



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

'Rejoice in the birth of our Savior'

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JOE ROMIE

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception altar server Audrey Bond carries the infant statue of the Christ child during the processional of the Christmas Midnight Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. The statue, placed in the Nativity scene, was blessed by Bishop Rhoades.

Bishop Rhoades celebrates Midnight Mass

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades began his Midnight Mass homily with a reflection on the first Beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

He said, "To truly enter into the mystery of love which is Christmas, to experience deeply the joy and peace of the Nativity of Our Lord, one must be poor in spirit."

"One who is poor in spirit is aware of his or her need for God's mercy, of the need for a Savior," Bishop Rhoades said. "Such a person has faith and humility, two virtues that enable one to receive the great light shining forth from the manger of Bethlehem. The poor in spirit are blessed indeed for they are prepared to receive the kingdom of heaven which has come to earth in the person of the infant Jesus."

Bishop Rhoades, celebrating Mass at the filled-to-capacity Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, said the first Beatitude was exemplified in those who welcomed Jesus that holy night in Bethlehem.

Music for the Midnight Mass was provided by the Cathedral Choir, the brass quartet and strings under the direction of Michael Dulac, music director. The choir and musical accompaniment included a 30-minute prelude.

Earlier in the evening, Bishop Rhoades celebrated the Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in

MIDNIGHT, PAGE 24

National Vocation Awareness Week celebrated Jan. 9-15

A week to urge people to think of priesthood and religious life

WASHINGTON — The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, Jan. 9-15.

The week begins on the Church's celebration of the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on Jan. 9. The feast marks the beginning of Jesus's public ministry.

Vocations' week celebrates vocations to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life in particular. During these days families and the parish community are urged to nurture the faith of their children to prepare them to respond to whatever God's call is for them.

"National Vocation Awareness Week gives parishes across the country a chance to promote vocations through prayer and education," said Archbishop Robert

Carlson of St. Louis, chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "It is our responsibility to encourage young people to be generous as they discern the possibility of a call to service in the Church. Parents, families and parish communities must be involved in this work, since vocations recruitment is everyone's responsibility. All need to foster a culture of vocations."

Father Shawn McKnight, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations (CCLV), noted the many voices that can communicate God's call.

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WOMAN TOUCHES CHRIST CHILD STATUE ON FEAST DAY



CNS PHOTO/OSCAR RIVERA, REUTERS

A woman touches a statue of the Christ Child on the Feast of Holy Innocents in El Salvador, Dec. 28. The day commemorates the slaughter of Hebrew boys by King Herod's soldiers searching for the young Jesus.

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At Christmas, pope's thoughts turn to suffering and persecuted

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating Christmas at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI appealed for peace in global trouble spots and protection of persecuted Christian minorities in places like China.

At his Midnight Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and in his Christmas Day blessing to the world, the pope called the birth of Christ the "culmination of creation" and an event that overcame the "infinite distance between God and man."

The basilica was packed for the Mass, and an overflow crowd braved intermittent rain and wind to watch the liturgy on giant screens in St. Peter's Square. Thousands stood under umbrellas for the traditional papal blessing the next day.

Security was tight for both events, in the wake of two package bombings at two Rome embassies. In 2008 and 2009 a mentally disturbed woman sprang at the pope inside the basilica and last year pulled him to the ground briefly, but this year there were no incidents.

The pope stood on the central balcony of the basilica to deliver his blessing "urbi et orbi," to the city of Rome and to the world. He said Christmas had revealed a truth about the relationship between God and human history. But it is a truth that must be understood by faith, he said.

"If the truth were a mere mathematical formula, in some sense it would impose itself by its own power. But if truth is love, it calls for faith, for the 'yes' of our hearts," he said.

The birth of Christ is a source of hope for everyone whose dignity is offended and violated, because Jesus came to "set every man and woman free from the source of all enslavement," he said.

The pope prayed for peace in the land of Christ's birth, urging Israelis and Palestinians to work for a just and peaceful coexistence. He expressed the hope that Christmas would ease the pain of the Christian communities in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East, and inspire world leaders to show them support.

"May the birth of the Savior strengthen the spirit of faith, patience and courage of the faithful of the Church in mainland China, that they may not lose heart through the limitations imposed on their freedom of religion and conscience but, persevering in fidelity to Christ and His Church, may keep alive the flame of hope," he said.

The pope's words reflected increasing Vatican concern over a deterioration of Church-state relations in China, where an illegitimate bishop was recently elected head of the bishops' conference and where bishops loyal to the pope were forced to participate in a state-backed "official" congress of Catholic leaders.

The pope asked that the spirit of Christmas would "grant perseverance to all those Christian communities enduring discrimination and persecution, and inspire political and religious leaders to be committed to full respect for the religious freedom of all."

He also prayed for relief of beleaguered



Pope Benedict XVI kneels in prayer during Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 24. CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING



Pope Benedict XVI delivers his Christmas "urbi et orbi," to the city and to the world, blessing from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 25. CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

populations in Latin America: in Haiti, which is still suffering from the devastating earthquake and a recent cholera epidemic, and in Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala and Costa Rica, where natural disasters have struck.

The pope urged continued efforts for peace and political stability in Somalia, Darfur, Ivory Coast and Madagascar; reconciliation between North and South Korea; security and respect for human rights in Afghanistan and Pakistan; and dialogue between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, which are engaged in a simmering border dispute.

Pope Benedict then offered Christmas greetings in 65 languages, including Chinese, Russian and Arabic. Speaking in English, he said: "May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its

true happiness lies; and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the Savior has been born for us."

At his Mass the night before, which began at 10 p.m. and ended shortly after midnight, the pope said the birth of Christ ushered in a new kingdom on earth, one that contrasts with the "self asserting powers of this world."

He said the event in Bethlehem brought "the grace of true brotherhood." He offered this prayer to Jesus: "Help us to recognize Your face in others who need our assistance, in those who are suffering or forsaken, in all people, and help us to live together with You as brothers and sisters, so as to become one family, Your family."

Christ came to bring people joy, the pope said, but also to give them strength to "overcome the tyranny of might."

"This joy is also a prayer: Lord, make Your promise come fully true. Break the rods of the oppressors. Burn the tramping boots. Let the time of the garments rolled in blood come to an end. Fulfill the prophecy that 'of peace there will be no end,'" he said.

Earlier in the evening, the pope lit a candle at his apartment window and looked down on St. Peter's Square for the official unveiling of the Vatican's Nativity scene.

On the morning of Christmas Eve, a spiritual reflection prepared by the pope was featured on British radio. In the brief talk, aired on BBC's "Thought for the Day," the pope recalled his September trip to England and Scotland.

"I am glad to have the opportunity to greet you again, and indeed to greet listeners everywhere as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ," he said.

"I pray for your families, for your children, for those who are sick, and for those who are going through any form of hardship at this time. I pray especially for the elderly and for those who are approaching the end of their days," he said.

Report abuse

It remains important for our Church to protect children and young persons from the evils of abuse. To abuse a child is a sin. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend remains committed to upholding and following its guidelines, policies and procedures that were implemented for the Protection of Children and Young People. These can be reviewed on the diocese's website, www.diocese-fwsb.org under Safe Environment.

If you have reason to believe that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, Indiana law requires that you report this to civil authorities. If you or someone you know was abused as a child or young person by an adult, you are encouraged to notify appropriate civil authorities of that abuse. In addition, if the alleged abuser is or was a priest or deacon of the Catholic Church, you are encouraged to contact Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, (260) 399-1458, e-mail: mglowaski@diocese-fwsb.org, or Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, or at (260) 399-1419, e-mail: mraatz@fw.diocese-fwsb.org. The diocese is committed to helping prevent the abuse or neglect of children and young people and to assist those who claim to have suffered harm as a result of such abuse.

Permanece importante para nuestra Iglesia proteger a los niños y jóvenes adultos de los actos maléficos del abuso. Abusar a un niño es pecado. La Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend permanece comprometida en mantener y seguir sus directrices, pólizas y procedimientos que fueron implementados para la Protección de Niños/as y Personas Jóvenes. Esto se puede observar en la página cibernética de la Diócesis, www.diocesefwsb.org bajo la sección de Ambiente Seguro "Safe Environment",

Si usted tiene razón para creer que un niño puede ser víctima de abuso o negligencia, la ley de Indiana requiere que usted reporte esto a las autoridades civiles. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce fue abusado, ya sea niño o persona joven por un adulto, lo animamos a que notifique las autoridades civiles apropiadas de ese abuso. También, si el alegado abusador es o fue un sacerdote o diacono de la Iglesia Católica, lo animamos contactar a Mary Glowaski, Coordinadora de Asistencia de Víctimas, (260)-399-1458, correo electrónico: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org, o al Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, Vicario General de la Diócesis de Fort Wayne - South Bend, al P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, o al (260) 399-1419, correo electrónico: mraatz@fw.diocesefwsb.org. La Diócesis esta comprometida en ayudar a prevenir el abuso o negligencia de niños y personas jóvenes y dar asistencia a aquellos quienes reclaman haber sufrido daño como resultado de tal abuso.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Tuesday, Jan. 4, — Pastoral visit to St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School, Fort Wayne, with Mass at 1:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne.
- Thursday, Jan. 6, 8:15 a.m. — Mass and pastoral visit at Queen of Peace School, Mishawaka
- Friday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m. — Hispanic Apostolate Meeting at St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne
- Monday, Jan. 10, 1 p.m. — Visit to St. Martin's Health Care Clinic, Garrett
- Tuesday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m. — Knights of Columbus gathering at friary of Our Lady of the Angels, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m. — Mass and pastoral visit at Saint Joseph's High School, South Bend
- Friday, Jan. 14, to Sunday, Jan. 16 — Pastoral Conference of National Catholic Office for the Deaf, Atlanta, Ga.

Confirmation schedule for 2011

DATE	TIME	CITY	PARISH	BISHOP
Feb. 13	11 a.m.	Fort Wayne	St. Therese	Bishop D'Arcy
Feb. 27	1:30 p.m.	South Bend	Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus at Holy Cross	Bishop Rhoades
March 18	7 p.m.	South Bend	St. Adalbert and St. Casimir at St. Adalbert	Bishop Rhoades
March 19	10 a.m.	Mishawaka	Queen of Peace	Bishop Rhoades
March 25	7 p.m.	Columbia City	St. Paul of the Cross, St. Catherine of Alexandria (Nix Settlement), and St. Joseph (Roanoke) at St. Paul of the Cross	Bishop Rhoades
March 26	10 a.m.	South Bend	St. Catherine of Siena Parish at St. Jude	Bishop Rhoades
March 28	7 p.m.	Fort Wayne	St. John the Baptist	Bishop Rhoades
March 28	7 p.m.	Fort Wayne	St. Joseph	Bishop D'Arcy
March 30	7 p.m.	Fort Wayne	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Bishop Rhoades
March 30	7 p.m.	Huntington	St. Mary, Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Robert Bellarmine (North Manchester), and St. Bernard (Wabash) at St. Mary	Bishop D'Arcy
March 31	7 p.m.	Fort Wayne	Queen of Angels	Bishop D'Arcy
April 3	11:30 a.m.	Arcola	St. Patrick	Bishop D'Arcy
April 10	11:45 a.m.	Notre Dame	Campus Ministries: Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross College at Notre Dame	Bishop D'Arcy
April 12	7 p.m.	Mishawaka	St. Joseph	Bishop D'Arcy
April 13	7 p.m.	Kendallville	Immaculate Conception and St. Mary of the Assumption (Avilla) at Immaculate Conception	Bishop Rhoades
April 15	7 p.m.	Hessen Cassel	St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel and St. Aloysius (Yoder) at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel	Bishop Rhoades
April 16	10 a.m.	Decatur	St. Mary of the Assumption, St. Joseph (Bluffton), and St. Mary of the Presentation (Geneva) at St. Mary/Assumption	Bishop Rhoades
April 27	7 p.m.	Warsaw	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Bishop Rhoades
April 28	7 p.m.	Auburn	Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph (Garrett), and St. Anthony of Padua (Angola) at Immaculate Conception	Bishop Rhoades
April 30	10 a.m.	Culver	St. Mary of the Lake	Bishop Rhoades
April 30	5:30 p.m.	Granger	St. Pius X	Bishop Rhoades
May 1	12:15 p.m.	Granger	St. Pius X	Bishop Rhoades
May 2	7:30 p.m.	South Bend	St. Matthew Cathedral, Little Flower, Our Lady of Hungary, St. Augustine, St. Hedwig and St. Patrick at St. Matthew	Bishop D'Arcy
May 5	7 p.m.	Bristol	St. Mary of the Annunciation	Bishop Rhoades
May 6	7 p.m.	Fort Wayne	St. Charles	Bishop Rhoades
May 6	7 p.m.	Fort Wayne	St. Jude	Bishop D'Arcy
May 8	2 p.m.	Fort Wayne	Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart, St. Henry, St. Mary, St. Peter and St. Patrick at the Cathedral	Bishop D'Arcy
May 10	7 p.m.	Fort Wayne	St. Vincent de Paul	Bishop Rhoades
May 10	7 p.m.	Elkhart	St. Thomas the Apostle	Bishop D'Arcy
May 11	7 p.m.	Mishawaka	St. Monica and St. Bavo at St. Monica	Bishop D'Arcy
May 12	6:30 p.m.	Plymouth	St. Michael	Bishop D'Arcy
May 13	7 p.m.	South Bend	St. Joseph and Sacred Heart (Notre Dame) at St. Joseph	Bishop Rhoades
May 15	11 a.m.	South Bend	St. Matthew Cathedral — Adult Confirmations	Bishop Rhoades
May 15	1 p.m.	Fort Wayne	Our Lady of Good Hope	Bishop D'Arcy
May 22	1:30 p.m.	Warsaw	Sacred Heart, St. Martin de Porres (Syracuse) and St. Francis Xavier (Pierceton) at Sacred Heart	Bishop D'Arcy
May 22	2 p.m.	South Bend	Holy Family and St. Stanislaus Kostka (New Carlisle) at Holy Family	Bishop Rhoades
May 23	6:30 p.m.	Goshen	St. John the Evangelist	Bishop D'Arcy
May 24	7 p.m.	South Bend	Christ the King	Bishop D'Arcy
May 26	7 p.m.	Elkhart	St. Vincent de Paul	Bishop D'Arcy
May 28	10 a.m.	Churubusco	St. John Bosco (Churubusco) and Immaculate Conception (Ege) at St. John Bosco	Bishop Rhoades
May 29	8:30 a.m.	Albion	Blessed Sacrament	Bishop D'Arcy
June 3	7 p.m.	New Haven	St. John the Baptist, St. Louis (Besancon/New Haven) and St. Rose of Lima (Monroeville) at St. John the Baptist	Bishop Rhoades
June 4	2 p.m.	Ligonier	St. Patrick	Bishop Rhoades
June 4	5 p.m.	Bremen	St. Dominic	Bishop D'Arcy
June 5	11:30 a.m.	Walkerton	St. Patrick	Bishop D'Arcy
June 12	11:30 a.m.	Fort Wayne	Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception — Adult Confirmations	Bishop Rhoades

Pope begins new year with call for religious freedom, end to violence

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Opening 2011 with a strong call for religious liberty, Pope Benedict XVI condemned deadly attacks against Christians and announced a new interfaith meeting next fall in Assisi, Italy.

At a Mass Jan. 1 marking the World Day of Peace and a blessing the next day, the pope voiced his concern about fresh episodes of violence and discrimination against Christian minorities in the Middle East.

In particular, the pope condemned an attack Jan. 1 against Orthodox Christians in Egypt, calling it a “despicable gesture of death.” A bomb that exploded as parishioners were leaving a church in Alexandria, Egypt, left 25 people dead and dozens more injured.

The pope said the attack was part of a “strategy of violence that targets Christians,” and which has negative repercussions on the entire population. He offered prayers for the victims and their families.

The pope also denounced the recent practice of “planting bombs close to the homes of Christians in Iraq to force them to leave.” At least seven Christian homes in Baghdad were targeted in bombings Dec. 30, leaving at least 13 people wounded.

The pope said the latest



Children dressed as the Three Kings pass the baby Jesus as they bring offertory gifts to Pope Benedict XVI during Mass on the feast of Mary Mother of God in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 1.

CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

attacks in Egypt and Iraq “offend God and all humanity.”

Addressing pilgrims at his noon blessing Jan. 1, the pope said he planned to invite religious leaders from the world's major faiths to gather in Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, in order to “solemnly renew the commitment by believers of every religion to live their religious faith as

a service to the cause of peace.”

“Whoever is making his way toward God cannot fail to transmit peace, and whoever builds peace cannot fail to draw nearer to God,” he said.

The pope said the gathering, planned for October, is meant to recall “the historic gesture” made by the late Pope John Paul II when he convoked the first World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi in 1986.

In his homily during the morning Mass in St. Peter's Basilica

Jan. 1, the pope spoke about the theme he chose for World Peace Day 2011: “Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace.”

He said religious freedom was challenged today by two extremes at work in the world: secularism that banishes religion to the private sphere and fundamentalism that seeks to forcefully impose religion on everyone.

He said religious freedom is the best path for building peace, because wherever religious freedom is guaranteed, human dignity

is also respected.

Pope Benedict called on political leaders and all people of goodwill to not give up when faced with “the negative force of egoism and violence” and to not become jaded into thinking that conflict, which puts lives and the future at risk, is inevitable.

War, he said, reflects “the most horrendous and violent face of history.” He called on everyone to promote and build peace, reminding people that “words aren't enough for this difficult task.”

He said “a concrete and constant commitment is needed by heads of nations, but above all what's needed is that every person be inspired by an authentic spirit of peace,” which is fostered by prayer and lived out in one's day-to-day activities.

Peace does not come because of “weapons, nor economic, political, cultural and media power,” he said. Peace is both a gift from God and the result of a change in the human conscience, which becomes open to truth and love, he said.

The pope presided over an evening prayer service with Eucharistic Adoration and the singing of a special hymn of thanksgiving to God Dec. 31 in St. Peter's Basilica.

After the prayer service, the pope went by popemobile into St. Peter's Square, where he visited the Vatican's Nativity scene. While choristers sang, the pope entered the grotto housing the larger-than-life-size figures of the Holy Family and knelt in prayer.



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Jim Bushey

ICC gears-up for legislative work as lawmakers return to state capitol

INDIANAPOLIS — A new year brings hope and challenges. This message rings crystal clear for those heading to the state capitol for the opening of a new legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly, Jan. 5. This includes a re-energized Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Republican-controlled House and Senate made up of 150 state lawmakers, 24 of them who are newly-elected, and the Church's public policy watchdog, the Indiana Catholic Conference.

What kind of initiatives will a not-so-lame-duck Gov. Daniels, and a legislature dominated by Republicans pass this year and how will those issues compare with priorities the Catholic Church is advocating? "Only time will tell," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference. "A mixed blessing is most likely," said Tebbe.

"We expect some potentially positive changes in education for school choice, and some potentially negative consequences affecting those in our immigrant communi-

ty," said Tebbe. "We are hopeful there will be other positive gains in the area of abortion, protecting the institution of traditional marriage and other laws that benefit families.

"Our goal this year, as is every year, is to promote a consistent life ethic," said Tebbe. "The Indiana Catholic Conference will be working to protect families and children — and all underlying necessities to support families and children."

This pro-life, pro-family agenda has taken many forms in the 40-plus years the ICC has been actively advocating on behalf of the Indiana bishops. Some of the public policy initiatives include: banning embryonic stem-cell research; encouraging adult stem-cell research in Indiana; reducing abortions; providing basic needs of the poor, disabled and elderly; limiting and abolishing the death penalty; improving immigration laws; and protecting the institution of marriage.

"Among our priority issues to

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

assist families and children this year, we will be working with state lawmakers to create legislation to further reduce abortion, improve school choice opportunities for all Hoosier children and pass a same-sex marriage ban," said Tebbe. "There will be many issues on the table, and we will be taking part in the process to ensure that the voice of the Church and the least among us are heard."

Tebbe said, that as in years past, the success of the ICC's legislative agenda this year will also be determined in part by: 1) the willingness of the leadership in the House and Senate to have these

bills heard in committee; 2) a willingness of lawmakers to work in unison with the Church's efforts; and 3) a willingness of Catholics in the pew to be engaged in the political process.

To better equip Catholics to participate in the process, the ICC offers in an online system that provides efficient and effective communication with members of the Indiana General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. A Legislative Action Center is available on the ICC Web page (www.indianacc.org) that allows visitors to participate in the political process in a number of ways. Visitors to the center can sign-up for the weekly I-CAN Update newsletter, identify his or her representatives, contact lawmakers, and much, much more. To explore the new means of political engagement go to www.indianacc.org and click "Legislative Action Center."

Because Republicans gained the majority in the House, Rep. Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis) was

elected by his Republican caucus to take the reins as Speaker of the House replacing Rep. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend.) Sen. David Long (R-Fort Wayne) was re-elected President Pro Tempore in the Senate.

"These two men wield enormous influence given their leadership roles by serving as gatekeepers on legislation," said Tebbe. "We will be working with leadership to forward the Church's initiatives." Committee chairs also may decide the fate of any given bill even if it meets with approval of the House and Senate leaders. Republicans maintain a (60-40) majority in the Indiana House Representatives. Republicans hold a (37-13) majority in the Senate.

"Much of the legislative work done by Indiana Catholic Conference this year will be overshadowed by the budget making process," said Tebbe. "The Church will be keeping a close eye on different aspects of the budget since its contents can significantly affect the well being of so many."

Resources

Legislative Action Center available via ICC webpage (www.indianacc.org)

Catholic lawmakers serving in the General Assembly

Out of 150 members of the Indiana General Assembly 36 are Catholics. Ten are state senators including Sen. Richard Young, D-Milwauke; Sen. Frank Mrvan, D-Hammond; Sen. Sue Landske, R-Cedar Lake; Sen. John Broden, D-South Bend; Sen. Joseph Zakas, R-Granger; Sen. Thomas Wyss, R-Fort Wayne; Sen. Ed Charbonneau, D-Valparaiso; Sen. Timothy Skinner, D-Terre Haute; Sen. Jean Leising, R-Oldenburg; and Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Wadesville. Twenty-six are members from the Indiana House of Representatives including Rep. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend; Rep. David Niezgodski, D-South Bend; Rep. Ryan Dvorak, D-South Bend; Rep. Scott Pelath, D-Michigan City; Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon, D-Munster; Rep. Chester Dobis, D-Merrillville; Rep. Donald Lehe, R-Brookston; Rep. Thomas Dermody, R-LaPorte; Rep. Jeb Bardon, D-Indianapolis; Rep. Sheila Klinker, D-Lafayette; Rep. Timothy Neese, R-Elkhart; Rep. Mark Messmer, R-Jasper; Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis; Rep. Matthew Ubehlor, R-Linton; Rep. Philip Pflum, D-Milton; Rep. Suzanne Crouch, R-Evansville; Rep. Nancy Dembowski, D-Knox; Rep. Phil GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne; Rep. Ed. Clere, R-New Albany; Rep. Rebecca Kubacki, R-Syracuse; Rep. Phil Hinkle, R-Indianapolis; and Rep. John Day, D-Indianapolis; Rep. Sue Ellspermann, R-Ferdinand; Rep. Cindy Kirchhofer, R-Indianapolis; Rep. Bob Morris, R-Fort Wayne; Rep. Ron Bacon, R-Newburgh.

There are 24 new faces of the 150 members who were elected in November, 19 in the House and five in Senate. Seven of the new faces are Catholic legislators including Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Wadesville, a member of St. Wendel Parish in Wadesville; Rep. Rebecca Kubacki, R-Syracuse, a member of St. Martin De Porres Parish in Syracuse; Rep. Matthew Ubehlor, R-Worthington, a member of St. Peter Parish in Linton; Rep. Cindy Kirchhofer, R-Indianapolis, a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Indianapolis; Rep. Bob Morris, R-Fort Wayne, a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne; Rep. Sue Ellspermann, R-Ferdinand, a member of St. Ferdinand Parish in Ferdinand and Rep. Ron Bacon, R-Newburgh, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Daylight.

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Egyptian Orthodox leader says Muslims expressed sympathy after bombing

BEIRUT (CNS) — An Egyptian Orthodox leader said he had received many messages of support from Muslims after a Jan. 1 church bombing that killed about two dozen people. Mideast Catholic leaders also sent messages of support to their fellow Christians. "We have to pray. We have to pray for peace," Coptic Orthodox Bishop Youhannes Zakaria of Luxor, Egypt, told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview. He said he has received many visits from Muslims — ordinary individuals and officials, including the governor — expressing their sympathy and solidarity. Bishop Zakaria said he would celebrate Christmas Mass, as the Coptic Orthodox do, Jan. 7, and the governor would also speak about the importance of friendship and dialogue among religions and people. In Cairo, Jason Belanger, country representative for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services, said police had put up barricades to prevent cars from parking next to major Christian churches and had cordoned off areas around them to control pedestrian traffic in preparation for Orthodox Christmas celebrations. Belanger said the attack was the largest attack against Coptic Christians in the past 10 years, and he was concerned this could signal an increase of attacks not only against Christians in Egypt but against Christians in the entire Middle East. In November, about 10 houses belonging to Coptic Christians as well as several Christian-owned businesses in Upper Egypt were burned and ransacked.

Chairman of committee praises US Senate for ratifying arms pact

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace praised the Senate for ratifying a new arms control treaty with Russia Dec. 22, saying it was important that senators "joined across party lines" to support the New START treaty. "The Holy See and our bishops' conference have long supported efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation based on the Church's moral concern for indiscriminate and disproportionate weapons," said Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty was signed April 8 in Prague by U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The accord was ratified by the Senate in a 71-26 vote, and it still must be approved by Russia's lawmakers. It calls for both countries to reduce their strategic arsenals — weapons deployed on long-range missiles, bombers and submarines

NEWS BRIEFS

PEOPLE PROTEST MUSLIM LEADERS VISIT IN EGYPT



CNS PHOTO/MOHAMED ABD EL-GHANY, REUTERS

Egyptian Christian women protest Jan. 2 in Cairo during the visit of Sheik Ahmed al-Tayyeb, president of al-Azhar University in Cairo, to Coptic Orthodox Pope Shenouda III over a bomb blast that occurred New Year's Day at an Orthodox church in Alexandria. The bombing killed at least 21 people.

— to 1,550 each. Under the previous START pact, which expired in December 2009, both countries reduced their strategic arsenals to 2,200 weapons each. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations steered the pact through the Senate, said ratification "makes a statement about the United States of America as a whole, not just the president."

Bishop Olmsted revokes Phoenix hospital's status as Catholic facility

PHOENIX (CNS) — St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix can no longer identify itself as "Catholic," Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted announced during a Dec. 21 news conference in Phoenix at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. The Phoenix bishop issued a decree revoking the 115-year-old hospital's affiliation with the Catholic Church. In the decree, the bishop wrote that he could not verify that the hospital provides health care consistent with "authentic Catholic moral teaching." He said it was his duty to strip St. Joseph's Hospital of its Catholic identity because its leadership, as well as that of its parent organization, San Francisco-based Catholic Healthcare West, is not committed to "following the teachings of the Catholic Church." To demonstrate that the hospital is no longer Catholic, Bishop

Olmsted is prohibiting the celebration of Mass on the hospital's campus and will have the Blessed Sacrament removed from the hospital's chapel. Linda Hunt, president of St. Joseph's, said in a statement after the bishop's news conference that the hospital was "deeply disappointed" by the action but would "continue through our words and deeds to carry out the healing ministry of Jesus." In May, officials at St. Joseph's publicly acknowledged that an abortion occurred at the hospital in late 2009. "Consistent with our values of dignity and justice, if we are presented with a situation in which a pregnancy threatens a woman's life, our first priority is to save both patients," Hunt said in her statement. "If that is not possible, we will always save the life we can save, and that is what we did in this case."

Army chaplain from Ohio named auxiliary bishop for US military

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named a military chaplain from the Diocese of Cleveland as an auxiliary bishop of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. The appointment of Father Neal Buckon, 57, was announced in Washington Jan. 3 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Buckon has served as an Army

chaplain around the world since 1998. His assignments have included posts in Korea; Fort Sill, Okla.; Germany; Iraq; Fort Stewart, Ga.; and Saudi Arabia. He also served in the Army from 1975 to 1982. Born Sept. 3, 1953, in Columbus, Ohio, he attended Catholic elementary and high schools in Ohio and earned bachelor's degrees in biology, history and philosophy from John Carroll University in Cleveland, Cleveland State University and Borromeo College in Wycliffe, Ohio, respectively. He also holds master's degrees in divinity and theology from St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland May 25, 1995. Bishop-designate Buckon served at St. Margaret Mary Parish in South Cleveland after his ordination until he began serving as an Army chaplain.

Vatican: Pope's words on condoms do not mark change in teaching

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's recent comments on condom use in AIDS prevention do not signify a change in the Church's moral teaching or its pastoral practice, a note from the Vatican's doctrinal congregation said. The note, released by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith Dec. 21, said the pope's remarks do not represent a break

with the Church's doctrine on birth control, and cannot be construed to legitimize the use of condoms to prevent pregnancy. It said that when Pope Benedict said condom use to reduce the risk of infection might be a first step toward moral awakening, he was referring specifically to prostitution, which is already considered gravely immoral by the Church. In that situation, it said, use of a condom is not a "solution" because it does not address the mistaken behavior that is the root cause of the problem. However, it added, "it cannot be denied that anyone who uses a condom in order to diminish the risk posed to another person is intending to reduce the evil connected with his or her immoral activity." The note was published following widespread discussion of Pope Benedict's comments in a book-length interview, "Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times." The doctrinal congregation said the pope's words had in some cases been misunderstood, erroneously interpreted and manipulated to make it seem that his statement represented a break with the Church's teaching against contraception.

DREAM Act dies in Senate; immigrant advocates push onward

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Senate's inability to overcome a threatened filibuster Dec. 18 scuttled passage of the DREAM Act, prompting immigrant advocates to pledge to push forward on immigration reform next year with a new Congress and fight for what one immigrant leader termed the "respect we deserve." The bill would have given young people brought to the United States as children by their undocumented parents a path to citizenship under a strict set of requirements. Under the measure, an estimated 2.1 million children of undocumented parents would have had an opportunity to go to college or join the military and legalize their status. The U.S. bishops had long been supporters of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, which passed the House Dec. 9. Four U.S. bishops, including Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, took part in a Dec. 17 conference call with reporters to argue for passage in the Senate. "With the passage of the DREAM Act in the House of Representatives and with a majority of the U.S. Senate voting in favor, it is clear that a majority of Congress and of the American public support this common-sense humanitarian measure," said a Dec. 21 statement from Coadjutor Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration. "I am confident that one day — sooner rather than later — the DREAM Act will become the law of the land," he said, adding the filibuster vote was "a setback, not a defeat."

St. Matthew's eighth-grade class helps SJRMC Health Center

SOUTH BEND — Over 1,000 personal care items for the families of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center's (SJRMC) Sister Maura Brannick, CSC, Health Center in South Bend were collected by the eighth-grade students of St. Matthew's School in South Bend. The effort fulfilled the class' Advent service project. The students distributed the boxes of supplies to the Health Center on Friday, Dec. 17.

"These items will be a blessing to our patients," said Carla Bice, director of the Sister Maura Brannick, CSC, Health Center. "Not being able to obtain personal care items with food stamps makes these donations even more valuable to our patients. There have been times when patients have offered to give back one of their food items we annually provide in Christmas baskets to exchange for soap or toothpaste."

The health center was founded by Sister Maura Brannick, CSC, in 1986, and is named after her. Operated by SJRMC, the facility provides health care to the uninsured and underserved of South Bend.

St. Matthew's eighth-grade students Meghan Sink and Margaret Berta coordinated the project and worked within the St. Matthew School and Parish, as well as contacted local businesses for assistance.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. MATTHEW STUDENTS COLLECT CARE ITEMS



MIKE STACK

The eighth-grade class from St. Matthew School in South Bend helped provide some Christmas cheer to those in need with their recent Advent service project.

Host families needed

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic semester homestay programs, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) President John Doty, the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a monthly charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

For the upcoming programs, P.I.E. has students from Germany, the former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Brazil, Korea, Mexico, Australia, Denmark, Ghana, China and many other countries.

Families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call P.I.E., toll-free, at (866) 546-1402. The agency also has travel/study program opportunities available for American high school students as well as possibilities for community volunteers to assist and work with area host families, students and schools.

Gino's teams with Catholic schools

GRANGER — Gino's East of Chicago, with locations in both Granger and northwest Indiana, announced the success of its first annual Helping Hands, Helping Hunger Food Drive.

St. Pius X School in Granger and Queen of Peace School in Mishawaka were invited to participate in a friendly competition to collect the most donations for their respective school's food drives. For participating, each school received a "Pizza & Salad Day" lunch.

The participating schools collected 8,899 nonperishable goods within a 10-day period. The donated goods were distributed between the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Mary's Food Pantry "God's Groceries," Catholic Charities in Gary and Queen of Peace's Food Basket program.

USF Jesters to perform original work

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis (USF) Jesters will perform "Takin' Time," an original stage play, on Saturday, March 5, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 6, at 3 p.m. at the university's North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St.

Jesters is comprised of 36 special-needs people ages 12 to 47. The Jesters program was founded

at USF in 1978, with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life for people with physical and/or developmental disabilities by engaging them in recreational opportunities to promote creative expression and positive social interaction.

"Takin' Time" is a coming-of-age story revolving around the Renegades, as they venture forth from their village and travel through time to explore independence. This multimedia, family-oriented performance follows these characters as they are assisted by the Timekeepers (who maintain routine and order) and challenged by the Gremlins (who throw in chaos). The story is told through music, dance, theatre and visual art.

This year's performance includes a range of percussion instruments and two stage-size chimes that were custom-designed and built for the Jesters. The script includes opportunities for individual Jesters to tell stories of their own lives and use improvisational structures and theater games learned through guest artist residencies hosted during the fall of 2010. The Jesters program and this year's performance are supported by a grant from the AWS Foundation.

Tickets are \$10. For tickets or information, or to attend a rehearsal or practice, call the School of Creative Arts at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001.

USF student-athletes GPA continues to rise in fall semester

FORT WAYNE — University of Saint Francis student-athletes continued excellence in the classroom as well as on courts and fields during the recently-completed fall semester.

The combined grade-point-average for all USF varsity student-athletes was 3.14 (on a 4.0 scale) with USF women's soccer leading the charge at 3.53. Women's track and field was a 3.48 and women's tennis 3.45. Men's soccer led with a 3.15, baseball and cross country finished at 3.07. Football finished at 3.02.

"I am very pleased and proud of the academic accomplishments of our varsity student-athletes during the fall semester," USF Athletic Director Mark Pope stated. "This is the highest GPA recorded to date and it is a credit to our emphasis on classroom as well as athletic success."

"I thank our coaches, faculty and staff, and, of course, our hard-working student-athletes for their remarkable achievement this year."

USF had 15 fall student-athletes named to national NAIA Scholar-Athlete teams.

NATIVITY SHOWS REASON FOR SEASON



DENISE FEDOROW

The kindergarten class at St. John the Evangelist School in Goshen was busy creating a Nativity scene before the holiday break. The Nativity adorns the school hallway across from their class. Teacher Anita Laughlin said the class worked on it for over a month. Principal Amy Weidner called the Nativity scene "pure and angelic." Weidner said the teacher cut out the large pieces and the students filled in the small pieces of colored tissue paper. "They love it and the excitement and sparkle in their eyes when they add the next piece is something to see!"

St. Joseph Hospital holds Medicine Cabinet Drive for Franciscan Center

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph Hospital associates loaded a truck from The Franciscan Center just before Christmas with boxed items collected during a hospitalwide drive to stock the center's medicine cabinet for the disadvantaged. The Franciscan Center's Medicine Cabinet program serves individuals with over-the-counter medications, toiletries and personal hygiene needs. These basic necessities are not covered by food stamps or offered by other area pantries. In just four hours each month, the Medicine Cabinet serves over 400 families.

Sister Carole Langhauser, vice

president of mission integration at St. Joseph Hospital, described the project to collect simple, yet essential items as a way of ensuring that every associate who wanted to give had the opportunity to do so. She also noted that there is always someone in greater need than we are and any gift, even if the contributor can only afford a single bottle of aspirin, makes a big difference.

Hospital departments also adopted approximately 20 families this year through several other charitable organizations to help make their holidays a little brighter.



GEOFF THOMAS

St. Joseph Hospital staffers Rob Snyder, director of radiology, and Sister Carole Langhauser, vice president of mission integration, braved icy weather Dec. 22, as they rolled donated goods out to a truck bound for The Franciscan Center.

Holy Cross Boy Scouts aid those in need with ham raffle

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — Boy Scout Pack 437 from Holy Cross School recently spent the last several weeks selling ham raffle tickets for 50 cents each after Masses, to family and friends, at the school and at the annual church craft bazaar. The money raised supports the By Grace Orphanage in Africa and a refugee family from Iraq that the church is sponsoring this year. Dressed in uniform and using the laws of the pack, the boys and their families raised \$380.

"The project stems from a desire to serve. I believe we started it about five years ago," said organizer Cindy Zyniewicz. "Our initial sponsor was our parish play group moms and Market Day volunteers. It is one of those projects that has blossomed even more since the Cub Scouts took ownership last year and have incorporated it into part of their service project."

Previously, the proceeds generated from the raffle purchased a Market Day Christmas meal and a spiral ham for a parish family in need. Pastor Holy Cross Father Michael Mathews would choose the family and make sure they got the gift.

According to Zyniewicz, about three years ago, they decided to also send some of the proceeds to By Grace Orphanage, a charity that the school and parish adopted after then fourth-grade teacher Jennifer Sosinski volunteered there in Nairobi Kenya.



LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Frank and Caroline Pennino sell ham raffle tickets at the Holy Cross craft bazaar. Frank, a second-grader at Holy Cross Grade School, is a Wolf with Pack 437 and Caroline is a den leader.

"The goal of the project is to serve those in need in our parish community. And, even though the scouts now sponsor the raffle, really it is the parish community who supports this project by buying so many tickets or by simply making a cash donation. We even have anonymous donors who ask that the tickets be put in the name of a family in need. Our family in need this year is a parish-sponsored refugee family from Iraq who came to South Bend," said Zyniewicz. "The refugee family recently arrived in our community and the Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish 'adopted' them through the refugee committee that recently formed here (at the

parish). The family from Iraq met the definition of a 'family in need' and we felt they were perfect candidates to assist."

The boys enjoyed having the chance to help others, which is part of the Boy Scouts' promise and had the chance to work together after Masses selling tickets. It was a great bonding moment for the children of different ages.

"Hopefully our Scouts learn that children as well as adults can contribute to ongoing service projects within their parish and school communities, as well as outside of it. Anytime you can get children to grasp that the world is bigger than their immediate community, I think that's a good thing," said Zyniewicz.

St. John the Evangelist youth dance for Our Lady of Guadalupe

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — The Hispanic youth group from St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen demonstrated what they've been working hard for many months to learn — a type of dance called "Matlachines." This dance was performed in costume honoring the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12.

According to Sandra McMasters, Hispanic youth coordinator, a local adult group of dancers has been working with the youth for many months to learn the traditional native dance. McMasters said the youth range in age from 10-18 years of age. She said they've been practicing for five months.

Co-coordinator Iney Vela helped with the costumes for the youth and the women said the parents helped make the instruments.

The group performed to a packed house at the Deacon Art Bleau Parish Center. McMasters said this was the first of what will be an annual event.



DENISE FEDOROW

The Hispanic Youth Dancers were jubilant after their first performance of a traditional native dance in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In the bottom row, from left, are Melissa Aguilera, Norma Vasquez, Leslie Sanchez, Sayde Sawyer and Alan Ramos. Standing, from left, are Manuel Aguilera, Lupita Romo, Suzette Rodriguez, Iney Vela, Sandra McMasters, Nancy Cazares and Michelle Rojas.

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EWTN's Greg and Julie Alexander to address Diocesan Marriage Conference in Fort Wayne

BY FRED EVERETT

FORT WAYNE — The Office of Family Life will be hosting a day-long Diocesan Marriage Conference in Fort Wayne on March 12. The conference will begin with a 9 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and include four sessions with Greg and Julie Alexander of EWTN and the Alexander House Apostolate. It will conclude with a panel discussion featuring the Alexanders and Lisa Everett of the Office of Family Life. The conference will end at 4 p.m.

The Alexanders will be presenting their Enjoy Marriage Seminar on the north campus of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. This seminar has proved to be an effective catalyst for inspiring couples across the country to initiate positive change in their marriages.

According to Greg Alexander, this seminar is for any couple: "Whether you are engaged, have a great marriage or experiencing trouble in your marriage, you will leave with a renewed sense of hope and encouragement."

Greg and Julie Alexander are co-founders of the Alexander House Apostolate — a Catholic, lay apostolate dedicated to pro-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Julie and Greg Alexander of EWTN and the Alexander House Apostolate will be seminar speakers at the Diocesan Marriage Conference planned for March 12, at the University of Saint Francis North campus auditorium. Visit diocesefwsb.org to register or for more information.

claiming the beauty, goodness and truth of marriage. The Alexanders have presented numerous workshops, seminars and talks to thousands of participants across the country. They have appeared on various productions aired on EWTN, including as guests on "Life on the Rock" and as co-hosts of their own show, "Marriage Works in Christ."

The Alexanders are frequent guests on talk radio programs including Relevant Radio and various Catholic radio stations. Their breakthrough work in marriage and their story have been profiled in Patrick Madrid's "Surprised by Truth 3," One More Soul's — "Sterilization Reversal Book — A Generous Act of Love," *Envoy Magazine* and the Family Research Council. They have been married for 23 years, have seven children and are currently writing their first book for Servant publications.

Seminar sessions will include topics such as:

- Why it makes sense to turn to God, the Author of marriage, to rediscover His plan for a joy-filled, life-long marriage.

- The importance of forgiveness in marriage and learning a practical exercise to let go of past hurts and pains.

- Understanding your top emotional needs in a relationship and learning practical steps for meeting the needs of your spouse.

You will leave with a renewed sense of hope and encouragement.

- Learning how to communicate effectively and avoiding those areas which cause additional strife in a marriage.

- The beauty and goodness of God's plan for sex.

For more information or to register, go to

Office of Family Life at www.diocesefwsb.org or call (574) 234-0687. The early registration fee (postmarked up to Feb. 21) is \$25 per person, after which it will be \$30. The registration deadline is March 7. The conference fee includes all materials, continental breakfast and a boxed lunch.

Father Harvey, founder of Courage for celibate homosexuals, dies at 92

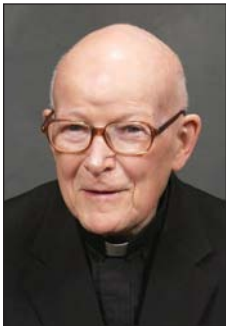
ELKTON, Md. (CNS) — Oblate Father John F. Harvey, who founded an organization for celibate Catholic homosexuals that now has more than 100 chapters worldwide, died Dec. 27 at Union Hospital in Elkton. He was 92.

His funeral Mass was scheduled for Dec. 31 at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Wilmington, Del., followed by interment in the Oblate Cemetery in Elkton.

An Oblate of St. Francis de Sales for 73 years, Father Harvey founded Courage, a spiritual support group for homosexual men and women, in 1980 at the request of Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York and served as its national director until his death.

Today, Courage has chapters in the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Poland, Mexico, Slovakia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Philippines and New Zealand.

"Father Harvey's commitment to pastoral care in the church was tireless," said Oblate Father James J. Greenfield, provincial of the Oblates' Wilmington-Philadelphia province, in a statement. "Even in his later years, his



FATHER JOHN F. HARVEY, OMI

travel would take him all over the country and world to offer a voice of compassion." Father Harvey was instrumental in the founding of the De Sales Hall School of Theology in Washington, where he taught moral theology from 1949 to 1987 and was president from 1965 to 1977. The school closed in 1996.

"His work in helping to found both the DeSales School of Theology and Courage were examples of his commitment to the Church that he loved so much," Father Greenfield added.

Born in Philadelphia in 1918, Father Harvey entered the Oblate novitiate after high school and made his first profession of vows on Sept. 8, 1937. He was ordained to the priesthood on

June 3, 1944, at the Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia by Auxiliary Bishop Hugh Lamb of Philadelphia.

After earning his bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1941 from The Catholic University of America in Washington, Father Harvey continued his studies, earning graduate degrees in psychology and theology, and completing a doctorate in moral theology there 10 years later.

He also taught moral theology at Dunbarton College of the Holy Cross in Washington, 1948-73, and was a professor of medical and sexual ethics at De Sales University in Center Valley, Pa., 1987-2009. He retired to Ancey Hall in Childs, Md., in January 2010.

Father Harvey had written more than 45 articles in professional theological and psychological journals on questions of human sexuality and counseling. In addition to the members of his religious community, Father Harvey is survived by his sister, Margaret Smith, and many nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews.

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What's your VOCATION

Encouraging signs of vocations in the diocese

BY TIM JOHNSON

The Vocation Office of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend can only feel encouraged by the 21 seminarians studying for the priesthood. Msgr. Bernard Galic, along with associate Father Jacob Runyon and Mary Szymczak, coordinate the busy office as more inquiries about seminary increase.

Msgr. Galic, who is the pastor of St. Aloysius, Yoder, has served as director of the Vocation Office for almost 18 years. He is excited about the eight new applicants for next year.

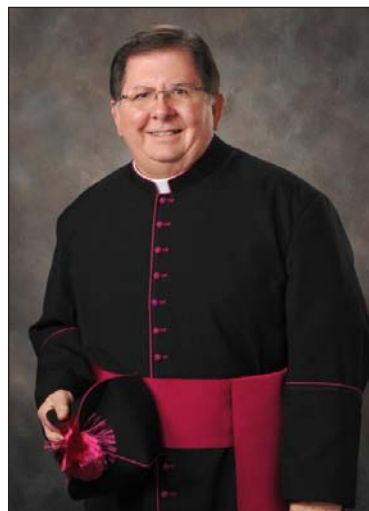
He credits last year's Year for Priests for the increased interest. "I think it stirred up an interest in the priesthood, a concern about the need of priests," Msgr. Galic said. "I think it sensitized a lot of young men to the fact that they ought to be listening closer to the Holy Spirit."

Listening is the key. Father Runyon, who is associate director of the Vocation Office and parochial vicar at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, said that in a world of distraction with Twitter, e-mail, text messages, etc., "it is hard for us to spend quiet time listening to the call of God."

He encouraged families and parishes to create a culture of vocations. He encouraged parents to pray that their children will know their vocation. His mother said a daily prayer: "God grant that one of my sons becomes a priest."

Father Runyon suggested that at a young age, parents begin planting a seed and mention to a son, "God may be calling you to be a priest," or to a daughter, "God may be calling you to be a sister."

But he added, "Pray that God would guide their children into whatever vocation He has for



MSGR. BERNARD GALIC

them."

Both Msgr. Galic and Father Runyon said God is the One who sends vocations.

Pray for vocations, seminarians

When asked what readers of *Today's Catholic* can do to encourage vocations, Msgr. Galic said, "Pray. And talk to young people who they think would make good priests or to tell them that."

He said, "I think people have a far greater potential for influencing vocations than they are aware of."

He also encouraged individuals to "pray for vocations and pray for the seminarians who are in formation. They are in a challenging program and the support of the people's prayers would mean a lot to them."

Msgr. Galic said, "and to be encouraging to young people. I think we are seeing in the Church a generation of young adults who are taking ownership of the faith

in a way perhaps we haven't seen for a couple of generations. I believe that is going to result in more young people being raised in homes with solid spiritual values. I think in another generation or so we're going to see a rather dramatic increase in the number of vocations."

Msgr. Galic, when speaking of the quality of the diocesan seminarians, said, "My impression of the men who apply for the seminary is they have a genuine love for the Church — that's part of what's moving them toward wanting to be priests. They have a solid spiritual sense of values. Secondly, the quality of the education they are getting in the seminary is outstanding."

Father Runyon added that those he speaks with have a devotion to the Eucharist.

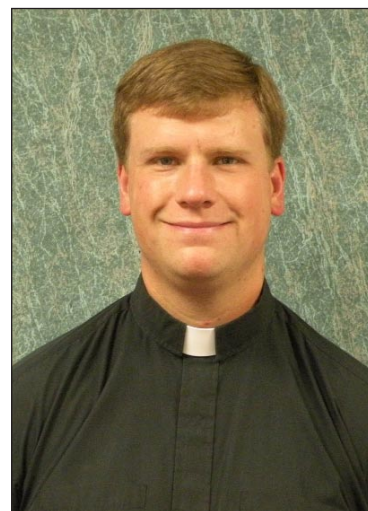
"The guys I've been seeing are just real solid people," Father Runyon said. "The way that God is moving in their hearts is different for every guy, but there is this sort of central theme, which is — God is calling them. It's good to see some of the enthusiasm."

Parishes are encouraged to pray for vocations in their weekly petitions and to pray the rosary for vocations. Some parishes adopt seminarians and include prayer and care-packages.

At St. Matthew Cathedral, Father Runyon said he and rector Msgr. Michael Heintz encourage the Mass servers — already interested in serving the Church — to think also of religious life.

Programs

The Vocation Office visits the four Catholic high schools every year with a team of priests, sisters and brothers. "There we talk about vocations to Church ministry," Msgr. Galic said. They are



FATHER JACOB RUNYON

joined by priests, brothers and sisters of religious communities that serve in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. They visit the classrooms of the freshmen and juniors, talk about their vocation journeys and open the floor to questions.

In the beginning of the visitation, 16 or 17 years ago, "getting questions was like pulling teeth," Msgr. Galic commented. "Now we don't have enough time to answer all the questions. The interest is there."

The Vocation Office also visits the grade schools and speaks to the fifth- and eighth-grade students. "We send a priest and a sister to every school who will invite us," Msgr. Galic said.

The Vocation Office also sponsors Andrew Dinners, where the bishop hosts dinner and talks about the priesthood. Pastors are invited to bring young men who they think would make good seminarian candidates to the dinner. They have dinner with the priests, seminarians and the bishop. After some talks by the bish-

op and seminarians, questions are taken from those attending the dinner.

The Vocation Office also coordinates a retreat for college-age men and is planning a retreat for high school-age young men.

Interest in priesthood

If a man has an interest in the priesthood, Msgr. Galic suggested that they first contact their parish priest who will put them in contact with the Vocation Office. Many men contact the Vocation Office directly.

If a man looks like a good candidate after speaking with Msgr. Galic or Father Runyon, an application process begins. He completes the application form and provides the office with references of people who know him well and will make a good recommendation including priests and religious. Then a battery of psychological tests and interviews are done. A psychologist assists in the screening of candidates.

Msgr. Galic said, "And then if everything looks good, he will sit through an interview with the bishop. If the bishop believes he is a good candidate, he'll accept him as a student through the sponsorship of our diocese." The candidate next applies to the institution where they will be studying and does so through the Vocation Office.

This year, nine of the diocesan seminarians began their studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., the second oldest seminary in the nation and the largest seminary — as far as numbers of seminarians go — in the country. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was on the faculty at Mount St. Mary's and served as its rector from 1997-2004.

African, Indian priests find welcome homes in United States

BY MARY KINDER

FORT WAYNE — Throughout many Catholic churches today there is great concern about declining numbers of priests. It seems this problem has effected churches throughout the United States and much of the Western world. However, a recent visitor to Fort Wayne is having quite the opposite problem — finding the money to train all of the men who have been called to become priests.

Father Joseph Israel is superior general of the ALCP, the Apostolic Life Community of Priests, a missionary organization dedicated to educating priests throughout Africa and India for placement in communities throughout the world. In Africa and India, Father Israel explains, the Church is young, vibrant and growing. They don't have a problem with vocations. In fact, his congregation in Tanzania currently has 60 seminarians and 155 ordained priest and deacons. And, there are even more young women studying to become nuns.

Once seminarians receive their ordinations, they are placed throughout the world, including

the United States, Italy, Germany, Kenya, India and Tanzania. As the superior general, Father Israel travels to visit these priests, including a local priest, Father Gabriel Msuya of St. Mary Parish in Decatur.

Father Israel says Father Msuya is adapting well to life in Indiana, although he does struggle a bit with the drastic change in weather from his native Tanzania. He goes on to say that the congregation is happy to have him, which is typically true for ALCP priests. Father Israel explains, "Once they come here (to the United States) they usually stay. The bishops enjoy their enthusiasm and hard work. Our priests are young, active, strong in faith. They convert to their new communities very well."

While the ALCP doesn't have a problem attracting candidates for religious life, they do struggle to find the necessary funds, even though the education in Africa and India costs much less compared to western countries. On average, the education of a priest from the ALCP community is only \$3,100, while in the U.S., the education of a priest can cost as much as \$40,000 annually.

One local organization,



MARY KINDER

Father Joseph Israel, center, is shown with John and Patty Becker, founders of Worldwide Seminarian Support.

Worldwide Seminarian Support (WSS), is helping raise funds for the ALCP. WSS began after John and Patty Becker heard a vocation homily presented by Father Nicolas Milema from the ALCP. Father Milema was visiting Portland, Ore., to raise awareness of the need for funding for priests. The Beckers were moved to not only make a family dona-

tion, but to begin what would become the Worldwide Seminarian Support.

Today, WSS is headquartered in Fort Wayne, where the Beckers now live. Over the past 17 years, the organization has raised more than \$800,000, which has led directly to the education of 45 priests. The money also helped build a seminary, a well, a med-

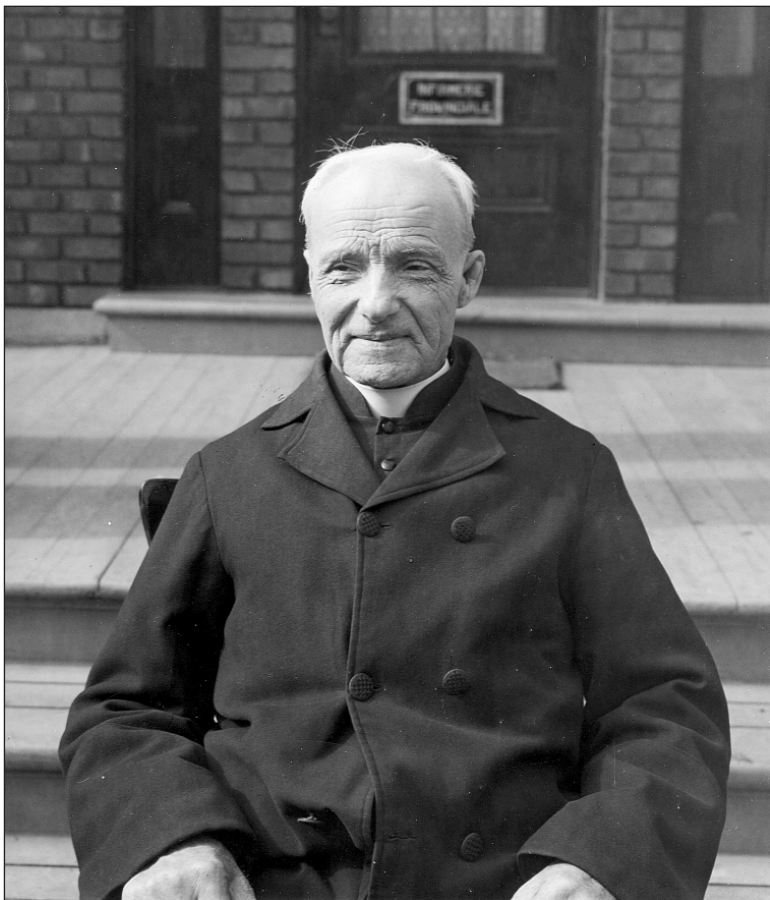
ical dispensary and a high school in Tanzania.

One of the most important goals of WSS is to raise awareness and to give faithful Catholics here in the United States an opportunity to help build the Church worldwide. According to Ben Becker, administrative officer of WWS, "There is an abundance of men who have received the call for vocation throughout Africa and India." Americans can fund help "to bring these men fully into the priesthood."

Those interested in helping the ALCP through the WSS may visit the website at www.seminarian-support.org. There one can find out more about its mission and make a safe, convenient donation online.

Father Israel has high hopes for the future. He plans on expanding Catholic education throughout Africa and India with more high schools. He also hopes to establish more seminaries so the ALCP can continue its mission of providing dedicated, hard-working, holy priests to communities where they are needed most around the world.

ST. BROTHER ANDRÉ BESSETTE



CNS PHOTO/ARCHIVES OF ST. JOSEPH'S ORATORY

St. André Bessette, a member of the Holy Cross Brothers and founder of St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal in Montreal, is pictured in an undated photo from the archives of St. Joseph's Oratory. Blessed Andre became the Holy Cross Brothers' first saint Oct. 19, 2010. He is known for his intense piety, miraculous cures and for his dedication to the building of the shrine honoring St. Joseph.

Next steps proposed to attract new generations to religious life

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At what one participant called a "critical juncture in consecrated life," dozens of religious and Catholic lay leaders gathered in Chicago last year to hash out the next steps needed to attract young people to religious life today.

"Together we are seeking to discover a truth of how we may effectively promote religious life to a new generation in a new century," said Holy Cross Brother Paul Bednarczyk, executive director of the National Religious Vocation Conference, as he opened the invitation-only symposium titled "Moving Forward in Hope."

The gathering, funded by a foundation that wished to remain anonymous, featured a combination of talks and small-group discussions designed to result in an action plan for promoting vocations in the United States. Brother Bednarczyk said a final report on the symposium and the proposed plans would be presented to the foundation by the end of 2010, and made public after a board meeting of the vocation conference in February.

Participants in the symposium included vocations directors, Catholic educators, major superiors, diocesan personnel, parents, young adult and campus ministers, younger religious, media and com-

munications experts, and Church researchers and statisticians.

The gathering was a follow-up to a study of recent vocations to religious life conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate for the vocation conference. The study, released in August 2009, found that although the numbers in religious orders may be decreasing, new members are passionate about religious life and religious communities following more traditional practices have better success attracting younger members today.

Brother Bednarczyk said young people today no longer have the opportunity that past generations had to interact with members of religious communities.

"Just recall the impact that men and women religious have had in your own life," he said. "While they taught you how to multiply numbers and how to diagram a sentence properly, through their example they also taught you how to treat others justly and fairly and to show a special sensitivity to the needs of the poor and less fortunate. Maybe during a time of personal crisis, illness or grief, they taught you the importance of a caring presence."

Other speakers raised similar issues, citing a need to recognize the differing worldview of today's young Catholics in order to discover what might attract them to religious life.

For them, "Vatican II is someone else's history," said Brother Sean D. Sammon, a former superior general of the Marist Brothers and former president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men.

"Today a new generation, many of whose members lack a strong Catholic identity as defined by the practices of the past, is looking at religious life and mission through eyes shaped by a world that is foreign to many of us over the age of 50," he said.

"Theirs does not include John F. Kennedy or the Cold War. Nor is it a world that has caused to remember Woodstock, the sexual revolution, Dag Hammarskjöld, a war in Vietnam, Watergate, the early days of the women's movement," Brother Sammon added.

"If General Motors or IBM faced the personnel crisis that we have had on our hands for the last few decades, they would have long ago had their best people in the work of recruiting men and women for a career with their corporations," he said. "At the same time, each of us must learn to take some responsibility for this work." Another crucial factor is visibility, he said.

"If we are truly interested in improving the witness value of our way of life," he said, "a number of us will need to find some new and more effective ways to be more visible."

Mount St. Mary's University Seminary, a backgrounder

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Mount St. Mary's University's Seminary is the largest and second-oldest seminary in the United States. Established in 1808 by French immigrant priest Father John Dubois, it is located in historic Emmitsburg, Md., with the mission to form men for the Roman Catholic diocesan priesthood in the service of the Kingdom of God. Mount St. Mary's University's Seminary aims to build a foundation in each seminarian for a lifetime of priestly ministry within the Catholic Church.

In its third century of service, Mount St. Mary's University's Seminary is rich in tradition and has played a major role in the formation of Catholic education in America. In 1809, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton called the Mount home and it is in nearby Emmitsburg that she first established her school and sisterhood.

Several Mount graduates established Catholic colleges throughout the country: In 1840, Cardinal John McCloskey opened St. John's College in New York, now Fordham University, and in 1870, the Most Rev. John D. Loughlin created St. John's University in Brooklyn.

The Mount has also earned the distinction of "Cradle of Bishops." By its centennial year, the entire institution could boast of some 28 episcopal alumni, including the Most Rev. John Hughes (seminary class of 1826), who succeeded Bishop DuBois and became the first Archbishop of New York, and his



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MOUNT ST. MARY SEMINARY

The seminary where all Mount St. Mary seminarians reside also houses St. Bernard's Chapel, a barber shop, lecture halls and administrative offices.

Eminence John Cardinal McCloskey (seminary class of 1831), and Archbishop of New York and first native-born American cardinal.

Now, the Mount boasts 51 episcopal alumni, including the following: Most Rev. William B. Friend (s'1959), bishop of Shreveport; Most Rev. Harry J. Flynn (s'1960), archbishop of St. Paul-Minneapolis; Most Rev. William E. Lori (s'1977), bishop of Bridgeport; Most Rev. Michael O. Jackels (s'1981), bishop of Wichita; Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley (s'1983), bishop of Salina; Most Rev. James D. Conley (s'1985), auxiliary bishop of Denver; Most Rev. Barry C. Knestout (s'1989), auxiliary bishop of Washington; and Most Rev. Edward J. Burns (s'1983), bishop

of Juneau.

"The Mount is a holy place where men have come for over 200 years to find the answers to two basic questions; What does God want me to do with my life and how does He want me to do it?" says Rector Msgr. Steven Rohlf. "We are responsible for offering men a challenging, nurturing and academically rigorous experience here at the Mount."

Presently, the Mount Seminary offers degree programs in theology including the master of divinity and the master of arts with concentrations in systematic, moral, sacred Scripture, Church history and pastoral theology. The S.T.B. program is offered in conjunction with the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, and

invites students to focus their program on the study of Thomistic theology. Imbedded in the two-year pre-theology program is the option of earning a master of arts in philosophical studies. The Mount also offers a certificate in Hispanic ministry and a summer language program in Mexico.

The Seminary is part of Mount St. Mary's University campus, which houses the undergraduate, graduate schools and the National Shrine Grotto Our Lady of Lourdes. With almost 200 seminarians, 1,600 undergraduates and more than 30,000 annual visitors to the grotto, the campus is quite active.

Seminarians are required to complete courses in pastoral field

studies including parish work, experiences with the hungry, the homeless, the sick and the marginalized and other opportunities for service and evangelization. They also serve as chaplains for the Mount's 19 NCAA Division I sports teams.

At present, Mount seminary alumni total more than 2,000, with approximately half of whom are alive and active in priestly ministry.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend supports nine seminarians currently at the Mount Seminary, including Zachary Barry, Craig Borchard, Robert Garrow, Stephen Jagla, David Nedvidek, Cristian Reyes, Thomas Scheibelhut, David Violi and Matthew Soberalski.



The Mount St. Mary's Seminary Soccer team competed in the annual Rector's Cup Tournament in 2009 with many victories over the years. Now they compete for the much coveted Vianney Cup, up for grabs in fall of 2011.

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INITIATION OF POSTULANTS



JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades imposes the cross and miraculous medal for the initiation of the postulancy on Zachary Doyle and Eduardo Villegas following the Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Dec. 25. Massachusetts native Doyle and Villegas from St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne join Patrick Hamore of Rhode Island and Donald Schenk of Ohio in forming the newest class of postulants in the Franciscan Brothers Minor community, increasing their number to 16 friars.



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-Sister Adele Beacham (formerly Sister Joseph Therese)

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Franciscan Sisters Minor live life of prayer and service

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — A light shines every morning at 4:20 a.m. in Providence House behind St. John the Baptist Church in Fort Wayne. That's when the nine members of the Franciscan Sisters Minor, who live in the austere furnished Our Lady of the Angels Convent, rise to begin their day of prayer and service.

The Franciscan Sisters Minor is a community of religious women, ranging in age from 20 to 70-ish who are in various stages of religious formation. Each member professes vows to live a life of poverty, chastity and obedience.

The sisters live a spartan lifestyle, according to the 1536 Capuchin Constitution, known as the primitive observances of St. Francis, with no modern conveniences such as phones, computers, refrigerators or cars. They rely, says Boston native Sister Mary Clement Turcotte, the foundress and mother superior of the decade-old community, on Divine Providence.

The community was formed in 2000 by Sister Mary Clement, who after 38 years of serving as a sister of the Daughters of St. Paul in Rhode Island, saw a need to evangelize in a more personal way. They moved to Fort Wayne in support of the Franciscan Brothers Minor in August of 2010.

Sister Mary Clement says, "The need I saw was to deepen and encourage the interpersonal relationship between the Church and the person." The centerpiece of the mission of the Franciscan Sisters Minor, she adds, is door-to-door evangelization.

"The persons we meet are the agenda. The media is conversation," says Sister Mary Clement. "The visits are casual, laid back and friendly. But these are not

social visits. The people convey their spiritual concerns that the sisters can address."

With evangelization as the centerpiece, prayer is the foundation of all their work. Upon rising in the early hours of the morning, the sisters gather for several hours of prayer in their in-house chapel, from Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Office of Readings to Morning Prayer and Mass. Afternoons are filled with duties such as laundry, cooking and assorted chores, class work and the evangelical apostolate. The sisters pray again in the evening as well, completing eight hours of devotion to God each day.

Each sister has a compelling background that inspires a true sense of God's call on her life. Sister Mary Clare Smith, a native of Rhode Island, has been a Franciscan Sister for 10 years and is vicar within the community. After 32 years of marriage, during which she raised six children, and seven years of widowhood, Sister Mary Clare felt a powerful call to religious life. In her search for her vocation, she met Sister Mary Clement, who had recently received permission to form the new community. The Franciscan Sisters Minor seemed a perfect fit and in January of 2001 Sister Mary Clare joined as one of the foundational members.

Her children are happy that she has found fulfillment in Christ. Her youngest daughter said though she was concerned she would not be nearby for her grandchildren, "She needed the witness of my life," says Sister Mary Clare. "They can all see the grace of a vocation."

Of the lifestyle she says, "Poverty is very freeing. I feel I've been a servant all my life. Marriage and parenthood have prepared me for this life."

The sisters dress in simple handmade woolen habits tied at



BY KAY COZAD

Franciscan Sisters Minor Sister Stella Francis, Sister Mary Clare and Sister Tina Audrey pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the Our Lady of the Angels Convent chapel at Providence House in Fort Wayne. The nine-member community serves the St. John the Baptist community through door-to-door evangelization and volunteer service where needed.

the waist with a cord. They veil their heads and typically walk in bare feet unless the weather calls for sandals or boots. Laundry is all done by hand. Referring to their attire, Sister Mary Clare says, "This is a penitential life. We came here to do penance for ourselves and for the world."

Massachusetts native Sister Stella Francis Belonger entered the community three days after her high school graduation, six years ago. She is considered a junior after three and a half years of temporary profession and is the director of the apostolate under the direction of Sister Mary Clement.

"It is a beautiful life. We get in touch with our spiritual motherhood. People open their hearts to us and talk about the most important things to them. It's such a gift to us — and the people," she says of the door-to-door evangelization she directs.

Others in the community include Sister Tina Audrey

Bloomer, laundress, Sister Celeste Marie Carey, vocations director and cook, Sister Margaret Rose Cronin, sacristan and business manager, Sister Karolyn Grace Wertner, housekeeper, Sister Marie Veronica Goins, assistant laundress, and Sister John Marie Flood, sacristan.

Sister Stella says, "We're family. There's a lot of love in this house because there's a lot of forgiveness."

The sisters do not run any programs but are open to assisting anyone that requests their help, particularly those at St. John the Baptist Parish.

"We can't do a lot for people, but we can do everything we can do," says Sister Mary Clement. The sisters have been known to cook a meal for a hungry visitor, fold 3,000 brochures for a church event and assist the parish in their religious education program, as altar server trainers, cleaning church linens and anything else that is needed.

The Franciscan Sisters Minor community acquires new members by word of mouth. "We don't recruit," says Sister Mary Clement, adding that they assist each interested woman in discerning where best to serve God. After a woman visits, the sisters leave a return visit as her choice. Anyone may visit and spend the day shadowing the sisters at any time.

"Every vocation is a miracle of God's mercy," says Sister Mary Clare, adding, "There's nothing more exciting than religious life. It's definitely not boring!"

Final words for anyone interested in religious life. "Come for a visit," says Sister Mary Clement, who adds, "It's a beautiful life and freeing! It's rewarding to know you are doing the will of God."

For more information on the Franciscan Sisters Minor contact St. John the Baptist Parish at (260) 744-4393.

AWARE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Just as Jesus needed to hear with His human ears the voice of the Father, so our young people need to hear words of encouragement from parents, other family members, friends and the parish. God's call comes through the Church in this way."


To support efforts during

vocations' week, a special prayer card and suggested prayers of the faithful are available from the USCCB vocations website: ForYourVocation.org or PorTuVocacion.org.

"One reason some young people do not consider a call to the priesthood or consecrated life is the fact that they were never asked," said Sister Mary Joanna Ruhland, a sister of the Diocesan Sisters of Mercy and associate director of CCLV. "There are many ways to help young people

see the beauty and joy of these vocations. Catechists are in a key position to do so. Materials to assist them can also be found on the USCCB website."

The observance of National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW) began in 1976 when the National Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year as the beginning of NVAW. In 1997, this celebration was moved to coincide with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.



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Permanent deacons: Ordained servants of the Church

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

If it is the will of God and the Church, on May 21, 11 men will be ordained into the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. For the last five years these men have been preparing, studying and discerning this call to Holy Orders.

The significance of the deacon in the Christian Community can be traced to the earliest writings of St. Paul, particularly in Philippians

1:1 where he greets "all of the holy ones at Philippi, with their bishops and deacons in Jesus Christ."

In the Acts of the Apostles, the Twelve discern that they need assistance with the growing number of Christians and the issues that arose due to the spreading of the Gospel. So they selected "seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom" and the Apostles "prayed and laid hands on them" ordaining them deacons of the Church.

Stephen, the first deacon known through Scripture, was martyred for preaching about Jesus Christ to the Jewish Sanhedrin. (cf. Acts 6-7) St. Stephen is the patron saint of these 11 deacon candidates.

The deacons of the early Church helped the bishops in the ministry of Christ by writing letters, assisting in the ministry of the Word and serving as an official liaison for the bishop to the various churches. The deacon was a servant of the bishop and a servant of the people. Over time the role of the deacon in the growing Church changed due to the development of the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the priesthood. By the 3rd and 4th centuries, the emphasis on the role of the deacon had shifted to that of assisting the priests, as well as the bishops during the Eucharist. Deacons were used less for the ministry of the Word or for charitable works. In the 5th century, the value of the transitional deacon, those men on the way to the priesthood, became more emphasized and the importance of the permanent deacon less utilized. The Western Church sustained this attitude until the Second Vatican Council.

William T. Ditewig, in "The Emerging Diaconate," notes that the council's decision to restore the permanent diaconate was influenced by the events of World War I and II, the discussions of imprisoned priests in the Dachau prison camps and the Church's growing

need for missionary and catechetical work and charity.

The council fathers felt that the renewal of the permanent diaconate would restore the threefold hierarchy of Holy Orders which includes the episcopate, presbyterate and diaconate. — Ditewig, page 95.

Since the close of the council, the Church has been working to reestablish the permanent diaconate throughout the world. In its May 2010 report, the Center for Applied Research in the

Apostolate (CARA) stated that there are currently over 17,000 ordained permanent deacons in the United States alone. Yet the role of the deacon remains obscure to many.

A deacon is ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world that Jesus Christ came "to serve and not to be served." The

Church magisterium recognizes two degrees of ministerial participation in the priesthood of Christ: the episcopacy (bishops) and the presbyterate (priests). The deacon's role is to serve them.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, referencing "Lumen Gentium" states, "At a lower level of the hierarchy are to be found deacons, who receive the imposition of hands, not unto the priesthood, but unto the ministry." — 1570. Deacons, through the sacrament of Holy Orders are marked with an imprint "which cannot be

removed and which configures them to Christ, who make himself the 'deacon' or servant of all." — 1570. There is no difference in the sacramental sign or the functions of a "transitional deacon" (on the way to priesthood) and the permanent deacon.

All ordained bishops, priests and deacons are called to the functions of Word, sacrament and charity however each exercises these works in various ways or degrees.

Deacons, as ministers of the Word, can proclaim the Gospel and preach.

As ministers of the sacraments, deacons assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the Eucharist, distribute holy Communion, witness marriages, baptize and conduct wake and funeral services.

Deacons as ministers of charity are called to lead, inspire and model servant leadership to other members of this contemporary Church. Through the grace of Holy Orders, the permanent deacon helps to "bridge" the connection between faith and everyday life. He is in a prime position to evaluate the needs of others and to assist in the distribution of the Church's resources. The deacon can assist in eliminating those injustices that lead to imprisonment and poverty. By his sacramental identity, the deacon makes real "Christ the servant of all."

In a series of upcoming articles, you will come to know the 11 deacon candidates who are anticipating their May ordination. You will meet their wives and families and become more aware of their call to the diaconate, their spiritual lives and charisms. Together we pray for these men and their families and for our diocese that will be blessed with their leadership and many gifts.

All ordained bishops,
priests and deacons are
called to the functions
of Word, sacrament
and charity ...



Sisters of the Holy Cross
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Walk with Us

South Bend Serrans host seminarian luncheon

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

MISHAWAKA — Eighteen of the diocese's 21 seminarians, and many of their parents, enjoyed a beautiful Mass and luncheon sponsored by the South Bend Serra Club on Dec. 22.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass in the chapel of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka. In his homily Bishop Rhoades spoke of Hannah and the birth of her son, Samuel, as a precursor to Mary's conception of Jesus. Both sang hymns of praise to God for his great work in them.

"As priests," said Bishop Rhoades, "we enter into Mary's

praise of thanksgiving everyday when we pray Evening Prayer." As Jesus did in his public life, we are called to live out what Mary proclaimed in her Magnificat. We are to be humble and to raise up the lowly. "With Mary we proclaim the greatness of the Lord today and every day."

During the luncheon that followed the Mass, Bishop Rhoades thanked the seminarians for their dedication to priestly formation and spoke of how grateful he is for the good quality of men seeking to be ordained. He also expressed his gratitude for the work of the Serra Club whose mission is to pray for and support vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and to the religious life.



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS

Serrans, seminarians and their parents and priests participate in the South Bend Serra Club's seminarian luncheon on Dec. 22.

Serra Club of Fort Wayne



Encouraging and promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life for over sixty years...

We encourage young men and women to explore the call God has for them. To that end we sponsor:

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Is God calling you to join us?
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We accept the Lord's call to pledge ourselves publicly and perpetually as members of the Congregation of Holy Cross by the vows of consecrated celibacy, poverty and obedience. Great is the mystery and meaning within these vows. And yet their point is simple. They are an act of love for the God who first loved us.

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross. V.43

vocation.nd.edu

CALLED TO SERVE



With the oil of ordination fresh on his forehead, Father Andrew Budzinski gathered with his fellow seminarians and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, on June 26, 2010.

God may be calling you to be a priest.
Call us and we'll talk.

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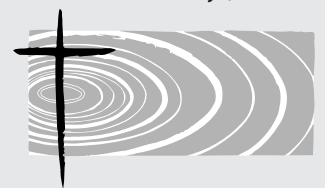
The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ is an international congregation of apostolic women religious within the Roman Catholic Church. We minister with the poor, the sick and children in the United States, Mexico, Germany, England, the Netherlands, India, Brazil, Kenya and Nigeria.

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For information, contact Sister Kathy Haas, PHJC at khaas@poorhandmaids.org.



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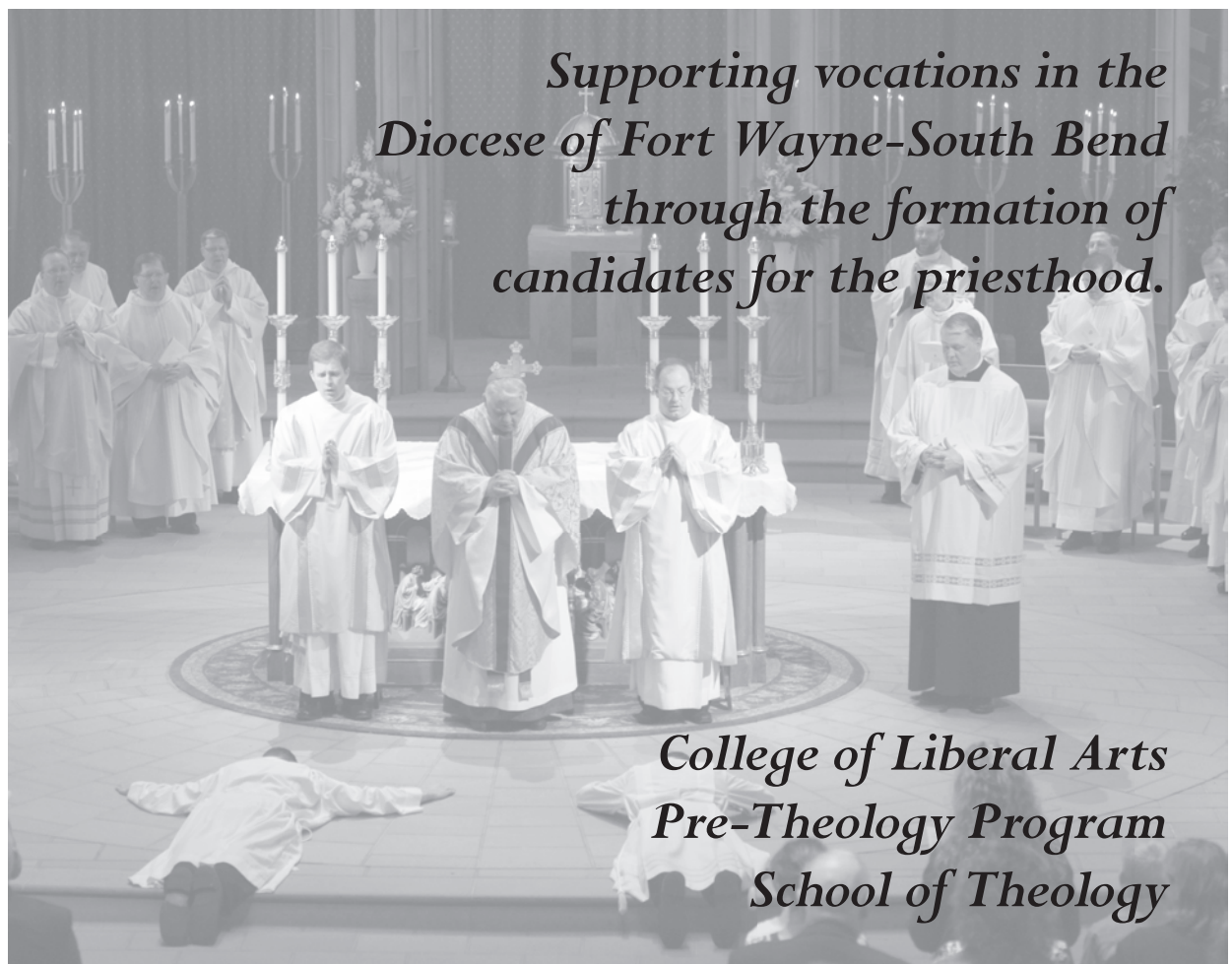
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GUEST COMMENTARY FROM SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Who has a vocation?

During January most dioceses in the United States celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week. This is a good time to think about vocations and who has one. Who do you think has a vocation? If you answered that everyone has a vocation, you get an A.

So often we hear people limiting the term "vocation" to the priesthood and religious life. I hear many people, especially parents with children in Catholic schools, complain that we just don't have enough vocations, but in truth we each received a vocation when we were baptized. All followers of Christ are called to build God's kingdom and spread His love. This commission is not simply for the ordained and the consecrated religious, it is our common call. Each of us has the responsibility to prayerfully discern how we can best live this call in our lives.

The Church recognizes four basic lifestyles or ways for Christians to live our baptismal call. Most people are called to live the Gospel in the sacrament of Marriage. Some are called to do so as dedicated single persons. Others are called to dedicate their lives to build God's kingdom of love and justice as ordained ministers or as members of religious communities. Some are called to both religious life and ordination, such as priests who belong to religious congregations.

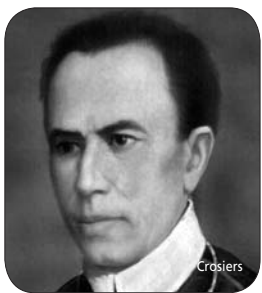
Many who read this article have already chosen the way they believe God has called them to live out the Christian call to love. Others are still searching and have yet to discover their path.

Discovering how we are called to live out the promises we (or our godparents for us) made at our Baptism is a serious task and should not be taken lightly. Prayer and discernment are required to choose which religious congregation to enter, or to determine which person is the right one to marry or even if we are called to marriage and parenthood at all. When we talk about discerning a vocation we mean all vocations, not just priesthood and religious life. No one should go into a marriage lightly or make a decision when in the infatuation stage of a relationship. Perhaps if this task were taken more seriously, there would be fewer divorces.

Each lifestyle is a valid way to follow Christ. It is up to each of us to explore and find out how we can best live out the Gospel. We need to be open to all the options in order to discover the right way for us. Most are attracted to the beautiful sacrament of Marriage. This is the lifestyle for the majority of men and women. Even so, each person should at least consider the other ways of life in order for marriage to be a real choice and not just something expected by others. When we truly discern and reflect in God's presence we may discover another call we may be ignoring.

Certainly, everyone is called to choose his or her own vocation, but parents and other significant adults must guide young people and make them aware of all the possible ways to answer God's call. This is even more important today with the breakdown of marriages and with so few people answering the call to ordained and consecrated life.

Take a moment now to think about your vocation. How are you, as a follower of Christ, called to build God's kingdom and spread His love?



John Neumann

1811-1860
January 5

A native of Bohemia, John entered the seminary and was nearing ordination when he departed for the United States. He joined the Redemptorists and served as a priest in New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania. In 1852 he was named the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. He founded more than 50 churches and greatly expanded Catholic education. John had a fondness for immigrants and knew six languages. His pastoral zeal was evident up to his last moments of life. He collapsed and died in the street at age 48.

CNS Saints

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

Collection assists Church in Latin America

On behalf of the Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America, I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to you and your faithful for your contribution of \$50,458.69 to the 2010 Collection for the Church in Latin America.

2010 was a particularly trying time for the Church in the hemisphere, torn by two major earthquakes in quick succession. However, we were able to award \$7.3 million to 468 different projects. These projects included the training of catechists, formation of seminarians, the promotion of youth ministry as well as support for the many thousands of priests, sisters

and laity who preach the Gospel in some of the remotest areas of our hemisphere.

The poster for this year's collection features Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM, Cap. from our subcommittee. While visiting Haiti shortly after the earthquake the cardinal met a young seminarian, Norbert. Norbert did not perish in the earthquake along with all his classmates because he was having a brain scan that day. His health remains precarious but the subcommittee is helping him and other Haitian seminarians continue their formation for the priesthood. He is a sign of hope in a very difficult situation.

Our next collection is scheduled in most dioceses during the weekend of Jan. 22-23, 2011 and I ask you to do all you can to publicize and support the collection.

In a particular way, the collection touches upon our ministry to the large number of Latino-Hispanic Catholics in the United States. For them, the collection offers an opportunity to show solidarity with the Church in their country of origin and to maintain bonds of friendship and support according to the call of the Servant of God John Paul II's in "Ecclesia in America."

Without you, our solidarity could not take shape into concrete programs of support and evangelization in Latin America. On behalf of the subcommittee and those who benefit from the collection, once again, thank you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. José H. Gomez
Chairman,
USCCB Subcommittee on the
Church in Latin America
Washington, D.C.

Christmas celebrates more than a baby

About a month ago our choir started practicing a new hymn for Christmas entitled, "From the Cradle to the Cross." To me the words express the real meaning of the feast of the Incarnation or Christmas as we call it.

So often during this season we focus on a sweet, helpless little baby and often forget His great mission, the reason He became a human being. This little Child in swaddling clothes changed the world forever. The Word (of God) became flesh and dwelt among us. He came to bring justice and love to the world and commissioned us to do likewise. We don't merely celebrate a child. We celebrate a Savior who fed the hungry, healed the sick, set captives free, and so on. This is the true meaning of Christmas.

When the parties are over, cards sent, gifts given and Santa goes back to the North Pole, we continue to celebrate "Emmanuel, God with us." The Babe in the cradle began His journey to the cross and in doing so showed us how much God loves us. He rose from the dead and calls us to reveal this love to

all. In a sense we are called to give birth to Jesus in the world, to "incarnate" Him.

As we celebrate this mystery of the Incarnation, take some quality time to reflect on how we have or have not given birth to our God, who is love, during this past year.

One of our great saints, Teresa of Avila, was to have said that Christ has no hands and feet but ours, etc. Jesus tells us over and over that He came to reveal His Father's love. During His earthly life He commissioned His followers to do the same. It is the central theme of His ministry.

During this season of Christmas, and remember it does not end after Dec. 25, the daily Scripture readings from the letters of St. John remind us that God is love. He tells us that it is only when we abide in love that we abide in

God! When we love others, God loves. He goes on to say that if we claim to love God but hate our neighbor, we are liars.

These are strong words to ponder, especially in light of all the war and violence we see and experience around us. Note that He did not say to love only the



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

neighbors we like or who are easy to be around. This love must extend to all.

God's word challenges us. Incarnating God in the world must become a habit for we who call ourselves Christian. It is not reserved for special times of the year. The poor always need food and clothes. Homeless centers always need people to help with meals. Nursing homes are filled with people who appreciate visits, not just at Christmas. Friends like to hear from us at other times of the year too. The spirit of kindness and generosity must flow from our baptismal call to love.

God waits every day to be given birth in our world. We are God's body. God becomes flesh in us and in our daily actions.

During this beautiful season, let us reflect on how we will continue to give birth to the God of peace and love throughout the New Year. The only New Year's resolution a Christian needs to make is to be a more loving and hope-filled person in a world that is in need of much healing. Try to make every day a little Christmas.

A 'routine' year: Pope's 2011 calendar holds full slate of events

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For Pope Benedict XVI, the 2011 calendar already holds a full slate of meetings, liturgies and foreign trips.

What's not on the calendar — at least so far — is a special "year of" or a "year for." In 2008-2009, the pope declared a Year of St. Paul. He designated 2009-2010 the Year for Priests.

Perhaps 2011 will mark the Year of Business as Usual for the German pontiff, who turns 84 in April.

Unlike the past three years, there's no Synod of Bishops on the horizon in 2011. Most people are not expecting a consistory this year, either, and there is no sign that the pope plans to convene the world's cardinals at the Vatican for other reasons.

What many people don't appreciate is that the papacy is not just about commemorative years and

cardinal summits. "Business as usual" for the pope means a steady series of events that began with a New Year's Mass to mark World Peace Day and ends with a "te deum" prayer service of thanksgiving Dec. 31.

In between are hundreds of papal encounters with individuals and groups, ranging from heads of state to schoolchildren.

The first half of January is typical. After the New Year's Mass, the pope presided over a liturgy to mark the feast of the Epiphany Jan. 6. Then he celebrates the feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jan. 9 in the Sistine Chapel, personally baptizing more than 10 infants.

The next day, the pope shifts gears and delivers his annual "state of the world" address to the diplomatic corps at the Vatican. He's expected to underline his concern over recent acts of violence and discrimination against Christian

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

minorities around the world, which was a main theme of the World Peace Day message this year.

And with that, Pope Benedict will be off and running.

In 2010, the pope presided over more than 50 major liturgies. Similar celebrations are already penned into the 2011 calendar, at home and abroad. They range from one-hour prayer services to three-hour ordination Masses and

LETTER, PAGE 20

The new translation of the Holy Mass:

The Gloria

Contrary to the secular holiday calendar that advertises Christmas throughout the fall before promptly switching to Valentine's Day décor after the New Year, the liturgical season of Christmas begins with the Nativity and lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan. 9 this year). Within this season is also the Solemnity of the Epiphany, when we commemorate the coming of the Magi (who represent the Gentiles) to visit the Child Jesus. All of these events — the Nativity, the Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord — involve God revealing or manifesting Himself to the world and mankind.

In a sense, we can prepare for the new English translation of the Roman Missal as a gift that provides a fuller manifestation of truth and beauty, such that we may recognize and encounter the Divine more readily in the prayers of the sacred liturgy.

This week, we continue our study of the Order of Mass by examining parts of the Gloria, which the General Instruction of the Roman Missal describes as "a very ancient and venerable hymn in which the Church, gathered together in the Holy Spirit, glorifies and entreats God the Father and the Lamb." The Gloria dates back to the early Church, and should be sung on all Sundays outside Advent and Lent, as well as on feasts, solemnities and certain special celebrations.

The following is the full text of the newly-translated Gloria:

THE NEW MISSAL



BY BRIAN MACMICHAEL

highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests." The opening words of "Glory to God in the highest" also correspond to the Latin, "Gloria in excelsis Deo" (a phrase universally familiar from the popular Christmas carol, "Angels We Have Heard on High").

There are clearly substantial differences between this new text and the Gloria translation that we have been using. The current text reads, "peace to His people on earth," which the new liturgical text expands to "on earth peace to people of good will." It helps to know that certain translations of the Bible render Luke 2:14 as "... on earth peace, good will toward men" or "... peace among those in whom He is well pleased." The new translation of the Gloria is a richer reference to the fact that the Messiah's coming brings the world a higher order of divine peace that only the incarnate Son of God can bestow. Those who live in accordance with God's will and receive His grace shall experience the fullness of this peace.

Turning to the second sentence of the new Gloria, we notice something striking — the new translation recovers entire phrases that were left out of the current translation. Right now, we sing, "we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory." However, the Latin text of the hymn offers five successive ways in which we should pay homage to God: "We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory." In a general sense, it is true that these all convey the same idea of worshiping God. But liturgical prayer is enhanced by poetic repetition, and these five descriptions of worship do hold distinct connotations if examined closely. Together, they combine to express the extent to which it is our Christian duty to give "glory to God."

Next time, we shall examine the second half of the Gloria, as well as some implications that the new text carries for sacred music.

Gloria text reproduced with permission of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

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

Jesus is our hope and our life



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Mt 3:13-17

As winter begins each year, the Church commemorates three great feasts to celebrate our salvation in Jesus, but also to teach us the meaning of salvation in Jesus. Christmas was the first of these feasts. Then came the Epiphany of the Lord. This weekend is the third, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Each of these feasts, through its Liturgy of the Word, introduces us to a vital dimension in the identity of Jesus and an important consideration for Christians as they seek to follow the Lord.

Supplying the first reading for this weekend is the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah writes about a loyal servant of God, a servant who is steadfast in his faithfulness despite enduring the hostilities of others around him and the unhappy twists of his fortune. This servant is therefore the most perfect servant. Regardless of the injustices surrounding him, and the temptation to forsake God, the servant never falters.

This reading, along with three others quite similar in Isaiah, are called the "Songs of the Suffering Servant." They form a major part not only of Scripture, but also of the liturgy as they are used in

Holy Week when the faithful concentrate of the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary.

The second reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, reveals what life was in the first generation of Christianity. It verifies the structure of the Church even as this structure exists today.

Peter is central. He appears before Cornelius, whose name indicates Roman origins, and Peter preaches in the very name of Christ, discharging his responsibility as an apostle, a responsibility given him by the Lord.

The reading is revealing since it shows that Peter offered salvation not just to Jews, whose heritage Peter shared, but also to pagans, indeed even to the brutal Romans whose military conquest and occupation of the Holy Land had resulted in so much misery, death and despair among Jews.

Peter's preaching leads to one conclusion. Salvation is in Jesus alone. Jesus came as God's representative. In God's love, Jesus went about "doing good works" and healing the sick.

St. Matthew's Gospel offers the last reading, revealing not only the event of the story of the Lord's Baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, but the import of the event for us and for all believers.

Ritual washings, or baptisms, were popular in certain Jewish circles in the 1st century. So, homes had ceremonial bathtubs. Archeologists who excavated the ruins of Masada, the great Jewish fortress high on a mountaintop overlooking the Dead Sea, discovered such baths there.

Being baptized, or bathing in these special pools, symbolizes the yearning of a person to be rid of sin. It was as if sin stained not just the soul but also the body.

John the Baptist salutes Jesus as God's anointed. Then, marvelously, miraculously, God appears and identifies Jesus as the Son of God. God could be seen and heard. To clarify the message even more, God speaks, and gestures, in ancient Old Testament words and symbols that no Jew would have misunderstood.

Reflection

This feast of the Baptism of the Lord reveals to us the Lord's identity. He is the Son of God, with all the force and mystery contained in this reality.

He is the Savior, rescuing us from eternal death by assuming our sins and by making amends to God for our sinfulness. He is the mediator, uniting us with God.

The Church makes the words of Peter to Cornelius its own, calling us to the Lord as our Savior.

Finally, the Church calls us to admit that we are sinners. We need Jesus to reconcile us with God. He is our hope and our life.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-17

Monday: Heb 1:1-6 Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9 Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12 Ps 8:2ab, 5-9 Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14 Ps 95:6-11 Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11 Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8 Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mk 2:13-17

A vacation transition

As I type this, my two oldest sons (one a recent college graduate who now works and lives in California, and the other a college senior who is considering both law school and a job opportunity for which he flies out to Atlanta next month) are at the gas station with their dad, filling up the cars and getting some “recovery bars.” Earlier this morning, they spent 90 minutes, along with my 18-year-old son, doing the new P90X workout DVD, a Christmas present. I’m trying not to think about the two oldest leaving for Chicago shortly, to spend the weekend with friends, before the oldest flies back to his new “home.” It’s a rare thing these days to have everyone together. And I’ve been soaking up as much as possible, “treasuring it in my heart.”

It’s been a good break really, and we’ve had fun together. One of my children called me “giggly” as I set the large Amish-made, sturdy table with Christmas plates and glasses on Christmas morning for breakfast. The truth is, I felt my heart would burst. I loved spending every spare minute in the kitchen, preparing food, talking with my kids. Yes, even cleaning up wasn’t so bad. I lingered at the table after the meals more than I normally do, to talk with them and their grandfather, who joined us for Christmas dinner. I did a lot more sitting and listening than I am accustomed. I brought the towels in the kitchen to fold so I could be with them, and set aside my normal compulsion to clean and organize every waking minute. I didn’t “do” as much as “be.”

Still, I “did” a little. Hoping to take advantage of the cookbooks the older boys had brought me from their study-abroad trips in the past couple years, I made Spanish

tapas including deviled eggs with capers and gherkins, lemon/garlic/pepper chicken, and patatas bravas (hot chili potatoes). We were headed for Lithuanian fare when suddenly two of the younger children got the stomach flu and everyone was relegated to bland food just to be on the safe side. Oh well. Family togetherness, right?

We celebrated a sister’s birthday, and enjoyed the rhythm of movies-in-the-basement evenings, a few family games of Apples to Apples, and I even whooshed my three sons out the door with their father to a couple of Notre Dame basketball games. Amusing to me, they dressed in themes for the Notre Dame games — the first time in matching flannel, checked “lumberjack” shirts. Yesterday, it was in loud, Hawaiian shirts purchased for a few dollars each at Goodwill. Personally, I think they were simply trying to attract the attention of the jumbotron monitor in the basketball stadium (which they did, several times), but I had to smile at the family “unity” I sensed, if just in a silly way and unintended.

At first, I thought my heart would break as I felt my family was, the day after our oldest son’s college graduation, when he flew out to the coast to begin his new career and life in his own rented home. But our family didn’t break. In fact, in some ways we grew closer. My oldest son shared the joys and challenges of starting out on his own, of buying (very limited) furniture, purchasing a car, discerning opportunities, finding roommates, choosing a parish, a work wardrobe, a style. And when he came home he had stories to tell — boy did he have stories to tell. And we did too.

The first few days home with everyone is a lot like a plane com-



Theresa A. Thomas

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

ing in for a landing. There’s a bit of bumpy turbulence as everyone “lands” and adjusts to being back with the family to which they will always belong, despite not living amidst day-to-day. We’ve been excited for their return for weeks, sometimes months. Some people’s emotions are running high (okay, I top the list here), and expectations can’t help but develop. The travelers themselves are tired.

After a couple days, the turbulence settles and a happy rhythm is found. It’s a breath of fresh air. It’s a vacation. I accidentally ran into my oldest son and his 8-year-old sister in Target. He was buying her a gift because he’s her godfather. He told me from there he was taking her to Dairy Queen for a milkshake. Her eyes were shining with excitement. They no longer live together but they’ll always love each other. Thank you, God.

I looked down the pew at Mass last Sunday morning at every child and felt proud and happy and sad all at the same time. This Sunday, the pew won’t be quite as full. It’s a new normal. It’s a transition. I’m not quite used to it, but it’s good, I think, and we’re going to be all right.

Theresa Thomas can be reached at TheresaThomasEverydayCatholic@gmail.com. Her book “Stories for the Homeschool Heart” can be ordered on Amazon.com

Northeast will be the first group to arrive at the Vatican Nov. 7, followed by Region II (New York) Nov. 24 and Region III (New Jersey, Pennsylvania) Dec. 1. The last time U.S. bishops came through Rome on “ad limina” visits was 2004, so for many of them it will be their first major meeting with Pope Benedict.

Throughout the year, the pope will hold “ad limina” meetings with bishops from other countries: the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Australia, Angola, New Zealand and the Pacific Ocean area.

The pope will break away from the Vatican on four foreign trips: June 4-5 in Croatia; Aug. 18-21 in Madrid for World Youth Day; Sept. 22-25 in Germany, including the capital of Berlin; and Nov. 18-20 in the West African country of Benin. He’ll also make a two-day visit to Venice in May and three other trips in Italy during the year.

At the Vatican, the pope resumes his weekly audiences every Wednesday, where he has been sketching brief biographies of early Church saints, writers and mystics. He normally makes at

least one other public appearance each week, greeting pilgrims from his apartment window at midday on Sundays.

In addition to his World Peace Day message, the pope generally furnishes messages or letters to mark a whole slew of other annual events — for migrants and refugees, for the sick, for religious, for priestly vocations, for missionaries, for young people, for the hungry and for communicators.

Although Pope Benedict is widely seen as less prolific than Pope John Paul II, his verbal output each year is impressive: about 300 speeches and talks, more than 50 homilies and nearly 100 other missives of varying length and importance.

In his recent book-length interview, Pope Benedict said the day-in, day-out schedule of the papacy was pretty taxing for someone his age. He spoke openly about his diminishing energy, and even left open the possibility of eventual papal retirement — but as his 2011 calendar makes clear, he’s not ready for that yet.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for January 9, 2011

Matthew 3:13-17

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Cycle A. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JESUS	GALILEE	TO JOHN
JORDAN	BAPTIZED	BY HIM
SAYING	I NEED	FOR US
FULFILL	WATER	THE HEAVENS
HE SAW	SPIRIT OF GOD	DESCENDING
A DOVE	UPON	A VOICE
THIS IS	SON	WELL PLEASD

WELL PLEASD

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

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St. Paul visits Derbe on his missionary journey

Where is Derbe where St. Paul made many disciples?

After St. Paul left the town of Lystra where some people tried to kill him, he fled to the town of Derbe in central Turkey. Here he preached the Gospel and made numerous disciples. Then St. Paul started to head for home, namely, the great city of Antioch in Syria. So he retraced his steps to dangerous Lystra, Iconium and Antioch in Pisidia.

In these three towns, St. Paul encouraged his new disciples to persevere in the faith and to endure the sufferings that may occur. In each town St. Paul established priests to say Mass and celebrate the sacraments. The New American Bible says these communities received priests only after a period of testing. St. Paul and St. Barnabas then went back to Perga to preach the Gospel and then continued to the seaport of Attalia (modern Antalya) on the Mediterranean coast and sailed back to Antioch in Syria. This ended St. Paul’s first missionary journey.

Scholars are not sure of the exact location of the town of Derbe in central Turkey. A. Edmonds mentions there are four possibilities: 1) Kerti Hoyuk where an altar stone has been found with an inscription of the names of Derbe



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE HISTORY

and Bishop Michael carved on it. But this does not definitively establish the original site, because such stones are often moved. This particular stone is now in the museum at Konya in Turkey.

Either 2) Una Hoyuk or 3) Asiran Hoyuk, both tumuli (ancient burial mounds) near Karaman, may be the actual site of Derbe. Karaman is a green oasis on a plateau. Here there is a Seljuk citadel, a former monastery of dervishes and a mosque. Many Turkish-speaking Orthodox Greeks lived here.

4) Degli near Binbir Kilise and Madensehir also may be the site of Derbe. D. Darke says Binbir Kilise is a region of a “thousand and one churches,” an important monastic center from the 9th-11th centuries A.D. Near the hamlet of Degli (or Degler) is the most impressive group of ruined Christian Byzantine churches and monasteries.

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

normally include at least two liturgies to proclaim new saints, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Already on the probable saints list for 2011 is the founder of the Xaverian Missionary Fathers, Blessed Guido Conforti.

Easter arrives very late in 2011 — April 24 — and with it comes the heaviest week of liturgies and public appearances by the pope. Ahead of Easter, the Vatican plans to publish Pope Benedict’s new volume in his series on the life of Christ. Titled, “Jesus of Nazareth: Part Two, Holy Week: From the Entrance Into Jerusalem to the Resurrection,” it picks up where the best-selling first volume left off.

For U.S. bishops, 2011 will bring the start of a series of encounters with the pope and his aides, the weeklong “ad limina” visits that begin in November. Bishops from Region I in the

Sports

ANCILLA ATHLETES VOLUNTEER FOR ST. MICHAEL'S FAMILY NIGHT Volleyball and softball team members of Ancilla College in Donaldson assisted with various crafts and sports activities at the St. Michael's Family Night at St. Michael's Catholic School in Plymouth. Student-athletes helped decorate and paint ornaments and assisted children in making Advent wreaths and beaded bracelets, throwing footballs into a target, and showing them how to play various games. "We love the new bond we have made between St. Michael's Catholic School and Ancilla College and look forward to many more events with them," said Jennifer Houin, Oliver Ford vice president.

St. Jude Lady Eagles fire up for tournaments

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. Jude Lady Eagles were full of activity over the Christmas break playing a total of eight games in two different tournaments. Jason Kindler's team finished runnerup at the St. John New Haven tournament and were crowned champions at the University of Saint Francis. Kindler, who is in his third season coaching this same group, lists just seven on his roster — Haley Henline, Cassie Kindler, Hannah Berghoff, Maddie Obergfell, Madeline Stewart, Alex Schroeder and Audrey Sanfrey — and is assisted by Pat Henline and Jane Wolff.

"We started out slow, but now we're firing on all cylinders," explained a pleased Kindler.

Heading into the new year, the Eagles claim a 7-3 record and are 1-1 in Catholic Youth League (CYO) play, losing their first battle against St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, but downing them twice at the Saint Francis tournament. St. Jude also beat Memorial Park and St. Therese to get to the championship game where Haley Henline scored 22 points.

Kindler detailed that the girls have improved each year of play at the holiday tournament. As sixth graders, he entered his team in the seventh-grade bracket where they finished third place. A year ago, the girls finished runnerup and then as eighth-graders,

the Eagles won it all.

In the St. John New Haven showdown, St. Jude lost big to St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel the first time around, but battled back to face them in the championship game where they lost by just one point, 47-48, in a thrilling double overtime.

Kindler feels his defense is really working for the Eagles. "The girls have a good understanding of how it works and execute it well. We keep teams out of the paint and force them to beat us from the outside," outlined Kindler.

Kindler is very proud of the fact that all seven of his players have a job to do and all seven contribute when they are on the court. For the 2010-2011 season, the Eagles have set a goal to win the CYO league outright and win the CYO tournament, just as they have in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades.

"It will be tough with everyone gunning for us, but our goal as coaches is to help the girls reach their goal," summarized Kindler.

Other scores from the Saint Francis tournament include:

- B — St. Vincent 7 over Zion Lutheran Decatur, 35-30
- G — St. Jude 7 over Queen of Angels, 29-25
- B — Memorial Park over St. Jude 8, 36-30

CYO coaches, send scores and highlights to mmcastleman@aol.com

ICCL teams compete in Christmas tournament

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — The floor, which the Lady Irish played on to win their national championship, hosted its second title game on Dec. 30 in the form of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) Christmas Tournament. The finals were held at Holy Cross Grade School.

The tournament had the dubious distinction of hosting all 16 varsity teams as they went head to head for holiday bragging rights.

The tournament took place over four nights and enjoyed the hospitality of St. Thomas of Elkhart and Holy Cross of South Bend.

In the East bracket, undefeated St. Bavo triumphed over St. Pius X, St. Joseph (Mishawaka) and St. Anthony to reach the finals against host Holy Cross who ousted St. Jude, Our Lady of Hungary and St. Joseph (South Bend).

The game, played in front of a standing room only crowd, had both early excitement and drama as the upstart St. Bavo Panthers held with the athletic squad of the Crusaders.

The athleticism and the overwhelming press was too much as Holy Cross cruised to the title, 34-14, complimented by a well-balanced attack that saw seven players score led by Wes Short's 13.

In the third-place game, St.

Joseph (South Bend) held on to a late game charge from St. Anthony, 46-43. Camden Bohn and John Byszewski scored 18 and 15 respectively for the Eagles and Oliver Page netted 21 in a losing effort.

The teams of the ICCL had little time to recover as they started their 2011 campaign just three days later with cross divisional play.

In St. John Bosco play, St. Anthony beat Holy Family, 43-19, with the help of Greg Kanouse's 11 points. Kevin Weinberg chipped in 12 in the loss.

Holy Cross continued their run by doubling up the Blazers from St. Matthew, 50-25. The Crusaders were paced by Connor Futa's 10 points while T. Greci of the Blazers had 12.

Christ the King nipped St. Pius X, 34-32. Brendan Connelly was the high scorer with 18, while Jacob Mauch added 10 for the Lions.

St. Joseph (South Bend) exploded for 57 as they triumphed over a pesky St. Thomas squad by 15. Five players scored in double figures — Camden Bohn, John Byszewski and Brennon Koehler for the Eagles,

and Ryan Schafer and J.P. Kavanaugh for the Spartans.

In the St. Martin DePorres Division, St. Bavo remained undefeated for the regular season by handling Corpus Christi, 37-30. Michael Voor and Joe Molnar both eclipsed the double figure mark for the Panthers.


The Wildcats of St. Joseph (Mishawaka) kept pace with the help of Will Whitten's 10, by outscoring St. John the Baptist, 36-25.

St. Jude started the New Year with a big win over Queen of Peace, 30-16. Bobby Hawkins tossed in 17 for the Falcons as Schuyler Crull had 10 for the Pumas.

Big time scoring was the theme for the match up between Our Lady of Hungary and St. Monica. The Bulldogs, behind Mikal Henderson's 25, Boniface Muguro's 15 and Austin Smith's 10, outlasted the efforts of Patrick Coulter's 22 and Alex Ganser's 18 with the final tally being 58-52.

Play resumes this weekend with games being played both Saturday and Sunday at Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools. For the updated schedule and standings go to icclsports.org.





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Biloxi priest returns to childhood hobby with new comic strip

BY TERRY DICKSON

BILOXI, Miss. (CNS) — Father Dominick Fullam was drawn to cartooning at an early age, but a higher calling erased any aspirations he had of becoming a full-time cartoonist.

Recently, however, the St. Martin native, who is vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Biloxi Diocese as well as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Woolmarket, was at the Atlanta airport when something happened that rekindled his interest in cartooning.

"I was ... drawing a cartoon character on an iPad, and a lady seated next to me asked if I drew cartoons for a living. I laughed and said I was just passing time, but that I used to do a not-so-great cartoon in my high school newspaper," he said.

"She told me what I'd done looked really good to her," Father Fullam added. "A seed was planted."

That seed has since developed into a new comic strip titled "Off by a Mile."

"First I thought of reviving the comic strip I drew in high school called 'It Ain't Easy.' I learned that name had been used for both a song and a movie. So I decided to come up with something new and different," Father Fullam said.

"I wanted the cartoon's title to



The choir's revenge for a long homily was their infamous never-ending Amen.

CNS ILLUSTRATION/COURTESY OF FATHER FULLAM

This cartoon was created by Father Dominick Fullam, vicar general for the Diocese of Biloxi, Miss.

mind is."

Father Fullam has always been a cartoon aficionado.

"Yes, I do read the funnies and not just on Sundays," he said. "I miss some of the ones that have been retired or scaled back over the years like 'Bloom County,' 'The Far Side' and 'FoxTrot.' Over the last year, I've

really come to appreciate 'Zits' — not acne, of course, the comic strip."

Father Fullam hopes to attract more visitors to his website at <http://offbyamile.com> but, for the time being, he's still reluctant to invest too much time in his recently rediscovered hobby and has no plans to submit his cartoon for syndication.

"I have my share of responsibilities right now, and while I enjoy the creative process, I don't think I'd enjoy having to crank these out regularly," he said.

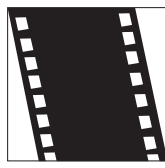
"Never say never, though," Father Fullam added. "Right now, I'm just trying to create an opportunity for a laugh or a chuckle for whoever wants to join in."

have the word 'off' in it, suggestive of something of a different twist on things. After rejecting 'Fifty Percent Off' as sounding like a sales website, I found that offbyamile.com was available. I thought it had a certain ring to it."

Since then, Father Fullam has tried to crank out a couple of cartoons each week.

"It takes about an hour from start to finish. That's fairly quick because they're not done on paper, and I no longer have to mess with India ink as I did back in high school," he said.

"As for their origins, these are just thoughts that pop in my head," he added. "I've noticed a tendency to have '80s references, TV shows and songs. I guess that's where my



MOVIE CAPSULES

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

"Little Fockers" (Universal)

Dull, tasteless comedy — the second spawn of 2000's amusing "Meet the Parents" — dominated by relatively raunchy and poorly staged gags centering on Gaylord and Pam Focker (Ben Stiller and Teri Polo), their 5-year-old twins (Colin Baiocchi and Daisy Tahan) and Pam's meddlesome father (Robert De Niro). Director Paul Weitz strings together a lowest-common-denominator collection of infantile set pieces. Frequent sexual banter, including references to sex toys, condoms and masturbation; some sexual situations and profanity; much crude and crass language; toilet humor; and a bruising fistfight. The Catholic News Service classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned.

"True Grit" (Paramount)

Exceptionally fine second screen version of Charles Portis' 1968 novel of the Old West — first adapted by director Henry Hathaway in 1969 — in which a remarkably determined 14-year-old girl (Hailee Steinfeld) enlists the aid of a broken-down but resourceful U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and a cocksure Texas Ranger (Matt Damon) in her relentless quest to bring her recently murdered father's killer (Josh Brolin) to account. Amid its archetypal characters, mythic atmosphere and amusingly idiosyncratic dialogue, writer-directors Joel and Ethan Coen's captivating drama uses its heroine's sensitive perspective — as well as a fair number of biblical and religious references — to reflect seriously on the violent undertow of frontier life while the rival lawmen strive to overcome their personal shortcomings and petty antipathy in the service of a larger cause. Considerable, occasionally bloody violence, brief gruesome imagery, a half-dozen uses of profanity, a few crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.


"Tron: Legacy" (Disney)

The briskly entertaining, unpretentious and prescient 1982 cult classic has been loudly updated and turned into a bloated, stultifying 3-D bore by director Joseph Kosinski, with the proceedings barely propped up by some still-enjoyable gadgetry. As the son (Garrett Hedlund) of a computer programming genius (Jeff Bridges, reprising his role in the original), searches for his mysteriously vanished father, the trail leads into the electronic alternate universe Dad created in the first outing. Scenes of intense action and some images of severed limbs. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

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Knights plan fish fry

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

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 7, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$8 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

Spaghetti dinner planned

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner, Thursday, Jan. 13, from 4-6 p.m. Adults \$7, children 5-12 \$2.50.

Victory Noll Center offers retreat for military family members

Huntington — Victory Noll Center will have a free retreat for members of military families on Saturday, Jan. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help find positive

ways to work with those stresses. During this day-long program, military family members will be provided with various tools and methods to help find positive and enriching ways of dealing with these particular experiences. There is no cost for the retreat and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call (260)356-0628, ext. 174.

Saint Joseph placement test

South Bend — Any incoming freshman that missed the December placement test at Saint Joseph's High School will have another opportunity on Thursday, Jan. 13, at 8 a.m. Reservations are required. Call (574) 233-6137 for information.

Saint Joseph's school musical planned

South Bend — The Saint Joseph's High School Saint Joe Players will perform "Bye Bye Birdie" Thursday, Jan. 20, and Friday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. The Saturday, Jan. 22, show will begin at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door. All performances will be at the

O'Laughlin Auditorium on the Saint Mary's College campus.

Pro-Life group walks the talk

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus will "Walk the Talk" at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 16, at Council 553 at Hill and Washington Streets. The group will walk to St. Joseph Church for a prayer service and return to the Council for a talk by Karen DeLucenay, executive director of Hannah's House. For information call Bill Schmitt at (574) 232-6777.

Trivia Knight

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will have a Trivia Knight Saturday, Jan. 22, from 7-11 p.m. in the gym. Tickets are \$100 per table of 10. Call Pat Landon at (260) 747-6110 for information or to register.

Living Healthier series sponsored by University of Saint Francis

Fort Wayne — The Living Healthier series will continue Monday, Jan. 24, with "Women's Health," from noon to 1 p.m. at the North Campus, 2702 Spring St. Non-perishable food item donations accepted.

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Robert G. Warnock, 103, St. Jude

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John W. McKee, 95, Queen of Angels

Bernice M. Kever, 97, St. Jude

Virginia M. Phillips, 88, St. Jude

Payton Randle II, St. Patrick

Oscar E. Radu, 86, St. Therese

Granger

Ralph D. Jordan, 74, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Lawrence L. Jumps, 72, St. Joseph

Joan M. Siade, 80, Queen of Peace

New Haven

Hilda M. Gabet, 92, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Brother Thaddeus Gottemoller, CSC, 99, Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel

South Bend

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Elsie M. Barna, 91, St. Matthew Cathedral

Stefan E. Jankowski, 83, St. Matthew Cathedral

Adeline Kruszewski, 81, Corpus Christi

Joan Berners, 80, St. Matthew Cathedral

Judith Lynn Hyders, 68, Christ the King

Kathleen A. Matthews, 66, Corpus Christi

Marion Rejer, 89, St. Adalbert

Sigmund M. Kwiatkowski, 91, St. Stanislaus

Delphine Piasecki, 95, St. Stanislaus

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MIDNIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

South Bend. He celebrated the TV Mass for shut-ins on Christmas morning on WISE-TV in Fort Wayne.

In the Midnight Mass homily, Bishop Rhoades first contemplated the Virgin Mary, "who believed with all her heart the word of the Lord spoken to her by the angel. Mary was the first to bend low over the manger to adore the fruit of her womb. She is Our Lady of Humility. No human being who ever lived was more poor in spirit than the Virgin who gave birth to the Son of God."

Bishop Rhoades reflected on St. Joseph, who was also poor in spirit. "We have no recorded words in any of the Gospels spoken by the humble carpenter of Nazareth," he said, "but we know of his faith and goodness. The Scriptures teach us that he was a just man. He had the courage of faith and preferred to obey God rather than to protect his own reputation when Mary was found to be with child.

"What must have been in his heart as he gazed upon the child in the manger!" Bishop Rhoades exclaimed. "Poor in spirit, he too bowed low over the manger to adore his foster son whom he would protect and teach, love and cherish."

Of the shepherds, Bishop Rhoades said, "We do not know their names: They were anonymous. They were poor and looked down upon because of their occupation. But they were the ones chosen by God to receive the proclamation of the birth of Christ from the heavenly messenger. What did they do? Motivated by faith, they went with haste to the manger. There they found the newborn child and humbly worshipped him. They then glorified and praised God for all that they had heard and seen."

Mary, Joseph and the shepherds — the little ones — are the key figures of Christmas, he said. They teach the meaning of the first Beatitude and the way to the kingdom of heaven — faith, humility and love.

"We worship the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger," Bishop Rhoades said. "We contemplate



JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, shown during the homily, celebrates Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

the mystery of Christmas. We welcome the Savior of the world. We can only do so authentically if we are poor in spirit, that is, with faith in God, with humility, and with love. Christ cannot enter our lives if we do not open our minds and hearts to Him and to the salvation He offers us."

He said, "We recognize and profess that the child born of the Blessed Virgin Mary 2,000 years ago is the Son of God and the

Savior of the world. His divine glory was hidden in that holy manger of Bethlehem. But humbly we believe and we adore because in that manger we have discovered the Truth that sets us and all humanity free. And we continue to discover in the infant Jesus the Love that transforms our lives."

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the writings of St. Peter: "Should anyone ask us as Christ's disciples the reason for our hope, we should be

ever ready to reply. But what is the reason for our hope as Christ's disciples, as Catholic Christians? The reason is not a what — it's a who! Our faith is not so much about a book or a list of teachings or an ethical system. It is about a person!

"Christmas is the great feast of hope, for today the Savior of humanity is born," Bishop Rhoades said. "The joyful news of our Savior's birth resounds throughout the world on this holy night. The Son of God came into the world, and He still comes, to give us hope in the midst of doubt, uncertainty, suffering and even in the face of death. If Jesus were not born on earth, we could not be born unto heaven. But because Christ was born, we can be reborn."

Bishop Rhoades encouraged, "Let us live this (first) Beatitude as we contemplate with the eyes of faith and with humility the holy birth of Jesus. With Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, we celebrate the great mystery of love which never ceases to amaze us: God became the Son of Man so that we might become sons and daughters of God! On this holy night, we rejoice in the birth of our Savior. Venite, adoremus! O come, let us adore Him!"

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

This month's featured selection: "Thrift Store Saints: Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time," by Jane Knuth

BY MARK WEBER

Jane Knuth's book, "Thrift Store Saints: Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time" could also have the title of "Jesus Christ in Kalamazoo!"

In this delightful book, Jane Knuth leaves the printed page, and seems to actually say the words, sounding like a close friend revealing private experiences which are sometimes humorous, often humbling and personally enriching.

When we meet Jane, she is having a seizure of indignation because Kalamazoo's St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store does not process credit cards. Jane has purchased a rosary, a satin case and a prayer book for her daughter's first Communion. Jane is hot now; this is a crummy neighborhood which she avoids, but St. Vincent's is the only place in town that sells religious goods ... and now she is in a lineup with Kalamazoo castoffs, riffraff and drifters, as the cashier, a sweet little old lady explains that thrift store customers seldom have credit cards, so it's really not a problem. Jane finds enough cash to cover the purchase, gathers her gifts and dignity, and huffs back to her warm car and respectable neighborhood.

During their brief encounter at the cash register, Dorothy, the cashier, a diminutive octogenarian invited Jane to become a volunteer at the store. Jane mumbled excuses and rushed out, but one week later, she finds herself drawn to the store and seated among a small circle of Vincentian volunteers, all snow capped seniors, welcoming Jane, who is 37.

The meeting's business reveals that the group's president has resigned without a successor. All present dodge the assignment, but Jane, a teacher, mistakenly thinks she can teach this group how to organize their charity using cyberspace, spreadsheets and inventory control.

Silence follows Jane's suggestions and then one of the old ladies says, "That's nice, dear, but what we could really use is someone to take out the trash every night and clean the bathroom."

Jane is insulted. She has youth, vigor, education and

organizational skills; and if she wants to clean toilets, she can do it at home. She has cast pearls before swine and received no thanks. She is ready to take her talents where they can be put to good use.

Dorothy observes this and has a plan. She sees Jane as the 100th sheep and doesn't want her to stray, so she calmly suggests that Jane become the buyer for the religious gifts sold in the store.

Now Jane is shocked. There is not a single crucifix hanging in her home, and her only prayer book is on a shelf in the basement.

With blind faith, Dorothy's plan is carried and Jane will now be accountable for six display cabinets full of inventory, with a \$25,000 annual budget and catalogs from wholesalers in New York, San Francisco and Rome. Jane becomes responsible for the store's main source of income. She is also shown where the toilet brush is kept.

"Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time" covers 15 years of Jane's life and is patterned by the Vincentian Rule; praying together, helping the poor face-to-face, and seeing the poor as our teachers.

The staff's prayers are said before the store opens for business and are quite practical and as needful as the intentions of the store's customers: Please, God, let the store's furnace hold out for another rough Michigan winter.

For Jane, helping the poor face-to-face and being taught by them is a blend of the real nitty-gritty where things ain't always pretty.

Did the Savior's path to Calvary meander through Kalamazoo with Jane Knuth as a posted witness? Her descriptions of meeting Jesus 25 cents at a time make it believable. We can almost hear the Redeemer whisper, "Observe, Jane, how some of my beloved are cast in life as ex-convicts, prostitutes, alcoholics, addicts, cripples, mentally scrambled street people and astonished assignees of unexpected pregnancies. Love them Jane, and you love Me."

Page by page, through Jane, we see how learning such love can require considerable effort and time and that Jane's teachers are some of the misfits and broken people who receive her patient assistance, as well as the example of her kind and experienced coworkers.

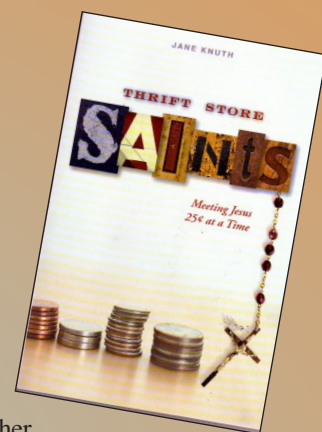
On a daily basis, Jane deals with people who live in neighborhoods where taxis refuse to go at night, and with people who find joy in the gift of a blanket or who are delighted to receive secondhand shoes and clothing.

Covering the body is important, but covering any human need comes first; helping people face-to-face is one of the main principles of Vincentian work. In emergencies, the society purchases bus tickets, prescriptions, pays rent and comes across when disaster looms. Experienced workers direct clients to social agencies or other sources of assistance.

Whether it is bread, boots or bucks, what is really given, at least temporarily, is some measure of peace of mind, which is priceless and can be described in many ways, all done excellently by Jane Knuth in "Thrift Store Saints: Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time."

Questions for reflection

- This book describes the unexpected return value of helping the poor face-to-face. Has this happened to you?
- The author came about her Vincentian experience reluctantly, but found it so rewarding that it became a sustaining part of her life. Have you had a similar experience?
- We read that Jesus appears in disguise among the halt, the lame and the blind. Is your persona available for His purposes?



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