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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Dec. 23, Dec. 26, Dec. 30

**Cathedral Bookstore
open Dec. 23**



CNS/COURTESY OF SCALA AND ART RESOURCE

Mary adores the sleeping Christ Child in this work by Italian Renaissance painter Giovanni Bellini. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil commemorating the birth of Christ and ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jan. 9.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Contemplate the first Christmas



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

As we contemplate the love of God in the Incarnation, I invite you to reflect on the famous account of the first Christmas as described in the second chapter of the Gospel of Saint Luke, the passage read at Christmas midnight Mass. In that account, we read about Mary and Joseph traveling from Nazareth to Bethlehem where "there was no room for them in the inn." We read about Mary giving birth to Jesus, and then about the appearance of the angels to the shepherds with the "good news of great joy... For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." Continuing with the reading of Saint Luke's Gospel, in the passage read at the Christmas Mass at Dawn, we read about the shepherds going to see "the infant lying in the manger" and their "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen."

In this Christmas column, I'd like to reflect on these witnesses of the first Christmas: Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. When we prepare our Christmas crèches, we place figures of these persons around the infant Jesus in the manger, along with an angel, the wise men, and often figures of sheep, donkey and ox. This tradition of the Christmas crèche originated with Saint Francis of Assisi who created a live nativity scene in the town of Greccio, Italy, a few years prior to his death.

The Blessed Virgin Mary

In contemplating Christmas, we recall the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem for the census. The journey must not have been easy for Mary since she was nine months pregnant. We can only imagine the hardship of that journey as well as the hardship Mary and Joseph experienced when they were told that there was no room for them in the inn. Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God, in the most humble and poor circumstances: in a manger, a place where animals ate.

Despite the difficult circumstances, what joy and wonder our Blessed Mother must have experienced in giving birth to the Redeemer of the world! At the Annunciation, Mary had expressed her complete willingness to cooperate in God's plan when she said "let it be done to me according to your word." Saint Augustine, a great bishop and doctor of the Church, praised Mary's faith and obedience when he wrote that our Lady "conceived Christ in her heart before she conceived him in her womb."

After the departure of the shepherds, Saint Luke tells us that "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." As we celebrate Christmas, Mary is an example to us of faith and humility, and also of receiving the Son of God into our lives and of treasuring the mystery of the Incarnation in our hearts. Through prayer and contemplation, we are better able to enter into the



CNS/COURTESY OF ART RESOURCE

"The Nativity" by French painter Noel Coypel features Mary, Joseph and angels in adoration of the Christ Child.

mystery we celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of salvation, following the example of the Mother of the Savior.

Saint Joseph

In contemplating Christmas, it is good to reflect on the husband of Mary, the foster father of Our Lord. Blessed John Paul II referred to Saint Joseph as "the first guardian," together with Mary, of the mystery of the Incarnation and Redemption. Like Mary, Joseph is exemplary in his faith and obedience. After the angel's announcement to him in a dream, Joseph "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary as his wife."

Saint Joseph was the guardian of the Holy Family, including on that journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. He was an eyewitness to the birth of Jesus. Later, at the circumcision, Joseph named the child "Jesus," thus proclaiming the mission of the newborn child as Savior, since the name "Jesus" means "the one who saves."

As Mary contemplated the event of the first Christmas in her heart, we can imagine that Joseph did the same. Saint Joseph surrendered his whole life to the care of Jesus and Mary. Very early on, when Jesus' life was threatened by King Herod at the massacre of the Holy Innocents, Saint Joseph protected Jesus when he took him and Mary and fled into Egypt.

Saint Joseph is the patron of the Catholic Church. Pope Leo XIII wrote: "It is ... fitting and most worthy of Joseph's dignity that, in the same way that he once kept unceasing holy watch over the family of Nazareth, so now does he protect and defend with his heavenly patronage the Church of Christ." God entrusted the beginnings of our redemption to the faithful care of Saint Joseph. We ask Saint Joseph to help us to imitate his faithfulness and purity of heart.

The Shepherds

It is not incidental that God chose shepherds, the lowly and unrefined, as the first

to receive the good news of the Savior's birth. They were struck with great fear when the angel of the Lord appeared to them. Immediately, the angel told them to fear not and proclaimed to them "the good news of great joy" of Jesus' birth. They then went in haste to adore the infant Jesus.

The shepherds remind us of God's merciful love, which is especially shown toward the poor and humble. The shepherds are an example for us since they responded enthusiastically and immediately to the angel's invitation. They are also an example for us of our mission of evangelization. Saint Luke tells us that after adoring the infant Jesus, they returned "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen."

Prayer

As we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, let us pray for one another that we may follow the example of Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. You, the faithful of our diocese, will be remembered in my prayers in a special way throughout the Christmas season. May you and your families and friends have a blessed and merry Christmas!

I end this column with a prayer for Christmas Eve, actually an invitation to prayer, composed by Pope Benedict XVI:

Let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace of looking upon the crib this night with the simplicity of the shepherds, so as to receive the joy with which they returned home (cf. Luke 2:20). Let us ask Him to give us the humility and the faith with which Saint Joseph looked upon the child that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit. Let us ask the Lord to let us look upon Him with that same love with which Mary saw Him. And let us pray that in this way the light that the shepherds saw will shine upon us too, and that what the angels sang that night will be accomplished throughout the world: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." Amen!



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec. 25, 12 a.m. — Christmas Midnight Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m. — Televised Christmas Mass, University of Saint Francis Chapel, Fort Wayne

Evidence of alleged miracle credited to Archbishop Sheen heads to Rome

BY TOM DERMODY

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — Boxes wrapped in ribbon and a happy little boy are Christmas images, but the combination had another joyful meaning Dec. 11 during ceremonies closing the Diocese of Peoria's inquiry into an alleged miraculous healing through the intercession of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

"May God, who has begun this great work, bring it to fulfillment," said Peoria Bishop Daniel R. Jenky after affixing a wax seal on a box containing evidence gathered in the past three months by an investigative tribunal. The assembly gathered for the special Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral responded with sustained applause.

That evidence is now on its way to Rome for consideration by the Congregation for Saints' Causes. The congregation is studying the sainthood cause of Archbishop Sheen, a central Illinois native and priest of the Peoria Diocese who became an internationally known evangelist, radio/TV personality, writer and missionary.

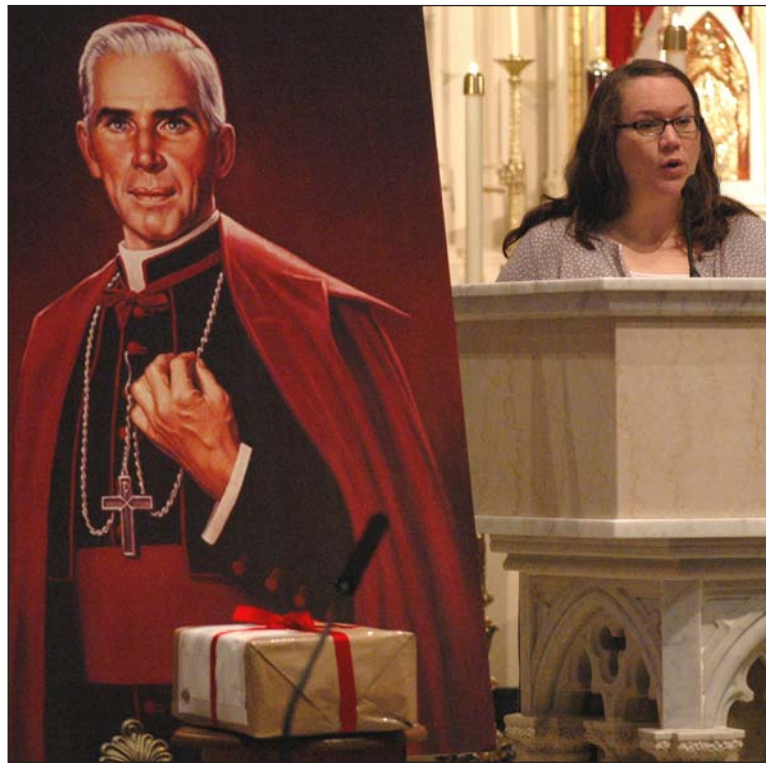
In a pew just outside the cathedral sanctuary, the focus of the testimonies contained in the box — 15-month-old James Fulton Engstrom — sat contentedly with his parents and two older siblings, squirming occasionally as all healthy little boys will do.

"For a lot of us it felt like a full-circle moment," said James' mother, Bonnie Engstrom, of the official ceremonies that took place at the start of Mass. Among those in attendance were members of the tribunal as well as the Archbishop Sheen Foundation.

Bonnie Engstrom recalled sitting in the same cathedral — where Archbishop Sheen had been ordained in 1919 — a few days after James' birth and "begging for a miracle" during a holy hour attended by family and friends.

Considered stillborn on Sept. 16, 2010, after a routine pregnancy, James was without a pulse for the first 61 minutes of his life. It was only when doctors at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria were ready to call the time of death that his heart started beating. The doctors had warned the parents he might not be able to function normally, but they were proved wrong.

"It's an amazing story," said Msgr. Jason Gray, who served as episcopal delegate to the investigative tribunal and was responsible for guiding the process. An oath of secrecy sworn by tribunal members kept Msgr. Gray from commenting further about the findings of the



CNS PHOTO/TOM DERMODY, THE CATHOLIC POST

With evidence of her son's alleged miraculous healing boxed and sealed in front of a portrait of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Bonnie Engstrom gives a reading at a Dec. 11 Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria, Ill. Bonnie and Travis Engstrom of Goodfield, Ill., believe their son James Fulton Engstrom is alive due to the intercession of Archbishop Sheen, whose cause for sainthood is being considered in Rome.

tribunal or expectations regarding its review in Rome.

But family members are free to talk, and Travis and Bonnie Engstrom — residents of Goodfield and members of St. Luke's Parish in Eureka — have widely shared the story of their son and how they believe he is alive and well because of a healing by Christ and the intercession of Archbishop Sheen.

The Engstroms were familiar with the famed orator — perhaps best known for his popular "Life Is Worth Living" television show seen by millions in the 1950s — and Bonnie had asked him to watch over her pregnancy. They decided that if their baby was a boy, his middle name would be Fulton. Travis made good on that intention during an emergency baptism as they awaited an ambulance after James was born in crisis at their home.

Bonnie remembers praying to Archbishop Sheen as CPR was performed on her newborn son, and asking family and friends to seek his intercession when doctors warned James might be blind and unable to function normally after his heart began beating.

Fifteen months later, James is medication-free, has just been released from physical therapy, and continues to meet growth milestones.

"He's just a normal kid," said Bonnie, who credits Christ with healing her son "for His greater honor and glory."

She told *The Catholic Post*, Peoria diocesan newspaper, that she and her husband were "amazed and impressed" by the thoroughness of the tribunal's inquiry. The evidence includes both medical records and witness testimonies.

"With every step they wanted to flesh out the details, and do it with integrity and honesty," said Bonnie. "Not that we wouldn't expect that from the Church, but the extent was really impressive."

A large painting of Archbishop Sheen was placed in the cathedral sanctuary near the Advent wreath for the Dec. 11 Mass and ceremonies. Among the concelebrants was Father Andrew Apostoli, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal from New York who is vice postulator for the cause.

Patricia Gibson, chancellor of the Diocese of Peoria, invited tribunal members into the sanctuary for the ceremonies, and Bishop Jenky was assisted in sealing the boxes with traditional hot wax by Msgr. Stanley Deptula, executive director of the Sheen Foundation.

A second box of original copies was sealed to be preserved in the archives of the Diocese of Peoria.



Indiana Catholic Conference

A Statement by the Indiana Catholic Bishops on the Present Indiana Legislative Initiatives

In 2011, a number of new laws were passed in the Indiana State Legislature concerning labor unions. Additional legislation is being proposed concerning workers and labor unions. These laws and the proposed new legislation have certainly generated significant debate and emotion within our community. As a Church, we Catholics always seek to promote justice and the common good and foster goodwill and harmony within our community.

The Catholic Church has a long history of promoting workers' rights and justice in the market place. In 1891, Pope Leo XIII outlined the basic principles in his encyclical letter "Rerum Novarum." Among other things, the pope clarified Catholic social teaching on the protection of basic economic and political rights including the right to a just wage and the right to organize associations or unions to defend just claims. To that end we offer a brief review of key principles from Catholic social teaching that should be kept in mind.

The intrinsic dignity of the human person

The intrinsic dignity of the human person is the core value of Catholic Social teaching. "Men and women, in the concrete circumstances of history, represent the heart and soul of Catholic social thought."¹ The whole of the Church's social doctrine, in fact, develops from the principle that affirms the inviolable dignity of the human person.²

This dignity grounds certain rights including (but not limited to) the right to a just wage;³ the right to a working environment that is not harmful to the workers' physical health or to their moral integrity;⁴ and the right to assemble and form associations.⁵

Rights have limits that are shaped by the rights of others, and by the responsibilities that come with the exercise of those rights.

The right to a just wage

"Remuneration is the most important means for achieving justice in work relationships."⁶ Workers must be paid a wage that allows them to live a truly human life and to fulfill their family obligations in a worthy manner.

However, the right to a just wage is not absolute and other factors shape the assessment of a just wage: namely, the effective contribution which each individual makes to the economic effort and the financial state of the company for which he or she works.⁷

The right of free association

Church teaching supports the right of groups of employees to freely associate and to form unions. "They (unions) are indeed a mouthpiece for the struggle for social justice ... but it is not a struggle 'against' others."⁸ "The role of unions is not to 'play politics' in the sense that the expression is commonly understood today. Unions do not have the character of political parties struggling for power; they should not be subjected to the decision of political parties or have too close links with them."⁹ Of particular concern are unions that use their resources to support politicians or political parties that clearly devalue the sanctity of human life or the institution of marriage. The protection of human life, and the integrity of any marriage as the union of one man and one woman, are foundational elements of the common good.

The Church has a sacred reverence for the dignity of conscience and for the right to act in freedom to make moral decisions.¹⁰ In keeping with this, any form of coercion on the part of ownership, management or a union is to be condemned.

Closing thoughts

We offer our teaching and principles. How these are applied is another matter altogether, best discerned within the political and public forums. "The Church's social doctrine teaches that relations within the world of work must be marked by cooperation: hatred and attempts to eliminate the other are completely unacceptable."¹¹ It is our prayer that legislators, owners, managers, workers, unions and associations continue to engage in constructive dialogue that puts the dignity and free will of the human person first, while working cooperatively for the common good.

December 7, 2011

Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne, S.L.D.
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Apostolic Administrator

Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, D.D., J.C.L.
Diocese of Evansville

Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, D.D.
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Most Rev. Dale J. Melczek, D.D.
Diocese of Gary

Most Rev. Timothy Doherty, D. D., Ph.D.
Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Footnotes

1. Centesimus Annus, 11 (Pope John Paul II, 1991)
2. Mater et Magistra 220 (Pope John XXIII, 1961)
3. Laborem Exercens 19 (Pope John Paul II, 1981)
4. Laborem Exercens 19
5. Rerum Novarum 49ff (Pope Leo XIII, 1891)
6. Laborem Exercens 19
7. Mater et Magistra 71
8. Laborem Exercens 20
9. Laborem Exercens 20
10. Gaudium et Spes 41 and CCC 1782
11. Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church 306

Knight blessed by visits with popes

BY TRISH LINNER

Joseph Stackowicz never guessed when he started his career as a general agent for the Knights of Columbus that it would lead him to see not just one pope but three. In 1972, Joe, as he likes to be called, won his first trip with the Knights and visited Poland and Italy.

"There were 57 of us on the trip," recalled Joe. The Knights of Columbus arranged a special visit with Pope Paul VI. "It was so special, it really hit us all." The Knights attended a special Mass with the pope and gathered in the courtyard with thousands of other tourists to see the pope give his blessing from the window.

Joe's second visit with the pope would come a few years later when he again won a trip to Italy. The Knights were able to have another private meeting, this time with Pope John Paul I. "It was a special trip, the Mass we attended was so beautiful," Joe said.

In 1992, Joe would have another chance to go to Italy and see the pope. The trip was won again through the Knights and this time Joe's wife, Fran, and two of his grandchildren were able to go with him.

"The trip was outstanding. We were able to have a private meeting with Pope John Paul II in his residence. It was incredible. At that time the Vatican took all photos and we were able to have eight pictures taken with the



PROVIDED BY THE STACKOWICZ FAMILY

Joe Stackowicz is shown as he met Pope John Paul II in 1992.

pope. I spoke with him in Polish, though mine was a bit broken, it was still very special. Everyone had been saying how much I resembled John Paul II. When I was able to meet him I had to agree," laughed Joe.

On this trip many Knights attended Mass with their wives. Joe recalled how one wife was so excited to meet the pope when they first arrived that "she practically flew over the isle to shake his hand, we all had a laugh about that," he said smiling.

"It was a trip of a lifetime, something we will never forget." Joe was even given a miter hat by the Vatican. "To this day people

always want me to put it on. I often have guests in town to see Notre Dame and they always want me to put it on and take pictures with me — Pope Joe they call me. I still get a kick out of it and can show my photos off with Pope John Paul II," said Joe.

When Pope John Paul visited Chicago in October of 1979, Joe was selected by the Knights to serve as one of the honor guards. "I was absolutely thrilled," Joe said. "I called everyone I knew and told them to look for me on TV."

Unfortunately Joe caught a very bad cold and became ill. He wasn't able to make the trip. "I

was so disappointed," remembered Joe, "I did get quite a few calls telling me they had seen me on TV. That was pretty funny since I wasn't there," he said smiling.

Joe would get one more chance to see the pope, and this time he wasn't going to miss it. In October 1995, Joe's son John arranged special seats for his parents when John Paul II celebrated Mass at Giants Stadium in New Jersey. It was the second largest crowd to ever attend an event at Giants Stadium, with 82,948 in attendance.

"It was pouring rain the whole time," recalled Joe, "We said the rosary five times waiting for him to arrive. But when he did it was worth it. To see him again was wonderful. I felt so blessed to be near him. It was a wonderful Mass, even as God showered rain down on us. I will never forget it."

Joe has traveled all over the

world. He often travels with his children and grandchildren. "We try to take a trip every year." In fact he visited Poland with his grandson a few years ago to meet some long-lost relatives and see the places Pope John Paul II lived and worked.

"It was an incredible experience. We visited all over and found relatives we never knew we had. In fact, his grandson fell in love with a distant relative and the two were married last year. Now that's a productive trip!" Joe said laughing. They have also visited Mexico, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. "God's world is beautiful, I am very lucky to have been able to see so much of it."

Joe looks back on his visits with the popes and knows how fortunate he has been. "To have the chance to see the pope is special, I truly believe I have been blessed and hope my streak will not end at John Paul II."

2011 *top news*

STORIES

1. Roman Missal
Years of planning went into it, followed by catechesis over the past several months to prepare everyone for the first use of the new English-translation of the Roman Missal.
2. Economy
3. Arab spring
4. Health care
5. Irish church sex abuse scandal



NEWSMAKERS

1. Pope Benedict XVI
He has been the top religious newsmaker in the CNS poll every year since 2006.
2. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan
3. President Barack Obama
4. Blessed John Paul II
5. Sister Elizabeth Johnson

Results from an annual CNS poll of journalists in the Catholic media.

Source: CNS



CPR, FIRST AID and UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS CLASSES

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc., a certified American Safety & Health Training Center, is now offering CPR, First Aid and Universal Precautions Classes to the community. We are currently registering individuals to attend our classes that will be held at Villa of the Woods (5610 Noll Avenue, Fort Wayne) on the second Tuesday of each month and we're also willing to schedule additional classes as needed. With a minimum number of participants, arrangements can be made for us to come to your agency site to provide training services. **Classes begin January 10, 2012.**

- Adult, Infant & Child CPR & AED (4 hours) -\$25 per person
- First Aid (1 hour) -\$15 per person
- Universal Precautions (1 hour) - \$10 per person
- Adult, Infant, Child CPR, AED, & First Aid (5 hours) - \$35 per person
- Adult, Infant, Child CPR, AED, First Aid & Universal Precautions (6 hours) \$45 per person

To register for a training session or to make arrangements for training at your agency site, contact Robin Springstead at (260) 422-5625 or via e-mail at rspringstead@ccfwsb.org

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For more information about the Knights, go to our website:
<http://www.indianakofc.org>

Teaching young about human dignity promotes peace, justice, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When young people recognize the dignity and beauty of every human life, including their own, and are supported in their natural desire to make the world a better place, they become agents of justice and peace in the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Peace and justice are built on “a profound respect for every human being and helping others to live a life consonant with this supreme dignity,” the pope said in his message for the World Day of Peace 2012.

The Catholic Church celebrates World Peace Day Jan. 1. The pope’s message for the occasion was released Dec. 16 at the Vatican and sent, through Vatican ambassadors, to the leaders of nations around the world.

The theme the pope chose for the 2012 celebration was “Educating Young People in Justice and Peace.”

He asked parents and teachers to be more attentive to the hopes and fears of young people today and to their search for true values, and he asked governments to put more resources into education and job creation.

And the pope asked young people themselves to take their schooling seriously and to be open to the example and knowledge their elders have to share.

He asked them “to be patient and persevering in seeking justice and peace, in cultivating the taste for what is just and true, even when it involves sacrifice and swimming against the tide.”

Adults have a serious responsibility to help the young fulfill their potential, not just by sharing information with them, but by being examples of what it means

to live lives marked by the joy of faith, charity and respect for others, he said.

“Today more than ever we need authentic witnesses, and not simply people who parcel out rules and facts: We need witnesses capable of seeing farther than others because their life is so much broader,” the pope said.

Educating people in justice and peace begins in the family, where they learn to value the gift of life, solidarity, respect for rules, forgiveness and hospitality, he said.

Too many young people today are missing that basic human formation because “we are living in a world where families, and life itself, are constantly threatened and not infrequently fragmented,” he said.

Pope Benedict appealed to parents to give their children “the most precious of treasures,” which is the gift of their time.

The pope also urged governments to make it possible for parents to choose the type of education they want their children to receive and to enact immigration reforms aimed at “reuniting families separated by the need to earn a living.”

Presenting the message at a Vatican news conference, Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said the pope’s message highlights the fact that he sees young people not only as hope for the future, but as “an active part, the most vital part of the human family” in a world that needs energy and new ideas now.

Bishop Mario Toso, secretary of the justice and peace council, said the young people who energized the Arab Spring movements toward democracy this year illustrate the fact that the young have a positive role to play in society

today.

They proclaimed to the world that “there can be social justice in their societies if there is democracy and, vice versa, that if there is democracy, there can be social justice,” he said.

The heart of the pope’s message focused on what he called the “integral formation of the person, including the moral and spiritual dimension.”

“Man is a being who bears within his heart a thirst for truth — a truth which is not partial, but capable of explaining life’s meaning — since he was created in the image and likeness of God,” the pope wrote in his message.

Acknowledging God as creator leads to recognizing “one’s own profound dignity and the inviolability of every single person,” Pope Benedict said.

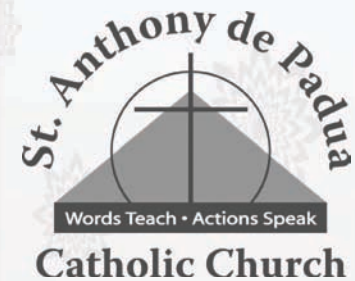
Based on that dignity, people come to understand that there are certain things that always are either right or wrong, he said.

“Deep within his conscience, man discovers a law that he did not lay upon himself, but which he must obey. Its voice calls him to love and do what is good, to avoid evil and to take responsibility for the good he does and the evil he commits,” the pope said.

Pope Benedict said peace is not simply a gift to be received from God, it is a task people of good will must undertake.

“In order to be true peacemakers, we must educate ourselves in compassion, solidarity, working together, fraternity, in being active within the community and concerned to raise awareness about national and international issues and the importance of seeking adequate mechanisms for the redistribution of wealth, the promotion of growth, cooperation for development and conflict resolution,” he said.

Wishing you Glad Tidings of Great Joy this Christmas Season and New Year!

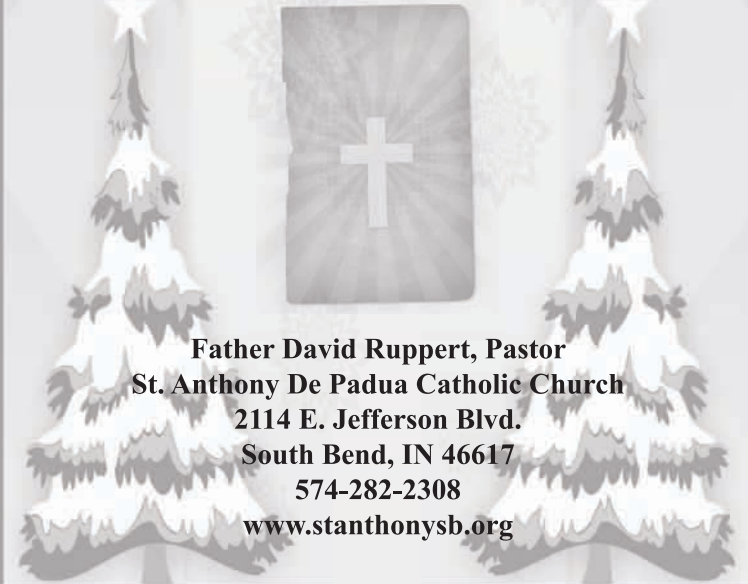


Celebrate the Joy of the Season!

Christmas Eve Children's Mass - 4:30pm

Christmas Day Masses - Midnight, 9am and 11am

All are welcome!



Father David Ruppert, Pastor
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Part-Time Administrative Assistant

The Administrative Assistant will assist the Secretariat for Evangelization and Special Ministries in the day-to-day operations in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center Office. Applicants must demonstrate excellent organizational and communications skills, have the ability to multitask, work with frequent interruptions, and be able to coordinate projects and schedules in a fast-paced environment. Additional requirements include: professionalism, confidentiality, attention to detail, and ability to work independently and as part of a team. This position will be part-time up to 20 hours per week.

Responsibilities include but not limited to: Preparation of copies, mass mailings, form, reports and publicity materials...Organization and planning of meetings...Maintenance of a master calendar of events...Order and maintain office supplies...Assist with special events and projects as needed...Communicate effectively via letter, email, telephone, and face-to-face interactions.

Requirements: Practicing Catholic in good-standing...At least one year of general office or customer service experience...Proficiency in basic bookkeeping, web-browsing, and web-based research...Proficiency in Outlook Express, MS Word, MS Excel, MS Publisher, MS Power Point, Constant Contact, and Google calendar.

About the Secretariat for Evangelization and Special Ministries: The Secretariat for Evangelization and Special Ministries exists to assist the Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Offices and ministries within the Secretariat include Evangelization, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Jail Ministry, Project Rachel, Disabilities Ministry, Deaf Ministry, and Black Catholic Ministry. Some project and events organized by this Secretariat include Diocesan Men's Conference, Diocesan Women's Conference, Faithfest, bcX, XLT, March for Life, World Youth Day, and Theology on Tap. To apply, send resume to: •Email: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org •Mail: Secretariat for Evangelization and Special Ministries c/o Mary Glowaski, Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 S. Clinton, P. O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Bishop urges Congress to heed needs of jobless and their families

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the median length of unemployment reaching 10 months and more than four job seekers for every opening, Congress must find ways to continue unemployment compensation to protect jobless workers and their families, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. "For millions of American workers and their families, economic hardship continues and grows," said Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., in a Dec. 12 letter to House members. "The U.S. Catholic bishops have long advocated that the most effective way to build a just economy is the availability of decent work at decent wages," he added. "When the economy fails to generate sufficient jobs, there is a moral obligation to help protect the life and dignity of unemployed workers and their families." The House was to vote as early as Dec. 13 on a Republican-backed proposal to restore the federal extended unemployment benefits program. Unless the program is extended, millions will lose their unemployment benefits beginning Jan. 1. Bishop Blaire urged the House members to "consider the moral and human consequences of your decisions on the most vulnerable among us, especially unemployed workers and their families." On the same day as the letter, the U.S. bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development announced a relaunch of its poverty awareness campaign, Poverty USA, with a revamped website at www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/povertyusa/ and a new Facebook presence at www.facebook.com/povertyusa.

New missal translation introduced in 2011 also an evangelization tool

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl doesn't have a problem with the fact that there will be some missteps and some wrong words spoken during the first weeks of using the new English translation of the Roman Missal at Mass. "We are going to have to live with the fact that not every celebration is going to be perfect," the archbishop of Washington said during a Dec. 6 teleconference. "But that can be inviting to some people who are afraid they are going to do the wrong thing. They might say, 'That's the same struggle I'm having.'" Cardinal Wuerl, who co-wrote "The Mass: The Glory, the Mystery, the Tradition" with Mike Aquilina, joined in a panel discussion about the impact of the new translation, which went into use in the United States on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27. As 2011 drew to a close, American Catholics were greeting the new missal translation with a most-

NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. SOLDIERS RETIRE COLORS SIGNIFYING END OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN IRAQ



CNS PHOTO/LUCAS JACKSON, REUTERS

U.S. Army Gen. Lloyd Austin III, right, and Army Sgt. Major Joseph Allen, center, seal a fabric case as they retire the U.S. military's ceremonial flag at the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center, signifying the end of U.S. military presence in Iraq Dec. 15. The U.S. military officially ended its war in Iraq, packing a military flag at a ceremony with U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta nearly nine years after the invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein.

ly positive response and finding some unexpected spiritual benefits in the need to pay closer attention to the words spoken at Mass — at least for a while. Father Dan Barron, an Oblate of the Virgin Mary who is director of spiritual formation at John Paul the Great Catholic University in San Diego and editor of *Magnificat!*, a weekly worship aid for children, said he has been "amazed to see that 18-, 19-year-old students are talking about the liturgy. What brilliant youth minister could have been able to get young people talking about the missal?" he asked. "I give thanks to God for this great moment that I can be a part of." Father Barron said children, who are "the least resistant to change," will pick up the new wording quickly.

Archbishop Kelly, retired Louisville archbishop, dead at 80

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, who led the Archdiocese of Louisville from 1982 until his retirement in 2007, died peacefully in his sleep on the morning of Dec. 14 at his home on the campus of Holy Trinity Church. He was 80. Funeral arrangements

were not announced immediately. In a statement released shortly after Archbishop Kelly's death was announced, his successor, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, praised his brother bishop for his service to the archdiocese. "With the death of Archbishop Thomas Cajetan Kelly, the local Church of Louisville has lost a friend, a humble servant and a dedicated man of God," Archbishop Kurtz said. "Archbishop Kelly served for more than a quarter century as the archbishop of Louisville and remained active as archbishop emeritus for almost five years." In his 80 years of life, he has been thoroughly a priest of Jesus Christ, as a faithful Dominican, as a diplomat and administrator at the nunciature and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as metropolitan of the province of Louisville, as a true archbishop, and in these last days as a faithful parish priest." Archbishop Kelly, possessed of twinkling Irish eyes and a comforting presence, led the archdiocese through periods of both triumph and tragedy. He was proud of the spiritual growth of the archdiocese, especially the Renew process that began in the 1980s shortly after he came to Louisville. He also took pride in the development of a strategic planning process — launched in

the 1980s — something he called "a very significant beginning in my time." The saddest moment of his 25-year leadership of the archdiocese came, he said, with the eruption of the sexual abuse crisis in 2002. "It was," he noted, "a terrible time ... when victims came forward for healing and made us realize the terrible, terrible damage that had been done to them. We continue to seek and ask for their forgiveness," he said in 2007, "to pray that such terrible things may not happen ... again and to take every step conceivable to prevent that from happening."

Dioceses mull appealing FCC closed-captioning exemption revocations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ten U.S. dioceses are considering whether to appeal a Federal Communications Commission order lifting the waiver they had earlier been granted that had permitted the dioceses to not use closed-captioning for the programs they produce. Most of the dioceses produce a weekly televised Mass. The deadline to appeal the revocations is Jan. 12. The exemptions were lifted in October. The 10 dioceses were among 303 program-producing entities whose

FCC waivers were revoked. Most of the rest are individual Christian congregations that produce their own shows. The Diocese of Lake Charles, La., one of the affected dioceses, said it would seek a new waiver. It does not do a weekly televised Mass but has other programming. Morris LeBleu, who produces "Glad Tidings," an hour-long news and interview program that has aired for the past 30 years, told Catholic News Service that to comply with the FCC order, "we feel it would cost us a third more a week, up to a half," to produce the program. The current costs, according to LeBleu, are \$1,550 in weekly production costs, and \$850 each Sunday for the airtime on a local broadcast network affiliate. Another cost consideration for Lake Charles, LeBleu said, was the possibility that the station airing "Glad Tidings" will be switching to high-definition broadcasting entirely, which would force the diocese to buy new equipment.

Catholic DVD on marriage not a lobbying effort, campaign board rules

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Minnesota's Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board has dismissed a complaint stemming from a DVD on marriage mailed to 400,000 Catholics in the state by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis in September 2010. The complainant, Minneapolis attorney Kurt M. Anderson, had argued that the mailing constituted a lobbying effort by the archdiocese and therefore triggered certain registration and reporting requirements under Minnesota campaign law. "There is a sufficient basis on which to reasonably conclude that the archdiocese's communications were for a purpose other than to influence legislative action," the board said in its 12-page decision, announced Dec. 8. "As a result, there is no probable cause to conclude that the archdiocese became a 'principal' as a result of the subject communications." The board also found "no probable cause" that the archdiocese should have been required to register a political fund or register as a lobbyist because of its actions. Anderson had contended that the DVD campaign — which took place about six weeks before voters were to elect members of the Minnesota Legislature — was a lobbying effort aimed at persuading legislators to place a constitutional amendment defining marriage on the state ballot. In the DVD, Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of St. Paul and Minneapolis said, "I have called on the Legislature to allow voters to consider a constitutional amendment to preserve marriage as the union between one man and one woman. The archdiocese believes that the time has come for voters to be presented directly with an amendment to the state constitution to preserve our historic understanding of marriage," he added.

Luncheon honors donors

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School's Development Office invited all donors who contributed to Bishop Luers and students' Catholic education to the annual We are the Light of the World luncheon on Nov. 30.

During the luncheon, senior Alexandria Clinger shared how blessed she is with the opportunity to attend Bishop Luers.

"Receiving this scholarship means I can continue my education with all the right tools to go on to a great college," Clinger said. "Having this direction not only means a challenging curriculum but also bringing you spiritually closer to God each and every day."

Other students shared during the lunch their appreciation for the scholarships or tuition assistance they received.

Freshman Bryce Pollick wrote, "I am so blessed to have received the Msgr. William Lester Scholarship. This scholarship provided the financial help, which my family needed, allowing me to attend Bishop Luers High School. High academic standards are preparing me for college while I continue my Catholic education. Receiving this scholarship was a major stepping-stone in helping me to achieve my future goal of becoming a doctor, and bringing me closer to God. I am forever thankful."

Catholic conference planned at Notre Dame Jan. 21-22

NOTRE DAME — Fathers Les Valerio and Kevin Joyce from the Archdiocese in Omaha will present an inspiring, instructive Catholic conference at McKenna Hall at University of Notre Dame the weekend of Jan. 21-22.

The priests have led parish missions, group retreats to religious orders, guided private retreats and spoken at charismatic conferences.

The theme of this conference is, "The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me." It will focus on how the Holy Spirit continues to make us into "living stones" through Baptismal graces.

There will be five talks: The Prophet Awakened in Me; Prophetic Surrender; Prophetic Prayer; Prophetic Worship; and Prophetic Witness.

The cost for the weekend is \$100 with lunches included. The cost for college students is \$50. Priests, seminarians and religious are invited to attend at no cost.

Mass will be celebrated on Saturday morning at Dillon Hall. The priests will concelebrate with the Holy Cross priests at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Sunday morning at 10 a.m.

Brochures are available. The registration deadline is Sunday, Jan. 15.

For more information, contact Dave and Jan Torma at fisherofmendjt@msn.com or call (574) 291-3381.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

DECATUR SCHOOL CELEBRATES ADVENT SEASON



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL IN DECATUR

Karla Hormann, right, principal at St. Joseph School in Decatur, along with Art Ehinger and Moon Bohlander, light a candle in the school Advent wreath, after reading about Advent during morning announcements.

Winter mini-retreat for young adults

MISHAWAKA — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is hosting a mini-retreat for young adults, aged 20s and 30s, single and married on Sunday, Jan. 15, 1-7 p.m. at the St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka.

The program theme, "Unwrapping Your God-Given Gifts," will be presented by Lisa Anderson and Holy Cross Father Jim Gallagher.

The event includes Sunday Mass and dinner social.

Advance registration requested, but not required. Suggested donation is \$10 for the retreat. Dinner cost is \$5 or bring your own.

Registrations may be sent to Sean Allen at sallen@diocesefwsb.org or (574) 858-354-9006. For more information visit www.diocesefwsb.org/retreats

Theology on Tap announces 2012 spring series

SOUTH BEND — Theology on Tap, a Catholic speaker series for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, has announced its spring schedule. The series will meet at the Backstage Grill, 222 S. Michigan St., in downtown South Bend, on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

- Jan. 24 — "What is Love?" with Dr. John Cavadini
- Jan. 31 — "God's Love for Us" with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
- Feb. 7 — "Our Love for God" with Dr. David Fagerberg
- Feb. 14 — "Our Love for Others" with Dr. Anita Houck
- Feb. 21 — Mardi Gras Party

For more information contact Sean Allen at sallen@diocesefwsb.org or (574) 858-354-9006. The series is presented by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/tot

Saint Joseph's German students recognized

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School German students Chris Agostino, a junior, and senior Austin Huntington have been selected as two of the 12 national finalists in the Internationale Deutscholympiade for their overall performance in German.

The International German Olympics are held by the International Association of Teachers of German (IDV), the Goethe-Institut USA and the AATG. The Goethe-Institut Chicago selected the finalists for the International German Olympics. The 12 best U.S. candidates were chosen as a result of a national contest that was held in the middle of November. Agostino and Huntington will travel to Chicago in February to compete

on the next level. If they win, they will represent the United States in the world championships in Germany. Agostino is the son of Peter and Kathleen Agostino and a graduate of Christ the King School in South Bend. Huntington is the son of Dr. Tom Huntington and Cheri Huntington and a graduate of St. Joseph, Mishawaka.

First graders sponsor "Cookies for Christ" sale for families in need

FORT WAYNE — It may not seem unusual that St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School first graders and their families have been busy baking cookies at this time of year. What is unusual is that these first graders and their families bake, bag and sell their annual "Cookies for Christ" to the St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School community and donate all the money they make to the Sunshine Club. The Sunshine Club is an outreach of both St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Seton parishes that gives food, clothing, toys and household items to 50-plus families in need at Christmastime.

"Cookies for Christ has become an annual stewardship project for our first graders," said St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School Principal Lois Widner. "This project means so much to our community and to our school. What an awesome way for our young people to show their love for others and as a witness for Christ."

Joanne Krudop, retired St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School first-grade teacher, came to tell the first graders how she started Cookies for Christ in the mid-1990s. A boy in her first-grade class was using cardboard to hold together an old pair of shoes and was in desperate need for new shoes.

The St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School first graders sold their cookies for 25 cents each. They sold 2,758 cookies and made \$689.50, which was given to the Sunshine Club of St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Seton parishes to help families in need at Christmastime.

Correction

The Villa of the Woods residents in the Dec. 18, 2011 *Today's Catholic* should have been listed as: From left to right: Dale Foltz, Nancy Bartlett, Jeanette McArdle and Phil Armstrong.

ST. VINCENT SCHOOL HOLDS FUND DRIVE, PRESENTS CHECK



LINDA MCCARTHY

St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne, recently held a fund and toy drive for family members of the National Guard. In the photo, Emily Tippmann, Michael Manning and Tony Turner present a check for \$3,000 to Air Guard 122nd Fighter Wing Commander Col. David Augustine, on behalf of the Military Family Services Group. With the check was a Wii Console and accessories.

'Madre Mary' feted at St. Joseph Parish

BY JODI MAGALLANES

LAGRANGE — In honor of the Virgin Mary's first known appearance in the Western Hemisphere, St. Joseph Parish in LaGrange celebrated the feast Our Lady of Guadalupe on Monday, Dec. 12, with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Although Blessed Pope John Paul II publicly recognized the Virgin of Guadalupe as the Mother of the Americas, she is particularly precious to Mexican Catholics. Since she appeared as a mixed-blood Indian to Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin in 1531 near Mexico City, the devotion of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been integral to the Mexican Catholic tradition.

At St. Joseph, members of the parish's Spanish-speaking community also remembered her appearance with flowers, dancing, food and music. According to parish administrator, Conventual Franciscan Father Andrew Martinez, the observance is one of the biggest for the parish's Hispanic community, in addition to the Passion and another Christmas season activity, the Shepherd's Play.

Bishop Rhoades immediately called worshippers' attention to the story of Our Lady's appearance, which includes the well-known Marian question "Am I not here, she who is your mother?" The question, asked of Juan Diego, requires the modern faithful as well to recognize that they are in the presence of the Holy Queen, Bishop Rhoades said.

A believer can't embrace Jesus without recognizing the role that Mary played in salvation and the maternal, spiritual role He assigned her over all people, Bishop Rhoades continued.

Mary's appearance revived evangelization efforts in the New World, which is the reason Our Lady of Guadalupe is referred to as the Star of Evangelization. She also is with people today during their faith journeys.

In an age when secularism,

relativism and consumerism are challenges, evangelical values come under attack. The Virgin helps the faithful to defend values, such as respect for life from conception to natural death, the sanctity and indissolubility of Christian matrimony and the stability and dignity of the family. But there is no social peace without respect for those values, and Marian devotion helps the faithful live as faithful disciples of Christ so that they can be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, Bishop concluded.

Prior to the Mass, Trini Muñoz and others faithful to a rosary tradition ended a pilgrimage with an Our Lady of Guadalupe icon by placing it in the church sanctuary. The image, which was brought from Mexico, had visited numerous homes during the preceding 46 days for small group recitations and other prayers.

St. Joseph's Hispanic young adult group brought to life the story of Mary's appearance to Juan Diego through a pre-Mass drama. The enactment took place before a crowd of about 300 people who seemed appreciative as well as engaged by special effects like a spotlight and fog machine that were employed to make the scenes more accurate and inspiring.

"This is the second year we've done it and I think the crowd is getting bigger. More young people are coming up to us and wanting to get involved," said Nancy Flores, who heads the group with her husband, Cesar.

A reception that included a meal of chicken and rice, typical Mexican breads and desserts followed the Mass. Dancers entertained participants with Mexican folkloric dances.

About 250 families call St. Joseph their parish home, half of which Father Martinez estimates to be Spanish-speaking. Some of those have been in the LaGrange area for 15 or 20 years. They were first ministered to by Father Mark Weaver, followed by Father Paul Bueter. Father Martinez, a Franciscan friar, has cared for the parish for the last two years.



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIL

Celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 at St. Joseph Parish in LaGrange, Ignacio Urenda, left, and Ana Karen Garcia, right, act in a play depicting the appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Juan Diego in 1531. The play was presented prior to Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades with the Hispanic community of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.



Children dance as part of the festivities of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Joseph Church in LaGrange. Instructors, not in photos, are Magdalena Aguilar and Angelica Garcia.



A Hispanic tradition includes dressing children as Juan Diego, in thanksgiving for petitions to Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Emily Muñoz is shown with her family's picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe brought from their home to the feast day Mass, an annual tradition.

Former Lutheran pastor now music director in Catholic parish

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — As the legatee of a sturdy German Lutheran heritage, growing up in Arlington Heights, Ill., young Allen Goebbert would have found it impossible to believe that for him, the future held a combined career of Lutheran pastorship and as professional organist and choir director, and that as an extreme twist, the late chapters of his life would find him as a Roman Catholic music director.

The early chapters found him in St. Peter's Lutheran parochial grade school and then Milwaukee's Concordia High School, a prep school for Lutheran pastors.

Interlaced with his Lutheran legacy was an interest in music. In the fourth grade, he began



MARK WEBER

Allen Goebbert recently was named the music director of St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne.

ORGANIST, PAGE 12

Donna Carteaux vacations in Snow Village

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

FORT WAYNE — Donna Carteaux's friends know that she can be reached at her "vacation home" at the North Pole during the holidays, somewhere deep in Department 56 Snow Village, where she happily hibernates.

The Fort Wayne resident mentally miniaturizes herself to walk among the tiny stores, post offices, three-story-high snow-covered pine trees, a hospital, churches, banks, and frozen mirrored ponds with ice skaters that create her small Main Street USA town. In this nostalgic winter community, Carteaux has all she needs — a doctor, dentist, pizza delivery girl, mail carrier, a garage mechanic and tow truck, a constable, a marching band and a freight train whose chugging lulls the little hamlet to sleep at night.

A Central Catholic High School graduate, Carteaux first fell in love with the old Wolf & Dessauer department store animated windows, and began collecting villages and accessories 36 years ago that were reminiscent of the decades-ago store window displays.

"People would also give them to me as gifts," said Carteaux, who has Studio 56, Lemax, Old Towne and Heritage collections, with bits and pieces of other traditional villages.

"Currently, I have more than 2,000 pieces, and obtain them mostly at Menard's, Hallmark, Kohl's and other places. I'm very protective of my items and even my husband Bob will help me carry the boxes down from the attic when it's time to set the display up, but no one, including him, is allowed to touch the pieces. In the past, I set up the display each holiday season, but in the last two years, we have kept the display up all year round. Previously, it took me a month to set up the whole presentation, which encompasses two open rooms in our home."

Donna and Bob, who celebrated their 51st anniversary last May, have three children — Bob Jr., Debbie Martin, Liz Waldorf — and four grandchildren. The family enjoys traveling — Donna and Bob have been to 135 countries — and flower gardening, reading, cooking, music, writing and art are among Donna's pastimes when not engrossed with her snow village neighborhood.



BARB SIEMINSKI

Donna examines a village building before setting it up.

The Carteaux offspring, though now grown, become a tad mischievous when the display is set up. These adults derive great pleasure in wandering around the exhibit and causing wrecks with the sanitation trucks and autos and piling them on top of each other in various ditches.

Carteaux's kids also call their mother, "Eagle Eye," because she can walk into her setup rooms and tell instantly if anyone's been there or if a tiny chair has been moved, even just a smidgen.

"They move some of the small pieces to see if I notice — yep, I do.

They love keeping me on my toes, and I enjoy it too," said Carteaux.

"My son-in-law is a die-hard Coke drinker but I was a long-time Pepsi drinker, so I cut out Pepsi signs and put them on the drug store and bottling company over the Coke signs."

Her little town has been designed as a place where she'd like to live, especially where the snow resort and farms are concerned, said Carteaux, adding that her village is never complete due to new items always appearing in the stores.

"My favorite piece is the ski lodge," says Carteaux, "because I imagine myself with a hot chocolate, sitting in front of a beautiful fire with

a book, and watching the skiers."

"And I love gazing at the ice skaters and the scenic farms."

Several parts of the realistic festivity light up and come alive when plugged in, including the skaters and the skiers that go up and down the hill on a track. The trains, trolley and the toboggan are also activated, said Carteaux, whose inner child often makes up stories about various parts of the exhibit.

Visitors continually marvel at the virtual community spread out on Carteaux's many tabletops, including some of the more unusual pieces such as the Grand Ole Opry Ryman Auditorium, a small Habitat for Humanity house and a country club. She would like to add a haunted house and a jail, if those two items are ever created.

Carteaux, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, also belongs to the Christ Child Society and the Third Order of St. Francis. For the past four years, she has made rosaries for the military, and faithfully continues doing this.

A peacemaker at heart and life-long advocate for justice, Carteaux tries to live by the Rotarian code of "service above self." And after exhausting hours of care-giving, her well-deserved "therapy time" flows predictably into her picturesque "vacation home" where tiny, colorful skaters waltz gaily over frozen ponds and nostalgic Christmas yesterdays live forever.

More photos are available at www.diocesefwsb.org



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God's greatest Gift

The present economic crisis can provide us with an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, rather than on the materialistic spirit that often permeates our Western culture. Since so many people are unemployed or under employed and many family incomes are shrinking, a lot of people will have to limit the type and number of gifts they give. This might be a blessing in disguise. It can provide us a chance to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Gift giving is a wonderful tradition but too many of us tend to go overboard and often measure another's love and care by the gifts they give and receive. And some people give gifts out of a feeling of obligation or just because someone gives them one. Many feel embarrassed if a person gives them a gift and they have nothing to give in return.

Gift giving is meant to be a sign of one's love, not an obligation. God showed His love by giving us the greatest gift of all — His Son, Jesus Christ. I heard it put simply in a Christmas homily. The priest said that Christmas is God's way of showing us how much He loves us. That sums up the message of Christianity.

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

Material gifts don't last forever. Many things get lost, broken, lose their usefulness or we get bored with them. On the contrary, God's love for us never fades. It is everlasting. God is always faithful, even when we are not. God loves



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

THE CUTTING EDGE

us so much that he desires to be with us, morning, noon and night. His care for us is so great that God even became a human being for us. This is what we celebrate at Christmas. Sure, it is always nice to give and receive gifts, but our greatest gift is salvation given by Jesus.

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

EDGE, PAGE 11

Jesus gives us reason for hope



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the birth of Christ — Christmas Jn 1:1-18

The liturgy includes several Masses for Christmas. These readings are for the Mass celebrated during the day.

Isaiah's third section supplies the first lesson. To understand this reading, it helps to be aware of the historical context surrounding the composition of this part of Isaiah. God's chosen people had been through very much in the preceding century. First, their land, regarded by the devout as sacred itself, and certainly belonging to the Hebrew people by nothing less than divine mandate, because God had given it, had been conquered by invading pagans.

Not only were the people robbed of the land, and chaos and destruction swept through the society, but the social structure was destroyed. People were killed. Many who survived this conquest were themselves taken to Babylon, the capital of their Babylonian Empire. There they languished for four generations, far from their homeland and compelled to live in an atmosphere greatly unfriendly to their religion and to all that they had known.

At long last, this enforced exile ended. Returning to the Holy Land, however, was a hollow

achievement. The land was poor and unproductive.

Through prophetic guidance, such as that provided by the author of this section of Isaiah, the realization came that true deprivation is the want within the human heart for peace, hope and a sense of strength and worth the result from sin.

This Scripture sees, therefore, as the antidote to anxiety a sense in the heart of the presence of almighty God, the source of all peace, joy and hope, and living in obedience to God.

The second reading is a passage from the Epistle to the Hebrews. It is a marvelous revelation of God as the Trinity, and of Jesus, as Son of God, the true and full reflection of the Father, characteristic in its eloquence and depth of this entire epistle.

In the third reading, the Church presents the first 18 verses of the Gospel of John. Each of the four Gospels has its own literary majesty and particular, inspired insight into the reality of God and salvation.

While each of the Gospels, therefore, is splendid in its own literary construction, none outdoes John for clarity and magnificence. For that matter, few passages, if any, in the long Gospel of John outdo the glory of these first 18 verses.

These verses, read today, are extraordinary because of the soaring and profound sense they convey in revealing the person and mission of Jesus. He is God's wondrous gift to humankind, given in God's eternal and unending love.

Only in Jesus does existence have meaning, order, purpose and a future. He is the glory of God, living for and among humans. He is the light of the world. He is eternal. He is life itself.

Reflection

By the time the Mass during the day is celebrated, dawn has come. Daylight shines almost everywhere on earth, even if shaded in some places by the grey clouds of winter.

The Church began celebrating the marvel of Christ's birth at Mass at midnight. It celebrated at Mass at dawn. In the Mass celebrated during the day, the Church ponders once again what it celebrated earlier. It invites us to join it in this holy reflection. What is the true meaning of the event of Christ's birth? What does it mean for each person?

The true meaning is that despite the deprivation and despair produced by sin, as Third-Isaiah realized, we have reason for hope and confidence. Jesus, the Son of God, and the very glory of the Father, has come and is here for us.

Jesus is not distant or inaccessible. He is one of us, being the son of Mary. He has been born for, and given by God, to us!

READINGS

Sunday: (Day) Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6
Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

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

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6,
11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2-5,
7b-8 Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6
Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6 Ps 128:1-5 Lk 22-40

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2,
11-13 Jn 1:1-18

What draws people back to the Church?

The reasons people leave the Church are all unique. But there are some common things that draw them back. Here are some signs that someone you know may be interested in returning to the Catholic Church.

Asking questions

The most common sign is when someone begins to ask questions about God, good and evil, or the meaning of life. A lot of people in our society have lost that sense of meaning. They begin to ask, "What is my life about? Why do I do what I do? Is there any purpose in all of this?" Non-threatening comments such as, "It sounds like you're really searching ..." will encourage the person to talk in a more open manner. You might want to invite the person to come to Mass with you and pray about it together.

Memories

Reminiscing about Catholic school, nuns, priests or parish activities is another sign. Sometimes people will recall childhood devotions to Our Lady or the saints. Memories of music, incense or some special liturgy may surface. Don't be afraid to share your memories. You might want to suggest revisiting a childhood parish together or seek out a priest or religious who had a profound impact on the person.

If remembering takes a negative turn, don't be defensive. The person may be justified in his or her anger. Sometimes, talking about a bad experience can help put it in perspective. If possible encourage the person to separate anger toward a person from anger at the Church and the sacraments. It wasn't the Church that caused the pain. It was an individual connected to the Church. If a person is open to praying with you, ask the Holy Spirit for healing of memories.

Reading

Many fallen away Catholics read their way back to the Church. It's a good idea to keep Catholic books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets and even your parish bulletin in places where family members and friends can pick them up. If there's something particular that you think might interest the person, recommend it. One woman sent books on Dorothy Day and Edith Stein to her sister who was struggling with how she perceived that the Church treats women.

Current events

Catholic news events can trigger interest in some people. Make sure you're up to date on papal visits, Marian apparitions, Vatican announcements

INVITING CATHOLICS HOME

LORENE HANLEY DUQUIN

and local news about Catholic people and events. When discussing any aspect of Catholic news, emphasize the universality of the Church. Unlike other Christian denominations that tend to attract people with similar interests and backgrounds, the Catholic Church numbers one billion people with different cultural, intellectual and socioeconomic backgrounds. As James Joyce said, the Catholic Church means, "Here comes everybody."

Stressful situations

Illness, death, divorce, the birth of a baby, a job loss or transfer, kids growing into their teenage years, moving to a new home are all life events that can trigger a desire to return to the Church. Sometimes people are afraid the Church will reject them if they have been gone for a long time. You might find yourself in a position of helping someone get accurate information about where they stand with God and the Church.

The presence of God

The real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is often a factor in bringing people back. Ask people to come with you for family funerals, weddings, baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Ash Wednesday, May crownings and Mass on Christmas and Easter. It's hard for people to go to church by themselves. Be an inviter. If they don't want to go to Mass, invite them to parish social, cultural or educational events. Keep the lines of communication open.

The common denominator

While the circumstances that trigger people's decision to come back to the Catholic faith may differ, there is one common denominator. In every instance, it is the Holy Spirit working through people, places and things that draws them back. The best thing we can do is to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us to touch others.

Lorene Hanley Duquin is an author and speaker on Catholics who return to the practice of the faith.

Unconditional parental love

Once I met a woman who had worked for years in fashion and modeling. Unsurprisingly, she was strikingly attractive. She was accompanied by her teenage daughter who, by contrast, was rather unremarkable to look at, maybe even a plain-Jane. After spending time with them, I began to sense that the mother, whose life had largely revolved around her appearance, seemed to look down on her daughter, perhaps unconsciously, because of her average appearance. Her daughter seemed aware of this lack of maternal acceptance, and seemed troubled and uncomfortable as she tried to compensate and please her mom in other ways.

The girl's situation was a strong reminder to me of how important it is for every child to experience unconditional acceptance from their parents if they are to grow and mature in a healthy way. Unconditional love profoundly and beautifully molds us as human beings.

A growing number of parents in our society, however, no longer seem to hold to this key notion of unconditionally accepting their own children. If parents are told by doctors that their children might be born with physical or mental disabilities, many parents today will reject them and even yield to the temptation to end their lives through direct abortion.

I was recently discussing the Special Olympics with the father of a boy who has Down syndrome, and he remarked that when he takes his son to the local chapter, there seem to be reduced numbers of new children participating each year. He wondered if this could be due to the expanded targeting of Down syndrome children through prenatal testing and abortion.

Most unborn children diagnosed with Down syndrome,

in fact, are never allowed to be born. Data from the United Kingdom indicate that between 1989 and 2006 approximately 92 percent of women chose to terminate a pregnancy with a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome, while in the U.S., several published studies suggest the figure may be somewhere between 87 percent and 98 percent. A great many Down syndrome children, indeed, never see the light of day.

In the face of these harsh data, the importance of explicitly repudiating the eugenic mindset that has taken hold in our society cannot be overstated. No child is perfect, but every child is precious. We need to act as a people "set apart" in our

attitude to the begetting of children who may be disabled. Historically, Catholics have always stood apart in this way.

Practically, this means overturning our culturally-conditioned attitudes towards "imperfect" children, and accepting every

child without preconditions. We must push back against the almost ubiquitous pressure that counsels us to ensure that our children are born without defects.

Bioethicist Luke Gormally argues it this way: "In part these pressures are the natural temptation to avoid the burdens of care for the handicapped... In part, however, they are the pressures of cultural attitudes, assimilated by many Christians, towards the child."

He continues: "For many it has become merely quaint to think of each child as a unique gift of God; children are more like planned acquisitions in our culture, acquisitions which should fit into our expectations about how our lives should go, about the ease and enjoyments that should characterize our lifestyle. A child who might threaten our



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

ease may, if he or she is viewed as an acquisition, be thought of as a replaceable acquisition.

And indeed genetic counselors will tell parents: you can terminate this pregnancy and try again for a 'normal child.'"

A husband and wife are called to give themselves to each other completely and unreservedly, and to accept each other unconditionally in the marital embrace. Every child of theirs, whether entering the world with a handicap or not, is an expression and fruit of themselves and their acceptance of each other. To reject their own progeny because of a disability is to reject each other on some level. To deny life to their own flesh and blood is also to reject an infinite gift from the Giver of gifts, and to arrogate to themselves a ruthless power over life. Meanwhile, the unconditional acceptance of a child as a gift of God flows from the true and unconditional acceptance of each other as husband and wife, even with all their spousal faults and defects.

As Gormally concludes, "Truly unreserved self-giving carries with it a commitment to unreserved acceptance of the fruit of that self-giving. The dignity of the child is only adequately recognized in the acceptance and cherishing of him just as he is."

We do well continually to realign our thinking, so we can come to see how our children, whether "perfect" or not, are treasures and never possessions; they are gifts, and never acquisitions. They are blessings to be safeguarded and nurtured in the embrace of unconditional parental acceptance.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

ing old relationships. Or we can do that charitable act that we often think about but never seem to get around to carrying out. Let us live out our good intentions. Other things we might do are to visit or call people we know who are lonely and need some comfort. We might offer to babysit for a young couple that rarely gets time alone. These little kindnesses are often appreciated more than another bottle of perfume or shaving lotion.

Gift giving is okay as long as it doesn't get in the way of the reason for this season. And parents, teach your children the true meaning of Christmas. Let them know that your love for them is not measured by what is under the tree.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 25, 2011

Luke 2:1-14

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Midnight Mass on Christmas: the Nativity story according to Luke. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

DECREE	SYRIA	JOSEPH
GALILEE	JUDEA	FAMILY
DAVID	CHILD	BIRTH
MANGER	FIELDS	WATCH
THEIR FLOCK	ANGEL	THE LORD
GLORY	GREAT JOY	SAVIOR
MESSIAH	MULTITUDE	PEACE

AT WATCH

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

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Season of hope and Christ in Christmas

Earlier in the year the Knights of Columbus in their international convention chose for their theme: "So That the World May Know New Hope."

The Knights of Columbus councils throughout Indiana have been working to bring hope to their local communities. Here is a sample of what the Indiana Knights are doing to bring hope to their communities:

In Anderson, Msgr. Thomas J. Travers Council held a blood drive for Indiana's fallen officers.

The Knights of the Evansville council repair kitchen appliances to be resold for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

In Hammond, the members of Unity Council packed and shipped gift packages to American military overseas.

Pope John Paul II Council in Corydon collects canned goods at their weekly bingos and donates them to the local food bank.

The Knights in Bedford, Father William P. Garrity council, raised money to buy coats for needy children through the Coats for Kids program.

The St. Aloysius Council in Yoder sponsors a Prison Ministry Angel Tree Program with the help of other Fort Wayne councils and provides Christmas presents to



THE INDIANA KNIGHTS

MICHAEL BLANKMAN

children who have a parent in prison.

Keep in mind that the season we are in now is Advent, a time of preparation and hope. It is difficult to remember this when the world we live in has different ideas and goal. We hear the daily countdown, only a few Christmas shopping days left.

Somehow when Christmas finally arrives it seems like the distractions fade away for a moment and we are able to focus on one of the most beautiful and holy times of the year.

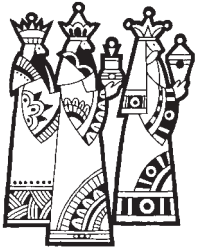
We Catholics and the Indiana Knights are in the world, but we cannot allow ourselves to be drawn into its ways. We who are members of the Knights are expected to know this and to live our lives in such a way that we can transform the world around us. With God's help we will work to change the little piece of the world where God has placed us.

EDGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

During this Christmas season we can give the kind of gifts that don't require a lot of money and won't overtax our credit cards. Let us give of ourselves rather than material things we may not be able to afford. We can work on mending or renew-

Blessings of the season!



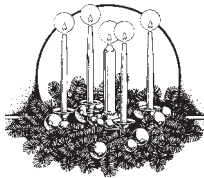
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Saint Monica Parish Holiday Mass Schedule



Saturday, December 24

4:30 Family Vigil Mass-Choir Prelude at 4:00 pm
(Sign language Interpreter)

10:00 pm Vigil Mass-Choir Prelude at 9:30 pm

Sunday, December 25 - 10:00 am

Saturday, December 31- 5:30 pm

Sunday, January 1- 7:30, 9:30, & 11:00 am

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CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE IN CRYPT

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve:
4:00 pm Family Mass

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day
6:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am Masses

Sunday, January 1, Mary, Mother of God
6:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am Masses

Sunday, January 8, 2012,
Epiphany of the Lord
6:30 am Crypt Mass
(This is the Only Crypt Mass this day!)

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



Visit Diocesefwsb.org
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St. Patrick classmates meet, survive WWII

BY MARK WEBER

For two young lads who were graduated from Fort Wayne's St. Patrick's grade school in 1937, there was a lazy summer ahead and then the excitement of being together again in Catholic high school. Neither could know that their subsequent graduation would send them not to college but straight into the army and the opening chapter of World War II where they would have a dramatic reunion in the shadow of the bridge at Nijmegen as part of the infamous Operation Market Basket, dramatized in the movie, "A Bridge Too Far."

Bob Heiny of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, and his lifelong friend, Bob Gorman, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, have shared enough experiences in their 89 years to be twins, beginning with eight years of grade school at St. Patrick, then high school, first at the Holy Cross Brothers School and as second semester sophomores in the brand new Central Catholic High School, graduates in the class of '41.

World War II separated the close chums, although they still had something in common. They were both in the U. S. Army and kept in touch by mail.



MARK WEBER

Bob Heiny, left, and his friend, Bob Gorman, shared a lifetime of experiences, including WWII combat, and now volunteer at St. Mary's Soup Kitchen.

Both men belonged to units in the European theater, and as the war drew to a close, both were involved in the dangerous gamble to advance Allied forces into Germany at the Rhine River. Bob Heiny got there first. His outfit, the 656th Tank Destroyer outfit was the first to cross the Rhine. Sgt. Heiny knew from their correspondence that Bob Gorman was close by with the 203 Anti Aircraft, assigned to protect a pontoon bridge and the main bridge. Gorman was living in a bombed-out hotel and it was there that the two battle weary Hoosiers had a brandy-laced reunion matching the surrounding bombardment.

The St. Pat's buddies survived the war without a scratch and resumed life together as roommates at Xavier University. Bob Heiny returned to the Heiny Grocery firm with his brothers and then the Sealtest Ice Cream company. Bob Gorman retired from General Electric ... and their shared experience was to continue. Twenty seven years ago, Gorman persuaded Heiny to join him as a volunteer two days a week at St. Mary's Soup Kitchen.

And that's where the present finds the two who served Mass at St. Patrick, who went through life, thick and thin, war and peace, now serving Christ by serving others.

ORGANIST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

viola lessons at school and gave himself private lessons on the piano at home. Radio broadcasts of classical and organ music were favorites, and a benchmark experience occurred when day by day, he watched a new pipe organ being installed at his home parish, and as a boy, was invited to play it; and when he touched those keys and heard what came out of the pipes, it became a moment of destiny.

Included with organ and piano lessons in high school, his voice training began as he sang in a high-school choir and the Milwaukee Acappella Choir, and later in seminary days in St. Louis, he sang in the St. Louis Bach Society and the choir of Concordia Seminary.

Goebbert married while he was a seminarian in St. Louis, but his wife, Mary, was not Lutheran; she was a Methodist.

Mary was from Geneva, Ind., and her mother was a Catholic with a rather fragile connection to St. Mary of the Presentation Parish. Through this linking, Mary had vague memories of visits to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne for midnight Mass and Easter Mass at St. Mary of the Presentation.

Goebbert's first call as a pastor came from a rural parish near Beemer, Neb., and he and Mary went there, amongst corn and cattle, to serve the faithful of Zion

St. John's Parish.

His next assignment was to his home parish in Arlington Heights, Ill., where he was minister of music, directing the choir and a hand-bell choir, and playing the organ.

Goebbert and his wife then went to Wichita, Kan., and began to raise a family of six. Although he was a pastor in Wichita, he became heavily involved in musical activities in the area; singing in the Wichita chorus, taking organist performance classes, and freelancing as an organist and choir director in various churches in Wichita.

After 12 years in Wichita, the Goebberts moved to Huntington in 1994 to serve at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Musical activities tailed off there, where a parochial school and large parish demanded administrative attention.

Their next assignment took them to Elkhart's Trinity Lutheran Church for about three years where Goebbert was minister of music, and where he retired from the active Lutheran pastoral ministry.

A spiritual dryness had set in. Goebbert and Mary felt that they were stranded on a spiritual journey — a journey scattered with faint Catholic landmarks. Mary's memories of visits to Fort Wayne's cathedral, Goebbert's love of sacred music, and a vivid recollection that in all his years of active ministry, his Christmas routine always included watching Christmas Mass from St. Peter's in Rome on television. No Christmas was complete without it.

The family had now moved

back to Huntington and Goebbert was once again freelancing as an organist with a regular assignment at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne.

Through the network of musicians, Goebbert was told that Judy Throm, music director for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, was looking for someone to play the organ for Midnight Mass. Goebbert got the assignment that turned out to be an extremely uplifting experience for their entire family.

Several months went by, and the echoes and comfort of the Christmas Mass lasted for Mary, who suddenly suggested that they attend Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington.

The warmth of the reception received there, plus the engaging understanding of Capuchin Father Ron Rieder, left no doubt that their spiritual journey now had clear directions, and Goebbert and Mary made the decision to complete the RCIA process as candidates and to be received into the Catholic faith in the spring of 2009.

Goebbert's work continues to put him in other churches. He is the organist, choirmaster and office manager for the Salem United Church of Christ in Fort Wayne.

This past summer, however, he saw an ad in *Today's Catholic* newspaper for a part-time job as music director at St. Therese Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. He applied for that position, was hired by Spiritan Father Lawrence Teteh and finds the experience as a total fulfillment of all the assignments he has had in the Lord's vineyard.

Sports

BISHOP DWENGER OFFERS 2012 SAINTS BASKETBALL CAMP All future Saints in grades K-8 are invited to participate in the 2012 Saints Basketball Camp being held in the Bishop Dwenger main gym on the following Saturdays: Jan. 7, 14, 21, and Feb. 4. Camp participants will learn the fundamentals of basketball such as dribbling, passing and shooting, with an emphasis on fair play and sportsmanship. The entire four-Saturday series is only \$40 (T-shirt included). Registrations are due by Jan. 5, 2012 or camp participants may register on the first day of the session. Call (260) 496-4700 with additional questions.

Saint Joseph's High School receives sportsmanship award

SOUTH BEND — The Indiana High School Athletic Association has awarded Saint Joseph's High School a newly-instituted recognition — the IHSAA School Sportsmanship Award. Scholarship, sportsmanship and citizenship are the cornerstones of this award.

The IHSAA is offering all Indiana high schools the opportunity to win the IHSAA School Sportsmanship Award, an annual presentation, which will include a championship banner for the school to be hung in the gym.

Award coordinators noted, "Sportsmanship, quite simply, translates to lessons in citizenship for the 160,000 young men and women who participate in high school sports in Indiana. Your enthusiastic participation in the IHSAA program will help counter possible negative influences that exist in our society in regards to sportsmanship. More importantly, it will help set a positive example for

others to follow. We encourage and thank you for your school's full support of this program."

In addition to having a written sportsmanship plan in place, the following criteria must be met:

- A winning school cannot have a coach ejected from a game because of a sportsmanship violation during the school year.
- A winning school cannot have a player ejected from a game because of a sportsmanship violation during the school year.
- A winning school cannot have a corroborated report about unsportsmanlike fan behavior filed by a licensed IHSAA official.
- A winning school cannot have an IHSAA rules violation.

This is an award that reflects the character and respect displayed by all involved in the Saint Joseph's sports programs — coaches, players, students, parents, faculty and staff.

CYO Twins get their first win of the season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth League (CYO) hoops players got in their final week of regular season play for 2011 over the weekend, and the St. Rose-St. Louis boys got their first win with a victory over the Huntington Catholic Rams.

Paul Gerardot returns to coach the Twins and has double duties this season also heading up the junior-varsity team. He lists nine players on his combined seventh- and eighth-grade roster and feels his team plays with a lot of desire.

"These boys really love the

game of basketball. They are an enthusiastic bunch and work extremely hard," he said. "I can truly say the eighth graders have come a long way since seventh grade. They are hungry to learn the game, love practice and don't even mind running the steps at St. Henry."



The Twins are 1-0 in conference play and have a 1-2 overall record early on.

St. Rose-St. Louis will see some action on the court in a feeder school tournament over the Christmas break and return to conference play in January.


"I am hoping we will peak by the end of the season and stay healthy this year," concluded Gerardot.

Lady Cougars named to NAIA Scholar-Athlete team

FORT WAYNE — Four members of the 2011 University of Saint Francis women's soccer team have been named to the 2011 NAIA Scholar-Athlete team.

Student-athletes are nominated by their institution's head coach and must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and must have achieved a junior academic status in order to qualify for the honor.

The USF selections included senior midfielder Angie Carusone, senior defender Michelle Domenick, goalkeeper Ashley Holt and junior midfielder Emma Charais, who is also a Bishop Luers High School graduate.



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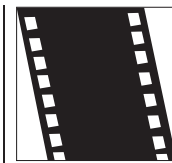
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ST. MATTHEW'S GIVING TREE



PROVIDED BY ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL

Pictured from left, Karen, Joseph and Julia Hunckler, and Mary and Theresa Rice, encircle the Advent giving tree that adorns the vestibule of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend. Monetary and suggested items for purchase taken from the ornaments on the tree will benefit the Crib Club of the Women's Care Center (WCC). Begun in 1984 in South Bend, the WCC has grown into the nation's largest pregnancy, resource center using an incentive program in which earned vouchers may be used to "purchase" items such as diapers, formula, clothing and many other necessities offered through the Crib Club.



MOVIE CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS) – Following is a capsule review of a theatrical movie recently reviewed by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (Warner Bros.)
 Sprawling, brawling adventure sequel — set in 1891 — in which Robert Downey Jr.'s he-man Holmes and his recently wed sidekick Dr. Watson (Jude Law) battle a conspiracy by evil genius Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris) to destabilize European politics and bring on a general war. The iconic pair is aided in their struggle by a Gypsy fortuneteller (Noomi Rapace) and by Holmes' bon vivant older brother (Stephen Fry). Director Guy Ritchie's second take on the classic detective fiction of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle downplays old-fashioned sleuthing in favor of a constant flow of confrontations, escapades and escapes. Still, adults with a high degree of tolerance for stylized violence will likely find the proceedings diverting enough. Constant action violence, including a suicide, torture and some glimpses of gore; partial rear and implied full nudity; fleeting sexual humor; and a few crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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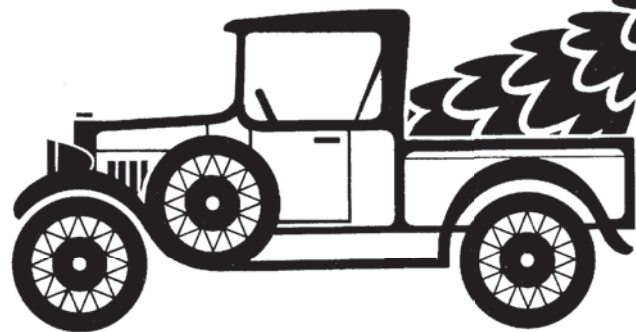
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May the Blessings of the season be yours.

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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.

Women's fertility workshop offered
Fort Wayne — Unleashing the power of NaProTECHNOLOGY will be presented Saturday, Jan. 7, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Creighton's comprehensive health care model unravels the mystery of women's cycles for healthier women, healthier marriages and healthier families. Contact Theresa Schortgen CFCP at (260) 749-6706 or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/creighton-health>. Reservations are required.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
Donaldson — Lessons and Carols with the choir of Ancilla Domini will begin at 10 p.m. EST, Christmas Eve in the Ancilla Domini Chapel, PHJC Ministry Center. The Mass of the Nativity of the Lord will start at 10:30 p.m. Jesuit Father Edward Konerman, will be the celebrant. Narrators will be Sister Judith Diltz and John Hetz. Cantors are Sister Shirley Bell and Charles Weaver. Instrumentalists will be Kelly Filson, flute; Lizzie Strati, flute; and Jessi Hutchinson, clarinet. The Bell Choir will also be

featured. Mary Lou McCarthy-Artz is director/organist.

Christmas concert at Precious Blood
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Church, with Jim Didier, choir director, and Kathy Schall, bell choir director, will present a Christmas concert Monday, Dec. 26, at 7 p.m. in the church. Admission is free.

St. Pius X senior group
Granger — St. Pius X has a senior group (55 plus) that meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon starting with Mass. On Jan. 10, the price is \$3. For information call (574) 271-7853.

Sunday breakfast at St. Pius X
Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will have a breakfast Sunday, Jan. 8, from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Pius X. Adults \$6, children 6-12 \$3.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Terrance Coonan will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 7 p.m. to pray

for priests and vocations. Father Coonan is parochial vicar at St. Pius X.

DONATIONS
Mustard Seed Furniture Bank can use your donations
Fort Wayne — The Mustard Seed Furniture Bank accepts donations of bedroom and living room furniture, tables, chairs, bed linens and towels. Items must be in working order. Donations may be picked up by calling (260) 471-5802.

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

Food donations needed
South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society is in need of food items to restock the warehouse. Drop off at a retail location: 3408 Ardmore Trail or SR 23 and Ironwood at Greenwood Plaza. Contact Dale at (574) 234-6000, ext. 12109, for information.

REST IN PEACE

Churubusco Ernest J. Remaklus, 75, St. John Bosco	Huntington Sister Carmen Montoya, OLVM, 99, Victory Noll	Roanoke Marcelline Jane DeWitt, 87, St. Joseph
Elkhart Annette J. Weaver, 49, St. Thomas the Apostle	Mishawaka Shirley Ann Weir, 71, St. Joseph	South Bend Clement R. Solmos, 80, St. Hedwig
Mary G. Raderstorf, 85, St. Thomas the Apostle	Monroeville Mary Kathryn Grabner, 90, St. Rose	Virginia M. Strzelecki, 83, Holy Family
Fort Wayne Erin Elizabeth Jehl, 19, St. Charles Borromeo	New Haven Twila Rose Gerardot Weber, 76, St. John	John E. Doran, 84, St. Matthew Cathedral
Catherine B. Sweigert, 86, St. Jude	Notre Dame Brother Joseph Andrew Dudek, CSC, 89, St. Joseph Chapel	Pauline Billisitz, 97, Our Lady of Hungary
Eileen A. Arend, 81, St. John the Baptist	Joseph L. Szalay Sr., 86, Sacred Heart Basilica	Carolyn O. Halasz, 76, Holy Cross
Lewann Carteaux, 73, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Sister M. Carmelita, CSC, 97, Our Lady of Loretto	Elizabeth A. Raynor, 90, Christ the King
Theodore J. Moring, 99, St. Jude	Granger Lois C. Demarais, 87, St. Pius X	Walkerton Kay Ivankovig, 84, St. Patrick
	Sister M. Basil Anthony O'Flynn, CSC, 94, Our Lady of Loretto	Warsaw Margueretta C. Burnett, 98, Sacred Heart

Bishop Luers High School

New Family Financial Aid Information Meeting

Discover the facts about FACTS tuition program, Indiana School Choice program, available scholarships and deadlines for financial aid.

Wednesday, January 11,
6:30 P.M. Media Center



333 E. Paulding Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46816
(260) 456-1261
www.bishopluers.org

Freshman Registration
Jan. 18-19, 6:30-8:30 P.M.

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Spirit of giving at St. Vincent de Paul

BY DENISE FEDOROW

ELKHART — Following the example of the church's patron — St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart has a Christmas Giving Program to help those in need.

St. Vincent de Paul's pastor, Father Glenn Kohrman explained, "We solicit people who need help and then solicit people who are able to help."

Parishioner Louaine Stephens is the coordinator of the program. Stephens said she began the program nine years ago, the first year she came to the parish.

"I was in a CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish) group and I saw a need — a definite need," she said.

She asked the pastor at the time for his approval and he gave it. But she only had a month to pull it all together. She said the first year they assisted 25 people, last year around 600. Stephens said she puts out slips of paper — half in English, half in Spanish — stating, "I need help or I know someone who needs help" and on the bottom it states, "I would love to help a family in need."

Stephens said her system starts by getting names, ages, gender and the need of those in need. Once she has four she moves on to those who want to help and finds out if they want to take care of an entire family or just one of the members. Sometimes donors will just give money and have her purchase the items.

"Sometimes we just have them buy SCRIP, because at times if it's an older person they have to choose between food and medicine and we give them SCRIP," she said.

Many stories

Stephens has many stories to share of experiences over the years. Once she had a woman who had a breast removed and requested a special undergarment. Another year someone with cancer needed a wig and she made 30 calls to get the wig donated.

One person kept telling her "I don't like Christmas!" and Stephens replied, "That's fine, but do you want to donate a wig?" It took some arguing back and forth, but finally the wig was donated.

One year a teenager put out a request through the Internet and brought in so many donations the family needed a truck to take them home. Stephens said that family shared the surplus with their neighbors.

"One year a girl asked for a coat and I thought, 'She really needs that coat.'" So rather than wait until pick-up day, she arranged to meet the girl and her mother at the church one morning.

"She showed up with a kitchen towel on her head for a hat, three sweaters for a coat and socks on her hands for mittens.



DENISE FEDOROW

This statue of St. Vincent de Paul, patron saint of charity, can be found at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Elkhart.

It snowed that day so she really needed the coat and the mom was so thankful because she needed her towel back to dry dishes," said Stephens.

God's Providence

Stephens said every year there are examples of God's providence in how things just work out. Like the time someone came walking in with a Christmas tree asking, "Can you use this?" right after a family asked for one.

This year a family who'd lost everything needed a twin bed frame, and a business called saying they had a twin bed frame to donate. Another time a teenager who loved basketball was overjoyed when someone came in after a Christmas party with a brand new electronic basketball game to donate.

There is a set of railroad tracks by the church in Elkhart and Stephens shared that their priest suggested rather than be frustrated while waiting for trains, to say a prayer. Once while waiting for a train, Stephens noticed some homeless women nearby. So while waiting at the tracks she gave out three coats from the back of her vehicle.

Another time late donations came in with just the perfect-sized jackets for children that were there in need.

"No one can tell me God doesn't run this — it's too perfect," she said.

Sometimes children call in asking for help for their families. Last year a boy called in asking for help for his sisters, mom and dad.

"What about you? You're part of the family, aren't you?" Stephens asked him. He said he didn't need anything. So little by little she got the information

out of him she needed to supply him with some Christmas gifts as well.

A family who was helped last year is holding a raffle this year to raise funds to help another family.

"That's how it's supposed to be, we help them and then they help others," Stephens said.

One woman told Stephens, "You're the only group that really cared about me so I want to help."

Stephens said her phone starts ringing in October.

Father Kohrman said, "Stephens puts in well over 100 hours matching families. It's amazing what she does — it truly is a saintly effort on her part."

Stephens said sometimes she's asked, "How do you know for sure if these are the ones that need help?" Her reply is, "We're leaving it in God's hands. We're truly working with the grace of God."

When asked if things are better this year both the pastor and Stephens said unfortunately they're not. Last year they were able to help 125 families. This year they have 77 families.

"It's not that the need is less but that people able to help is less. We've had to turn some people away," Father Glenn said.

"Unfortunately it's hard on both ends," Stephens said. "But we'll do it right up till the last minute — if we have extra we'll call someone to come get it."

She said the priests of the parish also take on families. "The priests have been very supportive — calls come in to them that they have to pass on to me. If the priests weren't supportive, it wouldn't work," she said. "It's a good church, I'm happy to be a part of it."

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSTS LIVING NATIVITY FOR YOUTH GROUP



PHOTOS BY LINDSAY KLINKER

The St. Vincent de Paul Parish seventh- and eighth-grade youth group, the Edge, led by Lindsay Klinker, recently witnessed a Living Nativity including a live donkey, at the church in Fort Wayne. The event, that had the participants visiting five stations that included the inn, the shepherds, the Bethlehem marketplace, the Magi and King Herod, drew close to 150 youth from the parish.



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*



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