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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Luers Knights claim four-peat football championship

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers Knights made history winning their fourth straight Class 2-A Indiana state football championship with a commanding 40-28 victory over Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

The Friday night, Nov. 23, win not only tells the sweet tale of family, tradition, talent, success and hard work paying off, but of a team that overcame a slew of adversity since last July. The title game not only culminated a star-studded, four-year career for a talented and highly recruited core of seniors but singled out a long list of unsung heroes, like juniors Quinn Cook and Nic Morken, a gritty defensive unit, an unwavering offensive line, a freshman coach who stepped up and a Luers fan base that never stopped believing.

The Knights went up against a high-powered offense in the top-ranked, previously unbeaten Cardinal Ritter Raiders, but answered the challenge holding off a second half Ritter rally after rolling out to an early 27-point lead.

The win marks the 24th straight in the postseason for Bishop Luers and 11th state football title overall for the school's decorated program.

In the victory, Notre Dame bound, Jaylon Smith paved the way for the Knights, as he has all season, scoring three touchdowns. Michael Rogers, Jaquale Cooper and TyVel Jemison also made it to the end zone for Bishop Luers. Quarterback Jake Purichia led the attempted come-back for Ty Hunt's Ritter club, while Jake Hagan led all scorers with four touchdowns — three on receptions, tying an overall state finals record.

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JOE ROMIE

Bishop Luers High School football team senior captains, from left, Will Nolan, Jermar Quay Brooks, Jaylon Smith and Aaron LaMaster present the IHSAA Class 2-A football trophy at a medals ceremony at the Fort Wayne school on Monday, Nov. 26. Bishop Luers defeated Cardinal Ritter High School of Indianapolis, 40-28, on Nov. 23 at Lucas Oil Stadium to win the state football title. It marked the fourth consecutive title for Bishop Luers, which ties a state record. Luers also tied Indianapolis Bishop Chatard with 11 state football titles overall.

GIVING THANKS



PROVIDED BY QUEEN OF ANGELS SCHOOL

Students in Kathy Schnurr's first-grade class at Queen of Angels Catholic School in Fort Wayne celebrated the first Thanksgiving recently. Students dressed as Native Americans and Pilgrims.

Women's Care Center is winning the battle for life

BY DIANE FREEBY

Politicians and legislators come and go, but the staying power of Women's Care Center with its mission of loving service is truly winning the battle for life. In every community served by this pregnancy care outreach, abortion rates are dramatically down. Just last month, a clinic in Niles, Mich. — known for providing late-term abortions — closed its doors for good.

"We opened in Niles about six years ago in a blue Victorian House right next door to the abortion clinic," explains Women's Care Center volunteer president Ann Manion, adding, "It was just us, them and the Holy Spirit!"

She says it was challenging at first as counselors watched the long lines of cars at

the abortion clinic next door. But over time, more and more women came to Women's Care Center and fewer went to the abortion clinic.

"I think our loving and caring approach stood in stark contrast to the approach next door," says Manion. "Even the nurse at the abortion clinic sent her daughter to us when she became pregnant. Their numbers started to dwindle, they went to performing abortions one morning every other week and finally closed their doors for good in October. When I said it was 'us, them and the Holy Spirit,' I meant that with the Holy Spirit's guidance, women could turn left to come to us instead of right to go to them. I really think our approach of nonjudgmental compassionate care is a magnet for pregnant young women in need."

WCC, PAGE 3

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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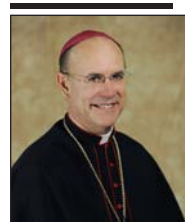
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The hope and joy of Advent



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

This coming Sunday, we will begin the new liturgical year with the beautiful season of Advent. It is a season of hope and spiritual expectation as we prepare to commemorate the birth of our Redeemer. Advent is a season of quiet joy as we remember with emotion the coming of our Savior, His birth in Bethlehem.

In the first two weeks of Advent, the Church directs our attention, not to the first coming of Christ in Bethlehem, but to His second coming in glory and power at the end of time. The Gospel this Sunday describes some rather frightening signs that will occur at that time. Saint Luke then writes: *and then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

During this Year of Faith, we are focusing on the articles of our faith contained in the Creed. We profess in the Nicene Creed that we believe that *Jesus will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.* We also profess that *we look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.*

The early part of the season of Advent reminds us of these truths about the Second Coming of Christ and the Final Judgment. In our journey of faith, we keep this future in mind. We are not to become preoccupied with it or live in unhealthy fear because of it. Nor should we waste time trying to figure out when the end of the world will come. No one knows, except the Father, Jesus teaches us. Rather than living in anxiety, our Lord teaches us to be alert always, to be ready for His coming every day. He says in this Sunday's Gospel: *Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.*

In this Sunday's second reading, Saint Paul also invites us to prepare for *the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* He exhorts us to conduct ourselves in a way that pleases God. This is how we are vigilant for the Lord's coming: putting into practice His commandments, living in His love, resisting evil, and doing good. He calls each and



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Michelangelo presents this image of Christ giving judgment at the second coming. The artist's "Last Judgment" covers the altar wall of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

every one of us to holiness. As Saint Paul wrote: *For this is the will of God, your sanctification.*

Our life as believers is one of continuous and vigilant waiting for Christ's coming. We are to prepare for our final goal: our encounter with the Lord who will come in the splendor of glory. We await His coming with hope, the hope of salvation. Pope Benedict XVI has called Advent "the season of hope, par excellence." Hope, which brings joy, is the basic spiritual attitude of

Advent. If God is lacking in our lives, hope is lacking, and if hope is lacking, joy is lacking.

The latter part of the season of Advent will focus our attention on the first coming of Christ, when He emptied Himself of His divine glory to take on our mortal flesh. In coming among us as man, He brought us the gift of His love and His salvation. Our joy increases as we approach Christmas because we recognize that God made Himself a Child for us. He became an Infant in a manger out of love for us. The Christmas mystery cannot fail to bring us joy if we open our hearts to its true meaning.

In this season of Advent, when we reflect on Christ's first and second comings, we also are mindful of a third coming, in the present. Jesus is "Emmanuel," God-with-us. Joyfully remembering Christ's birth and awaiting with hope His second coming, we also in the present can experience His presence among us. Right now, in the present, He offers us the gift of His love and His salvation. Our Holy Father said the

following:

Present among us, Christ speaks to us in many ways: in Sacred Scripture, in the liturgical year, in the saints, in the events of daily life, in the whole of creation.... We in turn may speak to Him, presenting to Him the suffering that afflicts us, our impatience, the questions that well up in our hearts. We may be sure that He always listens to us! And if Jesus is present, there is no longer any time that lacks meaning or is empty.

My brothers and sisters, let us take advantage of this holy season of spiritual renewal. How? By keeping our focus on Christ. By making time for prayer. By making sure we go to confession during Advent. By not getting caught up in the commercialism of our culture's celebration of Christmas. By keeping Christ at the center of our Advent and Christmas. By not allowing ourselves to become stressed out by too much frenetic activity during these weeks. By taking time to be with the Lord, meditating on His word, stopping to pray in church before the Blessed Sacrament or perhaps daily Mass.

Next Saturday, December 8th, we will celebrate the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation. Please make time for Holy Mass on this special feast, the patronal feast of our diocese and of our nation. It was from Mary that the Son of God took flesh through the action of the Holy Spirit. Let us place our hand in hers as we begin this season of Advent. Like Mary and with her help, let us make ourselves docile to the action of the Holy Spirit so that we may grow spiritually during this season and be filled with hope and joy as we prepare for Christmas!

WCC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Women's Care Center's humble beginnings consisted of one tiny blue house on St. Louis Street in South Bend, founded in 1984 by Dr. Janet E. Smith, at the time a professor at the University of Notre Dame. In that first year, a small band of counselors served 300 women. Manion joined the Women's Care Center during the first year of operation. Since then, with no government funding of any kind, Women's Care Center has blossomed into a network of 19 locations in four states, serving 350 women every day. In a few months, Women's Care Center will open new offices in Minnesota and Illinois.

The numbers tell the story: In Fort Wayne, abortions have declined 63 percent since the first care center opened next to an abortion clinic on Webster Street in 2004. Two care centers later, there are now 495 fewer abortions every year in Fort Wayne. Seven hundred fewer abortions are performed every year in South Bend, a 55 percent decline since 1998. According to Women's Care Center, this is more than double the decline for the rest of the state. Women's Care Center counselors serve 90 percent of the pregnant teenagers in St. Joseph County. In fact, nearly 50 percent of all babies born in St. Joseph County are assisted in some way by Women's Care Center.

"All of our programs have that underlying solid foundation and are in full keeping with the Church," says Manion. "In our work with young women we try to be Christ's heart and hands. When we encounter a woman who is broken and considering abortion, our counselors treat her with gentleness, compassion and understanding. Clients naturally respond to this. Our counselors help clients know that they are good and worth it, that someone truly cares about them and that they can make really good but hard decisions. With this support, a choice for life comes much more naturally."

Kelly O'Brien White has both benefited from and served at Women's Care Center. As a young woman who experienced a crisis pregnancy at 19, White says she was blessed to have parents who had volunteered at Women's Care Center. She says she knew it was a safe place to turn for guidance and support. Counselors helped her through a difficult time, and White returned the favor by returning to Women's Care Center later as a counselor herself.

"Speaking from experience, it is nice to have one place where a young woman that is facing such weighty issues can come and feel like they are not alone and to just be still," reflects White, now happily married and raising a family of her own. "There is a Godliness there that is obvious but not overbearing. Women's Care Center continually adds blessings to my



life even 15 years after I did my last pregnancy test or gave my last layette to a new mommy."

Women's Care Center is a pro-life outreach that serves practical needs of women and their babies, while also helping to affect the culture. Foundation Director Bobby Williams says supporting Women's Care Center is a Catholic response to the issue of life.

"We are winning!" says Williams, referring to the battle to end abortion. "Women's Care Center and its practical, unique and highly successful model is the epitome of Catholic pro-life



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WOMEN'S CARE CENTER

The Women's Care Center has made great strides in bringing abortion rates down in the communities they serve. Although many pro-life efforts helped make these reductions in abortions, the care center counselors are truly on the front lines for life.

hearts in action. This is where the women come, over 350 times a day. This is where the hearts are touched, where hope is restored and where ultimately babies are saved."

That success is acknowledged by people throughout the Midwest and even as far away as India.

"People contact us and they're looking for a Catholic model of care," says Manion. "We had to find a way to help these communities without stressing the resources of existing centers."

That prompted Women's Care Center to license other care centers in places like Hammond and Madison, Wis., this past year.

"The licensee in Hammond is Catholic Charities," says Williams. "They wanted to have a meaningful impact on the life issue; they wanted to do the deeds and not just the words. They have

adopted the care center model and through significant assistance and mentoring through Ann Manion we have shown them the way. Do you know, within their first two months of opening there they saw over 200 women? It's been incredibly busy and has been a real blessing."

Manion says the Madison licensee followed on the success seen when Women's Care Center opened in Milwaukee in 2010, just across from the largest abortion clinic in the state of Wisconsin. "In the two years since we opened," adds Manion, "the abortion rate in Milwaukee has already declined by 23 percent."



According to the Wisconsin Department of Health, Milwaukee is now at the lowest abortion rate in 18 years. Next year licensed care centers will open in Duluth, Minn., and Peoria, Ill. Overseas, one man has already purchased a building next to an abortion clinic, hoping to establish a Women's Care Center in India.

Williams and Manion both concede there is still much work to do, and as abortion providers go out of business, Women's Care Center stands ready to continue its approach to providing loving care to women, helping them choose life and assisting them before, during and after the babies are born.

"It's the greatest investment for your philanthropic dollar," says Williams. "If friends really want to make a practical and real impact on the life issue, then supporting the care center is their best opportunity. Our friends and partners know that they are helping women to choose life each and every day with their financial support. We are 100 percent privately funded. We receive no government assistance. We can only continue to love and serve with the support of our friends and neighbors."

Monthly donors are most needed, and Williams also suggests those wishing to help consider becoming a Life Partner, Life Leader or including Women's Care Center in their estate planning.

For more information on how to help continue the pro-life mission of Women's Care Center, contact Williams at (574) 968-7475 or e-mail womenscarecenterfoundation@att.net.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m. — Mass at Christ the King Bowl, Saint Aloysius Church, Yoder
- Monday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m. — Installation Mass of new Archbishop of Indianapolis, Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis
- Tuesday, Dec. 4, 3:30 p.m. — Meeting of Indiana Bishops, Indianapolis
- Wednesday, Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of Indiana Catholic Conference, Indianapolis
- Thursday, Dec. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Advent Day of Recollection for Priests, Saint Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse
- Friday, Dec. 7, 11:30 a.m. — Mass and luncheon for Serra Club, Saint Joseph Hospital Chapel, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, Dec. 8, 8 a.m. — Morning Prayer with Investiture of Novices, Saint Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, Dec. 8, 5 p.m. — Mass with Blessing of Church Addition, Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn

Women's Care Center Literacy Program benefits children

The literacy program is another way Women's Care Center helps young mothers and their children. Started in 2011 by a small group of WCC volunteers, the goal is to share the life-long educational benefits children receive when read to by their parents.

"Extensive research shows that most poor families have less than a handful of books in their homes due to the expense to purchase and the hurdles in using libraries," says Foundation Director Bobby Williams. "Knowing that WCC has the greatest access in our community to young families ... most of which are at or below the poverty level, these volunteers thought it would be a great additional service to offer free books to our clients."

After a parenting class or other client encounters, young mothers are encouraged to pick two books a week to take home and read to their baby and other children.

"We want the women to keep the books in order to encourage reading as often as possible," adds Williams. "The program is now being expanded to all our locations either with stand-alone reading rooms, or with book bins. In the first year of the program, well over 10,000 books were distributed in our community free of charge. This year we anticipate that number will more than double. We are very blessed to partner with Better World Books and the local libraries to acquire these books for our clients at a highly discounted rate."

— Diane Freeby



PROVIDED BY THE WOMEN'S CARE CENTER

The literacy program is another way Women's Care Center helps young mothers and their children. The program offers free books for mothers to read to their baby and other children. In the first year of the program, well over 10,000 books were distributed in the community free of charge.

Celebrating Church's universality, pope creates new cardinals

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recalling that Christ's mission transcends "all ethnic, national and religious particularities," Pope Benedict XVI created six new cardinals from four different continents, representing the Latin rite of the Catholic Church as well as two Eastern Catholic Churches.

The churchmen who joined the College of Cardinals Nov. 24 were U.S. Archbishop James M. Harvey, 63, former prefect of the papal household; Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch Bechara Rai, 72; Indian Archbishop Baselio Cleemis Thottunkal, 53, head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church; Nigerian Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan, 68, of Abuja; Colombian Archbishop Ruben Salazar Gomez, 70, of Bogota; and Philippine Archbishop Luis Tagle, 55, of Manila.

"I want to highlight in particular the fact that the Church is the Church of all peoples, so she speaks in the various cultures of the different continents," the pope said during the hour-long service in St. Peter's Basilica. "Amid the polyphony of the various voices, she raises a single harmonious song to the living God."

The six new cardinals later stepped up to the pope, who was seated before the basilica's main altar, to receive symbols of their office: a ring, the "zucchetto" skull cap and the three-cornered hat called a biretta. The headwear was colored scarlet, like the cardinals' robes, to symbolize the blood they risk shedding in service to the Church.

The new Eastern Catholic cardinals received modified versions of the biretta, consistent with the distinctive clerical garb of their churches. Cardinal Rai received the turban-like Maronite tabieh, and Cardinal Cleemis a head covering in a shape reminiscent of an onion dome.



CNS PHOTOS PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI presents a red biretta to new U.S. Cardinal James M. Harvey, former prefect of the papal household, during a consistory in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Nov. 24. Cardinal Harvey, a native of Milwaukee, has spent 30 years working at the Vatican. He was among six new cardinals created by the pope during the ceremony.

Pope Benedict also assigned each of the new cardinals a "titular church" in Rome, making them full members of the Rome clergy and closer collaborators of the pope in governing the universal Church.

Cardinal Harvey's titular church is the Church of Saint Pius V a Villa Carpegna, a post-war church about a mile southwest of Vatican City. The pope has also named Cardinal Harvey to serve as archpriest of the Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls, one of Rome's four major papal basilicas.

The Nov. 24 ceremony was a much quieter affair than the last consistory in February, when Pope Benedict created 22 cardinals, including three from the United States and Canada. This time, there was no overflow crowd in St. Peter's Square, and only 99 of the 211 members of the College of

Cardinals were in attendance.

Yet the congregation was spirited, with pilgrims applauding enthusiastically as the new cardinals' names were called. Cardinal Tagle seemed especially moved as he knelt before the pope, and afterwards was seen wiping a tear from his eye.

At the end of the ceremony, the College of Cardinals had 211 members, 120 of whom were under the age of 80 and thus eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

The new consistory raises the percentage of Asian electors from 7 percent to 9 percent. Catholics in Asia account for just over 10 percent of the worldwide Catholic population.

At the same time, the percentage of European electors dropped slightly, to just over 51 percent. But the continent remains statistically overrepresented, since the Vatican reports that fewer than 24 percent of the world's Catholics live in Europe.



Cardinals Luis Tagle of Manila, left, and James M. Harvey, a native of Milwaukee and former prefect of the papal household, exchange greetings during a consistory in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Nov. 24. They were among the six new cardinals created by Pope Benedict XVI during the ceremony.

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Conference explores virtue of justice in Catholic moral tradition

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — The 13th annual Ethics and Culture Conference at the University of Notre examined the virtue of justice in light of the Catholic moral tradition. Contributing their varied viewpoints were nearly 50 international experts in the fields of philosophy, theology, political theory, law, history, economics, the biosciences, literature and the arts.

After an opening Mass on Nov. 8 celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the first conference keynote address was presented by Mark Filip, a former federal prosecutor and federal judge, as well as a former deputy attorney general in the George W. Bush administration. John Finnis, professor of law and legal philosophy at both Notre Dame and Oxford University, gave the closing keynote Nov. 10 on the priority of persons.

Other notable speakers during the three-day conference included Robert George, law professor at Princeton University and Michael Sandel, government professor at Harvard University. Both men served on the President's Council on Bioethics with O. Carter Snead, Notre Dame law professor and the new director of the university's Center for Ethics and Culture, which convened the conference.

George and Sandel discussed Sandel's 2012 book, "What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets." George praised Sandel's book for recognizing that the market is a good way to produce and distribute many important items that make life better for people, and he

agreed with Sandel that "there are some things money can't buy or at least should not buy."

Sandel lamented that market reasoning has replaced moral reasoning in the past 30 years, and the debate in public life is "largely emptied of moral and spiritual resonance." He and George discussed some of the injustices that have resulted from this attitude, such as coercing poor women into being surrogate mothers in order to provide for their families.

The injustice of surrogacy also was discussed in a separate session on the dignity of human life. Jennifer Lahl, president of the board of the Center for Bioethics and Culture and producer of the film "Eggsploitation," spoke about the risks and injustices of "third party reproduction." This term includes sperm and egg donation as well as surrogacy.

In addition to numerous other moral problems with third party reproduction, she said that gender and class exploitation are also involved. As the economy worsens, it is more tempting for poor women to donate eggs or be surrogates, thus creating a "breeder class of women."

Additionally, a child is considered a "commodity" whose life can be sold or taken away, Lahl said. "The baby business is booming, and profit motives describe the bottom line."

In the same session, Nikolas Nikas, president of the Bioethics Defense Fund, discussed some of the legal cases involving human life issues. In speaking about abortion law that he called "raw judicial power," he said there are 50 million people who should be alive today in this country, but were destroyed by abortion since the Roe v Wade decision of 1973. And, for every one baby

conceived by *in vitro* fertilization, nine other lives were either frozen or destroyed.

Nikas encouraged the students in attendance to study philosophy, theology and history to help them apply faith and reason in order to recognize what is just, and then work to enshrine justice as an integral part of the law.

William Saunders, senior vice president of legal affairs for Americans United for Life, spoke about protecting the human rights of the unborn in Latin America. The United States is one of the "four most liberal abortion regimes in the world," he said, and the Obama administration considers abortion to be included in "reproductive health."

Thus, Latin American countries are under pressure to allow abortion because "reproductive health" is used in many international agreements and treaties. He added that there is an ongoing effort to make abortion an international human right, even though there is no basis for this in international law.

"If human rights don't belong to all humans, who is excluded? And who gets to decide who is excluded?" Saunders asked.

He pointed out that the powerful will never decide to exclude themselves, so it is the weak who always will be excluded. And when others get to decide that some people are "outside the circle of protection," he said. "That means everyone is vulnerable."

Other sessions at the conference included "Justice and the American Project," "The Least Among Us: Children, the Disabled and the Poor," "Religious Liberty and Justice" and "Justice and the Christian Tradition."

AUBURN PARISH HOLDS THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



SARAH SPEER

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn, where Father Derrick Sneyd celebrates Mass, held its annual Thanksgiving food drive. Generous parishioners donated about 3,000 items, which were sorted and given to the RSVP Food Pantry, the Heimach Center for Seniors in Auburn and St. Martin's Food Pantry in Garrett in time for Thanksgiving celebrations. A collection was also taken up to buy produce and meat for those in need.



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Pope condemns escalating Gaza conflict, calls for truce, talks

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI condemned escalating hostilities between Israel and the Palestinians, saying hatred and violence are never an appropriate solution to problems. He also called for greater efforts to promote a truce and peace negotiations. “I am following with great concern the escalation of violence between Israelis and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip,” the pope said at the end of his general audience Nov. 21. “Hatred and violence are not the solution to problems,” he said to applause from those gathered in the Paul VI hall. “I encourage the initiatives and efforts of those who are seeking to establish a cease-fire and to promote negotiations,” he said. He also called on leaders on both sides of the conflict to make “courageous decisions in favor of peace and put an end to a conflict that has negative repercussions throughout the entire Middle East region, which is already troubled by too many conflicts and is in need of peace and reconciliation.”

Health is universal good to be defended, not commoditized, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Good health is a benefit that needs to be defended and guaranteed for all people, not just for those who can afford it, Pope Benedict XVI told hundreds of health-care workers. The New Evangelization is needed in the health field, especially during the current economic crisis “that is cutting resources for safeguarding health,” he said Nov. 17, addressing participants at a conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry. Hospitals and other facilities “must rethink their particular role in order to avoid having health become a simple ‘commodity,’ subordinate to the laws of the market, and, therefore, a good reserved to a few, rather than a universal good to be guaranteed and defended,” he said. Nearly 600 people who work in the field of health care attended the council’s Nov. 15-17 international conference, which focused on the theme: “The Hospital, Setting for Evangelization: A Human and Spiritual Mission.”

Bible publisher wins temporary injunction against HHS mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Washington-based federal judge made the right decision in granting a temporary injunction against enforcement of a federal contraceptive mandate in a suit brought by an Illinois-based Christian publisher, according to the lawyer representing the company. U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton ruled Nov. 16 that Tyndale House Publishers, which produces Bibles and various Christian publications, did not have to comply with the new mandate while the group’s lawsuit against

PILGRIMS ATTEND ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE IN MALI



CNS PHOTO/MALIN PALM, REUTERS

Pilgrims attend an annual Catholic pilgrimage in the town of Kita, western Mali Nov. 17.

Nearly 7,000 pilgrims participated in the two-day celebration, lead by Archbishop Jean Zerbo of Bamako, Mali.

it moves forward. Tyndale objects to the HHS requirement that most religious employers provide free coverage of contraceptives, sterilization and some abortion-inducing drugs, saying it violates the company’s moral convictions. In another lawsuit against the mandate, a federal judge in Oklahoma City Nov. 20 denied a request for an injunction against the mandate by the Christian-owned business Hobby Lobby, saying the arts-and-crafts stores must cover emergency contraceptives in their insurance policies even though the company argued that some are abortion-inducing drugs. A day later lawyers for Hobby Lobby appealed the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, asking for “emergency relief” from fines of more than \$1 million a day the company says it will face if it doesn’t comply with the mandate.

New social media tools can help tell age-old Gospel story, speakers say

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (CNS) — Modern social media tools can make the centuries-old Gospel message new again for Catholics as they renew their faith and for those who have been baptized but have never embraced the faith. That was the view of a group of workshop presenters, most of them Catholic bloggers, who examined the role of the new media efforts to proclaim the Gospel anew in various sessions during the

conference of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists. Hundreds of participants and scores of scholars, activists and others gathered recently in the Diocese of Rockville Centre for the conference, which marked the society’s 20th anniversary. Workshops and talks addressed everything from politics to labor and economics, art, literature, and film, law and crime, and theology. Proclaimed by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, the New Evangelization was considered at several workshops, including one titled “And God said ‘Tweet.’” Presenters said the New Evangelization is not new in its content — the Gospel — but using modern methods of communication can reach many who have heard the Gospel and even been baptized and catechized but who have not embraced it.

Catholics must promote Church’s mission, Lincoln’s new bishop says

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS) — Bishop James D. Conley, installed as the ninth bishop of Lincoln Nov. 20, urged those attending his installation Mass at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln to take responsibility in promoting the mission of the Church. “The mission of the Church is not my responsibility alone. It is our responsibility,” he said in his homily. “Your candor, your experience, your counsel and collaboration are essential to the mission of the

Church. Our vocations depend on one another, and on the mercy of God,” he added. More than 40 bishops attended the installation including Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Conley, who was ordained an auxiliary bishop for Denver in 2008, succeeds Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz, who is 77 and has led the Lincoln Diocese since 1992. Bishops are required by canon law to submit their resignation to the pope when they turn 75. Bishop Conley, 57, is a native of Kansas City, Mo., and is of Wea Indian descent. Raised a Presbyterian, he became a Catholic at age 20, during his junior year in college. He graduated in 1977 from the University of Kansas with a bachelor’s degree in English literature. After college he worked on a farm in north central Kansas and traveled to Europe. In 1980, he entered the seminary for the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., and was ordained a priest for the diocese five years later.

Syrian refugees who fled fighting live in limbo in neighboring Turkey

ISTANBUL (CNS) — Michel George Sarkisyan is behind on the rent for the one-bedroom apartment he shares with his wife and 8-year-old daughter, Magdalena. That’s just one of the hardships the small family has faced since fleeing to Istanbul from their home in Aleppo, Syria,

554 miles away. They can’t afford to pay the gas bill. So when not taking long walks, they sit in the cold of advancing winter, and use only enough light at night to be able help Magdalena do her homework. The little money they have left will soon be spent on food and electricity, and their tourist visas are running out, which will make them illegal residents of Turkey. “We are the lucky ones, we have a roof over our heads and an Armenian school has allowed our daughter to attend. But I don’t know what we will do at the end of the month,” said Sarkisyan, who was once a wealthy factory owner in Aleppo. He refuses to take his family to one of the refugee camps opened by the Turkish government for the tens of thousands of Syrians escaping civil war at home. “If (Turkish) police tell me to go there, I won’t,” he told Catholic News Service Nov. 15 in his chilly Istanbul apartment, as Magdalena and his wife, who asked not to be named, watched. Turkey has committed to providing the flood of refugees with shelter, food, medication and education in the 14 camps located along the country’s 560-mile frontier with Syria, where the government and its supporters have been locked in a battle with rebel forces for the last 20 months.

Protecting marriage, human life part of serving common good, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics are called to serve the common good of society, including by protecting traditional marriage and defending human life, Pope Benedict XVI told bishops from France. Being Catholic means being faithful “to the moral teaching of the Church” and having “the courage to demonstrate their Christian convictions — without arrogance, but with respect — in the various spheres in which they work,” the pope said Nov. 17 as he welcomed a group of bishops making their periodic “ad limina” visits to the Vatican. “With the bishops, they must pay attention to proposals for civil laws that can undermine: the safeguarding of marriage between a man and a woman, the protection of human life from conception to death, and the correct orientation of bioethics in faithfulness to the documents of the magisterium,” the pope said. In several French cities Nov. 17-18, thousands of Catholics took to the streets to protest government plans to legalize same-sex marriage. President Francois Hollande said he wanted to legalize gay unions by mid-2013. Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois of Paris told the Vatican newspaper Nov. 17 that the Church has been expressing its opposition to the proposed law and “we have warned about the dangers” such a change can bring. In the interview with *L’Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican paper, he said the law, which would include allowing gay couples to adopt, “risks producing devastating effects,” particularly for children who would grow up not having both a male and female parent.

Notre Dame ranks ninth in percentage of students studying abroad

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame ranks ninth in percentage of students participating in study abroad programs among American doctoral/research institutions, according to a report released by the Institute for International Education (IIE).

During fall 2010, spring 2011 and summer 2011, the focus of this year's study, 59.7 percent of Notre Dame students had participated in study programs in other countries, a 2.8 percent increase over the previous year. The University of San Diego ranked first in the IIE report with an 86.8 percent participation rate, followed by Georgetown University at 75.9 percent. Notre Dame ranked ninth last year as well.

Notre Dame also ranks 13th among research institutions for number of students participating in long-term study abroad experiences, 17th among research institutions for number of students participating in mid-length study abroad experiences, and 36th amongst research institutions for total number of students participating in study abroad experiences.

Notre Dame's Office of International Studies offers international study programs in 20 nations: Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, England, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Senegal and Uganda, as well as a program in Washington, D.C. The IIE's report, titled "Open Doors 2012," showed an overall 5.7 percent increase from the previous year in the number of U.S. students participating in international study programs.

SJRM hosts Tree of Life Celebration to honor loved ones, Dec. 7

MISHAWAKA — The Auxiliary of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRM) invites the community to remember or honor someone they love this holiday season by participating in the annual Tree of Life Celebration. For a \$10 donation, an angel ornament representing a loved one will be displayed on a beautiful Tree of Life in the main lobby of SJRM's Mishawaka campus. As part of the donation, each name received by Nov. 30 will be honored and read aloud during a Tree Lighting Ceremony that will be held on Friday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. Those interested in honoring a loved one through the Tree of Life can stop by the SJRM Gift Shop through Dec. 19 to make a donation. All proceeds from the Tree of Life will be distributed by SJRM's Auxiliary to further the work and service the hospital provides as part of its mission to care for the mind, body and spirit of the entire Michiana community. The SJRM Gift Shop is located in the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

DIOCESE PARTICIPATES IN DEAF FESTIVAL, PLANS ADVENT SERVICE AT ARCHBISHOP NOLL CENTER



PROVIDED BY JANE SANDOR

Francis and Melissa Hunckler, left, with Monica Laughlin and Jackie Baatz review diocesan materials at the recent Deaf Festival at the Allen County Fairgrounds on Nov. 10. An Advent Prayer Service for the deaf and anyone who knows American Sign Language is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 5, at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 911 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne. The prayer service begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by social hour at 7 p.m. Contact Mary Glowaski, mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org for additional information.

main lobby and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lessons and Carols at Our Lady of Loretto

NOTRE DAME — The Campus Ministry and Department of Music combine to present an interdenominational service of music, Scripture and candlelight to a capacity crowd in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto on the Saint Mary's campus each December. Central to the ritual, which is based on the Anglican Christmas Eve service, is the assembly's singing of traditional Advent and Christmas carols. The Saint Mary's Women's Choir, the Collegiate Choir, the Loretto Choir, the Liturgical Choir and Moreau Chamber Ensemble participate. This year's Lessons and Carols will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9.

Co-vice postulators named for sainthood cause of Venerable Solanus Casey

DETROIT — Father John Celichowski, provincial minister of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, has announced that Capuchin Father Florio Tessari, postulator general, Rome, has named Capuchin friars Father Lawrence Webber and Brother Richard Merling co-vice postulators for the cause of Father Solanus Casey.

Father Lawrence Webber will continue to serve as director of the Solanus Casey Center, a pilgrimage center devoted to the holiness and spirituality of Father Solanus. Brother Richard Merling will continue to serve as director of the Father Solanus Guild, an organization devoted to keeping alive the inspiring memory of Father Solanus and his exemplary life to others.

Brother Leo Wollenweber had

served as the vice postulator until his death in October.

The Father Solanus Guild initiated the Cause of Solanus Casey for sainthood in 1966. Pope John Paul II declared Solanus Casey "venerable" in 1995.

The co-vice postulators will gather documentation of healings attributed to Venerable Solanus Casey's intercession. This documentation may then be studied in Rome.

One miraculous cure recognized by the Holy See as attributed to the prayers of Venerable Solanus will advance the cause to beatification and the title of "Blessed." Another officially recognized miracle after that would advance the cause finally to sainthood.

Students make blankets

FORT WAYNE — The St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton National Junior Honor Society recently participated in a service project making blankets.

Assisting the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in Huntington, the students, whose service project is called "Matthew 25," created 13 fleece, no sew, blankets during their hour-long gathering.

The Victory Noll Sisters present the blankets to organizations in the winter, or as the sisters become aware of the need.

A few weeks ago, for example, Love INC had a call out for blankets and quilts and Victory Noll was able to present the organization with 27 blankets, and the 13 blankets that the St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School National Junior Honor Society students crafted.

The other agencies that receive the blankets are the Youth Service Bureau, Huntington House (a shelter for women and children) and the Malta House, a shelter for men.

EUCHRE NIGHT BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER



PROVIDED BY ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Pierceton hosted a euchre night on Nov. 3 that was attended by faithful from St. Francis Xavier and the area Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Georgia Tenney congratulated Sally Palmer on her score, the highest at the end of the night, which awarded her a \$25 gift certificate for Ruby Tuesday's restaurant.

Be a light ...

Advent

BY KAY COZAD

In Catholic churches all across the globe the arrival of the Advent season heralds the beginning of a new liturgical year and preparations for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." Familiar local cultural traditions this time of year include holiday decorating, shopping, food preparation and social gatherings, but the Church's spiritual heritage undergirds the hustle-bustle with its hushed liturgical anticipation of not only Jesus' birth, but the anticipation of His second coming as well.

One expressive Advent wreath with its four of the cycle of seasons in the 19th century of the 1930s as a reminder of Christmas. According to Catholiceducation.org has no beginning or end, God, the immortality of life found in Christ."

First candle:

Week 1: Dec. 2-8

The first violet candle is called the candle of hope — a hope in the deliverance from sin. The Scripture reading for this week taken from Luke 21, reflects an accountability for faithfulness and prayer at Jesus' second coming. "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." One way to prepare in faithfulness is showing kindness. Here is an activity the entire family can participate in this week.

Create an Advent tree of kindness

Materials

For each family member: one sheet each of 9 inch x 12 inch red and green construction paper, glue, scissors, one sheet of colored star stickers, list of good deeds

Directions:

Ask family members to brainstorm good deeds they can do for others. Make the good deeds general, not for specific people. (Example: Set the table for dinner, not set the table for my mom.) Type up the list of good deeds and make one copy for each member.

Have family members cut out a Christmas tree from the green construction paper and glue it onto the red paper. Pass out the stickers and list of good deeds.

Explain that they are to put a star on their tree after they do a good deed for someone else. (Deeds can come from the list or from their own imaginations.)

During each evening this week, ask family members to share any good deeds they may have done, and discuss how serving others feels to them.

Second candle

Week 2: Dec. 9-15

The second is called the violet candle of preparation and reminds Christians to get ready to receive their Savior. The Gospel reading for this second Sunday in Advent from Luke 3 offers the faithful the call to "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths. ... and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." Prepare your way with this week's activity.

Construction prayer chain

Materials

Red and green construction paper, scissors, tape, pens or markers

Directions:

Cut the construction paper in 1 ½ by 8-inch strips. Place in bowl or basket in an easily accessible area. Gather family members to brainstorm people and intentions for which to pray. Write these intentions one on each construction strip. Place the first strip's ends together making a circle and tape. Interloop the second strip inside the first, connect its ends and tape. Continue to make a looped chain of the prayer intentions, adding new intentions each day. Pray for the intentions together each evening. Drape the prayer chain on the Christmas tree or hang it in a prominent place.

Third candle

Week 3: Dec. 16-22

The third is a rose colored candle and responds to the third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing because we have arrived at the midpoint of Advent. Scripture speaks of healing and thanksgiving. "... Then He and go; your faith has saved you." Give thanks for all those who have touched your life this week's activity.

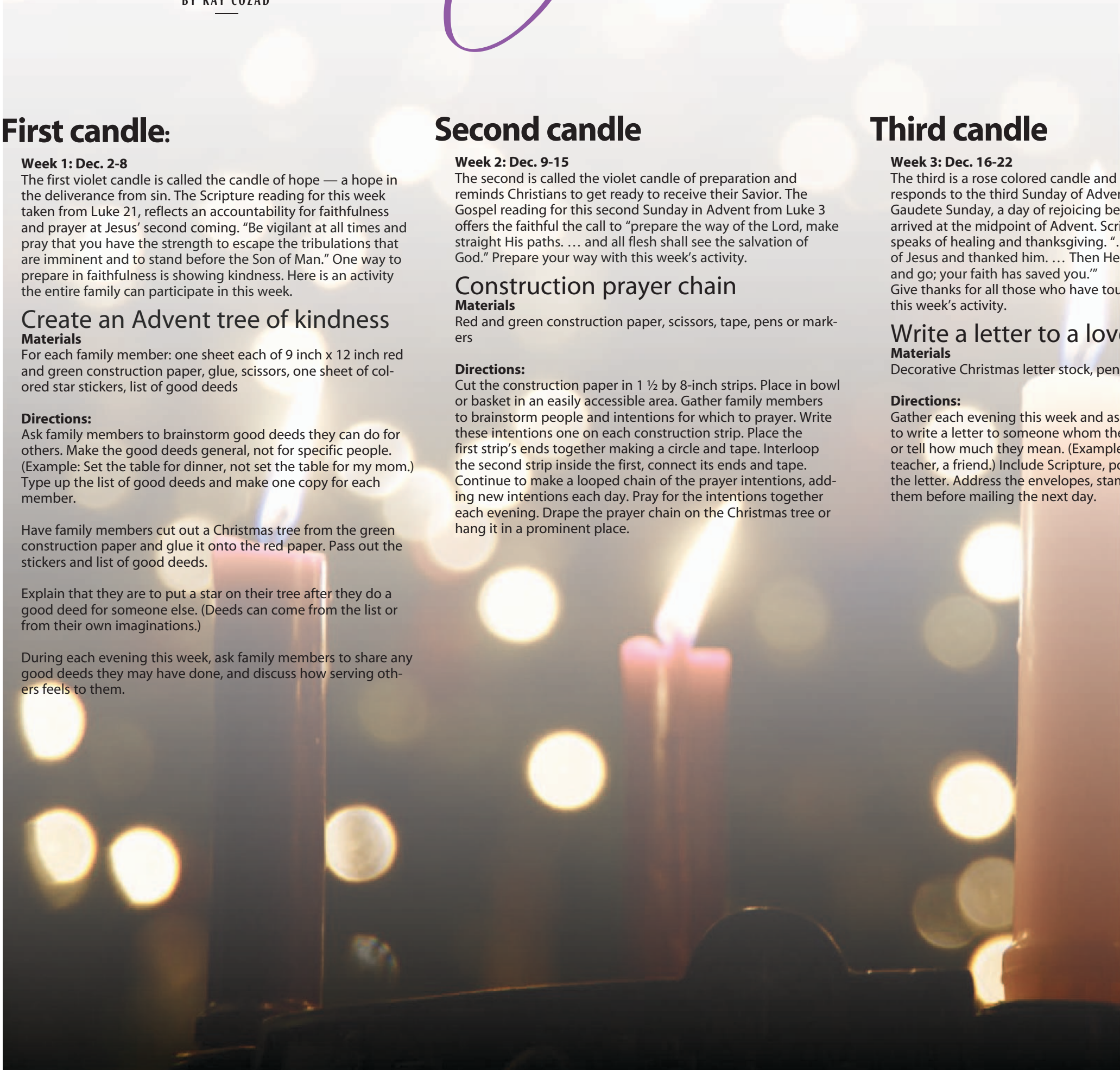
Write a letter to a loved one

Materials

Decorative Christmas letter stock, pen

Directions:

Gather each evening this week and ask family members to write a letter to someone whom they love or tell how much they mean. (Example: Write to a teacher, a friend.) Include Scripture, pray for the letter. Address the envelopes, stamp them before mailing the next day.



ent custom is the use of the Advent candles. What began as a symbol ns was later redefined in Germany and brought to the U.S. in the of the approach of the feast of g to Father William Sanders at rg "the circle of the wreath, which end, symbolizes the eternity of y of the soul and the everlasting

Each of the four candles on the wreath represents the four weeks of Advent. Three violet and one rose colored candle are traditionally used and correspond to the liturgical vestments worn at the Sunday Masses of Advent. The royal violet of Advent is also the color of fasting and penitence used during Lent and Holy Week, symbolizing the connection between Jesus' birth and death. The candles are lit progressively each week to symbolize the expectation and hope surrounding Jesus' birth and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

As the Church celebrates the revelation of God in Christ we put our anticipation into action by being like Jesus, a light to the world.

Fourth candle

Week 4: Dec. 23-25

The fourth candle is again colored violet and is the candle of love. It reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth. St. Luke's Gospel for this week tells the story of Mary, who travels to see her cousin Elizabeth who is with child as well. Elizabeth upon seeing the mother of her Savior proclaims, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Jesus is the light of the world, brought into human form by God's obedient servant Mary. Bring the light of Christ to your family by praying a decade of the rosary each evening after this week's activity.

Christmas luminaries

Materials

White lunch bags, votive candles, sand and a hole punch

Directions:

Using the hole punch, create designs on each bag — use Christmas cookie cutters for ideas and patterns. Place sand in the bottom of each bag. Nestle a candle in the sand at the bottom of each bag. Place the bags along your walk. Light the candles, pray and enjoy.

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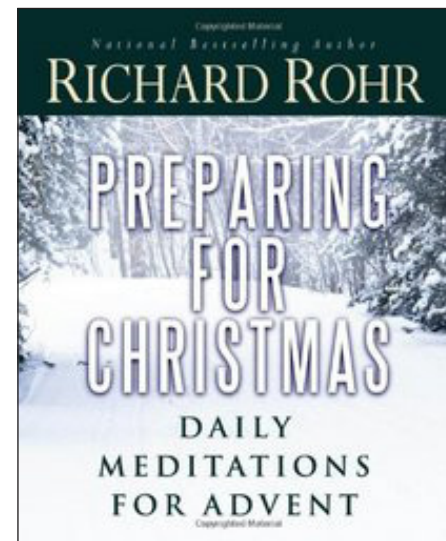
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k each family member ey would like to thank e: a grandparent, a oetry and pictures in mp them and pray over

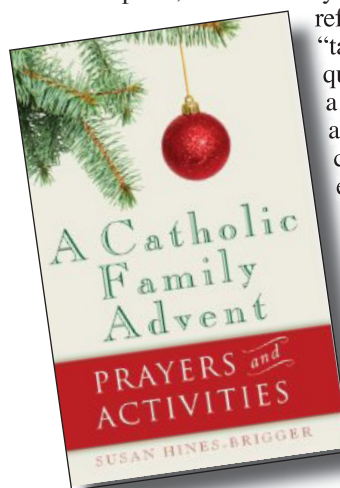
Hearts prepare for the coming of the Lord

The following are recently published books sent to Today's Catholic that may inspire Catholic and non-Catholic readers alike during this Advent season. Advent books make meaningful pre-Christmas gifts for young and old, so get quiet and wait with a good book. Each book is reviewed using publishing house press releases and includes publisher name and ISBN number for ease of purchase.

"Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent," by Richard Rohr offers meditations, prayers, Scripture readings and questions for reflection for each day of Advent opening hearts to the anticipation of the birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-478-6, \$8.99.

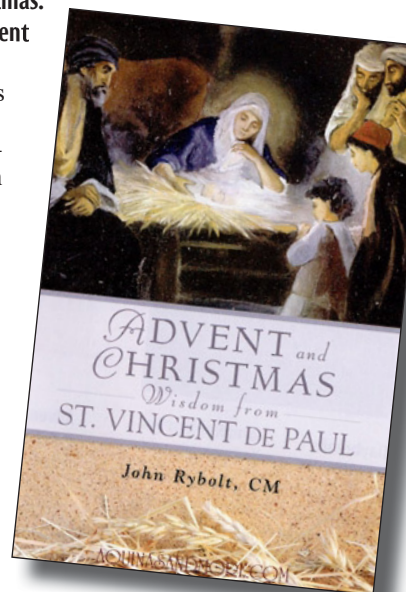


"A Catholic Family Advent: Prayers and Activities," by Susan Hines-Brigger is a beautifully designed activity book that demonstrates the fun a family can have all in the name of Jesus. Each day of Advent begins with a Scripture, followed



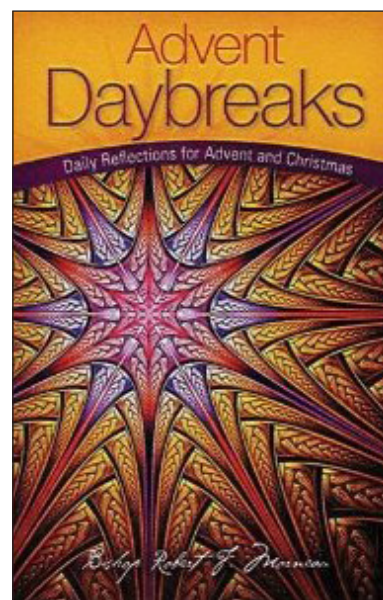
by a personal reflection with "talk together" questions, and a prayer and activity. This could be an exquisite gift book for a family you love. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-492-2, \$7.99.

"Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from St. Vincent de Paul," by John Rybolt coordinates



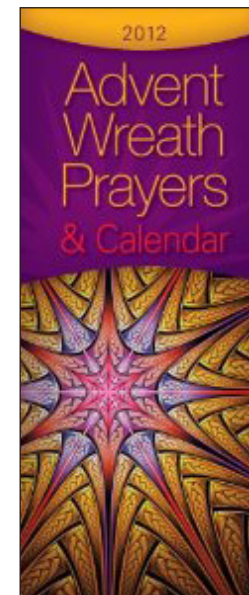
passages from St. Vincent's meditative writings with seasonal prayers, reflections and a daily action. Liguori Publications, ISBN: 9780764-820106, \$10.99.

"Advent Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas," by columnist Bishop Robert Mornneau, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., is an easy to use, 48-page booklet offering daily reflections of God's endearing love. Liguori Publications, ISBN: 9780764-819322, \$1.25



"Advent Wreath Prayers and Calendar 2012"

is a perfect compliment to the meditations found in "Advent Daybreaks" with Scriptural passage and daily intention. This colorful leaflet features weekly prayers for around the Advent wreath. The calendar has a daily virtue or value to reflect upon and a daily Scripture passage, along with a daily prayer intention for every day of Advent. Liguori Publications, ISBN: 9780764-821653, \$7.99.



Hardship solidifies young woman's determination and faith

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Being a freshman in high school typically elicits new beginnings and maybe a little bit of fear. But there's no fear in the heart of Alison Frederick, a freshman excited to be attending Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne this year.

"I love it here so much," proclaims the gregarious 15 year old, when asked what she thinks of Bishop Luers. That hasn't always been the case with schooling for this dedicated student, however. But she has persevered and her history speaks for itself.

As a young girl, living with her step dad Brad, mom Jennifer and older brother Kyle, Frederick was a happy-go-lucky, active student. Then in 2008, as a 10-year-old fourth grader, she was hit with the unexpected. A suspected abscess was diagnosed as Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare bone cancer that "came out like a bubble" on her jaw, Frederick says.

Because it was stage one cancer Frederick's prognosis was encouraging, but almost a year of chemotherapy and radiation treatment, in Fort Wayne, Indianapolis and Bloomington, kept her frail and susceptible to infection. School attendance had become limited and after some frustrating events in the public school that she attended, Frederick and her parents decided to home school.

Even as a regular at her Methodist church services and youth group, Frederick's faith was shaken initially, as she wondered where God was in all of this. "I had a lot of doubt at first," she says, adding that as her treatment evolved and she experienced answers to her daily prayers, her faith began to solidify her trust in God.

As she looks back on the excruciating months of her cancer treatment she says, "I couldn't have gotten through without God. Not a day went by without prayer. He was my backbone." She now says confidently that her illness inspired strength in her and a new life perspective. "It made me an all-around stronger person. And I've grown closer to God," she says.

Chemotherapy and radiation were not the only obstacles to the normal childhood that she longed for with its school attendance, friends and playtime. Frederick faced several grueling surgeries that included sinus and mouth reconstruction, and she was home-schooled through her sixth- and seventh-grade years. Beginning her eighth-grade year, Frederick made a valiant effort at attending regular public school classes, but she was soon faced with home schooling again due to the school's response to her weakened condition.

But as Divine Providence would have it, St. Aloysius School in Yoder learned of her plight and accepted Frederick with open arms



KAY COZAD

Alison Frederick poses at Bishop Luers High School.

in October of 2011 for the final months of her eighth-grade year. Though the amiable student wanted most to attend regular classes she admits she was not thrilled at the prospect of attending a small rural school.

"There were four girls in my graduating class," Frederick says with a smile, but adds that after she got used to the smaller size, she felt it was "not just a school, but a family."

During that time, just when she thought she had regained her health, she began to suffer severe headaches and loss of appetite, and after seeing several doctors was diagnosed with Chiari Malformation, a malformation of the brain. Initially Frederick refused the needed surgery simply because she had had enough. But after learning from there was the possibility of paralysis, she relented, and says, following the March surgery, "I instantly felt better." Her recovery took only days and she was back at school.

Following her eighth-grade graduation from St. Aloysius, Frederick planned to attend public high school. But again Divine Providence stepped in and Frederick found herself at Bishop Luers High School speaking with Principal Mary Keefer. "She has a way of making you feel safe and wanted," says Frederick. "I knew this was where I wanted to be."

This year Frederick says she is happy to have had a fresh start where no one knew her as the kid who had cancer. She's made many new friends and is flourishing academically in the academic honors program in the Christ-centered school. She is also active in several extracurriculars, including Key Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Peer Ministry.

"Having this environment, and God always being there and being known, helps me get through the day," she says, adding, "He's my best friend and I love the fact that He's always with me."

Frederick is grateful to have been given the opportunity for an exemplary Catholic education and is now hopeful for a future career as a doctor — perhaps a surgeon. But strong academics are not the only gifts Frederick has received from Catholic schools. This remarkable young woman has found a home for her faith in the heart of the Catholic Church where love and acceptance reside, and she has chosen to begin classes at St. Aloysius Church to convert to Catholicism.

"I like the way Catholicism goes into depth. It doesn't just tip-toe around," she says. "It's the right thing for me, because Catholicism has been a big thing for me this last year. It's something I want to do."

Frederick's trust in God and personal determination has brought her forward against remarkable odds and she sees a bright future ahead. Looking back over her short but divinely led life, this courageous 15 year old says she wouldn't change a thing. The maturity her trials have brought her is evident as she says, "My faith had an impact on my life. I wouldn't be the person I am today without the outlook I have. I've had lots of breakdowns and I couldn't have gotten through them without God by my side. He's given me strength."

Her sage advice to anyone struggling with life — "Always think positively and know God is always there. He won't give up on you, so don't give up on Him. Out of every negative comes a positive. It may take a while, but it comes." Of this she is very sure.

Public invited to celebrate the holidays at Christmas at University of Saint Francis

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis invites the community to celebrate the holidays with a variety of activities during its traditional Christmas at USF. Most activities are Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2, but some range outside those dates.

Christmas in the Castle

Historic Brookside, the former Bass family mansion, will be decorated for Christmas by local florists and designers. Visitors can view all three floors of the mansion as it comes alive for Christmas. Tickets can be purchased on the days of the event in the North Campus lobby (across Spring Street from Brookside). Ample free parking is available at the North Campus. Golf cart shuttles will be available for those with mobility difficulties. Admission is \$5 per person, \$20 maximum per family.

Dec. 1, from 12-5 p.m.

Dec. 2, from 12-5 p.m.

Dec. 7, from 1-5 p.m., Senior Day in the Castle, \$3 admission for 65 or older.

Dec. 8, from noon-5 p.m.

Dec. 9, from 12-5 p.m.

Fair Trade Alternative Shopping Bazaar

Dec. 2, from noon-5:30 p.m.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) present high-quality, fairly-traded hand-crafted items from disadvantaged producers all over the world at the Fair Trade Alternative Shopping Bazaar at the North Campus. Fairly-traded items are sold by artists who earn a fair price in producing them, receive access to credit and training, and maintain long-term relationships with organizations rooted in the principles of human dignity and economic justice.

Living Nativity

Sunday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m.

In 1223, on a mountain near the Italian town of Greccio, Francis of Assisi led a group of villagers at midnight Mass in recalling the poverty and humility of Christ's birth by re-enacting the scene of His birth in a stable. Thus began the tradition of the Christmas crèche. As Advent begins, members of the university community present a living Nativity as a witness to the power and presence of God's incarnate love in the world. The character of St. Francis will narrate the Christmas story as it unfolds, and all gathered will sing "Silent Night." The living Nativity will be presented in the amphitheater next to the Pope John Paul II Center. Parking is available off Leesburg Road, and there is no admission charge. A petting zoo with the animals for the living Nativity will be available for children from 5-5:50 p.m. free of charge at the living Nativity site.

Lighting of the Lake

Dec. 2, at 6 p.m.

Vigil lights will encircle the area of Mirror Lake closest to Spring Street for a shining symbol of Christmas. Those who wish may dedicate one or more luminaries at \$10 per luminary to a loved one, in memory of someone special, in recognition of a special occasion, or just to wish a student good luck with final exams. Call (260) 399-8037 to order luminaries by Dec. 1. There is no charge for admission.

USF Share the Warmth collection

Donations collected from Dec. 1-11

The University of Saint Francis teams up with the Volunteer Center RSVP to bring a little warmth to the community. Collection bins will be located around campus for donations of hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. Contribution can be dropped into one of the bins, delivered to Brookside or brought to any of the events listed.

Alumni/Faculty Exhibition

Oct. 27-Dec. 16

Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sundays 1-5 p.m.

This exhibition includes recent works by graduates of the School of Creative Arts (SOCA) and current and retired SOCA faculty. A wide variety of media and artistic approaches will be on view. The exhibition will be in the John P. Weatherhead Gallery off Leesburg Road.

Christmas Music Concert

Dec. 2, at 7 p.m.

University of Saint Francis musical groups will perform traditional carols and classical arrangements by a variety of composers and arrangers. The concert is at the North Campus auditorium, across from Brookside. Admission is free.

Star of Bethlehem 2012

Schouweiler Planetarium,

Achatz Hall of Science

Dec. 1, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 2, at 12:30 and 3 p.m.

Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 8, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 9, at 5 p.m.

Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 15, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 16, at 5 p.m.

Visitors will meet under the Mid-eastern sky of 3 B.C. and follow the star of the Wise Men. During the live portion of the 90-minute show, planetarium staff will guide visitors to the wonders of the winter Fort Wayne night sky. Parking is available off Leesburg Road. Admission: \$4 adults, \$3 senior citizens and visitors under 18, \$14 maximum per family.

'I believe in the Holy Spirit'

Gratitude is easy to forget. A newlywed couple as the early days of marriage pass into the quotidian nature of married life may cease to see their lives with one another as gift. A teacher, once in awe of the opportunity to cultivate wisdom among her students, soon sees her work as an onerous task to be completed. A child growing up in a household suffused with loving kindness may gradually become blinded to the mundane beauty of such an existence. The *expectation* that love is owed to us, rather than received as a free gift, slowly moves us away from a posture of gratitude.

In some sense, our belief in the Holy Spirit suffers from the gradual fall from gratitude that is often a consequence of maturation in the Christian life. The Christian life inscribes us in the order of gift, of grace, of the Triune God who is love. The Father begets the Son before time itself, revealing to us that God's very identity is self-gift. The Son offers Himself completely to the Father, an offering manifested in Jesus who loves unto the end in obedience to the will of the Father.

And this self-gift, this order of love is the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit moves upon the waters in creation, overshadowing the whole created order in the love of the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit dwells with Israel as she pilgrims through the desert, immersing the nation in God's pedagogy of grace, inscribing His law of love upon tablets of stone, as well as the heart. The Spirit descends upon the prophets, whose vision is transfigured to see each breach of the covenant (no matter how small) as a spousal transgression against the God who first loved Israel into existence.

This same Spirit enacts this love in the course of world history, such that even in the darkest moments of exile, God's gift of love is a light to the nations, a promise that all humanity will be transfigured through the energetic work of God in the concrete structures of the world. The hope for the Messiah, pervading the writings of the prophets, is fanned by the Spirit.

The Spirit who dwelt with Israel in the desert now overshadows Mary. She is conceived without sin through the power of the Spirit, precisely that her very life might be

THE APOSTLES' CREED

TIM O'MALLEY

inscribed in the logic of gratitude, of self-gift that is the Triune God. Her speech in the Gospel of Luke, her willingness to enter into God's very history of salvation, is itself a gift from the Holy Spirit received in love and then offered back to the Father in her love of the Son.

This transformation of our humanity begun in Mary is completed in Jesus the Christ, the one anointed with the Spirit. Everything that is human is taken up into divine life through the Word made flesh. His deeds and His words are a breathing forth of the Holy Spirit for the life of the world, the reorientation of our humanity as an instrument for divine mercy. Yet Christ does not give the fullness of the Spirit in

CREED, PAGE 12

Reparation for sacred image violation

When a child is hurt, it is a parent's natural reaction to want to help make things better. Likewise, when a parent is hurt, it is a child's natural reaction (no matter their age) to assist in any way possible. We are all spiritual children of our Blessed Mother, and she is hurt. Shouldn't we want to help?

It was the Child Jesus who appeared with our Lady to Lucia (the only surviving Fatima visionary at the time) in 1925. He spoke first saying, "Have compassion on the Heart of your most holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them." Our Lady then made her request of the Five First Saturdays Devotion — go to Confession, receive Communion, pray five decades of the rosary, and meditate on the mysteries of the rosary for 15 minutes on the first Saturday of five consecutive months with the intention of making reparation.

In 1930, Our Lord appeared to Lucia again and explained why the number five is significant. He said each of the five Saturdays has a specific blasphemy for which one is making an act of reparation. The first four blasphemies (against Mary's Immaculate Conception, against Mary's perpetual virginity, against Our Lady's motherhood and reparation for those who keep children from Mary) were discussed in previous commentaries. This commentary will focus on the fifth and final blasphemy: those who insult Our Lady in her sacred images.

Father Andrew Apostoli wrote in his book "Fatima for Today": "One of the ways people show their hatred toward God is to destroy or disfigure sacred places or images, especially those of Our Lady. During periods of fierce persecution of Catholics, and even now in our own country, Marian statues have been destroyed on church property. Immodest images have been made of Mary, and her likeness has been made out of reviling materials, which would not be tolerated for images of people in public office." This is a serious offense against Our Lady, and therefore, her Divine Son as well.

Father Apostoli cites an example from the early 1970s in his booklet "Treasure of Fatima," in which a man vandalized Michelangelo's Pieta in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Using a hammer, the man attacked the almost 500-year-old statue causing it significant damage. Furthermore, in the 21st century, there are several examples of "artists" producing distorted and sometimes obscene images of

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

MARIAM SCHMITZ

our Blessed Mother. Needless to say, they are all very offensive. Our Lady herself has requested we make reparation for these types of sins.

The World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) is a Permanent Public International Association of the Faithful, and therefore, the "teaching arm" of our Mother Church on all matters pertaining to Fatima. The Fort Wayne-South Bend Division of the WAF encourages everyone to join us in practicing the Five First Saturdays Devotion. Together we can make reparation to our Blessed Mother's Immaculate Heart. Most parishes in our diocese celebrate Mass on Saturday mornings; however, only a few offer the entire First Saturday devotion with Mass, rosary, meditation and Reconciliation. Contact your parish directly to see if the devotion is practiced. If it is not available, recitation of the rosary and subsequent meditation on the mysteries of the rosary can take place in one's home. In addition, the sacrament of Reconciliation may be received eight days before or after the first Saturday. If you would like to inquire about ways to start the devotion in your parish, contact the president of the WAF Diocesan Division Christine Renbarger at (260) 749-0901.

Advent is a time to choose God



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday in Advent Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

This weekend begins the Church's year. Advent serves two purposes. It inaugurates a new 12-month cycle for the Church, especially in the sense of the weekend liturgies and the liturgical seasons.

Imagine that this weekend is the first day of a school term. The Church calls us this weekend to anticipate the coming of Christ. At Christmas, the feast of the Epiphany and that of the Lord's Baptism, the Church will introduce us to Jesus. With Lent, it will prepare us for the climactic moments in the story of salvation, the Lord's crucifixion and then the glorious moment of Easter.

Then, the Church will urge us to ponder what this means for us, and how we should respond.

More particularly, therefore, Advent is much more than a time to prepare for Christmas, being a tempered, penitential season for decision-making when everything around us is feverish in partying and commercialism.

Without considering anything else, the clash between the spirit of Advent and the frenzy of preparing for Christmas in our culture reminds us that the Lord's kingdom is "not of this world."

Jeremiah is the source of the first reading. His theme, as it was the theme of all the prophets, was that God's people could expect no peace nor joy in their lives until they wholeheartedly returned to God.

In this reading, the prophet notes the sad state of affairs for God's people. They have been humbled. Misery is their lot. Sin has produced this unhappy situation.

However, always merciful, always good, and always protective, God will send into their midst a Savior, a descendant of King David. This Savior will bring justice. All will be fine.

The First Epistle to the Thessalonians supplies the next reading. It is an appeal to the Christians of Thessalonica, now the Greek city of Saloniki, to love each other. This love will be the sign of inwardly following the Lord.

St. Luke's Gospel gives this weekend's liturgy its third reading. Quoting Jesus, it states that everything earthly is subject to change and will end. God is eternal. The perfection of God's law is eternal. Jesus is eternal. Only in God does genuine permanence and security abide.

Reflection

Christmas, in every culture, is soft and lovely. Such befits the commemoration of the birth of the loving and forgiving Redeemer, Jesus the Lord. Although distractions abound, especially with all the materialism that has come to surround the season, and with all the making merry just to make merry, Jesus in any estimate remains at the center of Christmas. Advent urges us to remember this fact and to put Jesus in our hearts — literally.

As St. Luke's Gospel bluntly

says, as Advent says, Christ one day will confront us all. It may be a victorious reunion for some of us. We may anticipate its arrival, as our human frailties increase. It may come suddenly.

It will be a day of fulfillment and rejoicing, if we have followed the Lord in our own lives. Jeremiah looks to salvation and victory.

The readings remind us that in the world good stands starkly opposite evil. Such is to be expected in an imperfect material state, and in a population of human beings who, vested with free will, can be hurtful to others and to themselves as well as virtuous.

Where we are in this purview of creation, because of our free will, results from our decision to follow the Lord or not. If we choose the side of right, and of God, we will need strength. Evil is powerful, and it lures us to death. We must ask for God's strength, and our request must be sincere.

Advent is the time to make our decision total and sincere.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Simple secrets for a special Advent

“Slow Down.” “Prepare.”

How many times have you heard this advice in terms of Advent? And how many times have you thought of this advice while frantically cleaning out the refrigerator of the remnants of Thanksgiving dinner or while hurriedly pulling out boxes of Christmas lights from the basement the day after the feast? Where is that Advent wreath anyway, and — oh shoot — why didn't you think to buy more purple candles last year? Come to think of it, where is that Advent prayer booklet? Those darn kids have been rummaging through the storage room again. Why can't they leave the boxes alone? And ... STOP!!

How can we enjoy a relaxed and prayerful Advent when we are so hurried, so rushed, so *not present*? The truth is, we can't. We can't focus on what's important about Advent when we are so busy being, well, *busy*.

Do you wish to calm down and really experience the Advent season peacefully and joyfully? No one has the perfect formula for accomplishing that, but after many years and many children, and many mistakes of many days of rushing, I've discovered just a few things that have made my own life richer, fuller, and yes, easier and more prayerful too in the days before Christmas. Interested? Read on. ...

1. Simplify.

Yes, your preparation will be better by doing *less*. Resist the temptation to create a personalized Advent calendar from a neat Internet craft site in 3D with the children. Defy the desire to fill the calendar with many Advent activities every day of the week. These things are not going to help you spiritually. Trust me.

Better to kick off the season with a family trip to Confession, then simply pull out the Advent wreath (buy plenty of candles this year so you'll be set for the next five and always pack the Advent wreath on top of Christmas decorations so it's

the first thing you pull out), and light it each night after eating dinner with the family. Watching the flame flicker in the dim room while reading a Bible verse or praying the rosary will help everyone focus on the real meaning of and real preparation for Christ's birth. This meal, this prayer will help you put your mind and heart where it should be. It's really that simple.

I love praying the joyful mysteries, particularly this time of year.

The Annunciation: Mary is visited by the Angel Gabriel and asked to be the Mother of God. The “fiat” of this young teenaged girl literally changed the course of the history of mankind. Do your teenagers realize she was about their age? Have you thought about how difficult this must have been for Mary to trust in faith? In what ways can we emulate the faith of this trusting young girl?

The Visitation: Mary visits Elizabeth. Mary, pregnant with Jesus, does not think of herself but humbly serves her cousin who is pregnant too. How do I reach out to others in service? Is my home an example of hospitality? Do I see interruptions from my family as impositions or opportunities to love?

The Birth of Christ: Jesus is born. Humbly. In a stable. A stable! The Son of God actually becomes one of us and is born in lowly surroundings. It is mind boggling, really! Do your children know the biblical recounting of this? Read it before you pray the mystery. Read it in front of your Nativity set so your smallest children can “see” it unfold before them. Quiet your heart. Ponder this. Think. Pray.

The Presentation in the Temple: Jesus is presented in the temple in accordance with the Law of Moses. “When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”)

the perfection of love on our own, grasping it as an individual achievement, a merit badge of Christian discipleship. Nor because all that we see in the world is a gift of God, a response of gratitude; facets of the world remained entrenched in the darkness of sin.

Instead, as the Christian enters more deeply into the Church, into the body of Christ and temple of the Holy Spirit, our lives become grace. Our memories and imaginations are so taken over by the narrative of salvation that we cannot help but perceive our own experience, our existence as a participation in the unfolding work of the Spirit.

The desire to pray, even in mutilated words of love, is a gift of the Spirit stirring up our heart. Any act of justice we perform, any deed of love no matter how small, is a manifestation of this Spirit for the world to behold. All that we have is a gift bestowed by the Spirit to be offered to the Father in love, in faithful imitation of the obedience of the Son.



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

TERESA A. THOMAS

and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” (Lk 2:22-24) This mystery teaches us to obey. Consider this: Jesus' earthly family did not exempt even Him from obedience. What should this mean in our lives? What are our duties in obeying?

The Finding in the Temple: Jesus' family discovers He is missing. Mary thinks He is with Joseph. Joseph thinks He is with Mary. What a normal family conundrum. They find Him in the temple talking to the elders. Finding Jesus. The fruit of this mystery is finding Him. Isn't that what Advent is all about?

2. Love your family.

That's right. The best way to prepare for the birth of Christ, for Christmas, is to ponder the Holy Family and love your own. Watch the words you speak. Are they kind? True? Necessary? Watch the actions you make. Are they gentle? Full of love? Does your spouse know of your deep love and commitment? Show him. Show her. Actions prove what the heart feels. This is why Jesus came to earth, incarnate, after all. He proved with action and substance His love for us. And the best way we can prepare for His coming is to follow Him and do the same.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children. Watch for her newest book “Big Hearted Families” (Scepter) and read more on her blog: <http://theresathomas.wordpress.com/>

Thus, the Holy Spirit processes from the love of the Father and the Son. The Spirit processes into the Church, which is the Body of Christ, into the individual hearts of believers. This same Spirit processes through our very bones, our whole souls, so that we begin to perceive our lives as gifts to be offered to the Father. This procession of love transfigures our humanity, making us into saints, visible icons of divine love for the world.

The more grateful we are, the more we are inscribed into the logic of self-giving love that is the cross and resurrection, the more our hearts are opened to receive and to breathe forth the Spirit for the life of the world. *Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.*

Tim O'Malley, Ph.D. is director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy and a concurrent professor in the Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 2, 2012

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent, Cycle C: signs of the Second Coming. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SIGNS IN EARTH OF THE SEA CLOUD HEARTS FACE ESCAPE	THE SUN NATIONS HEAVENS BEGIN DRUNKENNESS AT ALL TIMES STAND	STARS ROARING BE SHAKEN RAISE THAT DAY STRENGTH SON OF MAN
--	--	--

THEY WILL SEE

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

Called to be servant to all

BY JANE SANDOR

My childhood days were filled with countless adventures of imaginary travels, side yard baseball and football, daily 6:30 a.m. Mass and the life of being the youngest of eight children. A brick, two story bungalow was our haven for rest, laughter and becoming family. The house address was 47. Over the years, that number appears in some of the strangest ways. Invariably, when one of us is facing one of life's struggles, the number 47 appears. Since my parents' deaths in 1993, my siblings and I know that if 47 appears, then mom and dad are still with us and leading us along.

On Saturday, Nov. 10, I was setting up a booth at the Deaf Festival at the Allen County Fairgrounds. This event was to be my first attempt to publicly state the work of the Office of Catechesis and Secretariat of Evangelization and Special Ministries' mission of meeting the spiritual needs of all people with special needs. My intention was to share information about a planned Day of Reflection for the Deaf on Nov. 17. Arrangements were made for an ASL interpreter so I could communicate. A display board had been designed highlighting the information. Registration papers were prepared. I was ready or so I thought.

Within the first hour I was given the chance of a lifetime. Many vendors were setting up their booths.

Food was prepared. Displays were organized. Technical equipment

was connected. There were 50 to 75 people feverishly working to be ready for the opening at 9 a.m. In all of this work, the only sounds were an occasional scraping of a chair leg on the concrete floor or a muffled laugh. Otherwise, you could have heard a pin drop. For once, I was given the opportunity to truly “hear” the world as all of our deaf brothers and sisters. Their signed conversations were animated, lively and meaningful. Ideas were being exchanged at a rapid pace. Plans were being made. Decisions were finalized. And I had no idea what was being shared.

I was now in a world I had never experienced. The seemingly silent deaf world was verbose and intriguing. A humbling experience beyond words was mine to have. Finally, I was on the outside looking in. Humbly, I realized what my job was and how God was calling me.

Before the doors opened, I was given the stub of a ticket for a door prize. Every hour, a ticket would be picked and someone would be the lucky winner. I looked at the number of my ticket and the numbers were 326047. I chuckled silently, said a prayer of thanks and told my husband. He said, “I think your mom and dad want you to be where you are.” Truer words were never spoken. I was given the door prize of the century: an opportunity to reach a compassionate understanding of what I have been called to do — to be a servant to all.

Jane Sandor is a catechetical associate for the Office of Catechesis and Special Ministries.

CREED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

the Gospel of John until He is raised up on the cross. Why? Precisely because the Holy Spirit is nothing less than the completeness of divine love manifested on the cross. It is the total gift of the Son to the Father, and the Father's acceptance of this sacrificial love made evident in the Resurrection of the Son. And when He encounters His disciples as resurrected, He breathes forth the Spirit upon the humanity of the apostles. The apostles and the whole Church through Baptism are now taken up into the mission of the Triune God through the life of the Church.

Therefore in Baptism, the Christian receives the Holy Spirit and is inscribed into the gratuitous love of the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit. Our whole lives can be conceived now as grace. Not because we have reached

Sports

EIFERT NAMED MACKEY FINALIST FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR The Nassau County Sports Commission, sponsored by Briarcliffe College, named University of Notre Dame senior tight end Tyler Eifert a finalist for the John Mackey Award. It is the second consecutive season in which Eifert was named a finalist for the award presented to the nation's top tight end. Eifert, a graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, leads Notre Dame with 555 receiving yards and ranks second on the team with 40 catches. Twenty-nine of his 40 receptions have resulted in a touchdown or first down. Eifert also leads the Irish receiving corps with 11 grabs of at least 20 yards.

Holiday invitational previews CYO basketball

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — While most people were out shopping for Black Friday deals, the boys' and girls' teams from the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) were busy kicking off their 2012-2013 basketball season. The Queen of Angels Invitational celebrated its 20th anniversary over the Thanksgiving holiday and provides a sneak preview each year of the CYO league along with a few other area youth teams.

Denny Jamison, former Queen of Angels athletic director first organized the pre-season contest as a Youth for Christ function. Jamison said he enjoys running the tournament and also hosts one over the Christmas break.

"It's a great way for coaches to tune up their teams before the CYO season starts," the coordinator summarized.

The boys' field consisted of 11 teams this year and the eighth-grade Cardinals from St. Charles came out on top sailing through their bracket and winning the championship over St. John the Baptist, New Haven, (SJNH), 43-29.

The Cardinals beat St. Jude in their opening round, 40-26, then St. Therese, 38-11. Next they sent SJNH to the consolation bracket in a 38-15 victory. The talented Raiders battled their way back to the championship round where they eliminated St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel to once again face St.



PROVIDED BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

St. John, New Haven Raider, Erica Renninger, shoots from the charity stripe as her teammates and St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel line up for the rebound in early bracket play of the Queen of Angels Invitational.

Charles. Coach Rick Donovan gave his opponent much credit, "It was a very close game — as we knew it would be, until we had a spurt in the fourth quarter. New Haven is a solid team and played very well."

The Cardinals list 14 young men on their roster and have a goal this season to get better every time they are together, whether at practice or in a game. Donovan, who started his coaching career 18 years ago at Sacred Heart, has good depth this season and strong team defense. Guards Jack Petenburg, Zach McKenna and Campbell Donovan led the perimeter attack for the Cardinals over the weekend and forward Carl Williams also stood out.

St. John-Emmanuel Lutheran School, Monroeville, won the

eight-team girls' side with a 30-22 win over a skilled group from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel.

CYO action begins Saturday, Dec. 1. To see your scores and highlights in *Today's Catholic* each week this season call Michelle Castleman at (260) 623-2180 or email mmcastleman@aol.com.

Notre Dame ranks No. 1

NOTRE DAME — Notre Dame is headed to the BCS Championship game after reaching 12-0 for the first time since 1988. The Fighting Irish will be in Miami next.

Theo Riddick rushed for 146 yards and a touchdown, Kyle Brindza kicked five field goals, and No. 1 Notre Dame secured the chance to play for the national title with a 22-13 victory over USC on Saturday night.

The University of Notre Dame ranks first in both the current Bowl Championship Series standings and the current NCAA Graduate Success Rate figures for football (released last month) — and that's the first time in the history of the BCS and the GSR that any team has ranked atop both sets of standings.

"I took the Notre Dame job wanting to have an opportunity to play for a national championship and have high graduation rates," says Notre Dame football coach Brian Kelly. "I think this year we are in a position to validate that, with the No. 1 rankings right now in football and graduation — that you can do both, and they don't have to be mutually exclusive in college

football. I have not seen anything here in my time that will not allow us to continue to have the highest graduation rates and compete for national championships."

This season's double so far is similar to the 1988 season when Notre Dame finished 12-0 and won the national championship in football on a unanimous basis — and the Irish also won the Academic Achievement Award that year from the College Football Association with a perfect 100 percent graduation rate for the Irish football squad.

The NCAA began announcing graduation rates in 1992 based on federal graduation figures — with Notre Dame first ranking number one in football for the three combined entering classes for 1983-84-85.

The NCAA began issuing GSR numbers in 2005 based on a combined four years of entering classes for student-athletes.

The university has football student-athlete records back to the 1962 entering class — and since then 98 percent of Notre Dame football players who entered on scholarship and remained enrolled for at least four years have received their degrees.

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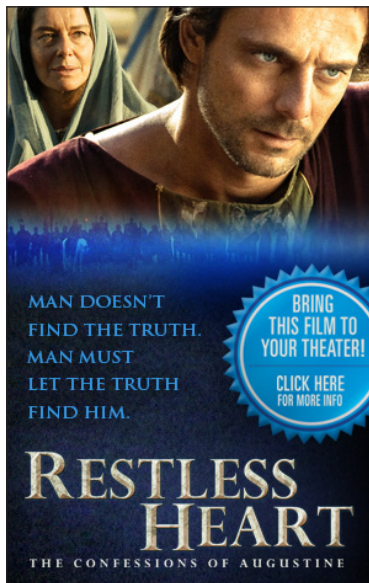
A night with St. Augustine

NOTRE DAME — Many might think of St. Augustine as the elderly bishop residing in Hippo during the first half of the fifth century. But this is a very limited picture of the man who described his dramatic journey towards God as a path with Christ being both the final goal and the pavement under his feet.

The Institute for Church Life, in collaboration with St. Ignatius Press, proudly presents "Restless Heart," a powerful new movie based on St. Augustine's Confessions.

Filmed in Europe, this first full-length feature movie about St. Augustine portrays the fascinating conversion of a skeptic on the conquest of power into one of the greatest disciples of Christ in the history of the Church. It witnesses vividly to the exciting journey of a man who is too brilliant to settle for answers, which do not satisfy and only comes to rest after he found rest in God.

The dramatic story follows Augustine's early life with his mother Monica, his time as a Manichean, and his encounter with Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, who was instrumental in Augustine's conversion to Christianity. Called by the pope, he served the Christians in Hippo for many years as their bishop. In 430, he passed up a chance to escape the attack of the Vandal King Genseric on Hippo, and stayed by the side of his people.



The Institute for Church Life will show "Restless Heart," in Geddes Hall on the Notre Dame campus, Dec. 4 and 5. The event will kick off at 6 p.m. with pizza and a brief presentation by a Notre Dame scholar. Doors of the coffee house will open at 5:45 p.m., movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$7, which includes movie and pizza dinner and \$5 cash-back at the door.

For more information visit: <http://icl.nd.edu/icl-events/restless-heart/>, or to order tickets by Dec. 2, contact the Institute for Church Life at (574) 631-1379 or email pbellm@nd.edu.

Cheerleaders sweep state championships

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Dwenger Saints have done it again. On Nov. 3, the Bishop Dwenger varsity cheer team completed a sweep of the Indiana State Cheer Championships in Indianapolis.

Prior to this momentous day, the freshmen and junior varsity squads both earned the title of State Champions on Oct. 20. The very first time one school ever claimed titles at all three levels was when Bishop Dwenger did it in 2010, so this marks just the second time in history.

"I remember thinking to myself in 2010 that this would be the only time this ever happened and here we are again with another super season," marveled Coach Amy Gonzagowski.

Bishop Dwenger varsity clinched the Class 3-A state titles in 1998, 2000, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

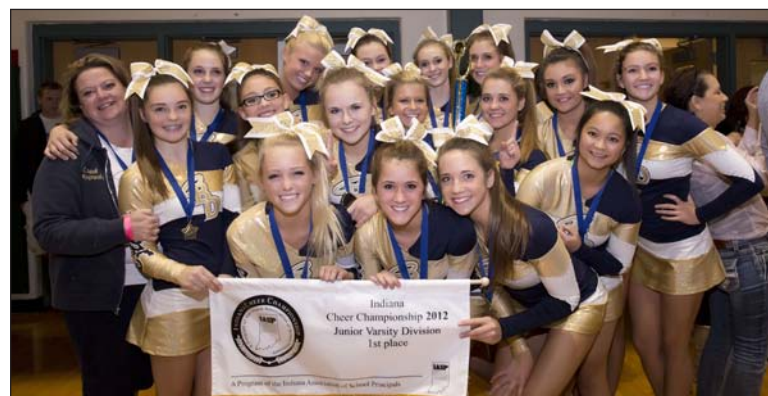
The nine-member freshman team worked hard and won the state title over much bigger schools such as Carmel and Hamilton Southeastern, while the 16 junior varsity girls wowed the judges with their skills and won by a narrow .1 margin over powerhouses such as Mount Vernon, Carmel, Fishers, Pendleton Heights and Hamilton Southeastern. The varsity squad of 22 was down to 20 members at the state finals in Southport due to injury and illness. "This team really had to pull together and work harder than any other team I have ever coached. They have been led by an extremely talented and dedicated group of seniors," explained Gonzagowski.

With the 10 seniors leading the way, Bishop Dwenger's decorated program received its highest point total ever at the state championships.

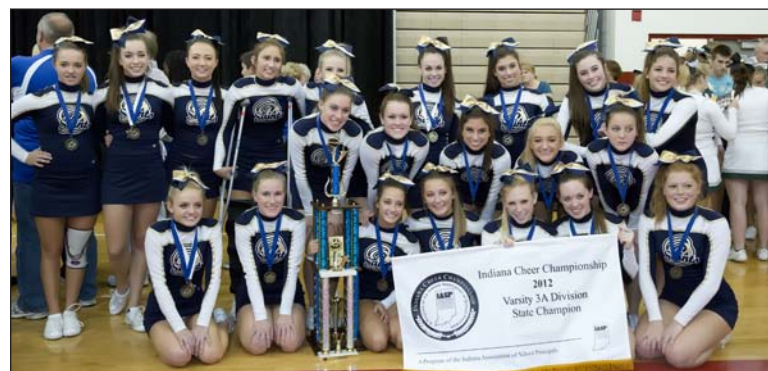


PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

Members of the Bishop Dwenger High School freshmen cheerleading team include Stefania Ackerman, Cierra Cuney, Anna DeJong, Mary Eber, Moriah Heath, Madison Johnson, Karlie Rice, Hannah Vanek and Christina Wilde.




Members of the Bishop Dwenger High School junior varsity cheerleading team include Clare Anderson, Mica Buenconsejo, Maggie Byrne, Jenna Eckland, Grace Gillig, Hannah Henry, Haley Houlihan, Eve Lowery, Erica Nelson, Lauren Reinhart, Alison Roussey, Anna Russell, Ali Tippmann, Amelia Tippmann, Gloria Tippmann and Maddy Tippmann.



Members of the Bishop Dwenger High School varsity cheerleading team include Elizabeth Budzon, Emily Budzon, Bri Campbell, Lauren Didier, Paige Didier, Alexis Eddy, Dominique Effinger, Haley Enrietto, Erin Grutsch, Nicole Gulachek, Maggie Houlihan, Lindsey Noye, Becca Paladino, Morgan Pearson, Graisen Proctor, Claire Schenkel, Lucy Schenkel, Emily Tippmann, Mariah Tippmann, Rachel Venderley, Allison White and Alex Yoder.

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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.

Christmas concert

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Music Department will have a Christmas concert Thursday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium. No admission fee.

Handel's Messiah sing-along

Fort Wayne — The Bach Collegium will hold its annual sing-along of Handel's "Messiah" on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m. at Queen of Angels Church, 1500 W. State Blvd. Thomas Remenschneider will conduct. Copies of the music will be provided if needed, and cookies will be served at the intermission. A \$5 donation is requested.

Catholic Business Network Group

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, Dec. 7, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Mass will be followed in the Cathedral Center by guest speaker Dr. Lance Richey, associate professor of theology at the University of Saint Francis. Refreshments will be provided by the University of Saint Francis.

Mass and concert to honor Mary

South Bend — St. Jude Parish, 19704 Johnson Rd., will celebrate the Solemnity of the

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Mass and a concert with the University of Notre Dame Chorale on Saturday, Dec. 8. Mass will start at 4:30 p.m. with the concert following at 6 p.m. in the church. Concert repertoire will include works from Handel's "Messiah," Monteverdi, Mozart, Wagner, Barber and more. Free will offering will be accepted. For information contact the parish office at (574) 291-0570.

St. Monica plans cookie walk

Mishawaka — St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie walk Saturday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church lower level, 222 West Mishawaka Ave.

Christ Child Society annual Holiday Cookie Walk to benefit local children

Fort Wayne — The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne will have a Holiday Cookie Walk to benefit children in need Saturday, Dec. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at St. Vincent de Paul Church on Wallen Road. All proceeds of the sale will be used to fund the programs of the Christ Child Society.

Breakfast with Santa

South Bend — St. Patrick Parish will host a breakfast with Santa Sunday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon in the parish center, 308 S.

Scott St. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for children 4-12 and free for children 3 and under. Family ticket is \$12. Tickets available through parish office or call Phil Niswonger at (574) 335-9927. All proceeds benefit ministry programs.

Christmas cookie and candy sale

Monroeville — The St. Rose Ladies Guild will have a Christmas cookie and candy sale Saturday, Dec. 8, from noon to 3 p.m. in the school basement.

REST IN PEACE

Decatur

Emilda H. Gerber, 83, St. Mary of the Assumption

Raymond B. Schultz, 90, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

Janice Schenkel, 79, St. Charles Borromeo

Eleanor M. Hudak, 87, Saint Anne Home Chapel

J. Donald Phillips, 81, St. Vincent de Paul

Donald H. Briggeman, 85, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger

Theresa Majewski, 84, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Ann Marie Monhaut, 48, Queen of Peace

Helen Zirille, 94, St. Monica

New Haven

Connie A. Ferguson, 79, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Sister Martha Neeser, CSC, 97, Our Lady of Loretto

Plymouth

Lucille O. Danielson, 96, St. Michael

South Bend

Bernard E. Kowalski, 84, St. Stanislaus

Clara Marie

VanDeVeire, 103, Holy Cross

Judith A. Endres, 71, St. Jude

Louis W. Krueper Sr., 88, Christ the King

Martin E. Niedosik Sr., 63, St. Anthony de Padua

Anthony L. Gruda, 72, St. John the Baptist

Dorothy R. Kedik, 88, Holy Family

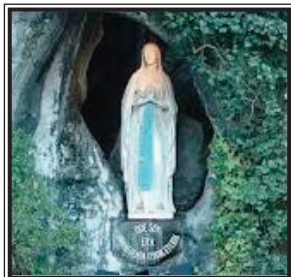
Anna O. Mago, 84, Our Lady of Hungary

Wesley Anton Pribla, 96, Christ the King

Christine T. Szalay, 92, Our Lady of Hungary

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Pilgrimage at Lourdes with Father Tim

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It's Christmas!...is his gift in your heart?



Photo: © Steve Liss, AmericanPoverty.org

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

TV MASS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

2012	Feast Day	Fort Wayne 10:30 a.m. WFFT-TV, Ch. 55	South Bend 10:30 a.m. WNDU-TV, Ch. 16
Dec. 2	First Sunday of Advent	Most Rev. John M D'Arcy Bishop Emeritus Fort Wayne/South Bend	Msrgr. Bruce Piechocki St. Monica Mishawaka
Dec. 9	Second Sunday of Advent	Msrgr. Bernard Galic St. Aloysius Yoder	Msrgr. Michael Heintz St. Matthew Cathedral South Bend
Dec. 16	Third Sunday of Advent	Rev. Ed Erpelding Parkview Medical Ctr. Fort Wayne	Rev. Camillo Tirabassi retired South Bend
Dec. 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Most Rev. Kevin Rhoades Bishop of Diocese Fort Wayne-South Bend	Rev. Tom McNally, CSC Notre Dame
Dec. 25	Christmas	Rev. Jason Freiburger Live from Fort Wayne 10:30-11:30 a.m.	Rev. Jason Freiburger Live from Fort Wayne 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Dec. 30	Feast of the Holy Family	Rev. Andrew Budzinski St. Vincent de Paul Fort Wayne	Rev. Matthew Coonan St. Vincent de Paul Elkhart

Mass now streaming live online at diocesefwsb.org.
Archived Masses also online.



LUERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Coach Steve Keefer explained in remarks after the state championship game, "The difference in the game was our senior leadership and intensity. These guys have been here before and they know what it's all about. Ritter gave us some shots in the second half and we staggered a bit, but we came back and finished strong."

"We executed well in the first half and played good hard-nosed defense," Keefer said. "In the second half, we had some penalties and blown assignments and we let them back in the game. They've got some good receivers and a quarterback. You're not going to shut down a team like them."

"We've got great senior leadership," Keefer added. "The 24 seniors, we called them together in the fourth quarter and challenged them and they came through. Our message all year long has been 'Don't look back, look forward, and be positive.' These players bought into that."

Keefer continued, "I've been coaching at Luers for many years. When I stepped in as head coach, most of these kids played for me as freshmen. Some of these guys on the coaching staff played for me. We're just one family and we all buy into the Luers football tradition. My goal was to get these kids back here, and their goal was to get back here. They stayed positive and kept focused and we had a great effort tonight. The good thing is, now I can retire again."

On Monday, Nov. 26, the Luers' faithful gathered for what is becoming an annual tradition — the state championship medal ceremony.

Sue Mathias, head of Bishop Luers' campus ministry, opened with a prayer, then athletic director Jim Huth emceed an all-star line up of introductions including Superintendent of Catholic Schools Dr. Mark Myers, Principal Mary Keefer, her husband/head coach, the Luers coaching staff and the 2012 team captains.

On behalf of the captains, Jaylon Smith simply stated, "We went through them. We went around them, and occasionally we went over them (referring to his penalty for hurdling a Ritter defender)."

Several messages were forwarded — a poem about the magical game at Lucas Oil, details from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades congratulatory phone call from Pennsylvania, a letter to the school from Bishop John M. D'Arcy, bishop emeritus and school chaplain, and an official proclamation from Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, which declared the day for Bishop Luers football. The proclamation stated "... where greatness is given, much is demanded. ..."

Coach Keefer then called each player by class to receive their coveted medals with the seniors receiving the most thunderous applause from the student body.

Donning a shirt and tie for the assembly, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) product and All-Summit Athletic Conference first team selection, Danny Beckman, grinned from ear to ear. The senior lineman, weighing 310 pounds, had a huge hit in the back field during a crucial play of the game's final minutes; but the favorite memory of his football career, like many of the other seniors, was winning four state championships at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Indiana High School Athletic Association media contributed to this story.

Above, the Bishop Luers football team and cheerleaders gather for a photo at Lucas Oil Stadium.

At right, spirited students of Bishop Luers High School cheer for their team at the Class 2-A state championship game at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on Nov. 23.



PHOTOS BY DOUG BLACKWELL

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The new Girl Scouts **My Promise, My Faith** pin invites girls in grades K-12 to experience a faith journey through exploration of the Girl Scout Law and teachings from their faith. Adult volunteers partner with Catholic girls by guiding them through a personal faith journey and linking the national pin with the Catholic religious recognitions.

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