portland's president, Holy Cross Father E. William Beauchamp, said. "I am delighted he has accepted the invitation to join the University of Portland community to provide his distinguished leadership in this important role."

"I'm grateful, honored and excited to accept this wonderful opportunity from Father Beauchamp to serve the University of Portland," Father Poorman said. "Having been a member of the University's Board of Regents for the past seven years, I've been deeply impressed by the outstanding faculty, staff and students at UP, and I look forward to contributing to its promising future as an eminent institution of Catholic higher education."

Notre Dame's president, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, added: "Father Poorman has proven himself a dedicated leader in his work as a Holy Cross priest, administrator and faculty member at Notre Dame, and all of us here are most appreciative of his wonderful service. The prayers of our community travel with him to Portland, where I am confident his talents and experience will be enormously beneficial to the students, faculty and leadership at another exceptional Holy Cross university."

Notre Dame and Portland were founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1842 and 1901, respectively.

## USF Brookside earns ARCHIE award

FORT WAYNE — The restoration of Brookside, formerly the Bass mansion at the University of Saint Francis, earned an ARCHIE Award from Architecture and Community Heritage Inc. (ARCH) of Fort Wayne at a design and preservation awards celebration Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Brookside took the Outstanding Restoration Award in the institutional category for the \$5.9 million restoration of the former home of industrialist John Henry Bass, which now serves as a historical resource for the community and as an administrative building for the university.

The mansion of hand-carved sandstone was the Bass family's private residence from 1902-1944. The building and its more than 70 acres of surrounding park were purchased by the Order of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration as the new home for their college in 1944. Before the restoration, Brookside served for years as the university's library.

ARCH has awarded outstanding restoration efforts annually since 1977 with the ARCHIE awards.

## Correction

St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange, will hold the Pastorela on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. The Pastorela will not be held at St. Anthony of Padua in Angola.



## First graders sponsor 'Cookies for Christ'

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School first graders, their teachers and parents have been busy baking cookies in preparation for this year's "Cookies for Christ."

Each first grader was asked to bring in four dozen cookies, individually wrapped. The cookies were then sold to St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School students, teachers and parents for 25 cents each from Dec. 6 to Dec. 8.

All the money raised goes to the Sunshine Club, a joint Christmas giving program sponsored by both St. Joseph Parish and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. This year, a school family, Todd and Lisa Snyder, donated light blue T-shirts with the "Cookies for Christ" logo on the front for the first graders and teachers Julie Peters and Molly Slocum to wear.

"Cookies for Christ has been a long-standing tradition at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School," said Lois Widner, principal of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. "This is such an awesome way for our students to demonstrate the gift of stewardship at such a young age. The children truly understand that they are giving of themselves to help out their community. What a wonderful example of Christ!"

The Sunshine Club sets up Giving Trees at both parishes. Parish families take tags off the trees which instructs them to purchase specific items of clothing,



CORINE ERLANDSON

**St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School first grade student Sam Spatt participates in the Cookies for Christ program. Tim and Bridget Rooney have matched the \$721 made by the first graders for Cookies for Christ bringing the total to \$1,442.**

toys and other gifts to return to the Giving Tree. Non-perishable food items are also collected through the religious education and school classrooms. All these items are collected, sorted and then given to needy families in the St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish boundaries in mid-December.

The money raised in the Cookies for Christ sale is given to the Sunshine Club, which can then purchase any needed additional items to give to the families. This year's cookie sale made \$721.

Cookies for Christ was started 13 years ago by retired first grade teacher Joanne Krudop. The tradition of cookie baking, selling and giving the money to the Sunshine Club is now an established holiday tradition for the first graders and their families.

## Marian High School's Santa's Workshop is a hit at Center for the Homeless

MISHAWAKA — The Marian Art Club, under the leadership of Fine Arts Department Chairperson Kitty Gunty, sponsored their 15th annual Santa's Workshop at the Center for the Homeless in South Bend on Dec. 9.

For the past 14 years, the art club has put together a Santa's Workshop for the residents at the Center for the Homeless. Ten crafting tables were set up in the center's dining area so that the residents could create Christmas treasures for themselves and gifts for their loved ones. This year's crafts included decorating Christmas stockings, hats, picture frames, mirrors, glass bulbs and gingerbread cookies; making salt and clay ornaments and a variety of jewelry; face painting; drawing and coloring pictures; and having photos taken with Santa.

The ten crafting tables were staffed by Marian students, teachers and administrators. A record number of 75 Marian students took the time to attend this annual event. The job of the volunteers was to set up the tables and help any participants who needed assistance. Marian students also watched and entertained the babies and small children while their parents created Christmas decorations and gifts. They interacted with the residents by participating in the activities and crafts themselves. A new twist was added this year as the elementary school-age children asked if they could paint the faces of the high school students.

There was also a prize table that was popular because it attracted those who are not quite sure about joining in on the crafts. All of the prizes were donated and displayed by the Marian volunteers. The prizes were new or gently used items like toys, books, puzzles, stationary, games, crafts, religious items, tote bags, gloves, jewelry, winter hats and much more. It was especially heartwarming to



PROVIDED BY MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL

**The Marian High School Santa Workshop participants are, in back left, Colleen Earley, Nicole Walter and Emily Madisgon. And in front, Megan Earley and Emily Heller. They are preparing the cookie decorating table as they await the residents at the Center for the Homeless.**

help children choose gifts for their parents and parents choose gifts for their children and friends. Then the residents were encouraged to have the gifts wrapped by the Marian students. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus stopped by to talk with the children who were interested.

The residents thanked the Marian staff members for arranging this joyful event. One woman remarked that this was the best Christmas party ever.

Another said, "Marian is known as the school that puts on this event every year at Christmastime. All of my gifts for family and friends were made in this one evening."

A gentleman commented that it was good to see the smiles on the faces of both children and

adults who were definitely enjoying the fun. The little ones had to be reminded several times that it was time to go upstairs and go to bed.

Gunty noted, "The immense amount of time and energy that it takes to plan, purchase, package, set up and clean up is returned to the Marian community a hundredfold in the looks of satisfaction and delight on the faces of the guests as they complete their projects and choose their Christmas gifts for their families and loved ones."

Mary Kate Kibbe remarked, "Many students contributed to Santa's Workshop and it ended up being a great night. Our simple arts and crafts made the guests very happy and they loved the opportunity to be creative."



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# University of Saint Francis announces receipt of \$1.5 million grant

FORT WAYNE — University of Saint Francis (USF) officials held a media conference on the campus Dec. 8 to announce USF's receipt of \$1.5 million in Title III funding.

USF is the only Indiana college or university to receive the five-year grant. The funds combine with the university's \$1.2 million TRiO grant received in August, for a total \$2.7 million to target low-income and first-generation students and provide specialized resources leading to their graduation.

Federal Title III programs provide institutions of higher education funds to improve and expand their capacity to serve low-income students. "This grant will provide another avenue for the university to offer services to first generation and low-income students to help them achieve their goal of graduation," said USF President M. Elise Kriss, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

USF Provost Dr. Rolf Daniel commented upon the receipt of the grant and the university's plan for specialized student support services. "The university will use this grant to strengthen

how students are advised when they choose courses and majors. USF always has served a significant number of first-generation and lower income students, most of them from the greater Fort Wayne area," he said. "The addition of these specialized, grant-driven advising resources is expected to increase the academic success of these students and help more of them to graduate."

Specifically, the funds will be used to hire three new full-time advisers; train faculty advisers to engage students on and off campus to increase their success; establish a new Advising Center; provide education for advisers; and establish a recognition system for advising excellence. The funds will also provide resources to record and assess data related to the grant, which will inform with the aim of improving institutional decision-making.

"We expect these services to positively affect graduation rates for Title III grant students, because the data will track success and risk factors for them. The two additional personnel will be particularly important in the retrieval of data as we build an expanded data bank, where infor-

mation needed across a number of departments can be retrieved easily," Daniel said.

Sister Kriss introduced Tellis Young, who directs the university's TRiO program, funded by the \$1.2 million August grant. The federal TRiO Programs are outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"We have begun the process of weaving the TRiO program into the fabric of our internal processes to put specialized academic advising, financial aid assistance and personal counseling services in place for our students," Young said. "The program will touch every aspect of their college experience in some capacity."

"With the Title III grant and the TRiO grant, the university has received \$2.7 million for the support of low-income and first-generation college students," President Sister Kriss said in closing. "The Fort Wayne area receives an additional benefit in the creation of a total of seven new jobs to implement these plans."

## Merry Christmas!



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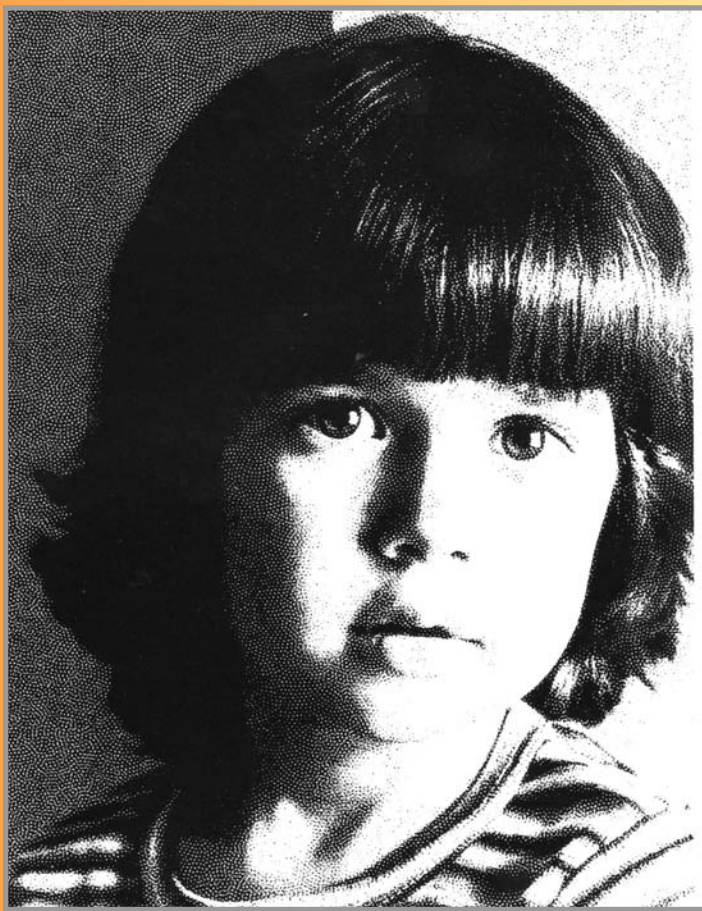
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# BISHOP CELEBRATES FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

BY JODI MAGALLANES AND KAY COZAD

WARSAW — On the eve of her feast day, Our Lady of Guadalupe gained a new caretaker for her shrine. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades installed Father Constantino Rocha as the pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw on Saturday, Dec. 11. Father Paul Bueter, Father Fernando Jimenez and Father Rocha concelebrated the 3 p.m. Spanish-language Mass.

Father Rocha told the worshippers that Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day has coincided with other milestones in his life, but that this was the first time his installation as a "párroco" fell so close to the date.

Immediately following his ordination in Mexico City a number of years ago, Father Rocha celebrated his very first Mass in her basilica during her feast.

In 2000 he accepted an invitation from Bishop John M. D'Arcy to come to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and arrived at his assigned parish, St. John the Evangelist in Goshen, just a few days before numerous activities in honor of her feast day were to be celebrated.

"I see it as a son before his mother," Father Rocha said. "During important moments, there she is. There has to be something to that."

A traditional Mexican mariachi band accompanied a "pianito," or small platform, which several men carried on their shoulders as they walked from State Road 15 up Gilliam Drive and into the shrine to initiate the Mass. The platform supported a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe and vases full of red and yellow roses. The men who carry it are called "Guadalupeños" and spend much of the year planning the celebration.

Although Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared to be the patron saint of all of the Americas by Pope John Paul II in 1999, she is particularly and widely adored by Mexicans. She appeared to an indigenous Mexican, Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin in 1531 on a hill on the north side of present-day Mexico City and sent him to his bishop with a request that a church be built for her. When the bishop doubted, she appeared three more times and told Juan Diego to collect roses that she would grow for him and take them to the bishop as her sign.

Despite the fact that roses were out of season at the time, the flowers did grow and Juan Diego collected them in his cloak and took them to Bishop Zumarraga. When he presented them to the bishop, it was discovered that her image had been imprinted on his cloak as well. The cloak now hangs in her basilica in Mexico City.

Bishop Rhoades reminded the congregation of the message of welcome and comfort she gave to the indigenous Mexican population



JODI MAGALLANES

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Father Constantino Rocha and Father Paul Bueter pray before the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the end of the Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw on Dec. 11.**

that had been recently conquered.

"Mary says to us, 'Am I not here, who is your mother? Aren't you under my protection? Are you not within my fold?'"

Mary is truly our mother, the mother of us all, Bishop Rhoades said.

"We're here today to express our love for our mother Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe and to praise and worship God together with her in this Holy Mass.

"You can't proclaim Jesus Christ as true God and true man without talking about the Virgin Mary, His mother. You can't confess faith in the Incarnation without proclaiming that the Son of God was conceived by the work of the Holy Spirit and that He was born of the holy Virgin Mary, like



KAY COZAD

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greets the standing-room only Hispanic congregation at St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne. Standing to his right are Pastor Andrew Thu Pham, and parochial vicars Fathers Chau Pham and Thomas Ascheman.**



JODI MAGALLANES

**Above, Mariachi musicians play the traditional song called "mananitas" to the Virgin at the beginning of the Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw on Dec. 11.**



KAY COZAD

**At left, Juan Diego, played by Antonio Dominguez, reverently listens to Our Lady of Guadalupe, played by wife Pilar Hernandez, in a play depicting the Mexican's meeting with the Virgin Mary in 1531, that closed the Spanish Mass celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick Parish on Dec. 12.**

we say in the Creed," he added. "Below her shadow, we follow Christ. Below her shadow, we experience His love."

Bishop Rhoades was ordained a bishop on Dec. 9, the day recognized as her first of the four appearances to Juan Diego. He said that her words have always given him peace and strength at the beginning of each day.

Sister Joan Hastreiter, parish assistant, noted that this is the first time that the shrine has had a pastor of the same nationality as the Our Lady of Guadalupe appearances.

Before Father Rocha's arrival, Father Paul Bueter served the Our Lady of Guadalupe community for 22 years. Following Father Bueter's retirement, Father J. Steele, Father Eloy Jimenez Zuniga, Father Fernando Jimenez and Father Phil DeVolder ministered to the community of about 220 families.

Many of the worshippers said they had come from Goshen to support Father Rocha in his new assignment.

"We came to accompany him," said Fernando Vela and his wife, Ieny. "Actually, it's really to deliver him, in a way. Being that he's a Mexican, it's great to have him in her shrine. His service to the diocese will continue," said Vela.

## St. Patrick, Fort Wayne

Elsewhere in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend another colorful celebration took place as well. At St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne Bishop Rhoades concelebrated a Spanish-language Mass for a standing room only Hispanic congregation along with St. Patrick Pastor Andrew Thu Pham, and parochial vicars Fathers Chau Pham and Thomas Ascheman, all priests of the Society of the Divine Word, on Sunday Dec. 12.

A group of flag-bearing parishioners and a special young adult dance troop, adorned in rich native costumes, performed a lively dance procession that followed the celebrants to the altar. The performance was accompanied by the parish's spirited band and choir.

The congregation, young and old alike, listened attentively as Bishop Rhoades celebrated the Mass, including his homily, in Spanish.

A second dance performance and a solemn play depicting Juan Diego's meeting with Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531 brought the celebration Mass to a close with cheers and shouts of praise. A grand fiesta, featuring authentic Mexican fare, was held at the parish hall following Mass.



# Bishop Rhoades blesses new grave site at Catholic Cemetery on Dec. 12

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed the new Garden of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Catholic Cemetery on Sunday, Dec. 12.

The dedication and blessing ceremony began in the Resurrection Mausoleum then processed to Section Q, south of the pole barn on the east side of the cemetery.

According to Tom Alter, director of cemeteries for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and superintendent of Catholic Cemetery, the Garden of Our Lady of Guadalupe will contain 4,941 graves, the largest section dedicated since the cemetery opened in 1873. The site covers 5,365 acres. The new section will be divided into seven blocks by Roman numerals and Block V, in front of a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, will be reserved for the future burial of diocesan priests.

The survey work for the new section was completed by Donovan Engineering, Inc. and the roads were installed by Wayne Asphalt. The design work was done by Alter. The lot markers were set by several seminarians who work during the summer at the cemetery and by cemetery employees, Alter said.

Catholic Cemetery is located at 3500 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne.



MARK WEBER

On her feast day, Our Lady of Guadalupe was venerated and asked for intercession for the living and the dead, as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed a statue of her likeness in the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne. Bishop Rhoades also consecrated a new section of the cemetery which will be dominated by this monument to the Queen of the Americas.

# St. Therese students welcome Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for blessing

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — Surrounded by the purity of a fresh snowfall, the student body of St. Therese School in Fort Wayne gave a warm and loving welcome to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as he stepped into their midst to bless a new statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe next to the front door of their school.

After prayers and hymns in Spanish and English, Bishop Rhoades reminded the students that just as Mary is so close to her Son, she, in the presence of this statue is now very close to them and suggested that, in appreciation of her blessings, students pause on their way in or out of school to say a Hail Mary when they pass her statue.

St. Therese pastor, Father David Ruppert, assisted in the ceremony, as did Society of the Divine Word Father Thomas Aschemeam of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, leading prayers in Spanish.

Dr. Mark Myers, superintendent of Catholic Schools, and Marsha Jordan, assistant superintendent,



MARK WEBER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, surrounded by students of St. Therese School, Fort Wayne, dedicated a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe near the front door of their school. The statue was installed recently as a way of asking Our Lady's intercession for St. Therese School and students as well as remembering our Blessed Mother's love for our whole continent and all of the Americas.

were also present.

Following the dedication, students participated in their annual "Questival" which is conducted by the older students for the younger ones and includes food, games and

prizes. The event is a fund raiser for the St. Therese sister parish in Honduras, St. Maximillian Kolbe, and has been a parish project for more than 20 years.

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Christmas Eve Masses:  
 5:00 PM (Children's Mass)  
 Midnight Mass  
 (Music begins at 11:30 PM)

Christmas Day Masses  
 8:30 & 11:00 AM

New Year's Day  
 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM  
 January 2  
 8:30 AM, 11:30 AM,  
 5:00 PM

*Visit the Cathedral during this Season of Grace.*

**Christmas TV Mass Specials**



**FORT WAYNE**  
 Christmas Morning  
 10:30 - 11:30 am  
 WISE-TV 33  
 Live from the  
 University of Saint Francis Chapel  
 Celebrant: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

**SOUTH BEND**  
 Christmas Day  
 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. and Noon - 1:00 p.m.  
 WNDU-TV 16  
 Mass taped from the Sisters of St. Francis  
 of Perpetual Adoration Chapel  
 Celebrant: Monsignor Michael Heintz

**Holy Cross and  
 St. Stanislaus Parish**  
*Holiday Schedule*

**Christmas Eve - December 24**  
 4:00 pm - Holy Cross Church (Family Mass)  
 5:30 pm - St. Stanislaus Church  
 Midnight Mass 12:00 am - Holy Cross Church

✦

**Christmas Day - December 25**  
 9:30 am - St. Stanislaus 11:00 am - Holy Cross  
 (No Vigil for Sunday, December 26)

**Mary, Mother of God - January 1, 2011**  
 9:30 am - St. Stanislaus Church




# Father Dave Ruppert and the magic of toy trains

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — It was the perfect gift for Junior. It might bruise the budget a little, but as dad explained to mom, “we can go light on his birthday ... and don’t worry about the girls. We can give them clothes for the dolls they got last year. Let’s get it for him, honey. A boy can enjoy a Lionel train for years ... and I can help him set it up!”

It made Dad feel so good that he told the guys at work about it, describing each car, including the caboose, in detail. “I’m starting him out with a freight and maybe a Pennsy passenger for his birthday. We can run them side by side.”

In the early 1900s, Joshua Lionel Cowen built the first electric train, not as a toy, but as a display prop to call attention to other merchandise in a New York toy shop window. Resembling a box on wheels, the first Lionel chugged around amidst other toys, bearing the words “Electric Express,” and became a hot item; one that dreams are made of.

Lionel electric trains reached their highest popularity in the late 1930s when advertised in the Sunday comics. A unique item was a handcar operated by Mickey and Minnie Mouse. In 1957, a pink and blue pastel model for girls derailed somewhere in the desert and was never seen again.

Airplanes, racing cars, various dolls and television reduced the interest in electric trains, but unlike planes or space capsules, trains have a mystique perpetuated by the whistle in the night or the wanderlust itch felt when watching passenger cars roll by.

Father David Ruppert, pastor of St. Therese Parish, Fort



MARK WEBER

**This realistic scene created by Father David Ruppert is enhanced by sounds of train whistles and track noises, taking viewers on imaginary trips anywhere, depending on the individual. Father Ruppert began his train collection in his seminary days. It continues to give him enjoyment, and his nieces and nephews are thrilled when they visit Uncle Dave and share the magic made by toy trains.**

Wayne, is in rhythm with the clickity clack of train tracks. His mother tells him that as an infant, if he was fretful in the back seat of the family car, and if the car was waiting for a train to pass by, baby David settled right down.

Trains continue to soothe Father Ruppert, because he is at the throttle, so to speak, controlling two trains of his own. They roll side by side or back off to a

siding near a neat village with paved streets and roads winding past a Pizza Hut, Burger King, a theater, homes, an apartment building and a church.

This appealing village on the Rock Island line has cars, school busses, semi trucks and flashing railroad signals.

The fire trucks and police cars have flashing light bars with separate switches.

Some model train enthusiasts find enjoyment in building the tunnels, crafting miniature trees and creating different levels for their trains to travel on, thus creating a larger village or landscape, which eventually calls for more track and new cars.

For Father Ruppert, however, the challenge of hooking up the tiny hair like wires to the light bars of the police cars and fire trucks, school busses and railroad crossing signals to separate commands, gives him quiet satisfaction.

Trains have a fascinating aura that produces songs, poems and dreams of far away places, and model trains have their own magic. For Father Dave Ruppert, his trains provide enjoyment of the setup, and can also haul away stress cargo ... a few moments of switching, backing and sending signals can clear his mind and place him back on track as a pastor of a large thriving parish.

Wishing you and yours  
 a blessed  
*Christmas*

Join us for Mass  
 Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24  
 4pm, 8pm, 12am

CHRISTMAS DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25  
 10:00am


FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 26  
 8am, 10am, 5pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY, SATURDAY, JANUARY 1  
 8:00am

EPIPHANY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 2  
 Saturday Vigil, 5pm  
 Sunday 8am, 10am, 5pm

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## Prison Fellowship Angel Tree needs more sponsors

BY TIM JOHNSON

YODER — “The need is so huge!” remarks Mark Michuda, a member of the Knights of Columbus of St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder, who coordinates the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program. Seven other Knights’ councils in the Fort Wayne area assist with the program by sponsoring children and providing a luncheon.

“Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship, seeks to reconcile prisoners and their families to God and to each other through the delivery of Christmas gifts and the Gospel message,” reports the Web site, [www.angeltree.org](http://www.angeltree.org). The program helps “deliver love” to children of prisoners at Christmas.

The St. Aloysius Knights and parishioners have embraced the program for three years. Names with gift requests are offered for parishioners to take off a tree, purchase a gift for the child and return it to the church. The St. Aloysius list began with 150 names, but after contacting possible candidate families — weeding out the names who were not eligible or the families that did not wish to participate — 97 names were left for the St. Aloysius tree. Those names were quickly taken from the tree at St. Aloysius over the first weekend of Advent. By Dec. 5, gifts filled the corners of the church.

To express the great need for additional Catholic communities and organizations to get involved with the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program, Michuda was told that nearly 193 children of prisoners in just Allen County were not provided an opportunity to participate. And these names were not submitted in time to be included in the St. Aloysius program.

This is an opportunity, Michuda says, for the Catholic community to make a real difference. Other Knights of Columbus councils or church organizations are encouraged to embrace the program, which involves evangelization, is spiritually based and plants a seed by sharing the story of Christ’s birth with the children and their families.

There is an option to deliver gifts to the individual family or to host a party for all of the children.

On Dec. 11, the Knights sponsored a Christmas party at St. Henry Church in Fort Wayne. The day included a prayer service with Msgr. Bernard Galic, pastor of St. Aloysius, music, a luncheon with the children and gift distribution.

Children and family members were given an opportunity at the event to write a note and send a photo to the parent who is in jail.

The children attend with family and foster families. The program reaches out to the inmates through the card mailing, to the caretakers and to the children themselves.

Additional information about the program is available at [www.angeltree.org](http://www.angeltree.org) or by calling (800) 55-ANGEL.

## St. Monica Church

MISHAWAKA

### Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24 and 25, 2010

**Children’s Mass:** Friday, December 24, 4:30 p.m.  
with Caroling beginning at 4:00 p.m.



**Christmas Vigil Mass:** Friday, December 24, 10:00 p.m.  
with a musical presentation of Carols beginning at 9:30 p.m., with the adult choir and instrumentalists.



**Christmas Day Mass:** Saturday, December 25  
10:00 AM

**222 West Mishawaka Avenue**

## Corpus Christi Catholic Community

2800 Corpus Christi Drive - South Bend

*Holiday Schedule*

### CONFESSIONS

December 18: 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

December 20: 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

December 21: 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

December 22: 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

December 23: 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

December 24: 9:00 a.m.

*Confessions may be heard anytime by appointment - Call (574) 272-9982*

### MASSES / SERVICES

December 19: 7:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

December 24: 5:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil

11:30 p.m. Musical Program

December 25: Midnight, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

*(NO 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass)*

December 26: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

December 31: 5:00 p.m. New Year’s Vigil

January 1, 2011: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m. Sunday Vigil Mass



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

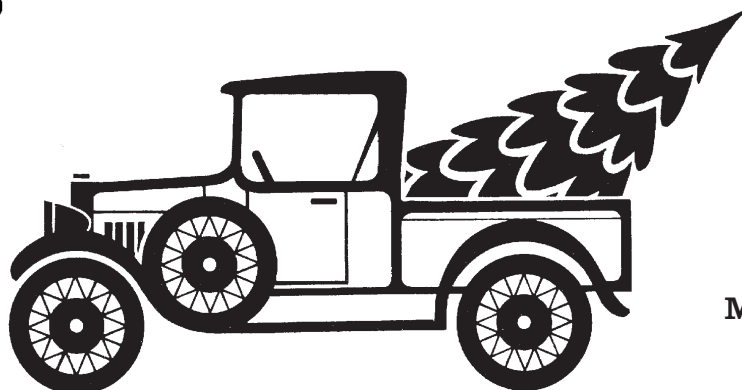
**Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve**  
4:00 pm Family Mass

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

**Saturday, January 1 Mary, Mother of God**  
*(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)*  
9:00 am Mass

**Sunday, January 2 Epiphany of the Lord**  
6:30 am Crypt Mass  
*This is the Only Crypt Mass this day!*

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



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Regardless of the weather or the food served at a holiday feast, or whether you are alone or in the midst of many, Christmas is always a look at the past.

At the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne, we deal with time in a unique blend of the past, the present and the future for all whom we are called to serve.

May the Blessings of the season be yours.



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## GUEST COMMENTARY

## Higher expectations at Advent

*Responding to editors' requests for a regular sampling of current commentary from around the Catholic press, here is an editorial, titled "Higher expectations at Advent," which appears in the Dec. 12 issue of Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic newspaper based in Huntington, Ind. It was written by the OSV editorial board.*

This time every year, along with the Muzak carols and the proliferation of advertising supplements in the local newspaper, one can always count on a Catholic newspaper editorializing on the orgy of consumerism that unfortunately now typifies the Christmas season. Even this newspaper has been known to indulge in a Catholic "bah, humbug."

Of course, our families feel all the same pressures and guilt and greed, but we pat ourselves on the back that at least we're not the ones trampling people at Walmart to get a steal on a television, or maxing our credit cards to outdo friends and family with expensive gifts, or rushing with the herd to buy whatever Oprah has proclaimed the latest "must have."

Alas, self-congratulation is no better a Christmas spirit than consumerist excess (as Scrooge and the Grinch have already told us).

This year, however, maybe everyone is feeling a bit grinchy. Consumerism seems a whole lot less exuberant, with the national mood subdued by high rates of joblessness, a stagnant economy and all the uncertainty that brings.

It is also overshadowed by somber talk in Washington about what the Government Accountability Office is describing as our nation's fiscally "unsustainable" path. The national debt (which according to the U.S. Treasury stood at the end of last month at \$13,794,243,004,364.88) is projected to continue to balloon on its current course. Entitlement benefits — primarily health care and Social Security payments — alone are calculated to exceed government income by more than \$40 trillion over the next 75 years.

Of course, relatively speaking, what the United States is facing is nothing nearly as cataclysmic as the debt crisis threatening country after country in the European Union.

So Americans have not taken to the streets, and many of us are ducking the mind-numbing details of the national debt and federal deficit. It might just be that lack of urgency that will convince the U.S. Congress to do nothing serious now to address our long-term structural problems — because any solution will mean choking down a politically toxic cocktail of spending cuts and raised taxes, like the recent recommendations of the White House's bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

Given all this, some may be tempted to cheer on those unbridled Christmas consumers as a sort of new national patriot, doing their duty to hopefully spur our economy past our debt.

But that's precisely the problem. The same spirit that permits a person to elbow aside another to grab a consumer electronic device is the same one that got our country in this profligate mess — and, more ominously for the future, is one that could mean indifference to the suffering of society's weakest members as we try to claw our way out of it.

What it boils down to is putting things before people — the precise opposite of the Christmas message. This season is a call to be generous, opening our eyes to truly see and value all of our weakest brothers and sisters — the elderly, sick, homeless and jobless, or a babe swaddled 2,000 years ago in a manger, surrounded by shepherds.

That is the expectation we should have of ourselves, and of our society's approach to the challenges. "Man can be recognized by his expectations," Pope Benedict XVI said a few weeks ago in an Advent reflection. "Our moral and spiritual 'stature' may be measured by what our hopes are."

In the hard decisions that inevitably will follow this Christmas, we must ask ourselves what our expectations are, and where our hope lies.

# 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

## Car raffle winner gives car to friend

I am the very blessed winner of the car raffle. I purchased two tickets to support World Youth Day, with the intent of giving the car (if won) as a Christmas present to a wonderful lady I have been dating for three years now, who was in need of reliable transportation.

Her 1997 van had over 150,000 miles on it and was starting to need major repairs. Just last month, she spent over \$900 on repairs, and the car service department told her there were other major issues with her car, which could be very costly to repair in the near future. Honestly, I never dreamed I would have purchased a winning ticket. At age 66, I cannot

remember ever winning anything of this magnitude.

When Bishop Rhoades called me on Nov. 22 to inform me I had the winning ticket, I couldn't believe it. At first I thought someone was playing a prank on me, as this has happened to me in the past. Fortunately, I had watched the Mass with Bishop Rhoades the Sunday morning before, so I recognized his voice.

On Saturday, Nov. 27, we traveled from South Bend to Fort Wayne's Glenbrook Dodge/Hyundai to select the car, a Hyundai Sonata. The staff of Glenbrook Hyundai treated us like royalty. What a wonderful group of people working there. None finer.

Glenbrook Hyundai's Business Manager Gary Cramer presented the keys to the Hyundai to me. The beau-

tiful 2011 Hyundai SE was then titled over to my friend, who drove her new car back to South Bend.

What a wonderful feeling this was. I couldn't have asked for a better Christmas present than this, to win this car and be able to give it to someone who really needed one.

God works in mysterious ways. I feel that had I bought the raffle tickets for me personally, I never would have won. But, they were purchased in the spirit of helping others and Christmas giving. Also, I would like to say how wonderful it is to have people like the owners of Glenbrook Dodge/Hyundai support World Youth Day and other charities.

**Ron Crook**  
South Bend

## Summer program sends college student to prison ministry

BY MONICA MURPHY

It's prison — so what can one expect? Well for one, many expect the inmates to follow "known" rules or facts: sleep at this time, class at this time and eat at this time. The structure is without any room to negotiate. When one thinks of a prison, they think of uniforms, cots, emptiness, locks, prison cells, evil and darkness.

Although some of these things may be true, here is what many do not know: Prisons can be, and often are filled with renewal, second chances, and opportunities for people to become more educated. Inmates often have a desire to become creative thinkers and ambitious leaders.

I spent about a month in Boca Raton, Fla., this summer ministering in the Paul Rein Detention Facility.

The unit that I worked at contained a multi-purpose room, a small lounge area, bathroom stalls without doors and open "rooms" that were shared by up to three girls for sleeping.

One of my tasks was to conduct leadership training for about 40 women. Actually, what I was really doing was just taking the time to listen and understand their stories. I did leadership exercises with the women, allowing them to think outside the box. One day, I challenged them to act out skits. It was wonderful to have them share what leadership means to them.

One of the inmates — a mother of four named "Katie" — stood out

to me during my time there. I saw something special in her. She asked questions and wanted to gain more understanding as to how to become a leader. I could just see it in her face.

Eventually I sat down and talked to her. In this moment, I began to understand better the heart of man. A person's humanity is often shaped by her environment, or at least our surroundings have a strong influence on why we do certain things.

Katie said, "I really believe that coming to prison was supposed to happen to me. I am learning to become a leader, to think in a way that I never thought before."

Those in the outside world will

never fully understand the prison world until they see it for themselves. Many of the women that I worked with are starting to become great leaders. They talked about how this particular unit had a sense of peace and purpose. Little did I know that I was in for an experience that would allow me to step back from my known world, and learn about a different side of life — a life of promise behind closed doors.

**Monica Murphy** is a Saint Joseph's High School, South Bend, graduate and a student at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame.



### John of Kanty

c. 1390-1473  
December 23

Greatly revered in his native Poland, this saint, also known as John Cantius, spent most of his life teaching at the University of Krakow, where he was a noted professor of sacred Scripture. He also spent an interval as a parish priest, reputedly forced on him because of academic jealousy. At the university, he impressed on students the need for moderation and good manners in controversy, and was famous for his boundless generosity to Krakow's poor. A personal austerity contributed to his reputation for holiness: He ate no meat and slept on the floor.



## Vatican Christmas: It may be short on snow, but it's big in spirit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While snowfall is a rarity and Santa Claus is seldom seen, Christmas at the Vatican is truly unique.

Cranes erect an enormous evergreen alongside the granite obelisk in St. Peter's Square and workers nested in cherry picker buckets adorn the tree with lights, ornaments and tinsel.

This year's tree is decorated with 3,000 gold and silver balls, and 1,500 white and yellow LED lights, which have lower energy consumption and greater durability. The tree will be topped with a flashing star.

Construction of the larger-than-life Nativity scene takes weeks and yards of thick burlap keep curious eyes from seeing the final product until its unveiling on Christmas Eve.

But even further from the public eye are the holiday traditions of

the papal household. While Pope John Paul II had close to an open-house attitude, Pope Benedict XVI is much more discreet.

In addition to the public events, Pope Benedict celebrates Christmas privately with the members of his papal household.

"We celebrate Christmas together, listen to the holiday music and exchange gifts," he said in the recent book-length interview "Light of the World."

The close-knit papal family includes Pope Benedict's two secretaries and a small group of women from the Memores Domini lay community who care for the papal apartment. Unfortunately, this holiday season is marked with the loss of one of the pope's close collaborators, Manuela Camagni, who died Nov. 24 after she was struck by a car.

A close friend of the pope still

### THE VATICAN LETTER

CAROL GLATZ

delivers traditional Bavarian food every Christmas season.

Thaddaeus Josph Kuehnel, a German banker in Munich, has spent the past 28 years hand delivering the pope's favorite sweets and sausages from Bavaria.

Kuehnel told Catholic News Service he was driving to Rome the week before Christmas to deliver Bavarian sausages from the

LETTER, PAGE 16

## Advent recalls the Lord's birth



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

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

This weekend the Church celebrates the fourth and last Sunday of Advent 2004.

For its first reading, this weekend's liturgy offers a reading from the first section of the Book of Isaiah. This reading refers to King Ahaz of the southern Hebrew kingdom of Judah. The reference allows scholars to date this prophecy, since it is known that Ahaz reigned in the last third of the 8th century before Christ.

Ahaz is not regarded as having been an especially great king. He hardly met Isaiah's expectations, hence the prophet chided him.

Ultimately, Isaiah's criterion for Ahaz, or for any king, was that the king first and foremost was a servant of God and drawing the people to God was the king's ambition. Since David, especially, kings had been seen as God's assigned and anointed agents. This religious role overtook all other considerations. The final judgment of how well kings performed was whether or not they were truly loyal to God.

Urged to be loyal and devoted by Isaiah, Ahaz was promised a sign of God's favor. The sign was the birth of a son, whose mother was Ahaz's young bride or a virgin who actually was his concubine.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans provides the second

reading. Introducing himself, Paul firmly states that he is an Apostle, called by the Lord to proclaim the Gospel. Above and beyond everything, Paul saw himself as God's servant, obediently following Jesus, the Lord and Savior.

For its last reading, the Church presents a section from the Gospel of Matthew recalling the conception of Jesus. (Only two of the four Gospels, both of them Synoptics, Matthew and Luke, recount the birth of Jesus.)

This weekend's reading is very clear, as in Luke. Jesus had no earthly father, but Jesus truly was human. He was the son of Mary, a human being, however, and since she alone was the earthly parent, Jesus received human nature itself from her.

In this story, Joseph is concerned, to say the least. He first understandably assumes that Mary, his betrothed, has been unfaithful to him. How else could Mary have become pregnant? An angel, Gabriel, one of God's messengers, relieves Joseph's mind by revealing that the unborn child is in fact the Son of God.

It is more than simply a chronicle of the conception and birth of Jesus, divine though these events may have been. The coming of the Messiah is a sign, perfect and penultimate, of God's everlasting love for humankind. God never fails, is never absent from people. Finally, the reading tells that Jesus, the Son of God, also is man.

#### Reflection

The season of Advent is the careful and focused period preceding Christmas. It is a time for preparation, but it is more than a time to prepare for a festive day.

More fully, Advent calls us joyfully, and with thanksgiving, to remember the Lord's birth, as a human, the child of Mary, in Bethlehem. However, the Church also provides Advent to assist us in our effort personally to unite with the Lord.

Our union with God, so intimate that we can possess even God's eternal life, occurred because of our unity first with Jesus in a common humanity. This union, established by creation, was completed in the Lord's own humanity.

We ratify and reinforce our union with God by individually choosing holiness. Turning us toward prayer, and strengthening spiritual resolve by the uprooting of sin from our lives, the Church not only invites us to observe Advent but also accommodates our spiritual progress. The question is if we shall respond.

As we ponder this question, the Church reassures us. "Be strong!" it advises. God will strengthen and enlighten us. He has never failed in love, mercy and guidance, given in and through Jesus.

#### READINGS

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

Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

**Monday:** Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6

Lk 1:26-38

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

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

**Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps

25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66

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

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

## The new translation of the Holy Mass:

### The Fourth Sunday of Advent

We are already nearing the end of Advent, and as the number of penance services and special confession times offered in recent days reminds us, it is important to make good use of the remainder of this season to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas. We likewise continue our study and preparation for the new English translation of the Holy Mass, which we will begin using next Advent.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been examining texts from the Order of Mass — the prayers that are constant from week to week. This week, as we did for the First Sunday of Advent, we will instead examine a prayer from the Proper of the Mass, which includes all the prayers that change depending on the liturgical day or season (such as the Proper of Saints).

The Opening Prayer of the Mass, traditionally called the Collect Prayer, would be considered part of the Proper. It is called the Collect because it "collects" all the people's prayers from the Introductory Rites of the Mass into a single prayer said by the priest. It also serves to express the character of the particular liturgical celebration.

Let us look at the current Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (there are two that can be used, but this is the primary option given):

**Lord,  
fill our hearts with your love,  
and as you revealed to us by an angel  
the coming of your Son as man,  
so lead us through his suffering and death  
to the glory of his Resurrection.**

We can see that the current translation is a descriptive, eloquent prayer that contains significant content about the Annunciation, the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery — all in just a few lines. However, there is something interesting about the new translation of this same prayer, which will look like this:

**Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,  
your grace into our hearts,  
that we, to whom the Incarnation of  
Christ your Son  
was made known by the message of  
an Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross  
be brought to the glory of the  
Resurrection.**

Not only does the new translation carry an even more detailed version of the same rich content, but it also does so while preserving the beautiful wording of a traditional Catholic prayer that many

### THE NEW MISSAL



BY BRIAN MACMICHAEL

readers may recognize — the Angelus. The Angelus is a devotional prayer, said at particular times during the day, which focuses on the salvific mystery of Our Lord's Incarnation through the lens of the Archangel Gabriel's appearance to the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Annunciation.

Many Catholics who are very familiar with the Angelus may never have realized, from our current translation, that this Collect is the same prayer said at the conclusion of the Angelus. And it truly is the exact same prayer, for the Latin texts of the Angelus and of this Collect are identical. How wonderful that the new translation will enable this connection to shine through more clearly, especially given the appropriateness of this prayer so close to Christmas!

This Collect also illustrates another point — that the recovery of traditional devotional language, such as the language of the Angelus, can be helpful for prayer. Many will recall how hand missals and prayer books decades ago all contained this sort of grand, formal style. This approach was largely abandoned around the time that the current Mass translation was completed, but has since seen a resurgence, perhaps precisely because there is a certain timelessness to this manner of speech.

We may consider the use of words like "thy" and "thou" as archaic and odd in conversational English, but they remain fervently prayed and easily memorized in the Our Father, Hail Mary, 10 Commandments and even such hymns as the Notre Dame Alma Mater. There is a timeless appeal to the wording and content of these prayers. Similar things might also be said by Protestants about the King James Version of the Bible. Examples can even be found in the secular world: the Declaration of Independence, the National Anthem or the Gettysburg Address. There is a universal sense that these important texts are properly preserved in a more majestic style of speech, to show that they are important and distinct from the commonplace.

May we seek this inspiring splendor in Christ and His sacred liturgy as we ready to welcome Him at Christmas!

**Brian MacMichael** is the director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.



## Paint-by-numbers journalism

Press coverage of New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan's recent election as president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops exemplified what my colleague Meghan Clyne calls "paint-by-numbers" reporting. Like the paint-by-numbers kits that were a fad when I was a kid, paint-by-numbers journalism produces something rather childish and not very pretty. Both unhappy attributes were fully on display as the herd of independent minds tried to cope with the Dolan story, scrambling (and failing) to grasp its dynamics and meaning.

The first paint-by-numbers color in this particularly childish picture was the color "surprise": it was hard to find a story that didn't peg Archbishop Dolan's election that way in the first sentence. And while there was some truth to this — the bishops overturned a long custom of electing as president the outgoing conference vice-president — the real story was that a quiet, extensive, and ultimately successful campaign was mounted, often by younger bishops, to change *The Way We Bishops Do Things*. You might have thought exploring that dynamic was worth some ink. Evidently, it wasn't. Why? Might it have been because the Fourth Estate could not concede to having swallowed its unimaginative and rather lazy pre-election reporting, according to which USCCB Vice-president Bishop Gerald Kicanas's ascension to the conference presidency was inevitable?

Paint-by-numbers reporting on the Dolan story also featured those hoary clichés about "liberal" and "conservative" Catholicism. Or, as one let's-be-clever sound-biter had it, "liberal moderate" vs. "conservative moderate" Catholicism."

This is, frankly, getting tedious; its mind-numbing dullness may explain why few serious readers look to the mainstream media for serious coverage of the Catholic Church.

Moreover, running the election of Archbishop Dolan through the usual left/right filters led reporters to miss another big story: the transformation of the U.S. bishops conference from a body focused on institutional maintenance and being "in play" in the great public policy debates of the day to one in which a critical mass of bishops are committed to strengthening Catholic identity, evangelizing a toxic culture and challenging political realism with a compelling presentation of moral truth.

The Dolan election stories were also notable for paint-by-numbers sourcing and quote-citing, in which the same old same-olds were trotted out to say the predictable things. Paint-by-numbers sourcing also intersected with paint-by-numbers cliché-promoting, as most of the stories I read "balanced" a known-quantity "liberal" commentator with a known-quantity "conservative," usually in such a way as to signal the reader that the latter was the bad guy.

In the immediate, post-election scrum, I tried to get reporters interested in the true significance of this year's USCCB election, which was that it marked the end of an era. That era was defined by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, who left a deep impress on the bishops' conference he served as its general secretary, then its president, then its behind-the-scenes eminence grise. So comprehensive was Bernardin's influence in defining the culture and the modus operandi of the conference that the Bernardin Era lasted for 14



### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

years after the cardinal died on Nov. 14, 1996, after a gallant and edifying battle with cancer. But it is now over, because of a generational change in the center-of-gravity of the American episcopate.

That generational change is a matter of Catholic sensibility as well as of age. Like the man they chose to lead them, the bishops who elected Archbishop Dolan combine a sense of excitement about the Catholic possibility in 21st-century America with serious reservations about the national drift into a utilitarianism in which "Will it work?" is the only question of moral consequence. The bishops in the Dolan coalition are also willing to challenge the sexual revolution with the tools John Paul II gave the Church in his *Theology of the Body*; many bishops of the Bernardin Era were deeply shaken by the post-Humanae Vitae chaos in the Church and simply wished (and, in some cases, wish) that the challenging questions engaged by Catholicism's ethic of love would disappear.

The tectonic plates within U.S. Catholicism's ordained leadership have shifted. You can't depict that shift with paint-by-numbers.

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

Germany to spend the holidays with his brother, so they have kept the same date of reunion.

All of the trees adorning the various Vatican offices and hallways, including the pope's, are decorated by the technical services department of the Vatican City governor's office, said Pier Carlo Cuscianna, department director.

Father Lombardi said the pope has three different Nativity scenes in the papal apartment: a large one in the hallway set up by the Vatican workmen; one under the Christmas tree in the living room, where the pope puts the baby Jesus just before celebrating Midnight Mass in St. Peter's Basilica; and one in the dining room, which has belonged to the pope for the past 45 years.

The large Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square is unveiled Dec. 24, and while the pope can see it from his apartment window, he doesn't visit it until after his New Year's Eve thanksgiving prayer service.

Another Nativity scene is on display inside St. Peter's Basilica. That creche is constructed by the basilica's workmen, known as "sanpietrini," who compete with

the workers in the square in trying to build the more spectacular representation of Jesus' birth.

Carlo Stella, one of the workmen in the basilica, said they try to introduce new elements into the scene each year, and the 2010 addition is a mechanical kneeling shepherd who lifts his hat before the Christ child.

The wooden statues were carved by a German sculptor, but the Vatican workmen fire and paint the clay chicken, ducks and sheep figurines themselves, Vatican Radio reported.

About a dozen carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers and electricians work two to three weeks straight to get it ready in time for Christmas Eve when Pope Benedict will personally place the baby Jesus in the manger at the end of Mass Dec. 24.

Almost every Vatican office has its own Nativity scene, some made from unusual materials.

The Swiss Guards, for example, use eight German beer crates for the scene's base and an empty munitions box for the grotto to symbolize that the only weapon a Christian needs is Christ.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 19, 2010

Matthew 1:18-24

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

BIRTH	JESUS CHRIST	MOTHER MARY
JOSEPH	MAN	QUIETLY
BEHOLD	AN ANGEL	THE LORD
APPEARED	IN A DREAM	SON OF DAVID
YOUR WIFE	BEAR A SON	NAME
SAVE	SINS	FULFILL
VIRGIN	EMMANUEL	HOME

### GOD IS WITH US

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

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## St. Paul prayed with Christians in Tyre

Where is the city of Tyre where St. Paul prayed on the beach?

St. Paul was in Patara, an important city in southern ancient Asia Minor (modern Turkey) on his way to Jerusalem. At Patara he found a ship bound for Phoenicia (modern Lebanon). He boarded the ship and it stopped at Tyre, an important city of Phoenicia, where the ship had to unload cargo. Paul stayed with the Christian disciples in Tyre for a week. The Tyrians did not want Paul to go to Jerusalem, but Paul went anyway. Everybody came out of the city to see Paul's departure. They knelt down on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea and prayed, said goodbye and Paul boarded the ship.

Tyre is mentioned in the Old Testament. Hiram, the king of Tyre, allied himself with Solomon, the king of Jerusalem in Israel. In Phoenicia were the famous cedars of Lebanon, good for building ships and temples. S. Jenkins says later on Tyre became one of the first Lebanese towns to adopt Christianity and was the seat of an archbishopric with 14 bishoprics under its control. By the 4th century A.D., a basilica was built on the site of the former Temple of Melkart. In the 12th century A.D., the Catholic Crusaders captured



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

### HIRE HISTORY

the city of Tyre and the surrounding fertile land. Tyre remained in Crusader hands for 167 years.

A. Jousiffe mentions some of the sites of Tyre. There is the ancient marketplace, a colonnaded road, marble Roman pavement, a rectangular arena with five rows of terraced seating cut into limestone and an extensive Roman bathhouse. Nearby are the ruins of the Crusader Cathedral. Foundations and granite columns are all that remain. The king of Jerusalem was once crowned within the walls of this cathedral. The remains of the German king Frederick Barbarossa are reputed to be buried here.

Further away is a Roman cemetery with decorated marble and stone tombs. In this area is a huge triumphal arch, an aqueduct, the largest and best-preserved Roman stadium in the world, seating 20,000 spectators. It was used for chariot races.

## LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

pope's favorite restaurant, Franziskaner; special mustard; and sweets from the Zentis food company, which specializes in marzipan and jams.

The papal goodie bag also includes cakes and cookies that cloistered nuns baked specifically for the pope, Kuehnel said in a Dec. 8 interview.

He will load his car with five Bavarian Christmas trees for the pope and will personally deliver the gifts and have dinner with the pope, he said.

On Christmas Day itself, no special guests are expected and the main meal, lunch, is made up of "Italian food," said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, spokesman.

The pope's brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, will arrive at the Vatican Dec. 28 to spend a few weeks with the pope. Father Lombardi said Dec. 28 is the date then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger always would leave Rome for



# Sports

**USF SENIOR IS WOMEN'S SOCCER ALL-AMERICAN SELECTION FOR 2010** University of Saint Francis senior Katie Christian has been named to the 2010 NAIA Women's Soccer All-American Team. Christian, who played defender and midfield for USF in 2010, was a top 14 selection on the All-MCC team making her eligible for consideration for the NAIA All-American team. Christian, a Bishop Luers High School graduate, was a two-year team captain who "led by example" according to USF head coach Christy Young. Christian was named the Mid-Central College Conference 2009 Defender of the Year by opposing coaches. Katie is a nursing major and has a 3.65 GPA.

## Holy Cross continues ICCL basketball winning crusade

BY MATT SOBIERALSKI

**SOUTH BEND/MISHAWAKA** — The Inter-City Catholic League continued its boys' basketball season Sunday afternoon with another slate of divisional matchups.

In the John Bosco Division, Holy Cross improved to 2-0 with a win over St. Joseph (South Bend), 33-32. The Crusaders were lead by Conner Futa with 13 points. Futa also hit the go-ahead basket with 6.8 seconds remaining. Drew Jankowski poured in 10 for the now 1-1 Eagles.

St. Thomas of Elkhart held off St. Matthew, 41-31, with Ryan Schafer's 15 points and J.P. Kavanaugh's 10 points for the Spartans, while the Blazers were paced by Nathan Bonk who finished with 15 points.

Christ the King triumphed over Holy Family, 50-13, behind Brendan Connelly's 16 points for the Kings.

St. Pius X succumbed to St. Anthony, 39-25. The Panther's Noah Waltz led the way with 11 points, while the Lions were led by Anthony Pratt's 12 points.

In the Martin DePorres Division, St. John the Baptist

handled St. Jude, 35-22. The Spartans' Jullian Collier led all scorers with 21 points, while the Falcons' Carl Michalski led the team with 10 points.

Perennial power St. Joseph (Mishawaka) got back on track with a victory over Queen of Peace, 39-13. Will Whitten led the way with 15 points for the victors.

Corpus Christi came from behind to defeat Our Lady of Hungary, 49-48. The Cougars were paced with Dominick Ferro's 20 points, while the Bulldogs were led by Mikal Henderson's 22 points. Muguro Boniface also chipped in 14 for the Bulldogs.

The final contest of the day saw St. Monica fall to St. Bavo, 57-38. The Panthers were led in scoring by Joe Molnar with 20 points and Michael Veer's 17 points. The Comets' Patrick Coulter put in 14 points and Alex Ganser added 13 points.

The ICCL schedule will continue on Sundays at Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools starting at 1 p.m.

**The complete schedules, standings and scores can be found on the Web at [www.icclsports.org](http://www.icclsports.org).**

## CYO Panthers off to a great start

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

**FORT WAYNE** — After winning just five games a year ago, the eighth-grade boys from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth are off to a great start. The Panthers have a record of 5-2 thus far in the 2010-2011 season.

Under the direction of Coach Tim Rooney, the team has already tied their total wins from a year ago when they had a goal of rebuilding their team. The school won the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) tournament as sixth graders, but lost two of their leading scorers from that team forcing other players to step up and develop their skills. As seventh graders the team lost their first eight games and finished 5-12.

"It is encouraging to see some of these players gain confidence

in their skills and get better every week," explained Rooney, a 1976 graduate of St. Jude and former CYO player. There are 10 on the roster, including two newcomers to the sport. "Our goal is to continue to improve and give 100 percent in every game," Rooney added.

Although it does not count toward their tournament placement, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth downed St. Vincent, 37-36, on Dec. 4. Up 28-13 in the third quarter, leading scorer Tom Filus fouled out with 17 points.

St. Vincent staged a huge comeback and went ahead, 36-34, in the final seconds before St. Joe-St. E's Travis Eckert scored a tray at the buzzer for the win.

A financial planner by day, Rooney explained, "In the past we would have buckled after Filus fouled out, but the team stayed in the game."

In the loss, St. Vincent's Jeremy Kalngi led all scorers with 25. The two will face each other again Jan. 15, 2011, for the conference showdown.

The blue and white faced Queen of Angels on Dec. 11 and won, 50-34. In this game, Rooney, a father of three, was pleased with his team's performance where every player saw significant playing time and all 10 of his players scored. "It was quite an accomplishment."

Looking forward to competing in the upcoming St. John, New Haven tournament, Rooney continues to encourage his players to "do your best and forget the rest."

**CYO coaches, send scores and highlights to [mmcastleman@aol.com](mailto:mmcastleman@aol.com)**

## Children's books for Christmas gift-giving

REVIEWED BY BARB FRAZE

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** — The following children's books are suitable for Christmas giving.

• **"The Story of Gumbo Yah-Yah the Blue Alligator and the Big Storm"** by Christopher Eck. Blue Gator Books (Roswell, Ga., 2010). 32 pp., \$20.

In this very visual world, quality read-aloud books are becoming more scarce, yet here is a winner. The cadence, phrasing and good old-fashioned storytelling are refreshing — from the litany of alligator brothers to the alligator parents' dialogue. All of this is especially good, because the illustrations are somewhat rudimentary. This is a tale of a misfit alligator caught in Hurricane Katrina and how he learns to think beyond himself to help with the recovery and give people hope. A bonus: Proceeds are being used to help four charitable agencies that continue to help with hurricane recovery. Ages 4-8.

• **"The Illustrated Gospel for Children"** by Jean-Francois Kieffer and Christine Ponsard, translated by Janet Chevrier. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2010). 107 pp., \$14.99.

This comic-book-style book has 46 Gospel stories for children, ranging from the Annunciation to Pentecost. Each story is two to four pages. Illustrations are colorful, the pan-

els are easy to follow, and the translation is good. Younger readers will enjoy the illustrations while the panels are read aloud to them. Ages 4-9. \$14.99.

• **"The Hole in the Wall"** by Lisa Rowe Fraustino. Milkweed Editions (Minneapolis, 2010). 214 pp. \$16.95.

Part science fiction, part environmental drama, part story of families, this novel is sure to keep middle-grade readers turning pages. This is the tale of 11-year-old Seb Daniels, whose hometown landscape has been totally changed by mining — but mining for what? In this nuanced tale full of twists, the bad guys turn out to have some redeeming social value, because life is complex and the world is not black and white. Excellent reading. Ages 10-14.

• **"Today I Made My First Communion"** by Dianne Ahern, illustrated by Bill Shurtliff. Aunt Dee's Attic (Ann Arbor, Mich., 2010). 68 pp., \$19.95.

The title is prosaic, but the book is not. It might more appropriately have been titled "Maria and Riley Discover the Mystery

of the Eucharist."

Ahern has cleverly woven a story of discovery as she follows a first

Communion class throughout its preparatory sessions. In this revised edition, multicultural illustrations help bring the story to life.

Fill-in pages in the back of the book can make it a keepsake for first Communion day. This is aimed at younger children, but

they will need help reading it. Ages 6-8.

• **"The Life of Jesus: An Illustrated Rosary"** by Mary Billingsley. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (Grand Rapids, Mich., 2010). 56 pp. \$19.99.

Using the various mysteries of the rosary, Billingsley has created a beautiful tale of the life of Jesus. Full-page gouache illustrations depict events in the life of Jesus using marionette-type figures. On facing pages, the mysteries of the rosary are listed, with meditations between each prayer. This is extraordinarily well done, and of the several books that included rosary mys-

**BOOKS, PAGE 18**

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES PROMOTES CATHOLIC IDENTITY



KATHY DENICE

A discussion on Catholic identity was led by Kathy Brown, senior director of mission integration, Catholic Charities USA, for the staff and board members of Catholic Charities. Pictured are Nyein Chan, Theresa Teders, Kelsie Cline and Nick Kogiones.



# BOOKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

teries, this was by far the best. Ages 4-up.

• **"This Little Prayer of Mine"** by Anthony DeStefano, illustrated by Mark Elliott. WaterBrook Press, (Colorado Springs, Colo., 2010). 32 pp., \$12.99.

Using simple language and rhyme, DeStefano has captured the essence of a child's prayer, with thoughts such as: "And when I act a little bad/ not like I know I should/ forgive me, God. Please don't be mad/ and help me to be good." In Elliot's double-page illustrations, the eyes have it, capturing real-life emotions that reflect humor, fear and wonder. This one is a keeper! Ages 3-6.

• **"Today I Found God"** by Greg Long, illustrated by Nathan Wondrak. Laugh-A-Long Books (Thousand Oaks, Calif., 2010). 32 pp., \$15.95.

From the typeface to the humorous illustrations to the rhyming, fast-paced couplets, Long and Wondrak have created an appealing book that follows a young boy frustrated when everything seems to go wrong in his day. He looks many places to answer the question, "Why are you

doing this to me, God?" and finds God where he least expects him. Younger readers will enjoy this as a read-aloud book. Ages 6-9.

• **"Ben and the Emancipation Proclamation"** by Pat Sherman, illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (Grand Rapids, Mich., 2010). 32 pp., \$16.99.

This beautifully illustrated book is a moving tale based on the true story of Benjamin C. Holmes, a slave from South Carolina who taught himself to read. He ends up in a slave prison, and it is there he is able to read to his fellow captives the famous proclamation by Abraham Lincoln. Cooper, who has won several Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards, adds to the wonders of this book, bringing scenes to life with his oil paintings. Ages 8-12.

• **"My First Prayers for My Family"** by Maite Roche. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2010). 14 pp., 6.99.

This little cardboard book, ideal for toddlers, is filled with charming, simple prayers. Colorful, multicultural illustrations help complete its appeal. This is part of the First Prayers series; it is definitely more age-appropriate than "My First Prayers for Christmas." Ages 2-4.

## BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL PEP RALLY HONORS FALL COMPETITORS



PROVIDED BY BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Dwenger High School had plenty to cheer about at their pep session on Dec. 1. Honored were the Spell Bowl team who placed third in state out of over 200 competing teams; Bertram Najev, Dwenger's No. 1 singles freshman tennis player who competed as one of eight players in the state finals this year; the cross country team who won semi-state and 12th in the state finals; the football team who came in second in the state; and Dwenger's three cheerleading teams who swept the state finals placing first in freshmen, junior varsity and varsity competition — a first in state history. Cheer coach Amy Gonzagowski, above, talks about the three teams sweeping the State Championships.

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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.

## DEVOTIONS

### Vespers

Mishawaka — Queen of Peace Parish will pray candlelight Vespers each Sunday of Advent at 5 p.m. in the church. Vespers will be led by Father Daniel Scheidt. All are welcome.

## MISC. HAPPENINGS

### Breakfast with Santa

Fort Wayne — Knights of Columbus Council 12417 of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish will have a pancake and sausage breakfast with Santa Sunday Dec. 19, from 8 a.m. to noon in the church hall. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children 11 to 6 years old and children under 6 free. Santa will be handing out bags of treats to all children.

### Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 17, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Carry-out available.

### Looking for alums

Mishawaka — Saint Joseph's High School alums from the class of 1973 will have an informal gathering Sunday, Dec. 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hacienda restaurant on Grape Road. Contact Eileen (Frederick) Guyton at guytone@yahoo.com for information.

### Choir to perform cantata

Fort Wayne — The Christmas cantata, "Rejoice in His Coming," will be presented by Our Lady of Good Hope, 7215 St. Joe Rd., on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m. The choir performance will be accompanied by a string ensemble and feature music by the children's choir and handbell choir. The free event will be followed by refreshments and a visit from St. Nick.

### Las Posadas planned

Huntington — Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters will host the event "Las Posadas: Who is Knocking at the Door?" at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 19, in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel on the Victory Noll campus, 1900 W. Park Dr. There is no cost or registration required.

### Christmas concert

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1515 Barthold St.,

will present "A Christmas Concert" Sunday, Dec. 26, at 7 p.m. in the church. Presented by Jim Didier, choir director, and Kathy Schall, bell choir director. Admission is free but a can of fruit or vegetable for our local food pantry would be accepted.

### Cabaret Knight

Fort Wayne — An evening of fundraising with food, family and friends will be Friday, Jan. 14, in the Bishop Luers gymnasium. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with entertainment from 6-8:30 p.m. For tickets call Monica Zwick at (260) 456-1261 ext. 3008.

### St. Pius X senior group

Granger — St. Pius X has a senior group (55+) that meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon starting with Mass. On Jan. 11, the topic will be "Our Comprehensive Religious Education Program" with speaker Linda Jensen. For information call (574) 271-7853.

### Sunday breakfast at St. Pius X

Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will have a breakfast Sunday, Jan. 9, from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Pius X. Adults \$5, children 6-12 \$2.50.

### Square dancing in January

New Haven — St. Louis Besancon will have a square dance Saturday, Jan. 8, from 8-11 p.m. in the hall. Music will be by Bill Werling and Breakaway. Tickets are \$10 and include one beer and snacks. All proceeds benefit the St. Louis Academy.

## DONATIONS

### Mustard Seed Furniture Bank can use your donations

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

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

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

### Dismas House has immediate needs

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

### Volunteers needed

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

## REST IN PEACE

### Auburn

Glen Abraham De Lucenay, 79, Immaculate Conception

### Donaldson

Sister Jeanette Cyr, PHJC, 96, Catherine Kasper Home

### Fort Wayne

Betty J. Terlosky, 76, St. Patrick

William Jensen, 48, Our Lady of Good Hope

Barbara D. Klein, 76, St. Jude

Richard J. Coffee, 94, St. Patrick

### Granger

William E. Horvath, 61, St. Pius X

### Kendalville

Kevin W. Pruiett, 49, Immaculate Conception

### Mishawaka

Dorothy Quayle, 92, St. Joseph

Rodney A. Sowala, 49, Queen of Peace

Sister M. Vincetta Traffas, OSF, 90, St. Francis Convent

Ferenc Szabo, 68, Our Lady of Hungary

Josephine A. Wachs, 82, Queen of Peace

Cheryl L. Grimes, 54, Queen of Peace

### Notre Dame

Sister Mary Rose Cunningham, CSC, 90, Our Lady of Loretto

### Plymouth

Betty J. Wilhelm, 80, St. Michael

### South Bend

Helen G. Gerow, 76, St. Matthew Cathedral

Theresa F. Vargo, 82, Holy Family

Monica M. Gergasich, 59, Holy Family

Christine Bartosiak, 83, St. Jude

Kevin M. Kowalski, 50, Our Lady of Hungary

Rosa T. Fonseca, 81, Holy Cross

John Kleszcz, 90, St. Adalbert

### Wabash

Mary Ann Rose, 86, St. Bernard

## Seeking Maintenance Director

Bishop Dwenger High School is currently seeking a qualified person who is eager to serve the Saints family as the **Maintenance Director of Building and Grounds**. If you feel you meet the qualifications and desire to be a part of the best school community in the area, please contact Principal Jason Schiffler by sending your resume in confidence to jschiffler@bishopdwenger.com, or send by mail to Bishop Dwenger High School, Attention Jason Schiffler, 1300 E. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

### Key Requirements:

- U.S. Citizenship is required
- Security Clearance/Background Investigation is required
- General building and grounds maintenance and repair experience
- One year of supervisory experience or any equivalent combination of experience and/or education from which comparable knowledge, skills, and abilities have been achieved.
- Strong leadership skills with solid communication skills (both written & verbal)
- Technologically literate
- On-call for emergencies
- Essential physical ability: kneeling, bending, squatting, climbing ladders, lifting heavy objects
- Enthusiasm; good attitude; trustworthy; dependable; personal integrity and honesty
- Strong organization and time management skills
- Ability to prioritize work with excellent organizational skills and initiative to improve processes
- Ability to multi-task and work under pressure
- Exceptional problem solving ability, to identify and resolve problems in a timely manner, to gather and analyze information skillfully
- Ability to work and interact with people throughout the organization

### Major Duties:

The Maintenance Supervisor is responsible for all building and grounds crews. Manages and/or assists general maintenance and repair/replacement of property, fixtures, or equipment which includes mechanical, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and painting repair.

### Responsibilities:

- Provide supervision for day and evening crews
- Assess and inspect facilities for safety improvements
- Manage contract maintenance on an as-needed basis
- Interpret instructions and write reports
- Operation of heavy machines (fork lift, front loader, tractor, skid-steer)
- Ability to use, maintain, and inventory tools
- Analyze labor, equipment and supplies for budgeting and purchasing
- Knowledge of general electrical and plumbing maintenance
- Knowledge of general lawn maintenance

### Probationary Period:

If you are selected for this position, you will be required to serve a one year supervised probationary period.



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# 150th

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Catholic church, named St. Augustine, on the very site where the cathedral is located. The 175th anniversary of the founding of the parish will be celebrated in 2011.

Father Benoit was a zealous missionary priest, who cared for churches in Lagro, Huntington, Columbia City, Warsaw, Goshen, Avilla, New France, New Haven, Besancon, Hessen Cassel and Decatur, and he was the one chiefly responsible for the building of the cathedral. He led the campaign to build this new cathedral, the largest church erected in Indiana at that time and he raised money from Catholics and Protestants alike.

Father Benoit traveled to New Orleans to raise money from friends there and contributed his own money as well.

"We can call Father Benoit the builder of this cathedral, not only because he raised the money, but also because he was the co-architect with Thomas Lau and had carefully supervised the construction," Bishop Rhoades said.

"Beneath us, in the cathedral crypt, lie the remains of Father Benoit and Bishop Luers. We remember them in prayer today. Father Benoit served here in Fort Wayne from 1840 until his death in 1885."

Bishop Rhoades, in preparation for his homily, did some reading about Catholic life in Fort Wayne in 1860. The majority of parishioners at the cathedral, he related, were either French or Irish immigrants. The German Catholic immigrants had already left St. Augustine Church and built St. Mary's Church just a few blocks away in the year 1849.

"We also remember the original inhabitants of this area, the Miami Indians," Bishop Rhoades said. "Among the Catholics living in Fort Wayne when Father Benoit arrived were Miami Indians, most of mixed ancestry, like their leader, Chief Jean Baptiste de Richardville."

When most of the Miamis were expelled and forced to move to the west by the federal government in 1848, the Miami Indians asked that Father Benoit accompany them to the Kansas territory. "They even refused to leave unless Father Benoit was allowed to accompany them," Bishop Rhoades said. "He left with them, whom he called his 'beloved children of the forest' and after arriving in Kansas, stayed with them for two weeks before returning to Fort Wayne."

Bishop Rhoades added, "Throughout his life, Father Benoit maintained a close relationship with the local members of the Miami tribe. The Miamis considered him their protector and their beloved pastor. Today, as we celebrate this 150th anniversary, we remember not only the immigrant Catholics



PHOTOS BY TIM JOHNSON

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades uses the chalice of Msgr. Julian Benoit at the celebration of the Eucharist on Dec. 8. Msgr. Benoit is considered the builder of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Concelebrating the Mass are Msgr. Robert Schulte, left, rector, and Bishop-emeritus John M. D'Arcy. Bishop D'Arcy commissioned a renovation of the cathedral in 1998.**



**Retired priest Father William Peil views the historical materials of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in the parish library after the anniversary Mass on Dec. 8.**

from Europe, but also the native American Catholics, all pioneers of the Catholic faith here in our diocese."

## The times

In 1860, the diocese was only three years old. Fort Wayne was a small city of 9,000 people. The diocese, which encompassed 42 northern Indiana counties, only had 11 diocesan priests when it was established and between 18,000 and 25,000 Catholics. President Abraham Lincoln was elected president just one month before this cathedral was consecrated and the nation was on the brink of the Civil War.

"Catholics here were mostly immigrants and poor," Bishop Rhoades said. "Life was not easy for the Catholic immigrants, many of whom had arrived in the 1850s and faced many hardships and challenges." These included

devastating cholera epidemics that struck Fort Wayne and, on a national level, a lot of anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States.

"There was some anti-Catholicism in Fort Wayne," Bishop Rhoades said, "but not open hostility like in other areas of the country. I think some of this was because of Father Benoit's good relationship with many Protestant pastors and congregations — they had great respect for Father Benoit."

In this diocese in 1860, Notre Dame was already 19 years old. The Congregation of Holy Cross was growing in strength and numbers in the South Bend area. The Holy Cross Brothers had sent a brother here to Fort Wayne in 1843 so that Father Benoit could open St. Augustine's Institute, the first Catholic School in Fort Wayne. It was a co-ed school until the Sisters of Providence

inspired by our ancestors in the faith, by the pioneers who sacrificed so much, not only to build our beautiful cathedral, but to build the Catholic community here. We are heirs to a rich legacy of faith, a faith that we are called to embrace with renewed vigor and devotion."

## Immaculate Conception

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the pioneer Catholics' deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, "They surely rejoiced back in 1854 when Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. That devotion is manifest by the fact that this cathedral was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

Bishop Rhoades said, "In view of the merits of His Son, God kept Mary free from every stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. Thus, God prepared to give us the gift of His Son as our Redeemer."

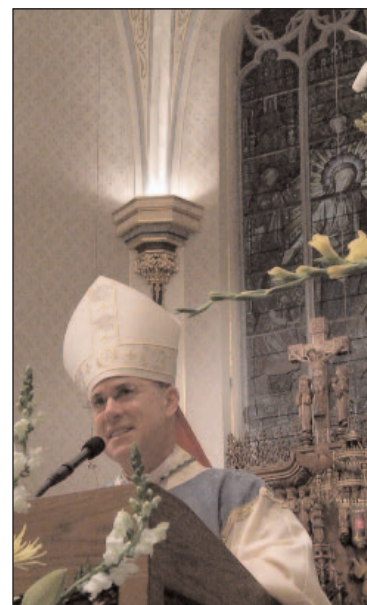
Bishop Rhoades said, "Pope Benedict XVI has said that Mary's most beautiful name is the name God gave to her through the archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation: 'full of grace.' Mary was fashioned by grace and formed as a new creature in her mother's womb. She was 'full of grace,' entirely holy and free from all stain of sin. She remained so throughout her life."

The bishop noted, "On this, Mary's feast, we look to her as the perfect model of holiness, just like the faithful who built this cathedral did. Like Mary, we are deeply loved by God, who, as St. Paul says, 'has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as He chose us in Him, ... to be holy and without blemish before him.' Mary teaches us the path of holiness, to say 'yes' to God's grace and to God's will, to say 'no' to selfishness and sin. In contemplating her Immaculate Conception, we discover our vocation to become, with Christ's grace, 'holy and without blemish before Him.'"

"We rejoice today at Mary's feast," Bishop Rhoades said. "We rejoice in the 150th anniversary of our beautiful cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. May Mary, our patroness, our mother, help us to grow in holiness, to live our faith each day with her spirit, the spirit that animated those first Catholics of Fort Wayne. It is the faith-filled spirit expressed in Mary's response to the angel: "'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.' I entrust you and all the people of our diocese to the motherly protection of the Immaculate Virgin Mary!"

## Reception

After Mass, a reception followed in the parish center. A historical display and timelines were featured.



**Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Dec. 8, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks about the history of the cathedral, the era and the feast of the Immaculate Conception in his homily.**

arrived in 1846 to staff a girl's school, St. Augustine Academy. The Holy Cross Brothers then staffed the boys' school.

Indiana's saint came here in 1846. Mother Theodore Guérin, the foundress of the Sisters of Providence, came to Fort Wayne with the first sisters who would teach at St. Augustine Academy. "Thanks to the Brothers of Holy Cross and the Sisters of Providence, Catholic education was already established here in Fort Wayne even before this cathedral was built," Bishop Rhoades remarked.

"At this Mass, we remember our rich history," he said. "We are