

### Labors of Catholic Charities

Fruits shared by many  
Pages 8-9



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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## Prepare the way of the Lord

In Truth and Charity  
Page 2

## 'Formula for Life'

USF helps Haitian orphans  
Page 5

## Continuing college education

Holy Cross, Ancilla form partnership  
Page 10

## Hoop action

CYO and ICCL basketball season in force  
Pages 13-14

## Dedication, blessing

Auburn parish celebrates an addition  
Page 16

# St. Patrick community celebrates Our Lady



JOE ROMIE

Aide Carranza, left, and Arly Espinoza, right, present the offertory gifts to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at Mass on Sunday, Dec. 9, at St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne.

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne was at capacity with standing room only for the hundreds of Hispanic parishioners and friends who came to Mass on the second Sunday in Advent and to celebrate Our Lady. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was the celebrant.

The thrust of the celebration was to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. Although Dec. 9 this year falls on the Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 9 is also the feast of St. Juan Diego, an indigenous Native American from Mexico who was visited by the Blessed Mother now known as Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531.

December 9 is very special to Bishop Rhoades. On Dec. 9, 2004, he was ordained the bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa.

Colorful flags representing the countries of the American continents marked the entrance procession of the Mass. A larger-than-life framed portrayal of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which was incensed by the bishop during Mass, stood near the altar. Aztec and Ecuadorian dancers commanded the aisles, brightly dressed in colorful cultural costumes replete with feathered and jeweled headdresses.

During his homily, which he spoke in Spanish, Bishop Rhoades stressed that Christ not only came for all 2,000 years ago, but comes to us in the present day.

OUR LADY, PAGE 4

# All Catholics under 'obligation of love,' says Indianapolis archbishop

BY SEAN GALLAGHER

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — In the ancient Mediterranean world and in medieval Europe, a chair was the symbol of a teacher. In those cultures, teachers sat in chairs and their students sat at their feet to learn from them.

The Catholic Church continues this traditional symbol in the cathedra, the seat of a diocesan bishop in a local Church's cathedral.

When Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin sat for the first time in the cathedra at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Dec. 3, he did so to teach Catholics of central and southern Indiana how to love and respond to Christ's love for them.

In his homily during the Mass in which he was installed as the sixth shepherd of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Archbishop Tobin reflected on how St. Paul saw himself as obligated to preach the Gospel because Christ loved him first.

"And so, for us Catholics of central and southern Indiana, if someone asks us, 'Why do you do what you do?' it's not simply because we're obeying rules," Archbishop Tobin said. "In fact, on at least four different occasions, I heard Pope Benedict XVI say

that the Gospel cannot be presented first and foremost as a list of moral obligations.

"It is rather an encounter with a person, someone who has loved us first and someone who asks us to continue His loving presence in the world. And so all of us who belong to this particular Church are under an obligation — the obligation of love."

Archbishop Tobin said that he and all the Catholics of the archdiocese are to express that love with the passion that drove St. Francis Xavier, a patron saint of the archdiocese whose feast day was Dec. 3, to preach the Gospel in India — half-way around the world from his home in Spain.

"What we will do together as a Church, we will do with passion, the passion that characterized our patron saint, Francis Xavier," Archbishop Tobin said. "And we will do whatever the Lord asks us to do in bringing the good news, especially to those who have the least chance of hearing it, for those who live on the margin of things, for those who have been hurt by the Church, for those who feel themselves to be forgotten."

The archbishop, former secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Institutes of

TOBIN, PAGE 3



CNS PHOTO/SEAN GALLAGHER, THE CRITERION

Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin sits for the first time in the cathedra of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis during the Dec. 3 Mass in which he was installed as the sixth archbishop of Indianapolis. Applauding Archbishop Tobin is Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Indianapolis.

## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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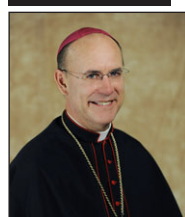
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# Prepare the way of the Lord



## IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

**W**e heard in last Sunday's Gospel that "the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert." Saint John the Baptist proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins throughout the whole region of the Jordan. He lived and preached in the Judean desert, where throngs of people came to hear him and to receive his baptism of repentance.

The prophet Isaiah had foretold "a voice of one crying out in the desert: *Prepare the way of the Lord.*" John the Baptist was that voice. It was his mission, received from God, to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. This was the most important thing in his life: to announce Jesus and to help others to welcome Him into their lives.

In Advent, the Church calls out to us with the words of John the Baptist: *Prepare the way of the Lord!* This Advent season is a time of repentance so that, when Christ comes, we may welcome Him with joy, share in His wisdom, and become one with Him.

It is not insignificant that John's mission took place in the desert. The Lord comes into the desert of this world, the desert of our lives, to refresh us with the waters of salvation. I recall the words of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict, during the homily he gave at his inaugural Mass as Pope:

*And there are so many kinds of desert. There is the desert of poverty, the desert of hunger and thirst, the desert of abandonment, of loneliness, of destroyed love. There is the desert of God's darkness, the emptiness of souls no longer aware of their dignity or the goal of human life. The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast.*

The Holy Father went on to say:

*The Church... must set out to lead people out of the desert toward the place of life, toward friendship with the Son of God, toward the One who gives us life, and life in abundance.*

Amid the many kinds of desert in the world today, especially the internal deserts the Holy Father speaks of, it is our task to lead people out of the desert towards Christ, the source of living waters. This is what John the Baptist did. He prepared the way of the Lord by calling people to repentance and conversion, thus helping them to welcome Jesus into their lives.

In this Year of Faith, we are encouraged to be renewed and reinvigorated in our lives of faith. Before we can help lead other people out of the desert towards friendship with Christ, we must first be led out of the desert ourselves through our own repentance and conversion. We must hear the word of Saint John the Baptist that is also addressed to us: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* Before evangelizing others, we must be evangelized ourselves, converted continually to the Lord.

I hope that all of us will experience the



CNS PHOTO/LISA A. JOHNSTON

**A sculpture showing an expectant Mary with Joseph en route to Bethlehem is seen in a church during the season of Advent, the time of anticipation and hope before Christmas.**

peace of conversion and the joy of repentance this Advent, especially through the sacrament of Penance. I cannot think of a better way for us to prepare the way of the Lord in the desert of our own lives. I cannot think of a better way to prepare for Christmas.

One of the joys of being a priest is hearing confessions, being an instrument of God's merciful love. The joy of giving absolution to a repentant sinner is amazing. There is joy, not only on earth, but in heaven, when someone is restored to God's grace in the sacrament of Reconciliation. At the end of the parable of the prodigal son, we read about the father explaining to his older son the reason for the joyous celebration when the prodigal son returned home after a time of sinful living: *We had to celebrate and rejoice. This brother of yours was dead, and has come back to life. He was lost and is found.*

There is truly joy in heaven over one repentant sinner. There is joy in heaven every time we humbly confess our sins in the sacrament of Penance.

The joy of Christmas is that God has sent His Son to us as our Savior. We all need a Savior. Our world needs a Savior. Jesus

Christ is our Savior. The very name Mary and Joseph gave their son, at the invitation of the angel, was *Yeshua* (Jesus), which means *God saves*.

In these remaining days of Advent, let us heed the words of Saint John the Baptist: *Prepare the way of the Lord.* Through conversion and repentance, let us clear a straight path for the Lord in our lives. Doing so, we will experience the true joy of Christmas. And that joy also brings peace to our lives. Whenever we do God's will, we will possess inner joy and peace, even in the midst of adversity. We are called to share that joy and peace with others, especially through our love for them. The joy of Christmas is alive in us when we live our faith in charity. Christian joy springs from love, love of God and love of neighbor.

As we approach Christmas, let us remember that God became man that we might have life and have it to the full. The Son of God took on our human nature to save us from sin and death. At Christmas, we will hear again the words of the angel to the shepherds: *For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.* This is the reason for our joy, the true joy of Christmas!

# Pope makes new rules to strengthen charities' Catholic identity

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Warning that Catholic charitable activity must not become “just another form of organized social assistance,” Pope Benedict XVI issued new rules to strengthen the religious identity of Catholic charities and ensure that their activities conform to Church teaching.

The pope's apostolic letter on the “service of charity,” issued “motu proprio” (on his own initiative), directs bishops in overseeing charitable works in their dioceses. The document, dated Nov. 11, was released by the Vatican Dec. 1.

Charities approved by the Church or supported by Church funds “are required to follow Catholic principles in their activity and they may not accept commitments which could in any way affect the observance of those principles,” the pope wrote.

The staff members of such charities must therefore “share, or at least respect, the Catholic identity” of their agencies, and exemplify “Christian life” and faith. Bishops are to provide these employees with “theological and pastoral formation” through special courses and “suitable aids to the spiritual life.”

Catholic charities are forbidden to “receive financial support from groups or institutions that pursue ends contrary to the Church's teaching,” or to “accept contributions for initiatives whose ends, or the means



CNS PHOTO/MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

**Monica Post gets groceries for a needy client in late November in the pantry of the Catholic Family Center in Rochester, N.Y. Warning that Catholic charitable activity must not become “just another form of organized social assistance,” Pope Benedict XVI issued new rules to strengthen the religious identity of Catholic charities and ensure that their activities conform to Church teaching.**

used to pursue them, are not in conformity with the Church's teaching.”

To ensure that the Church's charitable agencies reflect “Christian simplicity of life,” each bishop is to set their salaries and expenses at levels “in due proportion to analogous expenses of his diocesan curia.”

When “the activity of a particular charitable agency is no longer being carried out in conformity with the Church's teaching,” Pope Benedict wrote, the responsible bishop must inform his flock and “prohibit that agency from using the name ‘Catholic.’”

The document is the Vatican's latest measure aimed at reinforcing the religious identity of Catholic institutions. In May 2012, the Vatican issued rules strengthening its control over Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 164 Catholic relief, development and social service agencies around the world, including Catholic Relief Services in the United States.

In the apostolic letter, the pope praised Caritas for its “generous and consistent witness of faith and its concrete ability to respond to the needs of the poor.”

## TOBIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, paid tribute to his predecessors in Indiana, starting with Bishop Simon Brute, a candidate for sainthood and the first bishop of Vincennes — which covered all of Indiana and a portion of Illinois when it was established in 1834.

Archbishop Tobin also honored his immediate predecessor, retired Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, who attended the installation Mass.

In remarks at the end of Mass, Archbishop Tobin thanked Archbishop Buechlein “for laying a firm foundation and of being so gracious to me in our conversations and for his promise to be always a cellphone call away when I run up against implacable problems.”

Before the Mass, Archbishop Buechlein told *The Criterion*, the archdiocesan newspaper, that he was looking forward to witnessing the installation of his successor.

“I'm excited, and I'm grateful,” Archbishop Buechlein said. “I'm grateful to the Holy Father for giving us Archbishop Tobin, grateful for Archbishop Tobin for his saying, ‘Yes.’ He's a good man.”

Archbishop Buechlein is the first

retired shepherd of the Church in central and southern Indiana to be alive to witness the installation of his successor since Archbishop Paul C. Schulte attended the installation of Archbishop George J. Biskup Jan. 3, 1970.

Before the start of Mass, more than a hundred priests and two dozen bishops processed into St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, which was filled with more than 1,000 worshippers. Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio to the United States, was the principal celebrant.

The central ritual of the installation Mass was Archbishop Tobin taking his place in the cathedra, then representatives of various groups in archdiocese came up to greet him. They included a priest, a deacon and his wife, religious, a married couple, youths and young adults, representatives of the Hispanic community and people with special needs.

Also greeting Archbishop Tobin were a representative of the Indianapolis-based Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), an imam, a rabbi and various civic officials, including Indianapolis Mayor Gregory Ballard, who is Catholic.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Archbishop Tobin thanked Pope Benedict, who appointed him to Indianapolis Oct. 18, and Archbishop Buechlein and Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, other archdiocesan leaders

and the Catholics of central and southern Indiana who have been praying for a new archbishop for months now.

“I thank you for those prayers,” Archbishop Tobin said. “And I ask that they continue.”

He also thanked his mother, Marie Tobin, and his 12 siblings. Archbishop Tobin then thanked his Redemptorist family. He first professed vows in 1973 in the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, whose members are called Redemptorists.

He was the congregation's superior general of the congregation, whose 5,300 members minister in 78 countries, from 1997 to 2009.

“My brothers here know the full story. I trust that they're not going to tell it,” said Archbishop Tobin with a smile. “But I thank you for teaching me to love the poor, and to assure that the Gospel is preached in season and out.”

Finally, Archbishop Tobin noted that, while he could not predict what would happen “in this great adventure of being the archbishop of Indianapolis. ... Whatever the Lord holds for me, that's fine. But I'm sure that I'm going to enjoy life with you, my brothers and sisters.”

**Sean Gallagher** is a reporter at *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese.



## PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec. 16, 10:30 a.m. — Mass at Saint Patrick Church, South Bend
- Monday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m. — Mass and Luncheon with Diocesan Staff, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, Dec. 20, 5 p.m. — Mass and Dinner with Diocesan Seminarians and Serra Club, Saint Francis Convent, Mishawaka
- Friday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. — Mass and Luncheon with Diocesan Staff, Saint Francis Convent, Mishawaka, Mishawaka

# Gospel is good news of freedom from sin, selfishness, death, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) — In the immaculate conception of Mary, Christians recognize the truth that the Gospel is the good news of freedom from sin, selfishness and death, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Standing before a statue of Mary near the Spanish Steps, in the midst of Rome's ritzy shopping district, Pope Benedict said Mary is a reminder that silence is essential for hearing God's word, that salvation comes from God alone and that joy comes from being freed of sin.

As he does every year, the pope prayed the Angelus at noon in St. Peter's Square, then — riding in a brand new, Mercedes-Benz M-class popemobile — went to the Spanish Steps late in the afternoon Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

That Mary was conceived without sin “speaks to us of joy, that authentic joy that spreads in a heart freed from sin,” the pope said, sitting before a column topped with a statue of Mary erected in honor of the Immaculate Conception.

“Sin brings with it sadness,” the pope said.

While some people think Christianity “is an obstacle to joy because they see it as a collection of prohibitions and rules,” it really is good news, he said, because it is “the proclamation of the victory of grace over sin, of life over death.”

Of course, he said, faith leads people to renounce certain habits and actions, and it requires “a discipline of mind, heart and behavior” because original sin leaves within people “the poisonous root of selfishness, which harms them and others.”

The day's Gospel reading recounted the Annunciation, the moment when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she would be Jesus' mother, and Pope Benedict said he was struck that such a “decisive moment for human destiny, the moment in which God became man, is wrapped in great silence.”

“It was an event that, if it had

happened in our day, wouldn't leave a trace in the newspapers or magazines, because it is a mystery that takes place in silence,” he said.

“The quiet silence is shown to be more fruitful than the frenetic agitation that characterizes our cities,” the pope said, encouraging Christians “to stop, be still, listen to the silence in which God makes his soft voice heard.”

Pope Benedict said no one can understand God's plan for his or her life, nor can they see the best way to bring Christian values to society without some silent reflection. It is only “going deeper, where the forces at work are not economic and political, but moral and spiritual,” that God's voice can be heard.

Mary's immaculate conception also reminds Christians that “the salvation of the world isn't the work of man, science, technology or an ideology,” but of God, he said.

Reciting the Angelus earlier in the day, the pope said Mary's life, and particularly her saying “yes” to God's plans for her, illustrate how close a person can come to God once freed of sin.

“In Mary, in fact, the relationship with God that sin breaks is fully alive and active,” he said. “There is no opposition between God and her being; there is full communion and understanding.”

The pope prayed that through the intercession of Mary, God would “grant us the grace to reject sin and persevere in the grace of baptism.”

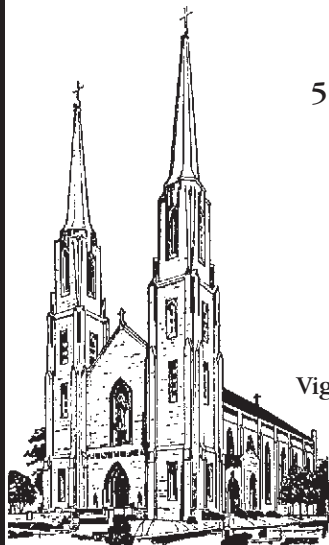
Pope Benedict also recited the Angelus Dec. 9 with visitors who came to St. Peter's Square for his normal Sunday greeting.

The day's Gospel reading focused on St. John the Baptist's call to prepare the way of the Lord. “We are called to listen to that voice, to make room for and welcome Jesus into our hearts,” he said.

“In our consumer societies, where people are tempted to look for joy in things,” he said, John the Baptist teaches us to focus more on what is essential, “so that Christmas is experienced not only as an exterior celebration, but as the feast of the Son of God who came to bring peace, life and true joy.”

**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**

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Midnight Mass  
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Vigil Mass December 31 - 5:00 PM  
January 1  
8:30 AM & 11:30 AM

*Visit the Cathedral during this Season of Grace.*

**OUR LADY**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He reminded all that Advent is a time for conversion and repentance — like that preached by John the Baptist — adding, “I can not think of a better way to prepare ourselves for Christmas than Confession.”

At the conclusion of the Mass, in which five local priests celebrated, St. Patrick pastor Father Andrew Thu Pham and Bishop Rhoades gave thanks to all who had participated in the organization of the beautiful Mass. Following resounding applause for Bishop Rhoades as he was recognized for his ordination as bishop, the dancers took to the aisles for the recessional of the Mass celebration.

The congregation processed onto the streets reciting the rosary as they made their way to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and raising their voices in song. The procession, led by Provincial of the Society of the Divine Word Father Thomas Ascherman and Father Thu Pham, formed around a beautifully-carved wooden statue depicting the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego. The statue was borne on a litter by several men with one holding an umbrella over it in the rain.

The statue was brought to Fort Wayne from Texas and donated by the Martinez family as a gift for Bishop Rhoades on his episcopal anniversary. A personalized plaque at the base of the statue reads: “The community of St. Patrick, Fort Wayne, presents this statue to our Bishop Kevin Rhoades. May Our Lady of Guadalupe always protect



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

**The faithful of the Hispanic community process from St. Patrick Church to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne carrying a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego while praying the rosary and joining in song.**



**St. Patrick, Fort Wayne, parishioners presented Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades with a statue depicting the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego. The statue was presented at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception following the procession.**

you with her mantle.” Dancers braved the elements as the procession reached the cathedral plaza where they performed to rhythmic drum music. Those in procession entered the cathedral with the statue where they sang songs as they awaited the arrival of Bishop Rhoades.

The bishop welcomed the congregation in Spanish to the cathedral, which he called their home, too. The statue was presented to the bishop in the sanctuary of the cathedral where he thanked the congregation for the stunning gift before praying over and blessing the statue with holy water.

Following the blessing all were invited to process back to St. Patrick Church for a fiesta.

Joe Romie contributed to this story.



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*Season's Greetings from*  
**TODAY'S CATHOLIC**

# USF's 'Formula for Life' changing world of Haitian orphanage

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — The headlines read, “Deadly Hurricane Katrina strikes Haiti, Gulf region” in 2005 and “Port-au-Prince, capital, largest city, struck by catastrophic earthquake” in 2010. The aftershock of all that devastation is still being felt by tens of thousands of citizens of that poor Caribbean country.

One particular location called Robillard, Haiti, located in a rural area about a six-hour drive north of Port-au-Prince, holds a special place in the hearts of many University of Saint Francis students in Fort Wayne and their faculty advisor, Dr. Amy Obringer. That’s because it’s the rented home of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage and its beloved founder, Father Andre Sylvestre.

The small orphanage is housed in a modest ranch-style home with 27 children, three “moms” and a male guardian all living under one roof. The children sleep in double bunk beds and each bedroom is at full capacity. There’s no room for any more orphans. (The moms do not cook or clean, but are hired by Father Andre to give love and compassion, and sit with the children).

“We feel ‘called’ to help this orphanage,” said Obringer. Two students have traveled there twice at their own expense, given a number of presentations and held fundraisers, she related. “For the past two years, we’ve been Father Andre’s most consistent and main supporter.”

## Campaign to raise funds

Currently, a fall campaign is underway to raise \$50,000 by Feb. 1, 2013, for a new orphanage on 15 acres of land owned by Father Andre to house 40 children. It’s the first phase of the diocesan priest’s dream for a long-term orphanage complex providing a home for more than 100 orphans along with a vocational school, library, health clinic, chapel, adult literacy center, community room and a home for a congregation of sisters who eventually would manage the orphanage after Father Andre is gone.

The new orphanage would be a place “where the orphans can have the privilege to feel loved, to have access to education and healthcare, to hear the Good News of the Gospel, to learn how to shape their own destiny,” said Father Andre. “In short, I would like to give them a safe place where they can develop all the dimensions of their lives,” he said. “It’s the only family these kids will ever know,” added Obringer. “None of the children can ever be adopted.”

“Pre-school teachers are hired to teach the children in the garage area of the home,” said Rachael Bornhorst, a junior at USF. “The older children are driven to and from an elementary school less than a mile away.”

Father Andre now pays \$5,000 a year for rent. The contract ends this coming February and he is negotiating renting for another six months hoping the new residential unit will be completed by June or July. Architectural plans and cost



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DR. AMY OBRINGER

**On her last visit to Haiti, USF junior Rachel Bornhorst holds three-year-old Snide Christie Vilmar. Her parents died, her grandmother tried to care for Christie but did not have the means and her aunt did not want to care for her. An uncle took her away and gave Christie to Father Andre’s orphanage.**

estimations have been completed. Construction to withstand earthquake and hurricane forces will be supervised by an architect with experience building in Haiti.

“Realistically, we do not anticipate making our goal by Feb. 1 by our own efforts,” said Obringer, estimating the campaign has raised about \$37,000 to date. “We need the help of foundations, corporations and individuals who believe in our mission and are willing to provide ideas, construction items and financial support,” she related. Anyone interested in more information, attending a presentation, getting involved, making an in-kind donation or even traveling to Haiti in March or May next year, is asked to contact Obringer at aobringer@sf.edu or (260) 399-7700, ext. 8210. “Monetary donations can be accepted at any time with the money simply wired to Haiti for the orphanage project,” said Obringer. And if readers would like to follow activities they can “like” Formula for Life on Facebook.

## Origins of Formula for Life

But let’s start at the beginning with Cortney Shepard, a biology major who returned from a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic in 2007. While there she cared for a young mother whose infant was starving because the mother could only afford to feed the child two crackers a day. Upon her return, Shepard told Obringer she was struggling to resume her “comfortable life with everything she needs” knowing there are babies starving. Obringer asked, “Why don’t you do something about it?” Shepard founded what she called “Formula for Life” at USF — a 5K walk/run and silent auction to raise funds.

“Since it’s been difficult to find contacts in the Dominican and with the awareness of Haiti and Father Andre, Formula for Life now dedicates nearly all of its fundraising efforts to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage,” Obringer explained. This year’s event drew 400 registrations and raised more than \$11,000.



**The children and staff of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage include at right, its founder, Father Andre Sylvestre, and three “moms” (standing). Visiting the orphanage last May were Dr. Amy Obringer (center), Rachael Bornhorst (left) and Amanda Pedro (right).**

“We arrived with suitcases filled with canned foods, powdered milk, vitamins and infant formula,” Obringer said, “and money for drilling a well for clean water.” The student-led project has become the orphanage’s financial mainstay in terms of nutritional funds. Shepard, a 2009 USF graduate and currently enrolled in her second year as a Chicago osteopathic medicine student, returns annually to start the 5K walk/run. The next Formula for Life event will be April 14, 2013.

Formula for Life will continue to provide funding for nutritional support for the orphanage until it reaches its goal of self-sufficiency. This fall’s campaign is to raise money strictly for the new orphanage.

## Father Andre’s ministries

Obringer said, “To give you an idea of how amazing Father Andre is, he probably is in his middle 60’s, he has his own parish, oversees an elementary school with more than 500 children, has his own counseling practice because he very much wants to make healthier Haitian families and he does a lot of marital counseling — all this while in the back of his mind he felt he was being called to start an orphanage.”

That “calling” came when four-year-old orphan, Deluxon, came to him asking for food about two or three weeks after the 2010 earthquake. He led the priest behind a dumpster to where he and his two

sisters were living beneath a piece of tin — a two-year old with an HIV infection and an infant, who subsequently died of malnutrition. At that moment Father Andre “got the message” that it was time to start his orphanage, Obringer related.

Deluxon became the first of Father Andre’s orphans. (His surviving sister is in another orphanage because of her medical needs). Each child has a survival story similar to Deluxon’s — children who have lost both parents to disease, starvation, natural disasters and abandonment, or they have escaped from a “restavek” (childhood slavery) situation. For every child rescued, more await salvation. “And now he has to turn kids away,” Obringer stressed.

“All the kids are extremely cute and it melts your heart when you see them,” said Bornhorst. “I would love to spend more than 10 days with them, maybe on the medical side where I could help provide for their medical needs.”

“It’s more than building a new orphanage for these kids,” added Obringer. “It’s an opportunity to just truly give. They can’t give us anything in return other than their affection, saying ‘thank you’ and praying for us. And even though we’re providing this structure for them, they’re changing us! We’re growing in compassion and the courage to try and get them help as well as the skills we’re learning about fundraising,” she concluded.

## Christmas TV Mass Specials



**FORT WAYNE**  
Christmas Morning  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
WFFT-TV 55  
Live from the  
University of Saint Francis Chapel  
Celebrant: Rev. Jason Freiburger  
Vice Chancellor  
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

**SOUTH BEND**  
Christmas Morning 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
WNDU-TV 16  
Broadcast live from Fort Wayne

## Advent Penance Service

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish  
414 Madison Street • Decatur, Indiana



Tuesday,  
December 18, 2012  
at 7:00 p.m.  
**18 PRIESTS  
AVAILABLE**

All are welcome!

## Advent is time to renew faith, bring God's love to others, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Advent's liturgical preparation for Christmas calls Christians to renew their faith in the reality of God's great love and to make a commitment to bringing His love to the world today, Pope Benedict XVI said. Advent, he said, "places before us the bright mystery of the coming of God's Son, the great plan of God's goodness through which He desires to draw us to Himself to let us live in full communion, joy and peace with Him." Addressing an estimated 4,000 people at his weekly general audience Dec. 5, Pope Benedict also asked for prayers for peace in Congo, where continuing ethnic violence and civil strife have led to dozens of deaths and has forced thousands of people to flee their homes. In response to the fighting and "the serious humanitarian crisis" it was causing, the pope called for "dialogue and reconciliation," and he asked the international community to take action to meet the needs of the Congolese people. In his main audience talk, Pope Benedict continued his reflections on the Year of Faith, which he opened in October. Accepting God's love and freely choosing to follow His ways "brings a fundamental change in how we relate to the entire created reality. Everything appears in a new light; it is a true conversion. Faith is a change of mentality because God, who has made Himself known in Christ and has made His plan of salva-

tion known, draws us to Himself," the pope said.

## Supreme Court to hear cases on same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court will take up in the spring two cases over the constitutionality of same-sex marriage. In orders issued Dec. 7, the court agreed to hear a case over California's Proposition 8, which bans same-sex marriage, and one out of New York over the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which defines a marriage as being between one man and one woman. The cases likely will be on the court's calendar for argument in March, with a ruling before the end of the term in late June. After weeks of court-watching when the petitions for review of more than half a dozen cases over the same-sex marriage were on the justices' list for consideration, the orders Dec. 7 suggested the justices worked at covering multiple bases in what they granted, noted court-watchers at the Supreme Court blog, SCOTUSblog. The orders focused on two issues: how marriage is defined and whether same-sex couples who are legally

married are entitled to the same kind of spousal benefits as heterosexual spouses. Saying he prayed that the court would uphold the traditional definition of marriage, which the Catholic Church supports, Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the court's decision to take the cases is a "significant moment for our nation."

## Federal judge says New York Archdiocese's HHS lawsuit can move forward

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — A U.S. District Court judge has ruled that a lawsuit challenging the federal contraceptive mandate filed by the Archdiocese of New York and two other Catholic entities can move forward. The defendants — the U.S. departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and the Treasury — filed a request that the case be dismissed, claiming the mandate is not causing "imminent injury" and that the government plans changes to

accommodate religious groups that object to the requirement on moral grounds. The HHS mandate requires employers — including most religious employers — to provide free coverage of contraceptives, sterilization and some abortion-inducing drugs free in employee health insurance. A narrow exemption applies only to those religious institutions that seek to inculcate their religious values and primarily employ and serve people of their own faith. In his Dec. 5 decision, Judge Brian M. Cogan of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern district of New York, rejected the defendants' claim, saying the mandate "has caused and will continue to cause plaintiffs harm so long as it remains in place. The departments' possible decision to amend their policies does not abrogate plaintiffs' right to seek relief for their injuries," he said. "The First Amendment does not require citizens to accept assurances from the government that, if the government later determines it has made a mistake, it will take ameliorative action," Cogan said. "There is no 'Trust us changes are coming' clause in the Constitution."

## Catholic beliefs are not open to popular vote, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When the Catholic Church affirms the importance of how all the faithful understand matters of faith and morals, it is not saying Catholic beliefs are open to a popular vote, Pope Benedict XVI said. An authentic "sensus fidei," which literally means "sense of faith," can come only when Catholics actively participate in the life of the Church and follow the teaching of the pope and bishops, he said Dec. 7 during a meeting with members of the International Theological Commission. Pope Benedict praised the theological commission members for including a discussion of the "sensus fidei" in "Theology Today: Perspectives, Principles and Criteria," a document they released in March and which affirms the primacy of bishops over theologians as interpreters of Church teaching. "Today it is particularly important to clarify the criteria which make it possible to distinguish the authentic 'sensus fidei' from its counterfeits," the pope said. "In reality, it is not some kind of ecclesial public opinion, and it is unthinkable to use it to contest the teaching of the magisterium because the 'sensus fidei' cannot develop authentically in a believer except to the extent in which he or she fully participates in the life of the Church, and this requires a responsible adherence to the magisterium."

# Notre Dame pastoral plan affirms Church teaching

SOUTH BEND (CNS) — The University of Notre Dame released a pastoral plan "grounded in the Catholic mission" of the university that will expand support and services for students "who identify" as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender and those "questioning" their own sexual orientation.

The plan, released Dec. 5, is titled "Beloved Friends and Allies: A Pastoral Plan for the Support and Holistic Development of GLBTQ and Heterosexual Students at the University of Notre Dame."

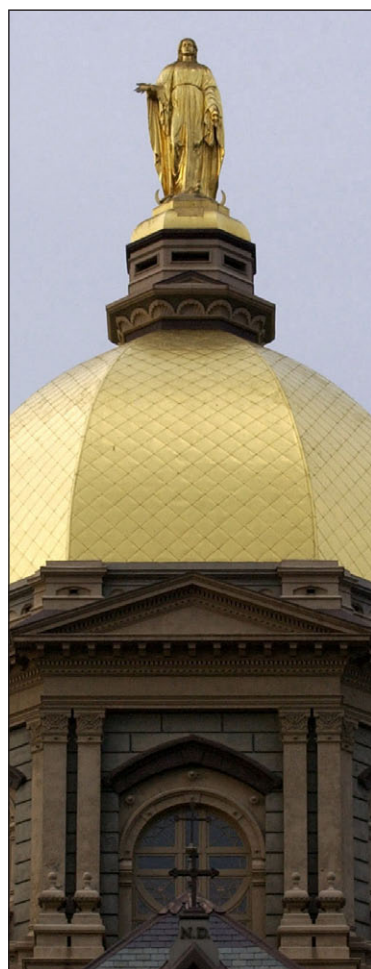
Following a five-month review, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame president, accepted the recommendations from the university's Office of Student Affairs.

The plan calls for Notre Dame to establish a "new support and service student organization for GLBTQ students and their allies," as well as a new advisory committee and to create a full-time student development staff position focused on issues of concern to these students.

"I appreciate the careful and thoughtful work of this review that considered both the needs of our students and the teachings of the Catholic Church," Father Jenkins said in a statement.

The plan reiterates Catholic teaching on homosexuality.

Quoting the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2006 document, "Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Orientation: Guidelines for Pastoral Care," it says the university "endorses the emphatic



CNS PHOTO/KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

**The Golden Dome with its statue of Mary is seen in a 2003 file photo atop the administration building of the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame.**

pastoral teachings ... that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and thus possess an innate human dignity that must be acknowledged and respected."

"At the same time, the university also adheres to the Church's teaching concerning homosexual actions, that 'homosexual persons are called to chastity' and to 'friendship,' and should cultivate 'the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom,'" it continues. "Indeed, each and every student at Notre Dame is called to nothing less. All Notre Dame students are urged to understand and live the teachings of the Church relative to their lives and expressions of sexual intimacy."

As the Church teaches, sex outside of marriage "is essentially contrary to its purpose," the plan says.

Since the 1990s, Notre Dame has had a student standing committee, most recently called the Core Council, to advise the vice president for student affairs on issues with regard to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and "questioning" students.

In an interview with *The Observer*, the campus newspaper, Father Jenkins said Notre Dame has "made real progress" over the years serving these students, but he asked Erin Hoffmann Harding, the current student affairs vice president, and her office to conduct a comprehensive review of "everything we do, all the support structures, and find out how we can do things better."

Harding said the review had

three main elements.

"The first one was consultation with Church teaching," she told *The Observer*. "The parameter for this solution needed to serve our students well but be grounded fundamentally in our Catholic mission as a university. So we've spent time with theologians and members, in particular, of our faculty, who have given us advice on this matter and on Church teaching — that's activity number one."

Secondly, there were "extensive conversations" with undergraduate and graduate students, she said, and the third element was a look at "the breadth of structures" other Catholic institutions have in place.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend said that Notre Dame in its pastoral plan "clearly affirms its fidelity to Catholic Church teaching on human sexuality by affirming that 'sexuality is ordered to the conjugal love of man and woman' and that the fulfillment and proper context of human sexual love is to be found in the marital covenant."

It also affirms that "men and women who have homosexual tendencies 'must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity,'" he said in a Dec. 6 statement.

Bishop Rhoades called it "vitally important" the plan's foundations and Notre Dame's fidelity to Catholic teaching "inform and guide" the plan's implementation, including the new student organization's "vision, programs and activities."

"It is my hope and prayer that the rich Catholic teaching on sexuality, teaching that serves the true good and happiness of the human person," he said, "will be embraced by the students and all involved" in carrying out the pastoral plan.

He added he hoped the new campus organization would provide the support students need to prevent them from feeling isolated and alienated, which are "risk factors for an unhealthy life, including unchaste behaviors." The plan should be a help to all students live "a chaste and holy life," he said.

The plan's implementation calls for several actions, including:

- Training of student leaders and staff and faculty, and the education of all students, "so as to create and sustain a safe and supportive environment for all members of the Notre Dame community." — Support for "out or questioning students" within programs and initiatives coming from multiple units on campus, such as the Gender Relations Center, campus ministry and the Institute for Church Life; and relevant student groups. Initiatives will include conferences, retreats and support groups.

- Opportunities intended to assist all members of the Notre Dame community "in their ongoing exploration of and conversation concerning a Catholic understanding of sexual intimacy and the calls to chastity and holiness of life."

## Serra Club of South Bend to host seminarians

MISHAWAKA — The Serra Club of South Bend will sponsor a dinner honoring the diocesan, Franciscan and Holy Cross seminarians on Friday, Dec. 20, at the St. Francis Convent in Mishawaka. The dinner will be preceded by the rosary and Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at 5 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Francis.

Invited guests not only include seminarians but their parents and pastors of their home parishes as well.

For more information about the Serra Club of South Bend, contact Rachaelle Lubinski, chairman of the dinner, at (574) 514-3028 or Stephen Elek, president of the Serra Club of South Bend, at (574) 291-0550.

## Bishop Dwenger induct new members to NHS

FORT WAYNE — One hundred nineteen new members were inducted into the Bishop Dwenger chapter, Cives Mundorum Duorum, of the National Honor Society in a candlelight ceremony at the Marquis Ballroom, Marriott Hotel on Nov. 27. The induction was witnessed by family, friends, current members and faculty members and followed by a luncheon.

Students earning a 3.50 grade point average at the end of their sophomore year were invited to apply in late October with a listing of co-curricular activities and service opportunities, recommendations by five faculty and staff members and an essay. Applications were reviewed by a board of five lead faculty members who, in turn, developed a list of nominees recommended for induction.

At Bishop Dwenger High School, National Honor Society members are required to work Saints Alive!, Tournament Day, Tutor in the Resource Room or Algebra Club for one week and participate in at least two other school-service opportunities. These service experiences are in addition to maintaining high scholastic standing, an untarnished character and a leadership mentality.

## Deep vocation exploration for USF students receives grant funding

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis has received a \$42,000 grant from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) for a project to help students begin a vocation discernment process in their first year of college.

NetVUE is a network of colleges and universities committed to fostering the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation in their campus communities. Lilly Endowment Inc. supports the initiative for a two-year cycle.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## SJSE ARTWORK DISPLAYED AT LUTHERAN HOSPITAL



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH-ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School art teachers Abby Dykhuizen and Kristin Spoltman, assisted by volunteer parents, students and teachers, hung the colorful artwork of their kindergarten through eighth grade students in Lutheran Hospital's administrative hallway located between Lutheran Hospital's main entrance and the emergency room. The artwork will be on display until Dec. 8. St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School art teacher Abby Dykhuizen poses in front of students' artwork on display in Lutheran Hospital.

Through the project, "Living Your Call," USF faculty and staff members will be trained in strategic efforts to assist students in the discernment of their vocations through a process for discovering their ultimate meaning. "Living Your Call" is a joint project of the School of Arts and Sciences, Campus Ministry and Student Life.

"Living Your Call" will have four goals: Student self-discovery as it relates to discerning vocation; faculty and staff facilitation of student discernment through professional development, advising and mentoring; student commitment to a discernment process through presentations, discussion groups, retreats, Career Center assessment and advising; and student discovery of a true vocation as faculty and staff work to develop each student fully.

A series of activities will begin in spring semester 2013 and continue through 2014. These will include speakers who address vocation as it relates to college students in the decision-making process; two summer workshops to train faculty and staff members to assist students in the discernment process; student discussion groups and retreats including small group discussions on dis-

cernment; and the use of videos, print resources, digital and print subscriptions, group activities and other materials to stimulate understanding of the subject.

"In its general sense, a 'vocation' is a call to radical faithfulness, a commitment of oneself in one's totality," said USF School of Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Matt Smith.

The university plans to extend the project by embedding vocational discernment into curriculum and co-curricular activities. Trained faculty and staff will continue to work with small groups of students and integrate vocation discernment into their classrooms and university operations. Vocation-focused retreats may be developed by Campus Ministry. Materials purchased with grant funds will provide resources for students, faculty and staff to continue the discernment process.

## Knights of Columbus chalice donation

GRANGER — The Knights of Columbus recently presented four chalices to Father Innocent Ukaegbu, a diocesan priest from eastern Nigeria, who is currently serving in the Diocese of Fort

Wayne-South Bend. The presentation took place after the 6 p.m. Mass concelebrated by Msgr. William Schooler and Father Ukaegbu at St. Pius X in Granger on Nov. 13.

Representing the Knights were Steve Gonsoski, outer-sentinel; Thomas "Tommy" Hutkins, trustee; Kevin O'Connor, color corps commander; and Matthew Snyder, faithful navigator. The Knights are members of the Msgr. James P. Conroy Fourth Degree Assembly 2035 based in the Elkhart-Goshen area.

Father John Eze, also of Nigeria, will take the chalices back to Nigeria where they will be given to seminarians who will be ordained. Three will be donated on behalf of Father Ukaegbu and one on behalf of Father Eze.

The Knights have a custom of purchasing and donating a chalice to a seminarian in honor of a Fourth Degree Knight when he passes away. Matthew Snyder became aware of the need for chalices for African seminarians as well as the fact that two chalices previously donated in the Elkhart-Goshen area had not been put in service. He was able to get those chalices released as a gift to African seminarians. Additionally, the Knights purchased two more chalices in honor of recently deceased members of their Fourth Degree Assembly.

Dick Dornbos of the Knights of Columbus Father Stephen Badin Council 4263 of Granger also presented 250 rosaries that were handmade by the Venice, Fla., Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests, for distribution in Nigeria. — *Tom Uebbing*

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUPPORT CATHOLICS ON A MISSION



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PATRICE FOX

The Knights of Columbus Council 451 hosted a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Catholics on a Mission teen mission trip to Costa Rica recently. The grateful teens and adults involved with the mission trip pose with the generous donation check from the Knights. The team continues to accept donations to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Costa Rica Mission Trip, c/o Stacy Gill, 4835 Long Cannon Pl., Fort Wayne, IN 46804.

# THE WIDE, VARIED AND MANY WORKS

## Catholic Charities food pantries work to feed hungry

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

While many families are wrestling with trying to find money to buy their child the latest Xbox, Wii or iPhone, Catholic Charities is working hard to collect food donations to give out hearty and healthy food baskets to their clients for the holidays. Catholic Charities operates food pantries in South Bend and Auburn.

"We have a different menu each week made up of 15-20 pounds of food based upon family size. This usually includes about 15 items or enough food for four meals," said Claire Coleman, the West Region administrator at Catholic Charities. "This might include two canned vegetables, one canned fruit, one canned meat such as tuna, canned beans, peanut butter and jelly, bread, frozen meat, pancake mix, boxed milk or dried goods, pasta or rice, pasta sauce and one or two fresh items such as vegetables, fruit, eggs, yogurt and cheese. We also will distribute personal care items such as toilet paper, shampoo and toothpaste when we have it available."

Items inside the food pantry come from a variety of different sources. In South Bend, the pantry receives support through the United Way of St. Joseph County, PGE "People Gotta Eat" Initiative and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. In Auburn, the agency is a member of the Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana and receives USDA commodities to supplement food donated by local community partners. Both agen-



Bishop John M.D'Arcy, bishop emeritus, and Kathy Denice of Catholic Charities volunteer some time at the South Bend Food Pantry.

cies also rely on food drives from area churches, schools and businesses.

According to Patti Sheppard, RSVP director who works with the food pantry at the Catholic Charities office in Auburn, the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in their area donates fresh produce weekly. Items like salad bowls, chicken Caesar salad bowls, organic salads, potatoes, miniature cupcakes and stew meat have been donated.

"We are extremely fortunate to have great donations from active volunteers and organizations," said Sheppard. Recently, an anonymous donor purchased fresh meat from a butcher and had it delivered to the food pantry.

to include more nutritious foods in our menu so we try to always include what we can of fresh items," said Coleman. Items like crackers, a cake mix and pudding are all treats the clients seem to enjoy receiving. Seniors enjoy getting coffee and tea. Cooking oil, sugar, flour and condiments such as mustard, mayonnaise, syrup and salad dressing are also popular items.

As families journey through the Advent season of giving and faith, it is important to remember those people hit by the hard economic times in the country. A person does not have to give hundreds of dollars; a simple collection of food around the neighborhood can help a family in need.

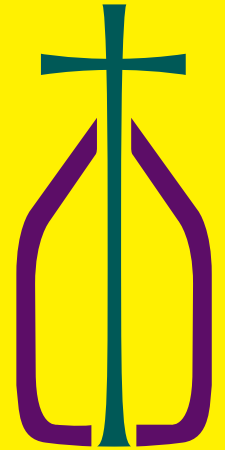
"We would love it if school, church or community groups would sponsor a food drive to benefit the clients of the Catholic Charities' Food Pantry at any point throughout the year. Of course, we welcome and appreciate individual donations in support of the food pantry as well," Coleman said.

"If you're out shopping, get an extra bar of soap or bottle of shampoo," said Sheppard. "Our clients are going out on job interviews and want to look their best, but can't buy those simple items with food stamps."

Auburn also runs two unique programs through their food pantry: A winter coat distribution project and backpack distribution before school starts. Donations of coats, hats, mittens and scarves are given to needy families. Currently 552 coats, 319 hats, 449 pairs of mittens and 31 scarves have been distributed.

Everyone has a wish list and items like fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, butter, yogurt and cheese are a few items Coleman would love to be able to add to food baskets. Sheppard would like to see paper products and toiletries.

"These items are more expensive than purchasing canned goods but we feel it is important



In 2011 the South Bend food pantry served 10,816 individuals from 3,107 families.

Trends show a third of the families coming to the South Bend office are new clients.

The Auburn Pantry serves between 1,400-1,500 individuals per month or about 450 families.

## Hardest Hit Fund offers relief to unemployed homeowners

BY DEB WAGNER

The economy has left many more people in the diocese without work than in recent years. Some people are unemployed for the first time in their lives; others are bracing for their unemployment benefits to expire and have young children to clothe and feed. There is, however, a silver lining in the often-gray cloud of the economy today. It is the Hardest Hit Fund (HHF).

The HHF was established in 2011 and awarded by the federal government to the 19 states hardest hit by the economy, including Indiana. The HHF helps pay the eligible individual's mortgage for 18 months or \$18,000, whichever comes first.

The individual must be unemployed or re-employed having

become delinquent in the mortgage payments as a result of unemployment under no fault of their own in the last 12 months. He or she must own and reside in only one home and meet the income eligibility requirements based upon the county of residence. It is a loan-based, forgiveness program.

Once contact is made through the 877GETHOPE organization, an Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Network specialist is assigned to assist the individual in gathering and completing the necessary documentation to submit to the Indiana Housing Community Development Authority (IHCDA). One to two months following the initial contact with the GETHOPE organization the individual meets with Catholic Charities.

IHCDA oversees the loan

application and approval process for the Hardest Hit Fund. Catholic Charities' role in the program is limited to the Hoosier Corps volunteer service program.

Robin Springstead, Catholic Charities Region 3 administrator for the volunteer service program in 10 counties in the Fort Wayne area, says, "This program is really for the working class who are unemployed — to help them during this economy, to avoid homelessness."

Getting help early on is critical and help through HHF allows money that used to be allocated for the mortgage to go towards food and clothing.

Springstead adds that there is "a great deal of funding allotted. Those who think they could qualify should apply as soon as possible."

Catholic Charities oversees the

program in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South because of their extensive experience building the Senior AIDES Job Training Program and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

When approved for the Hardest Hit Fund program, a regional administrator from Catholic Charities in Fort Wayne or South Bend schedules an intake interview, conducts an orientation meeting and discusses which of three opportunities most interests the client. The volunteer opportunities consist of job training through organizations such as Work One, or specialized technical training, education to improve or keep skills sharp, or volunteer work through Hoosier Corp. All of the opportunities allow for networking with others in the community, which might lead to employment.

If an application is not approved for the program, the client receives financial counseling and referrals to other organizations that might better serve their needs.

Claire Coleman is the Region 2 administrator for the program in five counties in the South Bend area. She says of the program, "It's a win-win for everyone. Clients remain in their homes, have opportunities to volunteer in order to maintain their skills and agencies, many of whom we already work with for other programs, receive the help they need to better serve the community."

For eligibility requirements, or to begin the application process for Hardest Hit Fund visit [www.877GetHope.org](http://www.877GetHope.org) or call (877) GET-HOPE.



# S OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

## Villa of the Woods is a hidden gem on the city's south side

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

Villa of the Woods, located at 5610 Noll Ave. on Fort Wayne's south side, is a hidden gem, a small residential facility, which offers a friendly, family-oriented atmosphere for the senior citizens who call it home.

Run by Catholic Charities, Villa of the Woods is a free-standing licensed residential facility equipped to provide housing, meals, house-keeping, individual laundry and personal services to as many as 35 permanent residents. Each resident has a private room and bath, yet enjoys the companionship of fellow residents at meals and the many activities available there. Among those activities are crafts, exercise, movies, bingo and card parties. Free cable television is included and many incidentals are provided at no cost. Though there is no provision for nursing care, 24-hour staffing is provided.

The Villa is conveniently located near a city bus line, a public library branch and a shopping center. Though many residents have their own cars, transportation may be



TIM JOHNSON

**Villa of the Woods, located near Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, is a residential facility, which offers a friendly, family-oriented atmosphere for the senior citizens who call it home.**

arranged for doctor's visits, shopping and other trips outside the facility.

Administrator Kathy Ratzios worries that the features and advantages of Villa living are not well recognized. "We have to get our name out," so people know just how special the Villa is, she says. Because it

is a small facility, "everybody here is a person, not a number."

Ratzios points out that a new fee structure has been implemented to assist those low and middle-income families who sometimes "get lost in the shuffle of residential care." Rooms are now available for as low as \$1,100 a month with all amenities

provided. It is truly a reasonable residential facility for "aging in place," she says.

New in her administrative position, Ratzios plans to step up marketing plans for the Villa and hopes to secure donations, sponsors and grants to supplement funding. "Whatever money we make goes right back to the residents," she notes.

Interestingly, Villa of the Woods began life more than a half-century ago as Our Lady of Lourdes Convent and home to the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration who were teachers at nearby Bishop Luers High School. Both the school and convent were blessed and dedicated in 1959. At that time the facility had 10 bedrooms with a second floor lavatory, bath and shower rooms. The first floor had a parlor, a combined recreation room and refectory, a laundry, kitchen, trunk room and chapel.

It wasn't until 1979 that the building was converted to provide residential accommodations for 27 senior citizens. Then in 2001, more than two decades later, a total remodeling project made possible by a generous bequest to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

added eight bedrooms, private baths for all rooms, a new dining room and a lounge. At the same time it was refurbished for a cheerful and welcoming appearance.

Vestiges of the former convent remain today, however. A lovely old dining set with heavy table and chairs and antique china cabinet grace an area off the main entrance, and a creche set said to have been left behind by the sisters adorns the matching sideboard. The lobby features a large fireplace with a festively decorated wood mantel and a towering Christmas tree to add to the home-like atmosphere.

Residents are looking forward to seeing family and friends at the annual Christmas dinner on Dec. 13, and the Villa is always open to visitors who wish to tour the facility, says Ratzios. She is pleased to announce that, beginning in January, people may take an animated "virtual tour" by going to the Catholic Charities website and clicking on Villa of the Woods. "I'm so excited about it," she says.

Her fervent hope is that the hidden gem on the city's south side will soon sparkle like a newly cut diamond.



Photo: Steveliss, AmericanPoverty.org



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- **Pregnancy Services**
- **Refugee Employment Services**
- **Refugee Services**
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# Holy Cross College partnership with Ancilla College a win-win for quality, affordable Catholic higher education

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College announced it will partner with Ancilla College, a Catholic two-year college near Donaldson to assist students who wish to continue their education at a four-year, Catholic institution that values personal attention to students. Effective immediately, students at Ancilla who complete an associate's degree may apply all credits earned toward a degree in any major offered at Holy Cross College.

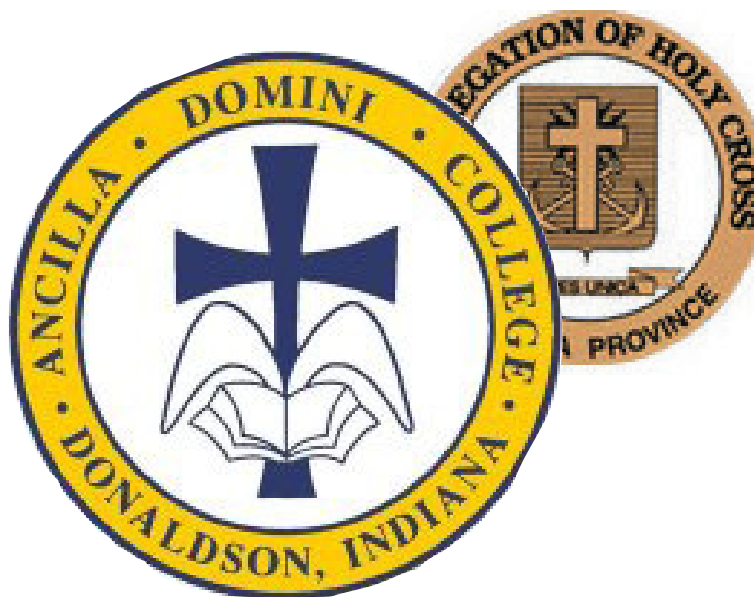
"Holy Cross started as a two-year liberal arts college, and so we understand that students need an environment that will personally support them and provide the skills and experiences necessary for a broad range of careers," says Chris O'Brien, transfer coordinator at Holy Cross College. "We are also supporting local families who are looking for affordable, four-year, Catholic options — and we think our partnership is a win-win all around."

The relationship between the two schools is designed to help families

plan ahead. New students entering Ancilla may choose to take advantage of the "concurrent enrollment program" option.

"This is an exciting way to have the student gain admission to both institutions at once and work toward their bachelor's degree while attending Ancilla," explains O'Brien. "When a student graduates with their associate degree, matriculation to Holy Cross is automatic. Concurrent enrollment also allows students to 'lock in' their HC tuition at the time they enrolled at Ancilla College, and utilize the academic support and advising available at Holy Cross."

Students who are interested in choosing the Concurrent Enrollment Program option must be admitted to both institutions with a minimum 2.5 high school grade point average (GPA), or transfer to Ancilla College with a minimum 2.5 GPA from their most recent college. As long as the student remains continuously enrolled, completes 24 or more



credits per year, and remains in good standing at Ancilla until graduation, the student will pay the Holy Cross tuition that was in effect the term that they enrolled at Ancilla.

"This will potentially save the student two years' worth of tuition increases," adds O'Brien. "Holy Cross has always been generous in accepting transfer credit from Ancilla students, and wanted a way to formalize our arrangement."

Dr. Joanna Blount, Dean of Academic and Student Services at Ancilla College, shared her knowledge of other institutions that were using a "concurrent enrollment" concept and Holy Cross College immediately expressed interest in working together to benefit both colleges. In August, talks began on the idea of

concurrent enrollment and the agreement was finalized in late October.

"We are always excited to collaborate with colleges who share a mission similar to that of Ancilla College," states Dr. Blount. She goes on to say, "This partnership with Holy Cross offers Ancilla students an exciting opportunity to be recognized as part of a senior college as they begin their academic career. Our students will have a seamless transfer academically as they graduate from Ancilla College, utilizing all the credits earned at Ancilla College."

"Another important aspect of this agreement is that it locks in the tuition in effect at Holy Cross at the time they began their academic career at Ancilla," Blount explains. "This is a different approach than

I've seen in Indiana and I am hopeful this will become a model for articulation across the state. It serves the students well and that is a prime consideration for both colleges."

Ancilla College is a Catholic liberal arts institution of higher learning. Sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Ancilla College embraces the order's core values — openness to the spirit, community, simplicity, and dignity and respect for all — and their belief that these four core values flow from joyful service to all, especially with the needy and underserved.

The academic agreement is expected to be in place so students earning an associate degree at Ancilla this December may continue their enrollment at Holy Cross in January 2013. The Concurrent Enrollment Program will be available for students enrolling at Ancilla College starting January 2013.

"Our recent academic articulation agreement with Ancilla College expands the collaboration we already enjoy with this great partner in Catholic higher education," says Holy Cross College President Brother John Paige. "These agreements are a further commitment by our two institutions to help students earn a college degree in a timely and affordable manner."

Ancilla already has credit or degree articulation agreements with other colleges including Saint Mary's College, Western Governors University-Indiana, Bethel College, Trine University, Grace College, Purdue University North Central and the University of Saint Francis.

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## 'I believe in the communion of saints'

"I believe in the communion of saints." According to Jesuit theologian George Maloney, this statement of faith is "the one least understood among Christians and therefore the one that has least importance for practical Christian living."

In issuing a "universal call of holiness" ("Lumen gentium," Chapter 5), Vatican Council II clearly intended to foreground this dogma, to render it understood and practical in the modern world, and to place it at the heart of the Church's self-understanding. The communion of saints constitutes the Church in its very sociology. To be a member of the Church is simply to be called to sanctity — called by Christ and called by the saints.

What does "the communion of saints" mean and how is it important for our lives? The

creed does not declare our belief simply in the *existence* of saints, but in the *communion* of saints, in their vital connection with each other.

St. Paul's great realization was that the saints are the members of Christ's mystical body, united in the "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father." — Eph. 4:5. By this definition, the "communion of saints" is the very life of Christ, which binds Christians together. Sharing the Scriptures, the teachings, charitable works, the joys and sorrows of Christian living, and the sacraments — above all, the Eucharist, which is Christ Himself, the food of martyrs — they live out and actually increase the communion of saints.

This mysterious bond in Christ is so deep, so real, that each one's prayers, good works,

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

SISTER ANN ASTELL

suffering, and striving for sanctity affect the others. This holds true not only of Christians in direct contact with other — who see each other, work together, belong to the same family or parish. No, the communion of saints affects a spiritual connection between persons that overcomes the limits of time and space.

In Christ, what I do and offer in charity makes a difference in

CREED, PAGE 12

## The Church calls us to rejoice



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 3rd Sunday in Advent Lk 3:10-18

For centuries this Sunday was called "Gaudete" Sunday, the name coming from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice," or in Latin, "Gaudete." Rejoice because the Lord's arrival into human experience will be soon!

While violet is the color prescribed for liturgical vestments in Advent, on this weekend, priests may choose to wear rose vestments. The rose represents the more somber violet brightened by the light of the impending dawn of Christ's birth.

The first reading is from the Book of Zephaniah. This book traces from the seventh century before Christ. It is a rather short work, just three chapters in length, but its language and message are powerful.

Its theme is similar to that of the other prophets. Human sin has brought great hardship and heartbreak into the world. Sin is the worst calamity, and people have no one to blame but themselves for their sins. God is always faithful, forgiving and good, however. He rescues people by showing them the way out of their sin and by renewing the call to righteousness. Thus, this reading exclaims in anticipation and joy. All is forgiven! A Savior is on the way! All will be right!

Even so, God imposes nothing on people. He does not coerce

them into reluctant obedience. He overwhelms no one as a conqueror overwhelms.

Rather, the people turn to God and reform their lives, although certainly impelled and strengthened by God.

For its second reading, the Church presents a reading from the Epistle to the Philippians. As in the first reading, the theme is joy. Christ is the long-awaited Redeemer. He reunites humankind with God. In Jesus is life and hope.

St. Luke's Gospel is the source of the Gospel reading. The principal figure is John the Baptist, one of the more striking figures of the early Church. A cousin of Jesus, he was a widely known prophet who called people to God. Quite realistic in his understanding of Jesus, John knew that he himself was only the precursor of the promised Savior. Indeed, John said that he was not even worthy to untie the Savior's sandal strap.

It was a testimony to John — but also to the Redeemer. John was regarded as a holy man. If John could not even perform such a menial task in behalf of the Savior as to untie a sandal strap, then the Savior most certainly was of God.

This reading would have been especially meaningful in the first century to anyone familiar with Jewish tradition and with the environment surrounding Jesus. All the Gospels appeared against the backdrop of God's relationship with the Jews. Supreme in this relationship was God's constant mercy, a mercy perfected when a Savior would appear.

### Reflection

No New Testament writing more splendidly presents the great majesty of Jesus, the Christ, the Savior, the Son of God, and

true Christian faith, than does the Epistle to the Philippians. This weekend's second reading so well captures this quality of Philippians.

The message is thrillingly given. Jesus is Lord! He is everything.

Opposite this wondrous figure of perfect love and resurrected life, Jesus the Lord, is human sin and the destruction sin creates. Zephaniah alludes to this sin and its consequences, as does John the Baptist in the Gospel.

Christians can rejoice, however, because they are not doomed to the eternal consequences of their sin. They are redeemed! God, through and in Jesus, will forgive their sins, if they renounce their sin and ask for forgiveness. Then, assured of forgiveness, they can live forever in Christ.

Christmas is near. Jesus is near. Turn away from sin. Be forgiven. Then, because we have reformed ourselves in Advent, the Lord soon will be with us personally. Thus, the Church calls us to rejoice, "gaudete!"

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) Is 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

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

**Tuesday:** Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

**Wednesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-6, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25

**Thursday:** Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38

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

**Saturday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd Lk 1:46-56

## Advent and the art of anticipation

Twenty five years ago Hallmark introduced a simple device that revolutionized the mechanics of gift giving: a paper bag attached to two handles.

The gift bag freed us from tape and scissors, from sizing and snipping and folding. It enabled us to shop on the run, to pick up present and package in one quick stop — en route to the party, even.

With its cheery polka dots and bold hues, the gift bag won us over, becoming the norm and often the sole present carrier at birthday parties and bridal showers. It's sleek, modern and eminently recyclable, making the rounds from closet to closet, across neighborhoods and through extended families, sometimes returning to the original buyer.

Yet I can't help but wonder if something's lost with this added convenience. Back before the gift bag, presents had personality. Aunt Kathy wrapped everything in the funny pages. Grandma tied her packages in red yarn. You could trace a person's fingerprints on the gift she had prepared. For a moment, you paused to take it in, to tilt your head and behold.

The guessing was inevitable, if private — turning the gift, gauging its dimensions — and then, delight in destruction. Let the paper fall where it may. Childhood revisited.

There's something about receiving an artfully wrapped gift that makes you feel special — beauty that was assembled just for you. And nothing looks better beneath a Fraser fir than wrapped presents, a wide base leading up to that pointed star.

So I decided to ditch my gift bags and take up the dying art of present wrapping. I play Bing Crosby or watch some made-for-TV holiday romance involving a widower and an angel, a small town and a Christmas-morn kiss. Then I set to work creasing my foil giftwrap, fanning a wide, wire-rimmed ribbon and adding a tag and topper — pinecones or a cranberry strand, a glittery reindeer



### TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

or a glass ornament. I think of the recipient as I wrap and I relish the details: an emerging theme, coordinating colors, signing the tag in loopy cursive. Then I tuck it away.

For me, it's a way to sink into Advent, that hushed, holy season muffled by big business. Advent reminds us how to wait and wonder, a gift we've never needed more. It rebuilds our muscle memory of the times we used stamps and landlines and phone books, when we snapped pictures we couldn't see right away and wrote articles we couldn't publish with a click. It brings an instructive nostalgia, especially for young adults whose lives have been rewired along faster circuits.

Pope Benedict XVI invites us to rediscover Advent every December. My favorite reflection came in his 1986 book "Seek That Which Is Above." In it he wrote, "It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

What more could you ask of any season than to awaken memories of goodness, of loving parents and simpler times, of childlike hope in the newborn King and a world that is nothing but open doors?

Advent empties us out, clearing room on our counters and in our minds, teaching us how to delay and to believe, calling us to lose ourselves in thought of others. We slip gifts below the tree and seek that which is above.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at [www.ReadChristina.com](http://www.ReadChristina.com).



### Saint of the Week

#### Thomas Becket

1118-1170  
December 29

A London-born clerk to Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury, Thomas studied canon law abroad and was ordained a deacon. His support of Henry II's claim to England's throne led to his appointment as royal chancellor. He was the king's great friend until 1162, when, as the new archbishop of Canterbury, he said he changed from being "a patron of play-actors and a follower of hounds, to being a shepherd of souls." He and the king clashed over many issues, notably the jurisdiction of ecclesiastical courts. Thomas fled to France for six years; soon after his return, Henry's wish to be rid of this troublesome prelate led to Thomas' murder by four knights. This medieval martyr starred in two modern plays: Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" and Anouilh's "Becket."

# Finding joy in the holidays

The holidays are upon us once again and for those who mourn the loss of a loved one that means navigating the uncharted territory of grief and social expectations. We can all probably relate to the holidays, known for their plethora of rich tradition and social activities, as sometimes being wrought with tension and anxiety. Add to that the heightened emotions of grief and you may have a recipe for disaster.

I've learned that our sense of loss and longing is sometimes exaggerated when special days roll around, bringing with it deep loneliness and perhaps even confusion. This natural reaction to the anticipation of a special day should be honored in personal ways that work best for each of us.

In the Christian tradition, Advent, the four weeks prior to Christmas, is a time of hope in church communities across the globe. As a wise and faith-filled clergyman recently penned "Hope, which brings joy, is the spiritual attitude of Advent." He went on to say that without hope there is no joy. That attitude of hope must permeate every season of our grief if we are to find joy once again — not only during the holidays, but also beyond.

If anyone would have told me that I would ever find joy again after the sudden death of my husband Trent, 22 years ago — particularly around the holidays — I suspect I would have run from the conversation in a fit of disbelief and tears. During those early years following Trent's death, as I raised my two preschool-aged daughters without their loving father, I did find myself confused, with the rather frightening feeling that I was moving backward in my grief,

whenever an anniversary or holiday approached.

As I went through the motions of that first Advent season, I found myself overly sensitive and at the same time numb to the festivities. Was there hope in my heart? To be honest I don't recall much of that year — a blessing in my estimation — but I do know that I survived — and revived joy — in subsequent years as I learned how to take care of myself in my grief, particularly during a holiday or special event.

Paramount to my journey was giving myself permission to feel whatever emotions surfaced. That took some practice as I tried so hard to live up to everyone else's expectations. As I learned to plan ahead with ways to respond to certain situations I found the holidays easier to navigate. Taking breaks from the festivities helped renew the spirit of hope in my heart so I quickly learned to make quiet time for myself to just "be."

When I finally relaxed into my own rhythm — after a couple of years — I noticed that I held some holiday traditions dear and others were exchanged as I made room for Trent's memory. A few of the traditional parties are no longer on my social calendar but I make sure not to isolate myself as I seek support for my grief.

Remembering our loved ones in special ways can make the holidays much more meaningful. One special way the girls and I found joy in honoring Trent that first year was to gift his family with dove ornaments embossed with his name. Our family ornament still hangs front and center on our Christmas tree every year.

I have witnessed others who ceremoniously light a candle at a family gathering, make a photo

journey continue to intercede for us in Christ. As J. P. Kirsch explains, "The departed saints ... are concerned about those still struggling." The saints in heaven care for those on earth.

Because the saints in heaven are united with God, each Christian's union with God on earth is also a communion with them. To live out of the truth of this communion, to realize its potential, is to crack open what is for many an unbreakable barrier, to achieve a vital communication between heaven and earth, between those living in time and those living in eternity. Our God is "the God of the living, not the dead." — Mt. 22:32.

Whereas the feast of All Saints invites the whole Church



KAY COZAD

album, say a prayer or invite others to tell stories. My sister made a special Christmas stocking in memory of her son Adam who died of leukemia. Each year since his death she offers special Christmas stationary on which to write a memory to be placed in the stocking. Your loved one can be forever part of your holiday experience, just in a different way.

Another way to remember our loved ones that brings joy to my heart is by speaking their names and telling stories of times past. I learned along the way that family and friends sometimes were reluctant to speak about my loss, but when I broke the ice, they usually joined in. For those who choose not to join the conversation, with its laughter and its tears, I just remember that each grief journey is unique and worthy of honoring.

I've also learned that it's okay to have fun during the holidays even in grief. It's a way to take a break from the oppression of mourning, connect with your loved one and recapture a little of the joy of the holiday. Even in the loneliness of grief following Trent's death, I was deeply grateful to have known him and all that my life held in his stead. Take time to pause this Advent season and discover the hope that these expectant days hold even as you grieve. Let the hope stirring in your heart ring in God's gift of joy this Christmas.

**Kay Cozad** is a certified grief educator and the news editor of *Today's Catholic* newspaper. She is also the author of "Prayer Book for Widows." Our Sunday Visitor, 2004. She can be reached at [kcozad@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:kcozad@diocesefwsb.org).

to look upward to the saints in glory, Vatican Council II gives us the same vision from the opposite direction. It invites us to see the Church on earth as the saints in heaven see it and call it to holiness. What unites the two perspectives is the faith of Christians, ancient and ever new, in the communion of saints.

**Sister Ann Astell** is a professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame, where she was appointed in 2007. A member of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, she currently serves as president of the international Colloquium on Violence and Religion and President of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality.

## HOPE IN THE MOURNING

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 16, 2012

Luke 3:10-18

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

SHARE WITH SOLDIERS PEOPLE THEM ALL NOT WORTHY HOLY SPIRIT WHEAT	HAS NONE ASKED THEIR HEARTS WATER THONG FIRE CHAFF	FOOD WAGES THE CHRIST THAN I SANDAL THRESHING BURN
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### JOHN PREACHED

T S I R H C E H T N A N  
H H A S N O N E T J H A  
E T E L L A B H D O C Y  
M I D I E U A M L O H Y  
A W K L R N O Y T T O F  
L E G N I H S E R H T F  
L R J O F P E O P L E A  
A A C H I T W A G E S H  
D H I R E T A W R T D C  
N S I J O W H E A T M M  
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### CRS thanks the people of the diocese

Dear Bishop Rhoades,

I sincerely thank you and the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for heeding the call to become personally engaged in addressing the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world. Your generosity and thoughtfulness allows CRS to confront global hunger, set up structures and systems to help with disaster recovery efforts and deliver health services to the poorest of nations. This letter will serve as the formal acknowledgement of your recent donation to Catholic Relief Services for the following gift from the diocese: \$47,729.74 for CRS Rice Bowl.

Catholic Relief Services has been the international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community since 1943, reaching millions of people in need, providing relief to communities affected by natural and man-made disasters, and assisting people to gain independence and sustainable livelihoods in countries around the world.

On behalf of all of us at CRS and those who will be touched by your compassionate generosity and spirit of humility, I am grateful for your steadfast support of our mission and leading the faithful in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and marginalized people overseas.

May God bless you for your continued prayers and generous support.

Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo  
President and CEO  
Catholic Relief Services

### Peter's Pence donation furthers charity work

Your Excellency,

As the personal representative of the Holy Father in the United States, I write with gratitude for the check in the amount of \$66,755.37, which you sent to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter's Pence contribution from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"(Peter's Pence) is a practical assistance offered to the Successor of Peter, to enable him to respond to the innumerable requests that come to him from every part of the world, especially from the poorest countries. I warmly thank you for all the work you carry out so generously in a spirit of sacrifice that is born from your faith, from your relationship with the Lord, nurtured every day. May faith, charity and witness continue to be the guidelines of your apostolate." — Address of Pope Benedict XVI to members of the Circle of St. Peter, Feb. 24, 2012.

I assure you that this sum will be transmitted to the Secretariat of State on your behalf.

May God, who is infinitely generous, reward you and continue to bless you and the faithful under your pastoral care.

With prayerful regards, I am  
Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Carlo Maria Viganò  
Apostolic Nuncio

## CREED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

the lives of others — no matter in what hidden corner I stand. The servant of God Joseph Kantenich (1885-1968) taught his followers this motto: "I sanctify myself for others." What I eat at my table affects the hungry. What money I spend affects the poor. What and how I pray affect the prayers of others.

Belief in the communion of saints calls us to a deep responsibility for each other here and now. It also gives us hope, knowing that the saints who have preceded us on the earthly

# Sports

**SAINTS' BASKETBALL CAMP SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY** All future Saints in grades K-8 are invited to participate in the 2013 Saints Basketball Camp held in the Bishop Dwenger main gym on the following Saturdays: Jan. 12 and 19, and Feb. 2 and 9. Participants will learn the fundamentals of basketball such as dribbling, passing and shooting, with an emphasis on fair play and sportsmanship. The entire four-Saturday series is only \$40 (T-shirt included). Register by Jan. 7, or on the first Saturday of the session. Visit [www.bishopdwenger.com](http://www.bishopdwenger.com) for a registration form. Call (260) 496-4700 with questions.

## St. Vincent, St. John girls score CYO basketball victories

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent's seventh-grade girls' team improved to 3-3 after a hard-fought, 34-26 victory over a scrappy St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, team on Dec. 8.

In the win, Kennedy O'Boyle registered a double-double with 16 points and 14 rebounds, while guards Meghan Lapp, Winnie O'Brien and Brooke Kumfer dissected the Eagles' ball-hawking press with precision passing. O'Brien chipped in eight points, six rebounds and five steals, while Lapp added four points, three rebounds, three steals and two assists. Forward Victoria Cooper led the Panthers with four assists to go along with her seven boards. Lily Schenkel, Maddie Parent, Erin Tippmann and Emily Anglin provided depth and energy off the bench.

Coach Mark Lapp praised the girls for their continued effort in practice and in the classroom. "This is a great group of girls," said Lapp, who is sharing bench duties with Coach Pete Schenkel this winter.

"Besides their improved play, what we're most proud of is the way they handle themselves on and off the court," Lapp said. "In the classroom, every girl is an honor student or high-honor student. On the court they are respectful to opposing coaches, players and the referees, showing great sportsmanship. They represent the best of what Catholic

Youth Organization (CYO) athletics is supposed to be about."

The Panthers also have posted victories over Leo and Memorial Park this season, surpassing their win total from the previous two years combined. A tough loss to a formidable St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth (SJSE) squad (27-15) on Dec. 1 was close until the final minutes of the game. In that contest Ellen Ross was a force for SJSE, registering a game-high 21 points and 10 rebounds.

Ross led SJSE once again in Week 2 of CYO play scoring 18 points, but this time the Panthers fell to the Raiders from St. John the Baptist, New Haven (SJNH), 27-23, in a hard-fought battle that has turned into a fierce, yet fun and friendly rivalry over the years. "They are a well coached team and play very hard," explained Raider Coach Steve Pepe. Because they did not have enough to make a team, SJNH added three players to their roster this season from the St. Rose-St. Louis Twins.

A pleased Pepe continued, "We are strong in the guard positions and play tough team defense."

He summarized, "We have a long way to go, but are coming together very nicely as a team with our new additions. Picking up their second conference win, the Raiders hit 12 from the charity stripe down the stretch, which helped hold off SJSE. Erica Renninger led the scoring for SJNH with 11 points. Nora Painter added a free throw and the 'trio of Graces' rounded out the balanced attack."

## Week of awards for Jaylon Smith



JOE ROMIE

Smith kneels to pray on Luers Field with his Bishop Luers teammates and Bishop Dwenger opponents before the Bishop's Bowl game on Oct. 12.

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne Bishop Luers High School senior Jaylon Smith was awarded the Butkus Award on Dec. 4, as the only high school player in the country to receive this prestigious award and the first ever from Indiana. The Butkus Award, instituted in 1985, is given annually to the top linebackers at the high school, collegiate and professional levels of football. The award, named in honor of College Football Hall of Fame and Pro Football Hall of Fame linebacker, Dick Butkus, is presented by the Butkus Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports a number of health and wellness activities including the "I Play Clean" anti-steroid program.

In the same week, Smith was presented Fort Wayne's coveted Euell A. Wilson Award as the most outstanding senior football player in the Summit Athletic Conference.

Finally, Smith received the state's ultimate honor being named the 2012 Indiana Mr. Football title. He is the first winner from north-east Indiana in the 20-year history of the award.

— Michelle Castleman

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## Seeking Part-time Administrative Assistant



Redeemer Radio, a non-profit, Catholic Radio Group is seeking a Part-time Administrative Assistant to support the station in operating

more efficiently and effectively. This position is planned for 20-25 hours per week operating Monday – Friday, but may need to increase during peak times.

The candidate must have a passion for the Catholic Faith, will love being part of a team while contributing to the success of something larger than him/herself.

The chosen candidate will work with the Business Administrator in handling day-to-day decision-making and problem solving as relates to the station and working with staff, volunteers and the general public. This person must be skilled at managing multiple projects simultaneously, possess excellent computer skills, and have a can-do attitude.

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including daily station log preparation, and maintaining membership database

- Administrative coordination of promotional functions
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# High scoring ICCL basketball does not disappoint fans

BY JOE KOZINSKI

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — The second weekend of action of the Inter-City Catholic League's season did not disappoint fans as some matchups had them on the edge of their seats until the final buzzer.

One of the bigger contests of the day pitted the Lions of St. Pius against St. Matthew as the orange-and-black-clad Blazers outlasted their foe, 52-49, in the high scoring affair. Nathan Marino and Justin DeClark paced the Blazers with 23 and 18 points respectively as Tony Carmola and Trent Stoner netted 14 and 12 for the Lions.

Christ the King ran past the Eagles of St. Joseph, 50-39, behind the 14- and 12-point efforts of Hunter West and Kyle Summer. Andrew Burgess scored in double figures in the loss.

The Panthers of St. Anthony stopped the Pumas of Queen of Peace, 45-35, despite the 19-point performance of Luke Kasnia. Jarrett Bickel and Myron Henderson's

double-digit contributions tilted the scale in favor of the Panthers.

Corpus Christi rebounded from last week's defeat as they were victorious over the Mishawaka Catholic Saints, 42-35. The 14 points Jordan Madera netted for the Saints were not enough as Brady Powers' 13 points helped the Cougars secure the win.

Holy Family outmanned the Falcons of St. Jude, 38-5, behind a well balanced attack and an extremely stingy defense.

The Crusaders of Holy Cross led by the 15-point performance of Elliot Zyniewicz held off the charge of the Bulldogs of Our Lady of Hungary, 34-27, despite Davente Newbill's 12 points.

The final league games of 2012 will be played on both Saturday and Sunday this weekend at both Saint Joseph and Marian high schools. The ICCL will be hosting a Christmas tournament over the break and resume league play in January.

A complete schedule of games including the tournament pairings will be available on the web site at [www.icclsports.org](http://www.icclsports.org).



PROVIDED BY RACHEL LILL

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited with students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who attend Ball State University at the St. Francis University Parish in Muncie on Dec. 1. He celebrated Mass, toured the facility and had dinner with the students.**

## Bishop visits Ball State University

BY TAYA ASHLEY AND BRENDAN PRICE

MUNCIE — St. Francis University Parish, which ministers to students at Ball State University who attend Mass on the weekends and enjoy the comforts of the Newman Center, has also been a home away from home for many Catholic students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The campus ministry and the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, an organization of young missionaries committed to evangelization on college campuses, are both responsible for the excellent formation and community these students receive.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited the Catholic students at Ball State, uplifting the spirits of the entire parish on Saturday, Dec. 1. Upon his arrival, Bishop Rhoades was given a tour of the Newman Center

by students from numerous parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, celebrated the Mass for the students, parishioners and faculty, and joined the students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for dinner, provided by one of the parishioner families.

The students and bishop engaged in an insightful question-answer conversation concerning the HHS mandate and other topics of interest and told stories.


Bishop Rhoades gave encouraging final words to the students and blessed them for their upcoming finals.

The campus ministry program and Fellowship of Catholic University Students are producing a great deal of fruit, including seminarians for both the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Diocese of Lafayette, where the university parish is located.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

**Christmas breakfast with Santa**  
 South Bend — The Corpus Christi School class of 2013 will have a Christmas breakfast with Santa from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Dec. 16, in the school gym, 2800 Corpus Christi Dr. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for children 12 and under. Family tickets are \$20. All tickets available at the door.

**Knights plan Sunday breakfast**  
 Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will have a breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Queen of Angels activities center, 1500 W. State Blvd. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12 and a family is \$20. Carry-out available.

**Christ Child Festival plans for 61st year**  
 Fort Wayne — The Christ Child Festival will be held at the Allen County Memorial Coliseum Dec. 14-16. There is no admission fee, however the Coliseum charges for parking. Refreshments will be available at no charge. Attendees may bring a donation for the Associated Churches Food Bank.

**Fish fry planned**  
 Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 14, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the council hall. Cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6-12. Carry-outs are \$8.50.

**Gaudete Sunday Mass commemorated**  
 South Bend — St. Patrick Parish will celebrate Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday, Dec. 16, with a 10:30 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. All past and present members of the parish schooled, baptized or married at the church, are invited.

**Square Dances**  
 New Haven — St. Louis Besancon, 15535 Lincoln Hwy E., will have square dances Saturday, Jan. 12, Feb. 9 and March 9 in the hall. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., music by Breakaway until 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and include one drink and snacks. Proceeds benefit St. Louis Academy.

**Knights plan spaghetti dinner**  
 South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533

S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 21, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3.50. Carry-out available.

**Day of Reflection**  
 Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Dec. 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Quiet Waiting." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by Dec. 14 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

**Prison ministry needs support**  
 Yoder — The St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus prison ministry/angel tree Christmas program is once again asking for volunteers and sponsors. Call Mark at (260) 622-4042 for information.

**Divine Liturgy celebrated in Fort Wayne**  
 Fort Wayne — St. Andrew the Apostle Eastern Catholic Mission will celebrate the Byzantine Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin

## REST IN PEACE

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<b>Fort Wayne</b> Richard E. Fenker, 83, St. Charles Borromeo	<b>Granger</b> Irene C. Kossuth, 86, St. Pius X	<b>South Bend</b> Benedict J. Dalke, 90, St. Jude
Marcia Indrecc, 76, St. Peter	Andrew J. Keber, 26, St. Pius X	Mary Virginia Hanson, 63, St. Joseph
Karen M. Kasper, 57, Our Lady of Good Hope	<b>Huntington</b> Anita M. Huerta, 58, Ss. Peter and Paul	Mildred A. Kulesia, 84, Holy Family
Alice F. Meyers, 87, St. Vincent de Paul	<b>Mishawaka</b> Patricia J. Lewis, 70, Queen of Peace	Gladys Wojtasik, 97, St. Adalbert
Frances Marie Parker, 89, Saint Anne Home	Joan M. Jagg, 87, Queen of Peace	Donald E. Kotoske, 82, St. Matthew Cathedral
Robert E. Behr, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	<b>Notre Dame</b> Brother Donald Patrick	Edward M. Krol, 93, St. Anthony de Padua
Mary K. Parrish, 97, St. Therese		Joseph J. Steinhofner, 88, St. Matthew Cathedral

Chapel on Sunday, Dec. 16. They assemble under the mutual blessing of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, and Bishop Richard Seminack of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Nicholas in Chicago — honoring the reality of Catholic unity in diversity.

**Blood donations needed**  
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Interested candidates should contact Greg Slee:

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# Bishop Rhoades blesses and dedicates new addition at Immaculate Conception Church

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

AUBURN — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made the short drive north to Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn last Saturday to celebrate the evening Mass with parishioners there and bless a recently completed addition to the church.

As is his custom, Bishop Rhoades greeted the assembly warmly. "What a joy it is to be with you this evening," he said. And he noted how appropriate it was to be present for the special event on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in a church of the same name.

Parishioner Sarah Speer, chair of the communications committee, called the new addition a project that had been under discussion for "years and years" and that finally came to fruition just this year.

There had long been concern that the church community lacked a sense of togetherness because after attending Mass, parishioners immediately left for home because there was no sheltered area outside the main body of the church where people could congregate. There was a need for a protected gathering area where parishioners could assemble and a covered entryway to provide better access for the elderly and handicapped.

Then three years ago Father Derrick Sneyd arrived on the scene and took charge. "It was great to have someone say, 'Let's just do it,'" said Speer, describing Father Derrick's approach to the long-



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed the new addition that offers a gathering space at Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn on Dec. 8.

standing issue.

The pastor himself said it came down to a "new thinking track" and a discussion of what the parish really required. As well as a gathering area, the parish needed more space for religious education for children and adults. Father Sneyd also anticipates that the area will become a liturgical and church history center for DeKalb, Noble and Steuben counties and looks forward



Bishop Rhoades blesses the narthex and addition to Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn on Dec. 8. As Immaculate Conception parishioners assembled in the new gathering area after Mass, Bishop Rhoades said to them, "I inaugurate and bless this new parish addition ... where many will come to know one another."



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blesses the baptismal font at Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn.

to serving the larger Catholic community as well. "Anything we do is helping the universal Church," he pointed out.

The building and finance committees immediately went to work on the fundraising effort with a "one-time ask" approach to the project. Father said firmly, "I did not ask twice." Parishioners were contacted and requested to do whatever they could to help meet the goal. Committee members David Hefty and Tom Bendinger worked especially hard on the campaign, said Speer, and "we had a generous response from everyone in the parish." Father Derrick noted with pride that \$420,000 came in on the initial request, with the remainder pledged and due in the next 18 months to meet the \$600,000 construction cost.

The work began as soon as funds

were secured and was fully completed just a week ago, though the pastor kept the new addition under wraps until its official unveiling. Parishioner and church usher Orville Rolston said, "Father didn't want it used until it was blessed," so as parishioners arrived for the Mass and dedication, they were seen to peer around the corner of the church for a glimpse of the new construction.

As Immaculate Conception parishioners assembled in the new gathering area after Mass, Bishop Rhoades said to them, "I inaugurate and bless this new parish addition ... where many will come to know one another." He prayed, "Send blessings on your people who will gather here." The evening concluded appropriately with a social hour in celebration of the event.

## Your Faith & Girl Scouts

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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