



Third Sunday of Advent

New translation
U.S. parishes transition
Page 3

Black Catholics in the Church
Notre Dame professors spearhead study
Pages 4-5

Endowments
Diocese launches seminarian education fund
Page 9

All Diocese Team
High School athletes recognized
Pages 12-13

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

'Mission: Possible' draws teens to rally

BY TIM JOHNSON AND DIANE FREEBY

FORT WAYNE — Young Catholics preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation joined their peers Saturday in Fort Wayne for the annual Confirmation Rally. The title, based on an upcoming movie release, was "Mission: Possible, Holy Spirit Protocol" and based on Philippians, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

This year's rally, held at Gerig Activities Center at the Summit, was organized by the Office of Catechesis and included a keynote address by APeX Ministries, a juggling group consisting of Gene Monterastelli and Brad Farmer.

Popple, a Catholic band consisting of Kyle Heimann of Fort Wayne, Dan Harms of Merrillville and Jon Pressimone of Baltimore, Md., rocked the youths and provided the music for concerts and inspiration throughout the day and again at Eucharistic Adoration in the afternoon.

APeX Youth Ministries used juggling, humor and storytelling to appeal to the teenagers. The duo focused on the superhero theme, talking about "ninjas" and saints in the same breath.

"The real superheroes are the saints," emphasized Farmer, "regular, ordinary people who inspire us. Having studied at the school of the saints, I believe the miraculous really exists. It's in front of us every day, and we can miss it."

Farmer shared a personal story of growing up with a younger sister who had cerebral palsy. He described how while 11-year-old Brittany didn't look like a superhero on the outside, she was truly a heroic girl who loved others unconditionally. In and out of hospitals much of her young life, Farmer recalled knowing something was very wrong one day. His parents had taken Brittany to the hospital



TIM JOHNSON

Rally participants place intentions on a wall while Dan Harms and Kyle Heimann, right, of Popple perform. The confirmation rally welcomed 731 attendees to Fort Wayne on Dec. 3.

RALLY, PAGE 16

Diocese launches 'Catholics Come Home' campaign

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has announced that the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is partnering with Catholics Come Home to launch a media campaign this winter inviting inactive or under-active Catholics to "come home" to the Catholic Church.

Catholics Come Home is an independent, nonprofit, lay Catholic organization dedicated to producing and airing faith messages via local, national and international television spots and web sites.

"Beginning this coming Dec. 17, television viewers in the Fort Wayne and South Bend area markets will be encouraged to take another look at the Catholic Church," said Natalie Kohrman, director of the Office of Evangelization and Spiritual Development for the diocese. "Several different spots inviting those who have been away from the Catholic Church to "come home" will air

through the end of January 2012," she said.

Viewers will be directed to the Catholics Come Home website at: www.catholicscomehome.org (or www.catholicosregresen.org for those who speak Spanish). The diocese also has a website www.catholicscomehome-fwsb.org. The websites feature several television spots and answers to commonly asked questions about the Catholic faith, and a parish finder keyed to the visitor's zip code, Kohrman explained.

"These media resources already have helped to invite hundreds of thousands of lapsed Catholics and converts home to the Catholic Church, and encourage practicing Catholics to go deeper in their understanding and practice of the Catholic faith," she added.

The diocesan campaign runs in conjunction with a new advertising campaign on major television networks Dec. 16-Jan. 8.

The Atlanta-based organization Catholics

CCH, PAGE 16

MASS OPENS ANNIVERSARY YEAR



MARK WEBER

A first peek at 150 years of history at St. Patrick Parish, Arcola, began with a Mass concelebrated by Bishop John M. D'Arcy, bishop emeritus, and Father Alex Dodrai on Sunday, Dec. 4.

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Catholics Come Home



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

When asked what my top priority as bishop is, without hesitation I answer "the new evangelization." Both Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have recognized the need for a new missionary season in the Church through the proclamation of the good news of the Gospel with new ardor and energy, new methods and expressions, inviting others to discover anew the attraction of following Christ in the Catholic Church.

Last Christmas, we distributed over 50,000 copies of the book *Rediscover Catholicism* by Matthew Kelly. I was grateful to receive a wonderful response from so many people in our diocese to this book, which has helped them to grow in their Catholic faith. I was especially happy when I learned from people who were not very active in the practice of their faith that the book helped them to appreciate their faith more and to become more active in the Church.

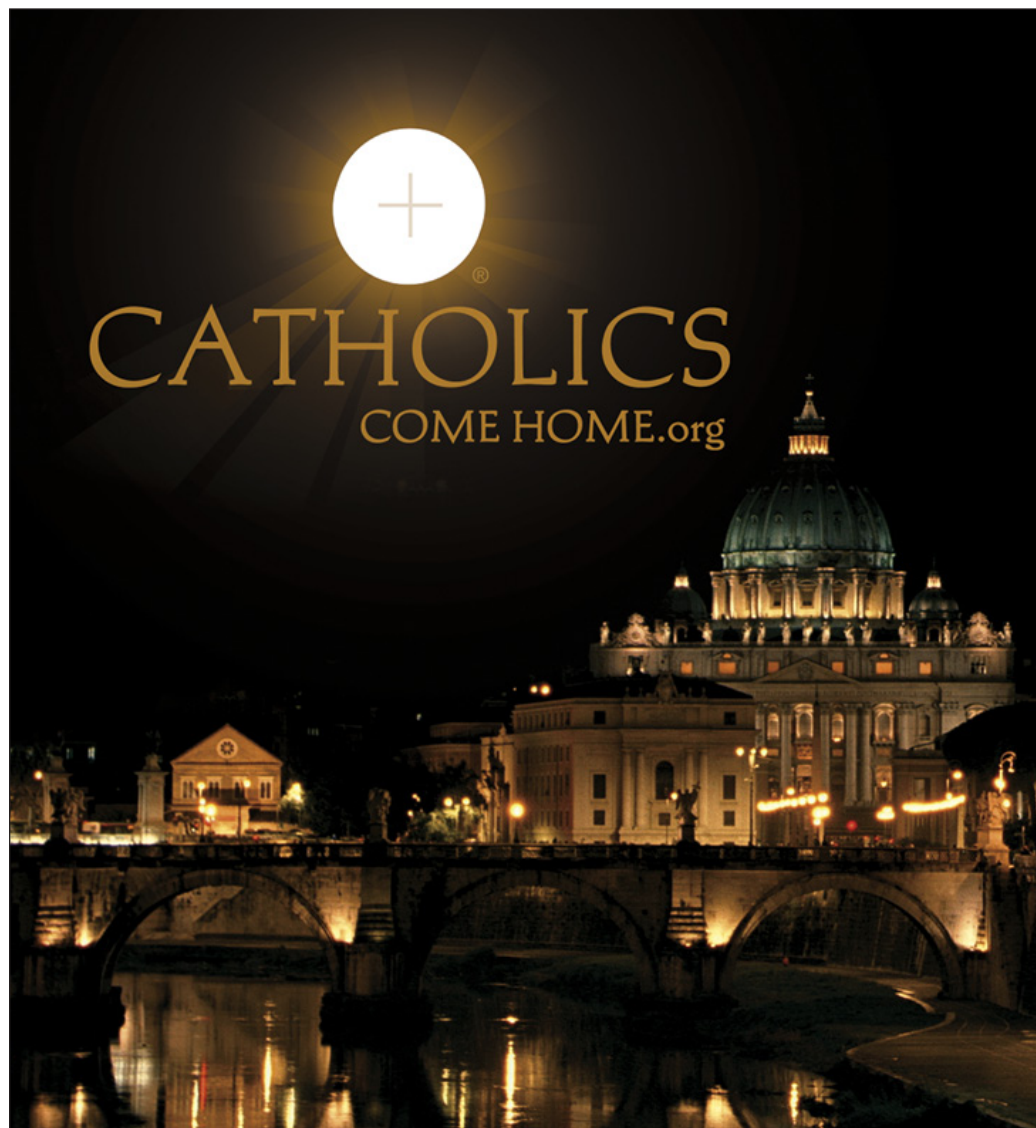
This year, we are embarking on another project that is part of the "new evangelization" in our diocese. We are partnering with the national (and international) *Catholics Come Home* organization to invite and encourage inactive Catholics to return home to the practice of the faith.

Catholics Come Home uses the media in this important task of the new evangelization, specifically television messages and an interactive website. This media campaign has been quite successful in many dioceses that have used it. The campaign will take place in our diocese from December 16, 2011, until January 31, 2012. The TV commercials that will air during this time are truly inspirational.

Our faith is a precious gift from God that gives meaning to our lives and strengthens us to live as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sadly, there are many members of our family of faith who have drifted away from the practice of the faith. We miss them and their participation with us at Holy Mass. Many inactive Catholics still believe in Christ and identify themselves as Catholic, yet, for various reasons, have drifted away from active participation in the life of the Church. Research shows that only a small percentage left the Church for doctrinal reasons. Most became inactive due to social stresses that devalued religious affiliation and practice, influences of our increasingly secularized culture.

Many inactive Catholics who have returned have said that they were waiting for an invite. That is what the *Catholics Come Home* program is all about. It is a warm invitation to these, our brothers and sisters, to come home. We hope to welcome them with the peace and love of Christ.

The *Catholics Come Home* program calls all of us and all our parishes to have a zeal for evangelization, which means that we warmly welcome home our brothers and sisters who are moved by this media cam-



PROVIDED BY CATHOLICS COME HOME

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is partnering with Catholics Come Home in December and January to invite inactive or underactive Catholics to "come home" to the Catholic Church.

paign to return to the Church. We should not be afraid to share our faith with our neighbors nor to defend our faith with our detractors. Every parish should be active in its outreach to fallen-away Catholics and to the unchurched.

I think you will find the television commercials to be very inspirational. They include an ad, which emphasizes the history, beauty, spirituality and accomplishments of the Catholic Church over her 2,000 year history. Another ad, a reflective "movie of your life," teaches that it is never too late to ask for God's forgiveness and to accept His mercy. Others are mini-documentaries that consist of dozens of real Catholics who share their stories of leaving the Church and the joy and peace they found upon their return.

I imagine that most of the people of our diocese will see the commercials on TV, however you can also view the commercials and learn more about the campaign on the national *Catholics Come Home* website www.catholicscomehome.org

Our diocesan *Catholics Come Home* website is up and running, so I invite you to check it out at www.catholicscomehomefwsb.org. One part of the website is a Catholic FAQ. This series of questions and answers can be very helpful for those who have questions about the faith.

We are beginning this important evangelizing effort in the middle of the season of Advent, as we approach the Solemnity of Christmas. It is a time when we celebrate the great event of the Incarnation, that God

in His infinite love for us, sent His Son as our Savior. As Saint John wrote: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9). This is the message we proclaim in our mission of evangelization. This is the Good News of our Christian faith. Through the *Catholics Come Home* campaign, we are inviting our brothers and sisters to embrace this truth anew through active participation in the Church which is Christ's Body and through which He gives us His grace.

The Holy Spirit is the protagonist of all evangelization, so I ask all the faithful of our diocese to join me in invoking the Holy Spirit in praying for the success of this campaign. Let us pray during the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas that many non-practicing Catholics will indeed come home, will return to the sacraments, and join us at the table of the Lord.

I also entrust this intention of the return of inactive Catholics to the Church to our Blessed Mother, whom we invoke as the "Star of Evangelization." In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, "The Virgin Mary, who did not communicate to the world an idea but Jesus, the Incarnate Word, is an unparalleled model of evangelization." May she make us all aware of being missionaries, sent by her Son to be His witnesses! May Mary, the Star of Evangelization, intercede for us in this campaign and intercede for all those whom we are inviting to come home!

Despite a few 'rough spots,' Catholics adapt to new missal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Years of planning went into it, followed by catechesis over the past several months via workshops, classroom and video presentations, diocesan communiqués, bishops' pastoral letters, parish bulletin inserts, and countless stories and special sections in Catholic newspapers.

All of it was done to prepare everyone, from clergy to the people in the pews, for the first use of the new English-translation of the Roman Missal as Advent began with Masses Nov. 26-27.

By all accounts, despite "a few rough spots here and there, and occasional 'and also with your spirit' and other hybrid responses ... it looks like we made it!" said Father Richard Hilgartner, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship.

"We are now praying with the Roman Missal," the priest said in a Nov. 28 email to employees at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

He told *The Catholic Review*, newspaper of the Baltimore Archdiocese, his home archdiocese, that it will take time for people to grow accustomed to the new language, which is more literally translated from the original Latin than the earlier translation.

While there may be a short-term sense of entering uncharted waters, he said, in the long term the new translation may provide opportunities to enrich prayer life.

"We'll have new words and new images in our prayer, so I hope that ultimately people will hear things that speak to their hearts."

In the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., at St. Gregory the Great Church, Massgoers received step-by-step guidance with the new wording from cream-colored pew cards, produced by *Magnificat*.

While many parishioners visibly held the cards and did their best to follow along, some left the cards sitting in the pews.

Following the 5 p.m. vigil Mass Nov. 26, head usher Clairmont Sampson said he thinks the new translation is "wonderful. It's going back to the old Latin, the way I remember."

But it has been nearly 40 years and he doesn't necessarily recall all of the words so the pew cards, he said, came in handy and will help parishioners "adjust easily," he told *The Tablet*, Brooklyn's diocesan newspaper.

Marlene Saunders, parish trustee, was equally receptive to the changes. She feels the language is more personal and invites people into "more of a relationship" with God.

Although she knew of the changes, Saunders was grateful to have the pew card in her hand during Mass. "It's simple to understand," she said, adding that it kept her from making any mistakes.

At St. Michael-Resurrection



CNS PHOTOS/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

A woman looks over a guide highlighting the new changes in wording for Mass prior to a service at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Alexandria, Va., Nov. 27. The new English translation of the Roman Missal was used for the first time in churches across the nation on the first Sunday of Advent. Churchgoers at St. Joseph's took the changes in stride and with good humor as they stammered through the new wording.

Church in Edmonton, Alberta, Father Roger Keeler offered the blessing, "Lord be with you" during the Nov. 26 Mass.

Having used the same response for 40 years, many parishioners replied, "And also with you." Others replied for the first time using the new response, "And with your spirit."

"I think the new translation is very much like the old one, from way back when I was first at church, pre-Vatican II, except it's not in Latin," said Mary Griffith, a St. Michael-Resurrection parishioner.

The biggest difficulties will be unlearning familiar liturgical language, getting accustomed to the new language of the revised Missal and remembering when to kneel, she told the *Western Catholic Reporter*, newspaper of the Edmonton Archdiocese.

For most Catholics in the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., reciting unfamiliar words in familiar prayers at Mass turned out to be little or no challenge. Preparation for the new word changes helped make the transition smoother, said many Catholics interviewed after weekend Masses.

At St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Bishop David L. Ricken celebrated the 9 a.m. Mass. In his homily, he asked parishioners to turn and wish each other a happy Advent by shaking with their left hands.

"That is the way the liturgy is going to feel for a while," he said. "Like we are doing something we are not used to. We have to retrain ourselves to be comfortable with it. So eventually it becomes rote."

"I think it's very spiritual," said Joan Pierre of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in De Pere. "I think it's more alive. The music is upbeat. I love it. I really do."

"I also think it's very spiritual and it has been easy to follow," Lynn Danen, also from Our Lady of Lourdes, told *The Compass*, Green

Bay's diocesan newspaper. "I think it's great that they have cue cards to help us out because we're so in touch to saying what we're used to saying and this will help us out."

Another fellow parishioner, Dan Ritter, said he was not overwhelmed by the changes. "I'm kind of underwhelmed," he said. "I don't see that big of a difference. I learned an entirely different Nicene Creed 70 or 75 years ago so I've always been kind of stumbling around, ever since I was a kid because the new one I never did get it. Now it's back again to being different again."

In the Archdiocese of Detroit, John Fleming, 90, a member of St. Aloysius Parish in downtown Detroit said: "I got out all my old missals from when Latin was on one side and English on the other and it seems more like what I used to say a long time ago. It is awkward for me now to change back, but I don't think it's a great obstacle."

"I've lived through much bigger changes when the Mass was no longer in Latin and when the priest turned to face us. ... Like everything else, you get accustomed to it," he said.

Father Richard Bondi, pastor of St. Theresa of Lisieux in South Hadley, Mass., in the Springfield Diocese, said that his parishioners have been generally receptive to the changes and he credits that to having made available a number of educational programs at the parish level.

"What we've tried to emphasize is not just the words and the changes to the words, but rather, the call to conversion, the opportunity for all of us to go deeper," he told *iobserve*, the diocese's communications outlet.

In Toronto at St. Brigid's Parish, Diana FitzGerald, who teaches catechism to Catholic children attending public school, noted the new language is more difficult, especially in a city full of immigrants whose first language may not be English.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m. — Mass at Saint Mary's Church, Huntington
- Monday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m. — Spanish Mass at Saint Joseph Church, Lagrange
- Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m. — Advent Day of Recollection for Priests, Saint Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse
- Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m. — Closing Mass of Parish Mission, Saint Joseph Church, Garrett
- Thursday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m. — Theology on Tap, Calhoun Street Soups, Salads, and Spirits, Fort Wayne



A guide to the new wording in the Mass is pictured in a pew prior to Sunday service at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Alexandria, Va., Nov. 27.

"Consubstantiation, that's a very difficult word," she told *The Catholic Register*. But even the difficult words may eventually get easier, she said. "You get used to it."

For Maria Martinez, the surprising thing about the new English translation is how some of it is closer to the words she grew up saying in Spanish. Right off the top, the new reply to the priest's greeting of "The Lord be with you," now translated as "And with your spirit," is just what is said in Spanish — "Y con tu espíritu."

At St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Fairfax, Va., in the Arlington Diocese, misspoken responses at morning Mass Nov. 27 elicited a few knowing smiles and nudges among family members.

"The changes weren't as many as I thought," Claire Le Seur told the *Arlington Catholic Herald*, the diocesan newspaper. "It'll take a couple of weeks (to learn)."

"I think it will be a positive change," added Toni Maltagliati.

In the Diocese of Baton Rouge, La., Father Jamin David added a little humor to the reactions, saying the first "victim" of the new translation might have been the small altar server at St. Aloysius Church in Baton Rouge. "My conviction that the Roman Missal weighed more than him was verified when after 15 seconds his arms shook so violently that Father could barely read the new text held before him!"

He told *The Catholic Commentator*, the diocesan newspaper, that pew cards reminded parishioners to follow along with the textual changes. "And yet, it

took several attempts to change the automatic response to 'The Lord be with you' to a thunderous 'And with your spirit.' There were awkward moments, public service announcements, a cacophony of different responses, laughs, giggles and smiles — but we made it," he said.

Father David Allen, pastor of Holy Family Church in Port Allen, La., summed up reactions of most at his church like this: "First, it was a beautiful Mass. Second, we made it through, we did fine and we will get used to it."

A call for comments on the new translation posted on Catholic News Service's Facebook page brought more than 50 responses by midday Nov. 29. A few said they didn't like it; one respondent said "the priest's language is awful" in the new version, the new sentences were "fragmented" and used "terrible grammar."

Some admitted to stumbles, but overall respondents praised the new translation.

"I think it's great to mix it up a little. Otherwise we become robots and recite our lines without any thought. I think it's what we all needed. Feels fresh and new. I'm for more change," said one person.

"Stumbled a few times during Mass yesterday, but the new language is beautiful. Richer than the original, pedestrian translation," said another.

The USCCB's Secretariat of Divine Worship provided guidance for disposing of the old Sacramentary once the new Roman Missal was implemented. Dioceses must handle disposal "with respect" by burying it in "an appropriate location on church grounds, or perhaps in a parish cemetery if there is one."

"In lieu of burying old liturgical books, they could be burned, and the ashes placed in the ground in an appropriate location on church grounds. It is advisable to retain a copy of the Sacramentary for parish archives or liturgical libraries."

Contributing to this report were Ed Wilkinson in Brooklyn, Chris Miller in Edmonton, Marylynn G. Hewitt in Detroit, Teri Breguet in South Hadley, Michael Swan in Toronto, Barbara Chenevert in Baton Rouge and staff members of *The Compass* in Green Bay, *The Catholic Review* in Baltimore and the *Arlington Catholic Herald*.

Black Catholics' survey finds strong ties, strong engagement in Church

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — African-American Catholics are much more engaged in their Church on a variety of levels than are white Catholics, concludes the first National Black Catholic Survey.

Whether in a majority black church, a mixed or mostly white parish, the survey found African-American Catholics feel satisfied and fulfilled in their parishes, explained retired Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., who is president of the National Black Catholic Congress.

By "engaged," Bishop Ricard explained, the authors of the report mean African-Americans are involved in their parishes well beyond simply attending Mass somewhat regularly. That includes having strong networks of friends and family in their churches, participating in multiple parish activities and saying their spiritual, emotional and social needs are met there.

Bishop Ricard, who is rector of the Washington seminary of his religious order, the Josephites, said the results of the survey surprised and pleased him and the leaders of the National Black Catholic Congress who commissioned it, along with the University of Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life and the office of the school's president. The survey will be used as the basis of a pastoral plan for evangelization that will be presented during next July's National Black Catholic Congress in Indianapolis.

"This is a bright spot for the Church," said Bishop Ricard in an interview Nov. 28 at St. Joseph's Seminary. Whatever their parish situation, a majority of African-American participants in the attitudinal survey conducted by Knowledge Networks, "feel affirmed and have decided they are going to stay Catholic," he said. "It's a very optimistic message."

Among the conclusions of the

survey were that black Catholics feel more committed to their parishes emotionally, spiritually and socially than do white Catholics. In those respects, as in many other aspects of the survey, black Catholics were shown to be much more like black Protestants in their approach to Church than they are like white Catholics.

"Compared with other religious and racial groups, African-American Catholics behave and look like African-American Protestants," said the executive summary written by study authors Darren W. Davis, a professor of political science and associate vice president for research at Notre Dame, and Donald B. Pope-Davis, professor of psychology and vice president and associate provost Notre Dame.

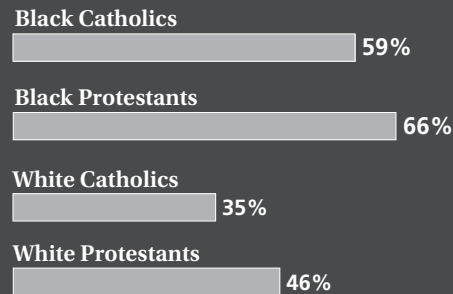
Still, "African-American Protestants are clearly more highly involved by every measure of engagement," they continued. Therefore, they said, the pattern "is taken as suggestive of a cultural effect, as opposed to a Catholic effect, whereby the historical and cultural norms of the African-American community weigh just as heavily on African-American Catholics as on African-American Protestants."

The survey was conducted this summer in phone calls to 3,215 people, including 2,104 African-Americans, proportionally representing Catholics and Protestants according to their ratio in the U.S. population. Seventy-six percent of those surveyed said their parish is not predominantly African-American. No margin of error was given.

In one set of comparisons, asking "how well does your parish meet your needs," black Catholics, and both black and white Protestants were more likely than their white Catholic counterparts to agree. For instance, when the question asked about spiritual needs, 78 percent of black Catholics and 86 percent of black Protestants said

Most Engaged

Religious engagement among blacks is markedly greater than among whites. Those who say they are 'engaged' or 'strongly or engaged' in their church or parish:



Source: 2011 National Black Catholic Survey



"well" or "very well," while 67 percent of white Catholics and 81 percent of white Protestants said the same.

The difference was sharper when the question asked about parishes meeting social needs, with 62 percent of black Catholics, 76 percent of black Protestants and 63 percent of white Protestants saying "well" or "very well," while just 41 percent of white Catholics said so.

Bishop Ricard said the finding that black Catholics are almost as at-ease in mixed or mostly white parishes as they are in majority black parishes shows that efforts have been successful in helping African-Americans to feel a part of the Catholic Church and make it their own.

That model could hold lessons for dioceses and churches that are struggling to help immigrants from Latin America and Asia feel like they belong, he said.

Like African-Americans, Latino and Asian immigrants have a strong cultural sense of community, Bishop Ricard said. "There is less emphasis on the individual and more on the communitarian aspects of a church."

For instance, black Catholics in the survey were much more likely to say it's important that their friends attend their church. Just about 7 percent of white Catholics agreed with that statement. But 27 percent of black Catholics said so. Phrased another way, 48 percent

of black Catholics said being with others in church is an important reason to go, compared with 26 percent of white Catholics, 58 percent of black Protestants and 52 percent of white Protestants.

And there also are lessons for all types of parishes that are interested in having their members become more deeply engaged.

Bishop Ricard related the experience of a large Florida parish that made the effort to have the pastor or a member of the parish staff personally visit every one of the 2,000 registered families. Completed over the course of a year, these visits featured conversations about what people wanted from their Church, what was working and not working and what their everyday concerns were, he said.

"It had a significant effect on increasing people's involvement," he said. It wasn't so much that the parish would be able to adapt to all those concerns, but a matter of "making people feel personally involved," he said.

The survey did find various aspects of Church life where African-Americans consider improvement is needed. Among them that although most African-Americans do not consider the Church racist — 77 percent said they don't consider it racist — nearly a third have felt uncomfortable being the only black in a church and a quarter have encountered people avoiding them or

refusing to shake hands.

Majorities of African-Americans said the Church should put more effort into emphasizing black saints; promoting black vocations and black bishops; supporting issues such as affirmative action and problems in Africa and promoting racial integration.

But there was also hopeful news when it comes to young adults being involved, the survey found.

"African-American young adults, both Catholic and Protestant, are more religiously engaged and consider religion to be more important than whites of the same age," the authors wrote. "Older individuals are more religiously engaged than younger adults, and there is an age gap, but African-American young adults are also religiously engaged. Whatever disengagement exists among African-Americans, it cannot be attributed to a generation gap. White Catholic young adults, by contrast, have an extremely low level of religious commitment."

It also found that black Catholics were much more likely than their white counterparts to say religion is important in their lives. They also are more likely to say they would turn to their pastor or another church leader for help in times of crisis such as a death in the family, marriage or alcohol problems.

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Notre Dame survey of African American Catholics offers important insights

BY WILLIAM G. GILROY

NOTRE DAME — A new, unprecedented national survey of African American Catholics by University of Notre Dame researchers reveals several significant insights into individual religious engagement and identifies several notable demographic trends facing the church.

The survey was sponsored by the National Black Catholic Congress and Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life and Office of the President.

Notre Dame social scientists Darren W. Davis and Donald B. Pope-Davis, who co-authored the report, set out to test the validity of anecdotal accounts that African American Catholics were becoming increasingly disengaged from their religion. Although the primary focus of the survey is on African American Catholics, the researchers utilized a significant comparative component with white Catholics, which resulted in several notable findings about both groups of Catholics.

The survey also is historic in that it represents the largest sample of African American Catholics ever surveyed on their faith.

Criticism grows over governor's 'holiday tree' label for public display

BY RICK SNIZEK AND BRIAN LOWNEY

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (CNS) — A 17-foot Colorado blue spruce is standing tall at the center of controversy in the Rhode Island Statehouse rotunda for what it is being — or more importantly, not being — called.

Gov. Lincoln D. Chafee invited the public to attend a "Holiday Tree Lighting" ceremony Dec. 6 at the Statehouse, leaving many, including Providence Bishop Thomas J. Tobin, to question the governor's choice of such secular terminology in referring to a symbol most commonly associated with the Christian celebration of Christmas.

"Governor Chafee's decision to avoid the word Christmas at the Statehouse ceremony is most disheartening and divisive," said Bishop Tobin, in a statement released to the media the evening of Nov. 29.

"It is sad that such a secular spirit has swept over our state. The governor's decision ignores long-held American traditions and is an affront to the faith of many citizens," the bishop said. "For the sake of peace and harmony in our state at this special time of the year, I respectfully

encourage the governor to reconsider his decision to use the word Christmas in the state observance."

Earlier that day, Chafee said in a statement that he is only following in the footsteps of how previous governors have termed the event.

"Use of the term 'holiday tree' is a continuation of past practice, and does not represent a change of course on my part," the governor said.

The governor, attempting to diffuse the controversy, then suggested that those with opinions on both sides of the tree issue instead refocus their energy on helping the less fortunate.

"I would encourage all those engaged in this discussion — whatever their opinion on the matter — to use their energy and enthusiasm to make a positive difference in the lives of their fellow Rhode Islanders."

Father Timothy Reilly, chancellor of the diocese, reaffirmed the irony of Chafee's message.

"In the governor's attempts to unify, his decision has done quite the opposite," Father Reilly said. "The irony is that we see more confusion and lack of unity. Christmas is a precious and sacred word in our faith vocabulary."

FORT WAYNE VINCENTIANS GATHER FOR MASS WITH BISHOP RHOADES



JOE ROMIE

Members of the Fort Wayne St. Vincent de Paul Society gathered for their annual Mass and breakfast with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Mary Catholic Church on Saturday, Dec. 3. Concelebrating with the bishop were Father Thu Pham from St. Patrick and Father Cyril Fernandes from St. John the Baptist, representing the two parishes that co-sponsored this year's event. Bishop Rhoades spoke in his homily about St. Francis Xavier, one of the Church's greatest missionaries, and thanked members of the society for their service and charity. After the Mass, all gathered in the adjacent hall for a breakfast meeting featuring President Cheryl Mowan giving an overview of the organization's past year's highlights and the presenting of the annual "Top Hat" awards to individuals for exceptional service.



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Bradley Wilson and his wife Ryan have been married for 3 years and have a 2 year old daughter. They belong to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. Brad is a member of Decatur Council 864 and the servicing agent for Decatur, Wabash, and Peru councils. Whatever stage of life you are in, just out of school, newly married, starting a family, or ready to retire The Knights of Columbus has the right product for you. "I am proud to carry on Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney's vision everyday with integrity, protecting brother Knights and their families." For your free personal review and to take advantage of the products the Knights of Columbus has created for you contact Brad Wilson at (260)570-8080 or bradley.wilson@kofc.org.

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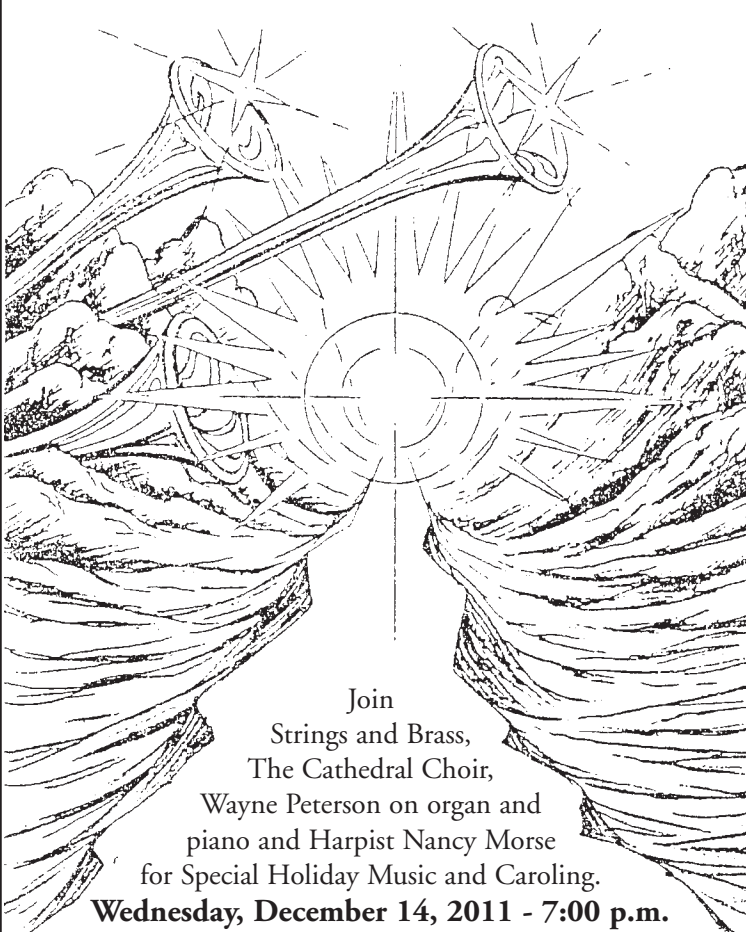
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HHS defends decision on funding trafficking victims program to Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops program aiding victims of human trafficking was denied funding after its administrators declined to propose alternatives to a government requirement that female victims receive “the full range of legally permissible gynecological and obstetric care,” a Department of Health and Human Services official told a congressional committee. Under grueling questioning from Republican members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Dec. 1, George Sheldon, acting assistant secretary of the Administration for Children and Families, said he made the final decision to award grants worth \$4.7 million to three other agencies that agreed to provide access to services such as abortion, contraception and sterilization under the National Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program. The committee hearing was called as House members investigated why the bishop’s Migration and Refugee Services department was denied funding for its program despite receiving high scores during a review of its application for \$2.5 million for another year of work and its positive track record of assisting nearly 2,800 trafficking victims and family members since 2006. Johnny Young, executive director of the bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services, which contracted with the government to assist trafficking victims, told Catholic News Service that he explained to Sheldon the agency could work with alternatives “but we didn’t offer any alternatives.” “We just said we wouldn’t do anything that would violate Church teaching,” Young said. Several Republican committee members charged during the three-hour hearing that the final decision to deny funding to MRS demonstrated an anti-Catholic bias within the administration of President Barack Obama. Committee members expressed concern that federal laws governing conscience rights in declining to offer abortion services were ignored by HHS officials in awarding the grants.

Maryland interfaith leaders pledge to defend traditional marriage

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Leaders of a newly formed pro-marriage coalition came out swinging against efforts to legalize same-sex marriage in Maryland, pledging in a Nov. 30 news conference to rally citizens across the state to defeat legislation that would alter the traditional definition of marriage. Gathered at First Apostolic Faith Church International in Baltimore, representatives of the interfaith, nonpartisan Maryland Marriage Alliance said they will not be intimidated by those who would call their position “bigoted.” They warned that religious liberties could be threatened with the passage of same-sex marriage legisla-

CHRISTMAS TREE PLACED IN ST. PETER’S SQUARE AT VATICAN



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

The Christmas tree is placed in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Dec. 5. This year’s tree is a 100 foot-tall spruce from the Ukraine.

tion. “Politicians in Annapolis with an eye toward appeasing out-of-state interest groups and future runs for potential higher office may think they are helping their career (by passing same-sex marriage),” said the Rev. Derek McCoy, executive director of the Maryland Marriage Alliance, “but they are forgetting that all politics is local.” Following a passionate debate on the floor of the House of Delegates, a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in Maryland died in the last legislative session after it was recommitted to the House Judiciary Committee March 11. Gov. Martin J. O’Malley, a Catholic, has promised to push for the passage of a similar bill in the 2012 legislative session, agreeing with same-sex marriage activists to sponsor the bill. McCoy said there is a groundswell of support for traditional marriage, asserting that his group already has representation of 250,000 people. The majority of Marylanders who support traditional marriage “will not lie down in the face of renewed efforts to redefine this institution to a genderless construct totally at odds with human history and religious teachings,” he said.

Changes in parishes coming for Detroit Archdiocese in 2012

DETROIT (CNS) — Nine metro Detroit parishes will close over the next five years if Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron accepts the recommendations a mostly lay advisory board approved Nov. 30. Another 60 par-

ishes would be merged down to 21 if the recommendations of Detroit’s Archdiocesan Pastoral Council are accepted as presented. At a news conference Dec. 1, Archbishop Vigneron said he expects to announce a revised pastoral plan for the Archdiocese of Detroit by mid-February, after reviewing the recommendations and considering the input of other consultative bodies. Altogether, the changes would reduce to 222 — down from 270 — the number of parishes in the six counties of the archdiocese. While local media focused on the issue of church closings, Archbishop Vigneron emphasized that parish reorganization was only an aspect of a pastoral plan intended “to move the life of the Church forward.” It is necessary to reorganize the parishes so the archdiocese will be in a better “position to bring people back to the practice of the faith and also offer the graces of Church membership to new people.” A great deal of the voluminous material in the recommendations — all of which may be viewed at www.aodonline.org — concerns proposals for how parishes can cooperate to better serve the mission of the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, in the Archdiocese of Boston, a proposal is under consideration to organize parishes into small groups to share resources, which it says will allow parishes to focus on the work of evangelization. The plan, put forward by the Archdiocesan Planning Commission, was set to be unveiled at a gathering of all the priests in the archdiocese Dec. 5 and released to the public Dec. 6. However, details

of the plan became public Dec. 1 after the media obtained documents describing the plan distributed in preparation for the priests’ gathering.

CUA president pleased ruling confirms legality of single-sex dorms

WASHINGTON (CNS) — John Garvey, president of The Catholic University of America, said he was “gratified” by the dismissal of a complaint filed against the university saying its single-sex dorms discriminated against women. “We were confident from the beginning that our actions were entirely legal,” Garvey said in a statement. The Nov. 29 order by the District of Columbia’s Office of Human Rights said offering only single-sex dormitories is not unlawful discrimination under the city’s Human Rights Act. It noted that if colleges were to comply with the complaint’s reasoning, it would cause “a prohibition on same-sex bathrooms, locker rooms and sports teams, which would lead to absurd results.” The complaint was filed by John Banzhaf, a public-interest law professor at George Washington University, also in Washington. Banzhaf filed another complaint in October against Catholic University, saying the school discriminated against Muslim students by failing to provide prayer rooms free of Catholic symbols. The complaint is still pending before the Human Rights Office. In an Oct. 28 statement to parents, students and faculty members, Garvey called that com-

plaint a “manufactured controversy.” The order dismissing the complaint against single-sex dorms pointed out that Banzhaf only provided “conjecture and speculation” instead of facts about how single-sex dorms might negatively affect women. It also said Banzhaf “has not demonstrated that women would not have equivalent access to educational opportunities or be subject to any material harm.”

On World AIDS Day, Vatican renews call for greater access to therapy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The deaths each year of more than a million people from AIDS, the suffering of their families and the new infections of hundreds of thousands of infants are unacceptable when the medicines needed to prevent them exist, a Vatican official said. Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, said World AIDS Day must be a time “to promote universal access to therapies for those who are infected, the prevention of transmission from mother to child, and education” in responsible sexuality. In a statement Dec. 1, he said that despite the development of antiretroviral drugs 20 years ago, an estimated 1.8 million people still die of AIDS each year. “These are people who could lead normal lives if they only had access to suitable pharmacological therapies,” he said. The deaths “are no longer justifiable,” the archbishop said, nor is the pain experienced by their families and fact that hundreds of thousands of children are orphaned each year.

Christian families are key part of new evangelization, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian families are called to welcome, demonstrate and spread the love and presence of Christ in the world, Pope Benedict XVI said. A family, founded on the marriage of a man and woman and open to having children, is “the human space for an encounter with Christ,” he said Dec. 1 in a speech to members of the Pontifical Council for the Family. The council, founded by Pope John Paul II, was marking the 30th anniversary of its establishment by focusing on the role of the family in the “new evangelization.” The pope said: “The eclipse of God, the spread of ideologies contrary to the family and the degradation of sexual ethics appear to be connected.” In the same way, he said, “the new evangelization is inseparable from the Christian family.” Like the Church as a whole, the Christian family “is called to welcome, radiate and demonstrate the love and presence of Christ in the world,” he said. The family does so by being a community of lifelong, self-giving love, he said. It is open to welcoming new life, it educates its members in the faith and in charity, and its civic involvement and charitable activity is motivated by faith.

Wabash Knights of Columbus honored

WABASH — At the November meeting, Wabash Council 2957 Grand Knight Kevin Hipskind received the Double Star Council Award from District Deputy Chris Shoaf. In Indiana, Wabash was one of three councils to receive this honor out of 185 councils. Nationally, only 348 councils received this award from a total of nearly 14,000 councils.

St. Bernard Church is a small parish of 285 families. The Knights sponsor coffee and doughnuts each week and a pancake and sausage breakfast the first weekend of each month.

The council has donated \$10,000 to St. Bernard School for each of the last five years.

In addition, they helped with the remodeling of the kitchen at the school.

Wabash also received the Santa Maria Award this year for strong performance. Activities that helped the council to receive this award included being the first in the state to place a sonogram machine at the L.I.F.E. Center at 78 W. Hill St. in Wabash, starting a Round Table at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in North Manchester and organizing a Squires program for the youth of both parishes.

The Wabash Knights also hold annual fundraisers for the Gibault School in Terre Haute, Special Olympics, Arc and Vernon Manor in Wabash.

Wabash has partnered with the Granger Council 4263 to carry out the sonogram machine endeavor. Each bishop, Knights' council and Catholic organization in the state received a letter explaining how the ultrasound initiative works. The goal is to place 14 machines in the state. Currently five are in place.

If one knows of a life, pregnancy or Women's Care Center that would like a sonogram machine contact the Grand Knight of the local Knight's council, or the Wabash and Granger councils will be glad to help. Please call Jim Almeda in Wabash at (260) 571-5724 or Dick Dornbos in Granger at (574) 271-7853.

Law professor named consultant to U.S. bishops' committee on religious liberty

NOTRE DAME— Richard W. Garnett, professor of law at the University of Notre Dame, has been appointed as a consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty. The committee updated the bishops on religious liberty issues at the conference's meeting in Baltimore Nov. 14 to 16.

Garnett is associate dean for faculty research at Notre Dame Law School and a concurrent professor of political science. He teaches and writes about the freedoms of speech, association and religion, and also about constitutional law more generally.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. THOMAS EIGHTH-GRADE ANGELS



PROVIDED BY ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

The eighth-graders of St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart, pictured here, participate in an annual service project involving a neighbor of the school. O.J. Pippenger, who has a long-standing relationship with the school and parish community, owns the property south of St. Thomas the Apostle School. He enjoys listening to the children playing on the school playground located next to his drive during their recess time. Pippenger, who is now spending most of his time visiting his wife in a local nursing home, is no longer able to work in his yard and around his house. So the eighth-grade students took charge of cleaning his yard. St. Thomas student Katherine Rice commented, "This is a great project to help someone in need. We are able to take a few minutes of our time to help out our St. Thomas School neighbor. Mr. Pippenger calls us his St. Thomas Angels."

USF graduate nursing degree ranked among best

FORT WAYNE — The family nurse practitioner (FNP) track in the master of science in nursing at the University of Saint Francis has been ranked among the best graduate nursing programs in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The nursing program ranking was based on the results of peer assessment surveys sent to deans, other administrators and/or faculty at accredited degree programs or schools. USF's FNP program ranked 99th.

The USF nursing program's quality and desirability reflect in its enrollment, pass rate and high employment rates, said Amy Knepp, assistant professor and chair of the USF Department of Nursing. "We are over capacity this year in enrollment," she said. "Our pass rate in the past five years tops 95 percent, and 98 percent of our graduates seeking jobs are employed."

"We are pleased with this ranking for our excellent FNP graduate program," said university President Sister M. Elise Kriss, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. "That peer nursing education administrators rate our university's program among the nation's best

indicates the high quality of our faculty and facilities, and our dedication to graduating nurses of skill and compassion."

Christ Child Festival held this Dec. 16-18

FORT WAYNE — The 60th Annual Christ Child Festival with the theme, "Guide Us to Thy Perfect Light," is a celebration of the true meaning of Christmas. It is being held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on the following dates:

- Friday, Dec. 16, 6-9 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 17, 12-8 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 18, 12-6 p.m.

The Christ Child Festival is one of Fort Wayne's oldest festivals, and it is the last festival of its kind in the United States, according to organizers. Since its founding in 1951, the festival has opposed increasing commercialism by offering a free venue where Christ alone is the focus. All Christian churches, organizations and ethnic groups are encouraged to participate with a performance, booth or display without solicitation or selling.

The festival features live music, displays, refreshments, fellowship, booths, a live Nativity with real animals, clowns, face painting and children's crafts and games.

FRANCISCAN BROTHERS MINOR PROFESS SIMPLE VOWS



JOE ROMIE

Two of the Franciscan Brothers Minor in Fort Wayne professed simple vows to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Nov. 29 at St. Andrew Church. Brother Crispin Maria of Our Lady, Help of Christians, left of bishop and Brother Pio Maria of the Co-Redemptrix, right, vowed for the next three years to observe the Rule of the Friars Minor, living in total consecration to the Immaculate Mary, with obedience, without property, and with chastity. Bishop Rhoades explained these vows as a "commitment of love." The Mass was followed by a potluck dinner and celebration.

Admission is free. Parking is \$4.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a "gift" to present to baby Jesus at the live Nativity. A non-perishable food item for the Associated Churches Food Bank, or a baby item to be donated to local crisis pregnancy centers is encouraged. A veteran's tree will also provide the opportunity to remember service members from our community with a gift or card for the holiday season.

Special musical performances this year will include a free concert by national recording artist Peder Eide at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and a concert by world champion gold medal winners Voices of Unity Choir at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Visit Christ Child Festival Inc. on Facebook for more information or contact Dale Gerber at (260) 740-9008.

Cathedral Choir to present Christmas concert

FORT WAYNE — The choir of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will present their annual Christmas concert on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m.

This free concert is under the direction of Cathedral Music and Liturgy Director Michael Dulac. The choir will present a selection of Advent and Christmas carols, motets and anthems.

A portion of the concert this year will feature several movements from the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah." Featuring soloists from the Cathedral Choir, this portion of the concert will be accompanied by a string quartet. Additional instrumentalists include Nancy Morse, harpist, Wayne Peterson, piano and organ, and brass quartet.

The cathedral is located on Calhoun Street in downtown Fort Wayne and there is ample free parking.

Festival of Lessons and Carols returns to St. Bavo

MISHAWAKA — The Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols returns to St. Bavo Dec. 11, featuring youth from all over Mishawaka and South Bend.

Joe Higgenbotham, St. Bavo's director of liturgy and music, created what has become an annual family tradition built on Scripture, reflection and prayer.

The program is based on the Anglican Service of Lessons and Carols, first promoted by Episcopal Bishop F.W. Benson in Britain in 1880. According to the BBC's "Faith Features," the service weaves traditional Christmas carols with "nine tiny lessons" from the Bible, which together tell the salvation story. It later became a staple in Christmas worship in Episcopal, Anglican and Lutheran churches.

In recent times, Catholic Churches have adopted it — not as a substitute for Mass, Scripture study or private devotions — but as an enhancement to them. Since the liturgical year is structured to connect Old Testament prophecy with its fulfillment in the Gospels and Epistles, the selected readings fit well into its tradition.

Higgenbotham says that the St. Bavo program will mix old favorites with some new work.

"We are doing several new

pieces — 'One Small Child,' 'Be Born in Me,' and 'Hallelujah, the Light Has Come,'" he said. "We'll be featuring Stacie Bert, Taylor Calderone, John Banes and Caty Long as soloists."

The Scripture readings will be proclaimed by youth lectors from various area parishes, all of whom belong to the Antioch Youth Group in Mishawaka.

The "lessons" of Scripture begin with the fall of Adam and Eve, and end with the story of the Three Kings, when Christ becomes the "light of revelation" to all humanity.

The program will begin at 4 p.m. Dec. 11 and is free and open to the public.

Correction

A Nov. 27, 2011 *Today's Catholic* article, "Knights' fundraiser benefits Gibault Children Services" stated that, "Gibault will no longer be a campus-based facility, but will serve through satellite mental health sites and possible peripheral services."

Today's Catholic has been notified by the Gibault School that this statement is not accurate. Gibault will continue to provide residential treatment to those served on the Terre Haute campus. These programs and services provided in Terre Haute are for children from all over Indiana and will not be changing.

Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana:

Investing in the work of Christ

BY HARRY VERHILEY

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana was formed in 1994 as a means of providing for the financial future of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The foundation is comprised of more than 100 endowments that are invested and the interest earned is used exclusively for the purposes for which each endowment was established. The funds include financial support for specific diocesan or parish work, such as tuition assistance for a parish school or the newly established Blessed John Paul II Seminarian Education Fund.

Many parishes and parish schools have established an endowment because a parish may grow spiritually and physically, causing more financial need. Parishes sometimes experience fluctuations and short falls in offertory collections and school tuitions that may lead to deferred maintenance, difficulty retaining good teachers, or the need for ministry cutbacks.

Endowments help stabilize parish income through planned giving.

A pastor, or an individual donor, may establish an endowment fund within the Catholic Community Foundation for a specific ongoing parish need.

It is very simple to establish an



endowment within the Catholic Community Foundation. The minimum requirement to establish an endowment is \$5,000. There are no start-up costs and no annual management fee. The endowment will be listed in the diocesan annual report and promoted throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The parish will also receive periodic reports on the endowment's balance.

The best way to grow a parish endowment is by way of planned gifts, such as bequests. Parishioners are simply asked to remember their parish by leaving a bequest to their parish endowment in their will as the last step of Christian stewardship.

The Catholic Community Foundation provides an easy

means to give a planned gift as a very real way of expressing gratitude to God for a lifetime of blessings, as well as a means of responsible estate planning since there are various tax benefits. The planned gift is also an investment in the future of the Church.

There are many ways you can give to the Catholic Community Foundation. To find out more, email stewardship@diocese-fwsb.org or call the Office of Stewardship and Development in Fort Wayne: (260) 399-1405, or South Bend: (574) 258-6571.

Harry Verhiley is the director of the Office of Development

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- RSVP (Retire Senior Volunteer Program)
- Senior AIDES Employment
- Villa of the Woods... Senior Residential Living

Diocese establishes endowment fund for seminarian education

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — One of the major challenges facing the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend today is the cost of college education for its seminarians. The annual cost of a seminarian's education is roughly \$45,000, reported Harry Verhiley, director of the diocesan Development Office.

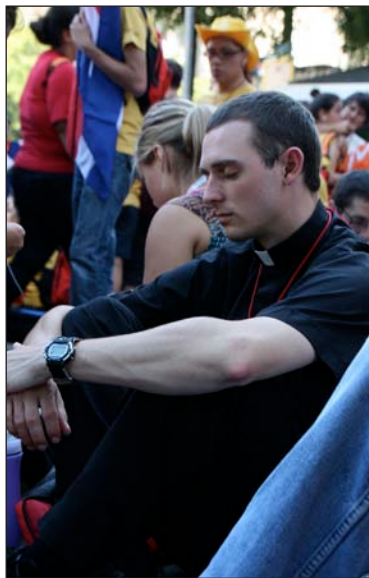
There are several sources of revenue to provide the resources needed for the education of seminarians of the diocese. These include the newly established Blessed John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education, the Annual Bishop's Appeal and the Pentecost Collection for Education of Seminarians, which brought in \$278,035 last June.

"I am immensely grateful to the faithful of our diocese for their generosity in the Pentecost collection this past June," Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades told *Today's Catholic*. "This recently-established annual collection is necessary, given the increased numbers of seminarians in our diocese and the costs of their seminary education. I knew, in instituting this collection, that our people would respond generously because of their love for the priesthood that flows from their love for Christ and His Church."

The Blessed John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education will also be beneficial in funding seminarian education.

According to Verhiley, "The Blessed John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education is a permanent fund invested in the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana (CCF) to provide income for the education of our diocesan seminarians."

"The initial donated amount of money, referred to as principal, is never spent or disbursed, but invested," Verhiley said. "The



income is there every year and can be relied upon in planning for seminarian education budgets."

"In the interest of the donor," Verhiley said, "it gives assurance that the gift will continue to give; and the blessings will continue to flow long after the tax benefit is received."

Bishop Rhoades told *Today's Catholic*, "Many know that the promotion of priestly vocations is one of my top priorities as bishop. This is natural since the priesthood, a gift from the Lord to His Church, is necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist."

"Good and holy priests are needed for the celebration of the sacraments, the teaching of the faith and the pastoral leadership of our parishes," Bishop Rhoades continued. "We have 81 parishes in our diocese and I hope that we will always have a sufficient number of priests to staff our parishes."

"In some areas of the country," Bishop Rhoades noted, "parishes have had to close due to the lack of priests and also for other reasons (e.g. shifting demographics). My hope is that in the future we will have more priests to continue the fine work of our many

priests who are working so faithfully and diligently in the service of our people."

"I am deeply grateful for the initiative and the generosity of the members of our Catholic Community Foundation Advisory Board in creating the Blessed John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education," Bishop Rhoades said. "This endowment fund is needed to provide for the long-term future of our financial support of seminarian education. I think this initiative will be well received by our people in their financial planning of charitable giving as they consider beneficiaries for their wills and bequests. I think many will want to remember this need as they discern how to make a return to the Lord for His incred-



PHOTOS BY KAY COZAD

ible goodness to us."

Susan Dampeer, a member of Christ the King Parish, South Bend, and president of the Catholic Community Foundation, said, "When I learned of the need for additional support for the education of seminarians in our diocese I felt called to do something. My nephew was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Kalamazoo this summer and my husband (John) and I made a donation (to the Blessed John Paul II endowment) in honor of this wonderful event. Throughout my life I have been blessed to know many extraordinary priests. It is a joy to be able to support the education of these men who will positively influence the lives of my children and



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

grandchildren."

Bishop Rhoades selected Blessed John Paul II as the name for this endowment fund since the late pope was a great and holy model of the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Rhoades said of Blessed John Paul II, "He not only wrote eloquently about the gift and mystery of the priesthood, he also lived it through his own example of self-giving love in imitation of Christ, the great High Priest and Good Shepherd."

"It is hard for me to predict a continuing increase in the number of seminarians in the future, but I am very hopeful," Bishop Rhoades said. "We have seen a good increase these past two years, and from my conversations with many young men throughout our diocese, I see openness on the part of many to the possibility that God might be calling them to the priesthood. This is a good sign."

"I believe that God is indeed calling many young men to the priesthood," Bishop Rhoades continued. "It is our job to help men in their discernment of this call. It is also our job to pray for

vocations to the priesthood. Jesus Himself said: 'Pray the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into his vineyard.'"

"The established amount of the Blessed John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education is relatively small at \$12,832, yet it is very important to initiate the fund as a means of accepting planned gifts," Verhiley reported.

"The most common planned gift is a bequest," Verhiley added. "A bequest to the Blessed John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education is simply a gift from the donor's estate left in their will. Of course, other planned gifts like annuities can be established; as well as gifts of stock, mutual funds, real estate and other assets."

If a donor wishes to give a cash donation to the Blessed John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education, gifts may be sent to:

**Blessed John Paul II Fund
for Seminarian Education
Diocese of Fort Wayne-
South Bend
915 S. Clinton St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802**

"Certainly, we ask all members of the diocese to continue supporting the Annual Bishop's Appeal and the annual Pentecost Collection for Education of Seminarians," Verhiley noted. "Bequests and other planned gifts to the Blessed John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education endowment may not be right for everyone. We ask that our families discern whether a bequest, charitable gift annuity or other planned giving method may be appropriate for their situation — if so, please remember the Blessed John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education."

For additional information, contact the office of Stewardship and Development at (260) 399-1405 in Fort Wayne, (574) 258-6571 in South Bend, or email the office at stewardship@diocesefwsb.org.



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Mike Richardville, MBA

Called to welcome Catholics home

“So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran toward his son, embraced him and kissed him.” — Luke 15:20

On July 23 of this year I sat in the intensive care waiting room with dear friends as we waited for word from doctors on the condition of my husband Gary. As the vigil wore on I was overcome with the need to go home. I looked at our friends and said I needed to get Gary and just go home. I knew if we could just go home we would be safe.

Going home ... there is in all of us the desire to go home, to go to the place we know and where we have been known. There is in us a longing, a homesickness that we don't always understand.

The history of the Catholic Church is replete with theologians, saints, great thinkers, holy people and people just like you and me who have journeyed away from the

Church, often with very good reason and yet despite all logic still long to come home to the place where the roots of love first took hold and refuse to let us go.

Catholics Come Home is an overt call, an invitation to respond to this longing. We are all very aware that no home is perfect, there is no home where there is not pain woven into the very fabric of who we are and who we will be in the future as “family.” This pain is real and deserves attention but it is only part of the narrative. For those of us who are firmly rooted in our faith communities Catholics Come Home offers us an important and unique opportunity to consider how we will receive those who will return to our “homes.”

Many who have left have done so because of serious wounds inflicted by those who have been called to serve in the Church but also by those of us sitting in the pews. Some have left because



MARY GLOWASKI

GUEST
COMMENTARY

of complacency. Some have left because they feel they are not welcome or feel unworthy. Some have left because they have very real and difficult issues to confront in their relationship with the Church, others because they feel they have sinned so grievously that reconciliation is impossible. Leaving in many cases was not an easy path. Coming home will in all likelihood hold challenges.

In our diocese we are blessed

GUEST, PAGE 11

A time to rejoice



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday in Advent Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

This weekend the Church celebrates “Gaudete Sunday,” the name coming from the opening word of the Entrance Antiphon. In Latin, “gaudete” means “to rejoice.” Rejoicing is not indicated because Advent, and its stress on prayer and penance, is half completed, but rather because Christmas is nearer.

Another reason for rejoicing is that, hopefully, we all feel closer to God as a result of observing Advent with prayer, reflection and penance. If we have used Advent as intended by the Church, we are nearer to a fuller communion with the Lord, the “light of the world.”

Priests may wear rose-colored vestments on this weekend, symbolizing the dark violet of Advent already being lightened by the forthcoming light of the Lord's arrival in our souls.

The third part of Isaiah furnishes the first reading. When this passage was written, God's people were weary and frustrated.

They, or their forebears, had undergone the humiliation, uncertainty and misery of exile in Babylon. When allowed, finally, to leave Babylon and return to their homeland, they understandably were overjoyed.

They found, however, a sterile and parched land awaiting them.

Life was brutally hard. Had God tricked them? Did God provide for their release from Babylon only to subject them to further trials at home? Did God exist, anyway?

Typically for Third Isaiah, this reading glows with optimism. Whatever may be the reality of the moment, for those loyal to God, a wondrous future awaits.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians provides the second reading. Belief in the Lord's Second Coming, and impatience to see it occur, were widespread in the first generations of Christianity. This reading is typical for this period.

Longing for the Second Coming among the early Christians is not hard to explain. They had much to endure. Actual persecution had developed. The culture all around the Christians was hostile. Temptations to renounce the Gospel abounded.

Paul reassured the Christians of Thessalonica, telling them to be true to the Gospel. God, and God's goodness, will one day prevail.

St. John's Gospel is the source of the last reading. The reading is a story about John the Baptist, whose own identity puzzled his contemporaries. Some even assumed that John was the Messiah. If not the Messiah, others wondered if he were Elijah, or another prophet who had returned to earth.

Replying to these questions, John was very firm. Another would follow him, he insisted. John was to prepare the way for this future representative of God, who would be wonderful for all humanity. John is not worthy even to untie the straps of his sandals.

Reflection

In calling us to rejoice this Gaudete weekend, the Church either presumes that we have spent

the weeks of Advent pondering within ourselves the meaning of salvation for us personally and individually, or it urges us to use the remaining time in this season to seek God with all our hearts.

Excitedly, the liturgy proclaims that when the Lord's kingdom comes, how wonderful it will be! “Gaudete!” Rejoice!

Why? When the Lord's kingdom comes, death and evil indeed will end. Still, we must turn to God. We must admit God into our hearts. This means that we must reject our own sin.

Many influences will divert our will from rejecting sin. The effort will require time, discipline and focus. We must be faithful, as Paul counseled the Thessalonian Christians, but we will not be patient in vain.

Always the good teacher, the Church, through the last reading from John's Gospel, instructs us to look for Jesus, as Jesus actually is, and not to create our own false version of the messiah.

Jesus was obedient to God. Our lives and hearts must reflect Jesus. This is the purpose — and reward — of Advent.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a 10-11 (Ps) Lk 1:46-50, 53-54 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Zec 2:14-17 (Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19 Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23 Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18:21b-25 Ps 85:9ab-14 Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13 Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8 Jn 5:33-36

Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:3-4, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

Imagining Mary: Christmas paintings that open our eyes

I've been shopping for the perfect Christmas card, sifting through Nativity scenes framed in holly berries and bows.

None of the Marys feel right. The lips are taut. The face, unblemished. We see none of the bliss and bewilderment that must have surged after birthing the Son of God. We see no emotion at all — serenity as vacancy, sainthood as sedation.

This year's traditional Christmas stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service, Raphael's “Madonna of the Candelabra,” shows a stoic Mary casting her eyes away from her infant. Painted in the early 16th century, it was a product of the Italian High Renaissance, but it's hard to imagine the new mom letting a single moment pass without studying the Savior in her hands.

Eventually I found a card that compelled me, the store's last boxed set of its kind. First I noticed the baby, who looks, as he should: like a baby. Brown fuzzy hair, apples for cheeks and a light in his eyes. Mary holds him close, kissing his right cheek.

The painting was inspired 11 years ago when Morgan Weistling, now a 47-year-old father in California, heard Steve Amerson's song “Mary, Did You Know?” on the radio. It was the Dolly Parton version.

One phrase stood out to him: “when you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God.”

“Immediately I felt I was supposed to paint this,” Weistling told me. “I had been praying and asking God, ‘Give me an idea here.’”

Amerson's phrasing appealed to him. “This little child she bore was God in the flesh, and yet, she cuddled and kissed him just as all mothers do.”

The painting poured out of Weistling in three days. He didn't feel the need to sketch in charcoal on his canvas to begin, as he usually does; it was oil paint right away. He didn't go back to make any alterations. The first draft was the final.

Weistling's paintings are so realistic they look like pictures, and he uses people as models. His Mary was 16, a brunette named Katie who had a “sweet humbleness to her,” Weistling said. “It wouldn't have worked with a blonde.”

The baby was of Jewish descent, born to a woman with a crack addiction and recently placed in a foster home.

Weistling knew he needed to master Mary's kiss, rendering it tender, not “hokey.” Her left hand, pressing the swaddled baby to her heart, also was crucial. Weistling had long admired the way Mary's marble hand grips Jesus' side in Michelangelo's *Pietà*.

Weistling's published image,



TWENTY
SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI



“Kissing The Face Of God,”
by Morgan Weistling.

titled “Kissing The Face Of God,” sold out in two weeks. It remains his most popular painting — “my big gift from God,” he said — and the only original he's kept, despite a standing offer of \$100,000.

Every year Weistling receives requests to reproduce the image. One year National Geographic used it for a corporate Christmas card.

The painting speaks to the brokenhearted, Weistling told me. “A lot of women who have lost a child really attach to ‘Kissing The Face of God.’”

I'm grateful to the artists who help us see ourselves in the Blessed Mother, because she is for everyone. I once spoke to a victim of clergy abuse who had lost her Catholic faith but held on to Mary. I read about a woman whose conversion to Catholicism began in labor, when she called on Mary in urgent prayer: “Don't abandon me now.”

This season we celebrate the mother who brings us to God with such capacity for love and grief and everything in between.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.

Vatican II treasure hunt: Committee seeks bishops' notes, diaries

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With a view toward the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, a pontifical committee has launched a worldwide treasure hunt.

Many of the more than 2,800 cardinals and bishops who participated in all or part of the 1962-65 council kept diaries, or at least notes; some wrote articles for their diocesan newspapers and most — in the days before emails and relatively cheap trans-Atlantic phone calls — wrote letters home.

The Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences is asking Church archivists, and even the family members of deceased council fathers, to look through their papers to find reflections that can add a personal touch to the historical research already conducted on the official acts of the council.

In planning a Vatican II anniversary conference, Norbertine Father Bernard Ardura, committee president, said he is well aware that the treasures unearthed can become the object of squabbles over whether they add to an authentic or fraudulent reading of the council.

The committee is promoting “a balanced and scientifically grounded” historical study of the council, in line with the teaching of the pope and “devoid of any ideological inspiration,” he wrote in his project proposal.

Father Ardura said there are two extreme “currents” in reference to the council: “For some people it was a unique event that marked a rupture — there’s a ‘before’ and ‘after’ Vatican II; for others, it wasn’t even a real council because it did not formulate dogma, and no excommunications were issued.”

But for the committee, “it’s important to work outside these currents and opinions and do work based on the documentation,” he said.

In an interview in late November, Father Ardura said the committee contacted archivists last spring and urged a careful search in the diocesan archives and personal papers of bishops who

attended the council. By March they should have the beginnings of a decent catalogue of the material and its location.

In October, the committee will sponsor an international conference aimed at sharing progress in cataloguing the information and, especially, offering researchers ideas about areas ripe for further study given the availability of documentation.

A conference for historians looking more at the substance of the Second Vatican Council’s teaching and at the various interpretations given those teachings is tentatively planned for 2015 — the 50th anniversary of the council’s closing, he said.

The 63-year-old French Norbertine has some personal recollections of his own. A student in the minor seminary in 1962, he remembers attending a huge, solemn Mass in Bordeaux celebrated by Cardinal Paul-Marie-Andre Richaud just before he left for the council. And, he said, he remembers the seminary rector renting a television so the students could watch the formal opening of the council: “It was the first time a television entered the seminary.”

Father Ardura said the council fathers’ personal papers should give people an idea of what the bishops thought going into the council and whether, to what extent and why their attitudes changed as the council continued.

From research on the official published acts of the council and the published diaries of major personalities at the council, he said, it was clear many bishops thought they’d come to Rome and approve a few statements written by the pope and Vatican officials on the liturgy and on the mystery of the Church.

“But they ended up talking about everything,” he said. In four sessions, the council issued documents on Scripture, ecumenism, relations with other religions, communications, religious freedom, religious orders and other subjects.

“For many, they had never even been to a meeting of the

THE VATICAN LETTER

CINDY WOODEN

bishops of their own country” — bishops’ conferences didn’t exist in most countries, he said. “This was their first experience of collegiality.”

“But it’s also true that, little by little, different currents developed,” trying to draw the Church one way or another, he said. The personal letters, notes and diaries may shed more light on the personalities involved and how they tried to influence other council members.

Even setting aside the council’s discussions, Father Ardura also said he expects the research to underline big, even revolutionary changes, in the Church over the past 50 years.

For one thing, he said, while all the world’s bishops were invited to the council and many from Africa participated, in the 1960s most of the heads of African dioceses were missionaries from Europe. He said he suspects their personal papers are in the archives of their religious orders in Rome.

Another issue stems from the fact that, up until 1966, very few bishops retired; they tended to die in office, he said. After the council, Pope Paul VI asked bishops to voluntarily offer to resign at age 75 — which became a requirement with the Code of Canon Law promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1983.

What that has meant for archivists, Father Ardura said, was that even the personal papers of bishops who died in office tended to be filed in the diocesan archives. Bishops who retire at 75 obviously leave official papers with the diocese, but they tend to take their personal papers with them. That’s why family members of bishops at Vatican II are being asked to help, he said.

On July 23 my Gary was called home to his perfect home. We know in faith that when those we love are called to the next part of their journey they are received with perfect and unimaginable love.

While on earth we are called to be an expression and extension of this very same love. We cannot be perfect, but in humility we know this love that comes from God can create the space — the “thin place” where God can slip in, capture hearts and bring them home.

Mary Glowaski is the Secretariat for Evangelization and Special Ministries for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 11, 2011

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle B: John’s Gospel about John the Baptist’s ministry. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

A MAN	FROM GOD	TESTIFY
LIGHT	BELIEVE	JOHN
JEWS	PRIESTS	LEVITES
DENY IT	ELIJAH	I AM NOT
ANSWER	VOICE	CRYING OUT
ISAIAH	BAPTIZING	WATER
UNTIE		BETHANY

JOHN ON THE JORDAN

```

A N N A P P R I E S T S
D O G M O R F K W L C E
E W B E T H A N Y R K T
N A M A N A Y B Y A A I
Y T J O P F B I W N L V
I E P E I T N U I S L E
T R G T H G I L S W V L
P O S J O H N Z A E A I
D E D U S N J O I R J J
T Y T Z E W M L A N G A
P O V O I C E A H G G H
W B E T H B G J I G H X
    
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For larger puzzles visit the Today’s Catholic archives at TodaysCatholicNews.org and print the puzzle at any size you like.

Saint of the Week

Virginia Centurione
Bracelli

1587-1651
December 15



Unable to persuade her parents that she had a religious vocation, Virginia was married at age 15 to the son of another notable Italian family. But he gambled, lived dissolutely and died after only five years. Virginia, despite her unhappiness in the marriage, nursed him at the end. She vowed to live celibately thereafter, bringing up her two daughters and caring for abandoned children, especially girls. She founded several schools and the Sisters of Our Lady of the Refuge on Mount Calvary. She was canonized in her hometown, Genoa, in 2003.



GUEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

with many “experts” who will help with the complicated issues that may be the root of separation. However as members of our Church family we are the frontline. We are the ones who will be encountered in grocery stores, in the school hallways, at the church doors, at our kitchen tables. Are we ready, are we willing to welcome and embrace the sometimes messy and wounded souls who long to return home? Our task, our call is not to try and fix

anything or anyone, but to be the face of Christ, to hold the pain and articulate the hope that in faith even when all looks lost there is in God possibility and healing.

We cannot decide how something in someone will be reconciled or healed. We have no say over the journey or the outcome but we do get to form a response, to decide how we will welcome and love those who are trying to find their way back. We human beings can make things very complicated. Catholics Come Home offers faith communities a wonderful opportunity to prayerfully and lovingly be ready to receive and simply hold the stories of those who are trying to find their way home.

All Diocese Team

Today's Catholic joins the Serra Club in sponsoring the All-Diocese Team, highlighting athletes from Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. These student-athletes are recognized in character, sportsmanship, leadership, athletics and Catholic values. The athletes are selected by their coaches. The All Diocese Teams are featured for fall, winter and spring sports.

Marian High School FOOTBALL



James Bowyer, senior, offensive line



Robert Mischler, senior, quarterback, St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend



Michael McNamara, senior, linebacker, St. John the Evangelist, Goshen



Eric Plude, senior, cornerback, St. Pius X, Granger



Thomas Stachowiak, senior, defensive line, St. Joseph, Mishawaka

BOYS' SOCCER



Joseph Berends, junior, midfielder



Solustrisimo (Junior) Garcia, senior, midfielder, St. Adalbert, South Bend



Julian Letizia, senior, midfielder, Christ the King, South Bend

GIRLS' SOCCER



Bridget Doyle, senior, midfielder, St. Pius X, Granger



Lauren Garatoni, senior, defender, St. Pius X, Granger



Tracy Scott, senior, defender, St. Pius X, Granger

GIRLS' GOLF



Ellen Makris, senior, St. Joseph, Mishawaka



Selena Staun, senior, Sacred Heart, Notre Dame

VOLLEYBALL



Kelly Powell, senior, outside hitter, St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend



Sophia Wilk, senior, middle hitter/outside hitter, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY



Matthew Rozycki, junior, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend



Anthony Spalding, senior, St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend

GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY



Gabrielle Skwarcan, junior, Holy Family, South Bend



Sari Tordi, sophomore, Queen of Peace, Mishawaka

BOYS' TENNIS



Michael Amor, senior, doubles, St. Jude, South Bend



Clint Lowenhar, junior, doubles, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

Bishop Luers High School

GIRLS' GOLF



Libby Devlin, senior, No. 1, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

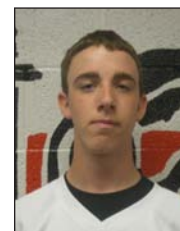


Michaela O'Shaughnessey, senior, No. 2, St. John the Baptist, New Haven

BOYS' SOCCER



Brendan Litchfield, senior, St. John the Baptist, New Haven



Brian Nichter, senior, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne



Greg Strack, senior, goalkeeper, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne

GIRLS' SOCCER



Alexa Litchfield, senior, defender, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne



Kelly Dwire, junior, midfield, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne



Addie Reibold, sophomore, midfield, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne



Annie Whitman, sophomore, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

FOOTBALL



James Knapke, senior, quarterback, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne



Casey Baker, senior, offensive line, St. Joseph, Roanoke



Andrew Yaney, senior, defensive back, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne



Matt Wood, senior, offensive guard, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne



Drew Morken, senior, tight end, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne

VOLLEYBALL



Ave Stout, senior, middle blocker, Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne



Laura Welling, senior, outside hitter, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY



Sean McManus, junior, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne



Paul Lohmuller, senior, Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne

GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY



Robin Schafer, junior



Katie Griebel, senior, St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville

BOYS' TENNIS



Mark Hellinger, sophomore, No. 2 singles, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne



Sam Scheer, junior, No. 1, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne

Saint Joseph's High School FOOTBALL



Matt Kletka, senior, offensive line, defensive line, Christ the King, South Bend



Alec Fullenkamp, senior, kicker, St. Joseph,



Pat Klima, senior, right back, center back, Christ the King, South Bend



Kevin McFadden, junior, right back, center back, St. Joseph



Ray Kowalski, junior, right back, center back, Corpus Christi, South Bend

BOYS' SOCCER



Connor Verteramo, senior, midfield, Christ the King, South Bend



Evan Witsken, senior, defense, Christ the King, South Bend



Brendan Fraleigh, junior, midfield, St. Pius X, Granger

GIRLS' SOCCER



Jessica Hall, senior, defense



Kati Kral, senior, goalkeeper,



Giuliana Carozza, senior, midfield, St. Joseph

GIRLS' GOLF



Anna Wilcoxson, junior, Holy Cross, South Bend



Allison Miller, senior, Christ the King, South Bend

BOYS' TENNIS



Nick Minaudo, senior, St. Joseph



Patrick Bruneel, senior, St. Pius X, Granger

VOLLEYBALL



Katie Hecklinski, senior, outside hitter, St. John, South Bend



Sarah Neeser, senior, opposite hitter, Christ the King, South Bend

BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY



Joey Zielinski, senior, Holy Family, South Bend

GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY



Darby Mountford, senior, St. Joseph

Bishop Dwenger High School GIRLS GOLF

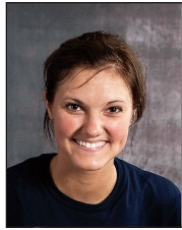


Nellie Lee, sophomore, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, Fort Wayne



Julie Mueller, junior, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne

VOLLEYBALL



Maddie Mayers, senior, middle blocker, St. Jude, Fort Wayne



Katie Rosswurm, senior, outside hitter, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne

GIRLS SOCCER



Melinda Earnest, senior, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne



Melanie Heiny, senior, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne



Aubrey Schrader, senior, St. Jude, Fort Wayne

BOYS' SOCCER



Michael Nix, senior, Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne



Cameron Schenkel, senior, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne



Blake Noll, senior, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne

GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY



Sarah Coffee, junior, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne



Michelle Marqueling, senior, St. John Baptist, New Haven

BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY



Andrew Eckrich, senior, St. Jude, Fort Wayne



James Myers, senior, Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne

BOYS TENNIS



Michael Sordelet, senior, No. 3 singles, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne



Keenun Fuller, senior, No. 2 doubles, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne

FOOTBALL



Evan Feichter, senior, defensive back, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne



Luke Tippmann, senior, defensive back, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne



Dalton Wheeler, senior, offensive back



Steven Espinoza, senior, offensive back



Blake Bowers, junior, offensive line/defensive line, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne



Nick German, junior, defensive back, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel crowned champs of pre-season tourney

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WYANE — While most people were out shopping for Black Friday deals, the boys' and girls' teams from the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) were busy kicking off their 2011-2012 basketball season. The Thanksgiving weekend tournament sponsored by Queen of Angels provides a sneak preview annually of the CYO league.

Denny Jamison, former Queen of Angels athletic director, first started coordinating the pre-season invitational for CYO teams, which originated as a Youth for Christ function.

The games were moved to the University of Saint Francis site in 1993.

Jamison said he loves running the tournament and also hosts one

over the Christmas break.

He added, "I couldn't do it without the support of people like John and Mary Nickelson, John Steigmeyer, the Saint Francis staff and all of the officials who come back year after year."

The Squires from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel started where they left off from last season sweeping both the boys' and girls' brackets and being crowned champs of the pre-season.

St. Jude was the opponent in both championship match-ups and finished runner-ups. The Lady Eagles came down to the wire three games in a row. They were sent to the consolation bracket in their first meeting with Hessen Cassel when they went neck and neck all four quarters and came up just short 37-39.

St. Jude battled their way back to the championship round

by beating St. John Emmanuel Lutheran in another nail biter — this time an overtime victory, 32-30. The third-place Tigers had a good showing over the three-day ordeal and list three players on their roster from St. Louis Academy — Lillie Castleman, Elyse Oberley and Taryn VanHorn.

On the boys' side, St. Jude advanced to the championship round to face the unbeaten Squires by downing the third-place team from St. Therese, 35-22.

Hessen Cassel Coach Jim Knapke squeezed in a trip to Indy between games and led his combined seventh- and eighth-grade squad of just seven players over the weekend to another tournament title.

"It is always good to get started and see where we stand

before the CYO season begins," explained Knapke.

Coach Mike Wolfe has been with his eighth-grade group since their fifth-grade season. For the first time, the Lady Eagles combined their roster to include seventh graders for the 2011-12 season and list a total of 12 young ladies. His older group has always been heavy with guards and he feels the size of the younger additions will make a good presence inside this year. The team's goal for the season is to compete against the St. Charles Cardinals who have won the CYO championship the past three years and make a good run in the year-end tournament.

Tim Pedro is back to finish off his eighth graders' careers and is pleased with the summer workouts and game experience his team picked up during Parks and

Rec participation.

"We gained confidence and some size," he added.

The Eagles hope to improve on their middle-of-the-pack finish (11-13) as seventh graders. St. Jude will be tested by a tough public school schedule, along with league games right away in December.

Steve Moss will handle the seventh-grade duties at St. Jude this season. He has a dozen young men to work with and feels quickness is a team strength. "We had good chemistry as sixth graders and hope to build on what they have learned so far," he determined.

He enjoys playing in the pre-season tournament explaining, "It is a good way to measure what we need to work on."

Saint Joseph's honors football team

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School honored its state runner-up squad with a luncheon at Holy Family School Sunday. Head coach Ben Downey and his staff recognized 14 seniors who won back-to-back semistate titles for the first time in school history.

Running back David Arsenault was named the most valuable back. Arsenault rushed for over 1,500 yards and 20 touchdowns, despite beginning the season primarily as a defensive player. He was joined in offensive honors by Most Valuable Linemen Jason Mulligan and John Godfrey, both

three-year starters.

Leading tackler Matt Smallbone was lauded as the Most Valuable Underclassman. The junior linebacker led the team in tackles, spearheading a defense that posted three shutouts in its tourney run.

Safety and receiver Collin Hickey received the Joseph Henion Mental Attitude Award. Hickey was unable to play at the start of the season, diagnosed with a heart condition. He never missed attending a practice and was cleared to play late in the season. His return to the lineup definitely served as a spark to the Indians' playoff run.

Seniors Matt Kletka and Nick Weidown shared the Matthew

Talley weight training award. The duo was celebrated for guiding the younger players on the team how to perform lifts safely and effectively during the off-season.

Linebacker Tate Bellegante was also accorded special recognition. The senior was named to the Associated Press Class 3-A All-State first team. Bellegante led the Indians in sacks, playing particularly well in the team's playoff run.

Coach Reggie Glon's Marian Knights had three players named to the Associated Press all-state squad. Defensive tackle Tommy Stachowiak, safety Andrew Derucki and kicker Michael Farkas were all accorded first-team honors.

Saint Joseph's community hosted annual projects

SOUTH BEND — November is the month for two of Saint Joseph's High School's largest service projects — the Work for Saint Joe and the h.o.p.e. Thanksgiving Food Drive.

This year, 538 students, parents, and teachers ventured to rake leaves and wash windows for those not able to take care of fall cleanup on their own. The Work For Saint Joe began with Mass in the gym. After Mass, everyone grabbed rakes, gathered with their groups, piled into parent-driven cars and headed for their first stop.

It takes a great deal of time and coordination to make this day successful. After names were received from Real Services and students signed up in teams through their theology classes, the organizers matched parent drivers to teams and destinations.

The annual h.o.p.e. Food Drive kicked off on Nov. 1. By the day of delivery, almost everyone in the



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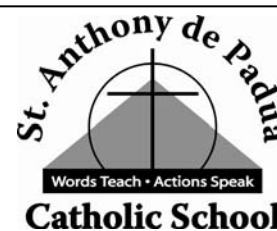
The Saint Joseph's High School community rakes leaves as part of the Work for Saint Joe project in November.

school played a role in the food drive.

All members of the Saint Joseph's community made a commitment. Sponsoring a family this year was \$50. Individual pledges ranged from \$5 to multiple families. This year 416 families were

pledged, totaling \$20,800.

What had taken weeks of preparation and hours of work disappeared from the gym within an hour. The boxes and bags of groceries were on their way to the families, as volunteer drivers delivered not only food but also hope and good wishes.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Prison ministry donates gifts

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus will have a church service and luncheon for 119 children from the area that have parents in prison. Each child will be given a Christmas gift on behalf of their parent. The program will be at St. Henry's Saturday, Dec. 10, at noon. For information call Mark at (260) 622-4042. Monetary donations are accepted.

Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Dec. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "The Beauty of Forgiveness." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by Dec. 16 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Holy Name Society to meet

New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have business meeting and election of officers Sunday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. in the community center.

NaProTECHNOLOGY

Fort Wayne — A revolutionary approach to network women's procreative health with their general health called NaProTECHNOLOGY will be presented Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the St.

Jude Parish office. RSVPs are required. Call Theresa at (260) 494-6444, e-mail chartdaily365@frontier.com or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/creightonhealth>

Volunteers still needed!

South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society will be distributing gift baskets from the Thrift Store location at 3408 Ardmore Trail on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9 and 10. Delivery times are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. until finished on Saturday. Please contact denise.blance@saintvincent-in.org or (574) 234-6000 ext. 12105 for information.

Enter raffle to win

South Bend — Visit www.saintvincent-in.org for a chance to win skates signed by Olympic gold medalist Brian Boitano.

Knights breakfast at Precious Blood

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will have a breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at Most Precious Blood, 1515 Barthold St. Adults \$6, children 6-12 \$3, family \$20.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Carry-out available.

Cookie walk

Mishawaka — St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie walk Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the church basement. Cookies are priced at \$5 per pound.

Breakfast is served

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus will have a pancake, egg and sausage breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Dec. 11, at the St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel hall. Proceeds will benefit the Women's Care Center.

Christmas cookie and candy sale

Monroeville — St. Rose Ladies Guild will have a cookie and candy sale Saturday, Dec. 10, from noon to 3 p.m. in the school basement. Cookies will be sold by the pound.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Mishawaka — St. Bavo will host the Antioch youth and liturgical choir groups for a Festival of Lessons and Carols Sunday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. in the church. Free admission.

St. Pius X senior group

Granger — St. Pius X senior group will have an Advent celebration starting at noon with Mass on Dec. 13. The topic will be "The season of Advent," with seminarian Bill Meininger. Price is \$5. For information call (574) 272-3146.

REST IN PEACE

Angola

Teresa Daugherty, 77, St. Anthony of Padua

Arcola

Herbert M. Huguenard, 83, St. Patrick

Bremen

Laurence J. Gunterman, 88, St. Dominic

Churubusco

Regina Mary Frazier, 89, St. John Bosco

Decatur

Charles G. Henenius, 77, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

Joseph D. Bryie, St. Charles Borromeo

Anna M. Gibson, 90, St. Jude

Clement J. Gibson Jr., 58, St. Jude

Manuel C. Verdeal, 68, Most Precious Blood

Rolland F. Gaffer, 90, Our Lady of Good Hope

Alice B. Howenstein, 77, St. Joseph

Adlyn Sciole, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Ronald Lee Gladieux, 56, St. Joseph

Mishawaka

Jeanette A. Thornton, 83, St. Monica

Martha Montgomery, 86, St. Monica

Anita L. Callahan, 75, St. Monica

Notre Dame

James E. Jack, 70, Sacred Heart

Plymouth

Dorothy Irene Miller, 84, St. Michael

South Bend

Mary E. Baele, 88, Our Lady of Hungary

Patricia Ann Biddle, 81, Holy Family

Frances Mary Nitka, 98, Holy Family

James Rans, 52, Holy Family

Carl A. Benko, 87, Our Lady of Hungary

Joan Rose Walkowiak, 81, St. Matthew Cathedral

Wabash

Paul S. Bever, 89, St. Bernard

Warsaw

Steve Dzuba, 96, Sacred Heart

Waterloo

E. R. Tony Hile, 86, St. Michael

Mass and healing service planned

Fort Wayne — The St. Peter Parish Holy Name Society will have a Mass and healing service with Conventual Franciscan Father John Raphael Hadnagy, on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m. The service, with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, will follow Mass.

Corpus Christi plans Christmas breakfast

South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a breakfast Sunday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym. Egg bake, biscuits and sausage gravy, fruit, cinnamon rolls, sausage links, orange juice and coffee will be served. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3 children 12 and under or \$20 for a family.

Sunday breakfast at St. Pius X

Granger — The Knights of

Columbus Council 4263 will have a breakfast Sunday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Pius X. Adults \$6, children 6-12 \$3.

Pancake, sausage breakfast with Santa

Fort Wayne — The St. Charles Athletic Association will have a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, Dec. 11, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria, door No. 9. The cost is \$5 per adult, \$3.50 per child (ages 12 and under), or \$18 for the entire family. Proceeds benefit St. Charles athletics.

Breakfast is served

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a pancake breakfast after the 8:30 and 11 a.m. Masses on Sunday, Dec. 11, at the Sacred Heart Parish hall. Proceeds will benefit Priests for Life.

Theology on Tap planned

Fort Wayne — Theology on Tap, for young adults ages 21-39 will be Thursday, Dec. 15, from 7-9 p.m. at Calhoun Street Soups, Salads, & Spirits, 1915 S. Calhoun St. The topic, "Contemplating the Mystery of Christmas," will be presented by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/CYAM.

Saint Joseph's High School's Music Department presents Christmas concerts

South Bend — Saint Joseph's High School will offer a Christmas concert Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. at Washington Hall on the campus of Notre Dame. The instrumental ensemble, choir and band will entertain. On Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. the piano and guitar students will perform. Admission is free.

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RALLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

again, and this time her older brother went to his room to pray.

As he prayed the rosary, Farmer described a moment when he had a vision of Brittany running smoothly, not stumbling as she usually did because of the cerebral palsy. He later discovered it was at that very moment Brittany died while at the hospital. But because her brother was communicating with God in prayer, he was given the peace of knowing in his heart all was well with his sister.

Farmer acknowledged he wasn't always one to pray, but something that day nudged him along. He encouraged his audience to persevere in their prayer lives.

"The rosary is a real powerhouse," he said. "If you've tried it before, and didn't get much out of it, give it another try. Stick with it and you'll be amazed."

Continuing with the superhero theme, Brad encouraged the teens to remember their mission.

"Our job is to be like the saints," he said. "We were created to be superheroes. The only way we can do that is to recognize the gifts we've been given. Take those gifts everywhere, not just where it's safe to be religious."

Father Terrence Coonan, parochial vicar at St. Pius X Parish in Granger, offered the young people catechesis on the sacrament of Confirmation. He explained how Confirmation unites the faithful to the Church and can call God the Father, Abba, through the Holy Spirit.

He explained that Confirmation increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and "we need to continually pray and foster the gifts of the Holy Spirit," Father Coonan said.

He added that one of the effects of Confirmation is that it "makes us officially full members and active members of the Church."

Father Coonan said Confirmation



TESS STEFFEN

The Franciscan Sisters Minor and some Confirmation students from St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, gathered to eat lunch during the diocesan Confirmation rally at the Summit in Fort Wayne.

provides a special strength of the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, he said, there is a "permanent seal imprinted on our souls that can never be removed. It marks us out as a child of God."

As students listened to the catechetical sessions, their peers lined up to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Priests from across the diocese assisted in hearing confessions.

In the afternoon, a portion of the retreat was devoted to Eucharistic Adoration, which included the recitation of the rosary.

At the afternoon keynote, APeX's Monterastelli told the young people how he dealt with some learning disabilities and social anxiety.

Monterastelli amazed the crowd by demonstrating how a straight jacket works as he allowed a member of the audience to lock him into

one. While he proceeded to work his way out of the jacket, a seemingly impossible task, Monterastelli demonstrated the parallels of breaking free from sin.

"As long as we keep Christ in our lives," he said, "all things are possible, and not even sin can keep us down."

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass with attendees to close out the rally.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades spoke of John the Baptist who called the people to repent and prepare for the Lord.

Just as in Advent we prepare for the Lord at Christmas or His Second Coming, those preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation are preparing to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, Bishop Rhoades noted. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised the Apostles



TIM MACKOWIAK

Attendees from Corpus Christi Parish, South Bend, join in song.

He would send them His Spirit.

The Spirit, Bishop Rhoades said, "will be with you for the rest of your lives — to guide you, to help you, to strengthen you in your Christian lives."

John the Baptist called for repentance — to turn to the Lord.

"There is no better way to prepare for Christmas — or Confirmation for that matter — than to have our souls cleansed of our sins and be in friendship with Christ," Bishop Rhoades said.

He encouraged all, "Prepare for the way of the Lord, to welcome Jesus in our lives every day by praying, by being close to Him, and by striving to live as He taught us — to observe His commandments, to love one another as He has loved us."

"In these coming months," Bishop Rhoades said, "my simple message to you is to prepare the way of the Lord, the message of John the Baptist. Prepare for your Confirmation, especially by going to Confession and by praying every day and by being close to Jesus."

This is the first year Corpus Christi School from South Bend has participated in the diocesan Confirmation rally. Fifty-three seventh and eighth graders were among the loudest to cheer during the introductions. The eighth graders were just confirmed this fall, while the seventh graders are beginning their preparations.

"They interspersed great solemnity and prayer," said Corpus Christi religion teacher Marilyn Ahearn. "Then the next minute they're bouncing beach balls! I think they did a really good job of mixing it up."

"It was great because I got to be there with all my friends," smiled Corpus Christi eighth-grader Collin Greve. "It was nice, because our class has already received Confirmation, to see so many other kids being prepared for it."

"I thought it was a really exciting day!" added Corpus Christi Principal Maggie Mackowiak. "I hope this is the first of many trips we can make over to Fort Wayne, or wherever they have it, so the kids can be with each other, from all different churches and schools ... and celebrate and hear about the power of the Holy Spirit."

"I think it's really fun — the stories are touching," said Elise Vorndran of Queen of Angels Parish in Fort Wayne.

"Very inspiring!" added Juliahna Clark, also of Queen of Angels.

"It's great — very informational!" said Jack Johnston, of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish in Fort Wayne.

Tess Steffen contributed to this story.

CCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Come Home aims to reach 250 million television viewers in more than 10,000 U.S. cities.

Tom Peterson, the organization's founder, said the campaign's "inspiring messages" are an invitation to Catholic neighbors, relatives and co-workers to come "to the largest family reunion in modern history."

The ads — airing in prime time on broadcast and cable channels — focus on the richness and history of the Catholic Church and highlight Catholic traditions of prayer, education and help for the poor.

"If you've been away, come home to your parish, and visit Catholicscomehome.org today" is part of the ad's message scheduled

to air more than 400 times starting before Christmas and going through the feast of the Epiphany.

Since they began their media campaigns in 2008, Catholics Come Home officials say Mass attendance has increased 10 percent in the markets where the ads have shown and 300,000 people have come back to the Church.

In its announcement, the organization highlighted the number of Catholics who do not attend Mass, citing a recent study by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University that said only 33 per-

cent of U.S. Catholics attend weekly Mass, or put another way, 42.7 million Catholics, or two-thirds, do not attend Sunday Mass.

Other statistics cited included how many hours per week the average American is "consuming media" particularly via TV and the Internet (38 hours); and how many Americans now describe

themselves as nonreligious/secular (13.2 percent of the total population, up 110 percent from 1990 to 2000).

Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

DIGNITARIES FOR THANKSGIVING



PROVIDED BY ST. THERESE SCHOOL

St. Therese School students and staff in Fort Wayne shared a family-style Thanksgiving lunch with visiting dignitaries that included Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry and Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend School Superintendent Dr. Mark Myers. Pastor Father Tetch wowed the students with a performance of "God Bless America."