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JOE ROMIE

The infant Jesus statue adorns the Nativity scene at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

Bishop Rhoades celebrates Midnight Mass at cathedral

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." Those words from the prophet Isaiah were proclaimed at the Midnight Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

"This prophecy was fulfilled when God's light radiated from the manger in Bethlehem on this holy night," Bishop Rhoades said in his homily. "It is the light of the Word made flesh, the Son of God, who came to dwell among us. His birth was announced to the shepherds by the angel of the Lord: 'For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.'"

Bishop Rhoades added, "What St. Paul wrote to Titus is true: 'the grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to all.'"

"God's grace is no longer hidden," Bishop Rhoades said. "It appeared, manifested in the flesh, revealed in the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

MASS, PAGE 16

Make room for God, pray for peace, pope says at Christmas services

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged people to think seriously about their faith at Christmas, and he urged them to recognize the connection between believing in God and helping others through acts of charity and by praying and working for peace.

The birth of Jesus is a source of hope for the world, "a hope in which we can trust, even at the most difficult times and in the most difficult situations," the pope said Dec. 25 before giving his solemn blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world).

Standing on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, he wished people a merry Christmas in 65 languages. In English, he said, "May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies, and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the Savior has been born for us."

With the birth of Jesus, God "has done the

impossible: He was made flesh," the pope told tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square for the blessing.

"Yet this same God cannot enter my heart unless I open the door to Him," Pope Benedict said. God's desire to be close to each person is a source of hope and truth that results in "kindness, justice and peace."

Pope Benedict prayed for the people of Syria, "deeply wounded and divided" by conflict and violence. He appealed for an end to the fighting, for "easier access for the relief of refugees and the displaced" and for a dialogue that would bring a political solution to the crisis that began in March 2011.

During his Christmas Day address, he also repeated his prayers for peace throughout the Middle East, for peace in the Holy Land and for the people of Egypt as they continue to struggle to build a new democracy. He also prayed that China's Communist Party leader Xi Jinping and the other new leaders of China's

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CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI prays at the Nativity scene after celebrating Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 24.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

NEWS EDITOR and STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Michelle Castleman,
Karen Clifford, Bonnie Elbersen, Denise
Fedorow, Diane Freeby, May Lee
Johnson, Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC,
Jodi Magallanes, Joe Kozinski, Vince
LaBarbera and Deb Wagner

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Sean McBride

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol
kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen (Fort Wayne area)

(260) 456-2824

Jeanette Simon (South Bend area)

(574) 234-0687

Web site: www.todayscatholicnews.org

Published weekly except the fourth
Sunday in June, second and fourth
weeks in July and August, the first,
third and fifth weeks of September and
last week in December by the Diocese
of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 1103 S.
Calhoun St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne,
IN 46801. Periodicals postage paid at
Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing
office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort
Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email:
kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org.

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort
Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260)
456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dagoon Trail,
Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone (574)
234-0687. Fax (574) 830-1042.

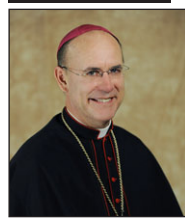
News deadline is the Monday morning
before publication date. Advertising
deadline is nine days before publica-
tion date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at:
Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or email:
editor@diocesefwsb.org

ISSN 0891-1533
USPS 403630



Epiphany: Following the star



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

A blessed and happy New Year to all! I hope you had a blessed and joy-filled Christmas. We are still in the holy season of Christmas. This coming Sunday, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We celebrate that ancient feast which highlights the manifestation ("epiphany") of the Lord Jesus to all peoples, represented by the Magi who followed the star to Bethlehem to worship the newborn King.

We hear these words of the prophet Isaiah on the feast of the Epiphany: *Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you... Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance* (60:1,3). In this Christmas season, we celebrate that the true light has come into the world: Jesus, the light of the nations. He is the light that shines in the darkness.

One of the symbols of Christmas is the star. The Magi from the east followed the star to Bethlehem. Saint Matthew tells us that *the star they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.*

There have been many theories and opinions about what kind of star this was that the Magi followed. In his wonderful new book on the Infancy Narratives, Pope Benedict XVI examines the various hypotheses. One explanation is that it was a conjunction of the planets Jupiter, Saturn and Mars (which the astronomer Johannes Kepler calculated took place at the time Jesus was born). Kepler and others also postulate the appearance of a supernova at that time. A supernova is an initially weak star in which an inner explosion releases a brilliant light or a comet. Whatever it was, among the astronomers in the east at that time, only the Magi recognized the star as the star of promise. Only they followed the star in search of God. Our Holy Father wrote that *through the language of creation, they discovered the God of history.*

Pope Benedict says that we can leave the debate about the nature of the star over Bethlehem to scientists. The Holy Father teaches the most important truth about this mystery: *The great star, the true supernova that leads us on, is Christ himself. He is as*

The great star, the true supernova that leads us on, is Christ himself. He is as it were the explosion of God's love, which causes the great white light of his heart to shine upon the world.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY CONCEPTION ABBEY

The Epiphany is depicted in a mural titled "Adoration of the Magi" in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Conception Abbey in Conception, Mo. Painted by Benedictine monks in the late 1800s, the artwork is the first appearance of the German Beuronese style in a U.S. church. Christians celebrate the incarnation of the divine word — the birth of Christ — Dec. 25. The feast of the Epiphany is Jan. 6.

it were the explosion of God's love, which causes the great white light of his heart to shine upon the world.

In this Year of Faith, we are reminded, as Saint Augustine wrote, that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. Our hearts are never ultimately satisfied without God. God has not left humanity in this state of restlessness. He has come to us. He has

come to satisfy the hungers of our hearts. He has sent us his Son to reveal to us his mystery and our mystery, the truth about God and the truth about man, our purpose, and our destiny.

Jesus is the light who illumines our personal existence and who guides us toward the fullness of life in heaven. He is the light who guides us on our journey of faith. There are other smaller lights (other stars) that help us on the journey: the saints. Pope Benedict calls the saints "stars of God" who show us the light of Christ and help us to follow the path to heaven.

This past Tuesday, New Year's Day, we celebrated the feast of the greatest "star of God" after Jesus Himself: Mary, the Mother

of God. In his encyclical on Christian hope, *Spe Salvi*, Pope Benedict called the Blessed Mother "Star of hope." The Holy Father wrote: *Who more than Mary could be a star of hope for us? With her 'yes' she opened the door of our world to God himself; she became the living Ark of the Covenant, in whom God took flesh, became one of us, and pitched his tent among us* (cf. *John 1:14*). Indeed Mary and the saints show us the way. They are like stars who shine upon us and teach us to follow Him who is the Light of the world.

When we think about the condition of the world today, we see a lot of darkness or, at least, a lot of fog. Many are longing for truth and meaning, hope and joy, whether they are actively searching or not. The task of the new evangelization calls us to bring the light of Christ into this darkness, to help people to see through the fog of confusion in a culture of increasing secularism and relativism. The Church has the mandate from Christ to offer the light of the Gospel to all people. Christ is the light of the nations who came to offer salvation to all people. We are all called to be stars, to be saints, who help to lead others along the path toward Christ, to show God's light by the way we live, speak, and act.

In this New Year, let us resolve, with the help of God's grace, not to be afraid of the darkness and to follow Him who is the light of the world. United in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, and assisted by the prayers of Mary and the saints, may we live our faith with courage and vitality in this New Year!

USCCB committees call for action in response to Newtown tragedy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairmen of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a joint statement Dec. 21 stressing the need for gun control, improved services for the mentally ill and a critical examination of the violence in today's movies, videos and television shows.

The statement was released in response to the Dec. 14 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., that left 20 children, the principal and five teachers dead.

The bishops said they joined New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, president of the USCCB, who in a Dec. 14 statement expressed his "profound solidarity with and prayers for the families, friends, neighbors, and communities whose hearts have been rent by the loss of a child or loved one."

"Understandably this tragedy has given rise to discussions about national policies and steps that can be taken to foster a culture that protects the innocent and those most vulnerable among us. It is time for our nation to renew a culture of life in our society," said the committee chairmen.

They are Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, Committee on Communications; and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

The bishops called on all Americans and elected leaders in particular to have "faith-filled courage to address the challenges our nation faces, both in our homes and in our national policies."

They noted that "guns are too easily accessible" and cited a 2006 document by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace that stressed the importance of enacting concrete controls on handguns and noted that "limiting the purchase of such arms would certainly not infringe on the rights of anyone."

They also reiterated some of what the U.S. bishops said in a 2000 statement on "Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice."

The statement urged U.S. legislators to support measures that control the sale and use of firearms and make guns safer. They also called on sensible regulations of handguns and limited access to assault weapons. The bishops also said legislators should confront the pervasive role of addiction and mental illness in crime.

In responding to the Newtown tragedy, the bishops also urged entertainers, particularly film producers and video game creators, to recognize the extent of violence in movies, television programs and video games, which they said have



CNS PHOTO/ANDREW GOBERT, POOL VIA REUTERS

Mourners gather inside St. Rose of Lima Church for a vigil service in Newtown, Conn., Dec. 14. At least eight child victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting massacre were buried from St. Rose, located a little more than a mile from the school.

"desensitized all of us."

"We need to admit that the viewing and use of these products has negative emotional, psychological and spiritual effects on people," they added, stressing that parents, guardians and youths need resources to "evaluate entertainment products intelligently."

The bishops said the tragic shooting also points to the need for society to "provide health services and support to those who have mental illnesses and to their families and caregivers."

"Burdensome health-care policies must be adjusted so people can get help for themselves or others in need. Just as we properly reach out to those with physical challenges we need to approach mental health concerns with equal sensitivity," they continued. "There is no shame in seeking help for oneself or others; the only shame is in refusing to provide care and support."

The bishops also noted the "glimmers of hope in this tragedy," pointing out those who made extraordinary efforts to protect life. They said the schoolteachers, principal, students, first responders and other leaders "showed tremendous courage during the tragedy."

A Dec. 20 statement by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious similarly noted how the school shooting calls for gun control and efforts to change the culture of violence in the entertainment industry to prevent further tragedies.

"There is much to mourn, but mourning is not enough," the statement said, noting that "gun regulation is an imperative."

"This is also a time to restore civility to our world and work to change the pervasive culture of violence found throughout this nation, and especially in the entertainment industry."

The LCWR statement urged the organization's members to "stand up and speak out for the sacredness of the lives of these children and all people everywhere."

They urged women religious to tell elected officials of their sup-

port for responsible gun legislation and for a federal ban on assault weapons as well as for better care for those with mental illness and steps to address the growing use of violence in entertainment.

The statement also had called on sisters to participate in the nationwide effort Dec. 21 to remember the 26 people killed in the Newtown school as monasteries and churches tolled their bells 26 times at 9:30 a.m.

Archbishop Richard Smith of Edmonton, Alberta, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote a Dec. 17 letter to Cardinal Dolan expressing "heartfelt prayers and deepest sympathies" to the families and community of Newtown, the Diocese of Bridgeport and the parish of St. Rose of Lima.

"Canadians join with Americans and the rest of the world in lamenting this tragic moment. It is not only the local community of Newtown or your own nation which is experiencing such great loss and sorrow, but also the whole of North American society," the archbishop wrote. "Our culture has become mesmerized and exploited by violence in its many dehumanizing and senseless forms."

"Its victims are not only the dead, the wounded, their families and the citizens of Newtown. Each of us has been injured and hurt: every heart by the images of human suffering, every soul by the malice and cruelty at work in any act of violence."

In response, Cardinal Dolan thanked the archbishop, saying the support "as our northern neighbor comforts us and reminds us that the Catholic community is a single community, not divided by rivers and mountains, but united in the one family of Jesus."

"We shall continue to work together," he wrote, "so both our nations discover a rebirth of love and a renewed appreciation for the gift and value of each human life and every human family."

Special collection Jan. 5-6 to aid Hurricane Sandy

WASHINGTON D.C. — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has announced the diocese will sponsor a special collection on Epiphany weekend, Jan. 5-6, to aid victims of Hurricane Sandy.

The U.S. bishops recognize the ongoing needs of the victims on the East Coast and ask parishioners to be generous during this special time of the year.

"The Church is a primary source of healing and peace when tragedies like this happen," said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, vice-president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), in a letter to all U.S. bishops issued Dec. 4. Depleted resources make it "more difficult to provide aid, comfort and, most importantly, the sacraments to those in need," he said. Immediate

needs include food, water, clothing and adequate shelter. A long-term goal is the reconstruction of damaged churches and related needs.

Funds from the Collection for the Church in Latin America and Catholic Relief Services already have been designated to support relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Sandy in the Caribbean. This special collection will be designated for the recovery of those in the United States.

Funds collected will be used to support the efforts of the USCCB and Catholic Charities USA, the official domestic relief agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, to respond to immediate emergency needs and to the long-term pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church.

In addition to raising "the great moral question of our attitude toward the homeless, toward refugees and migrants," the question goes deeper and asks, "Do we really have room for God when He seeks to enter under our roof?"

People get so busy today and so full of themselves, he said, that "there is no room left for God."

In addition, he said, more and more people are under the mistaken impression that faith leads only to strife because of instances when people claiming to be religious have done horrible things, supposedly in God's name.

"It is true that religion can become corrupted and, hence, opposed to its deepest essence," he said. "We must be on the lookout for these distortions of the sacred."

At the same time, he said, people of faith must show the world that belief in God means belief in the dignity and sacredness of every human being created in His image, and honoring the divine image "in every person, in the weak, in the stranger, in the poor."

Religion also has been a constant source of efforts to promote reconciliation and goodness, he said.

During his homily, Pope Benedict offered special prayers for peace in the Holy Land, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. He prayed that "Christians in those lands where our faith was born may be able to continue living there" and that Christians and Muslims in the Middle East would cooperate in building peaceful societies.

The day after Christmas, Pope Benedict recited the Angelus with visitors gathered under gray skies in St. Peter's Square. Marking the feast of the first martyr just a day after celebrating Christ's birth, the pope said, is an affirmation of faith that "believers called to give witness in difficult and dangerous situations are not abandoned and defenseless: the Spirit of God will speak in them."

Contributing to this story was Francis X. Rocca.

POPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

government would respect the contribution that religions want to make to the country.

Support for Latin American migrants and an end to conflicts, ethnic and interreligious tensions in Mali, Nigeria, Congo and Kenya also were among the pope's Christmas Day prayers.

As he began celebrating midnight Mass Dec. 24 in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Benedict looked tired, though he brightened up when laypeople brought up the gifts of bread and wine for the offertory.

He wore gold vestments, topped by a "fanone," a round silver and gold vestment that he began wearing last October at a canonization Mass.

Msgr. Guido Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremonies, said the traditional papal vestment — last worn by Blessed John Paul II early in his pontificate — was seen as a symbol of the "shield of faith that protects the Church."

On separate gold thrones in front of the central altar of St. Peter's Basilica were a statue of the baby Jesus and an illustrated Book of the Gospels open to the Christmas story. Ten children, representing every continent, laid flowers before the statue at the beginning of Mass, and then accompanied Pope Benedict to the basilica's Nativity scene at the end of Mass to lay the baby in the manger.

In his homily, Pope Benedict said God made Himself a baby so that people could overcome their fear of God and "dare to love Him."

The pope said he always is struck by the line in the Gospel Christmas story that there was no room in the inn for Mary and Joseph, so Jesus was born in the stable.

Christians should ask themselves, "What would happen if Mary and Joseph were to knock at my door?" he said.

Pope visits butler in jail, personally delivers pardon

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — During a 15-minute meeting in the Vatican police barracks, Pope Benedict XVI visited with his former butler, Paolo Gabriele, and told him he was forgiven and was being pardoned.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the pope had wanted “to confirm his forgiveness and to inform him personally of his acceptance of Mr. Gabriele’s request for pardon.”

The Vatican described the pope’s visit Dec. 22 and the pardon as “a paternal gesture toward a person with whom the pope shared a relationship of daily familiarity for many years.”

Gabriele was allowed to return home the same day; he had been in a cell in the Vatican police barracks for almost two months after being found guilty of aggravated theft for stealing and leaking private Vatican documents and papal correspondence.

Sentenced to 18 months in jail, Gabriele began serving the sentence Oct. 25.

Gabriele, 46, who worked in the papal apartments from 2006 until his arrest in May, has been barred from further employment at the Vatican. He, his wife and three young children have been living in a Vatican apartment but will have to move now that he is no longer employed by the Vatican, Father Lombardi said.

Gabriele’s wife, Manuela Citti, told the Rome newspaper, *Il Messaggero*, that the pope’s clemency filled her with joy.

“I’m too emotional to say anything else,” she said.

The day Gabriele began serving his sentence, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, said Gabriele’s crime caused damage to the pope and to the universal Church.

By stealing private correspondence to and from the pope and other sensitive documents, and by leaking them to an Italian journalist, Gabriele committed “a personal offense against the Holy Father,” the cardinal wrote.

His actions also “violated the right to privacy of many people; created prejudice against the Holy See and its different institutions; created an obstacle between the communications of the world’s bishops and the Holy See; and caused scandal to the community of the faithful,” he wrote.

Gabriele’s lawyer had told an Italian newspaper in July that Gabriele had written “a confidential letter to the pope,” asking for his forgiveness and telling the pope he had acted alone.

Gabriele had told investigators that he had acted out of concern for the pope, who he believed was not being fully informed about the corruption and careerism in the Vatican. He had repeated the claim at his trial.

Father Lombardi also told reporters Dec. 22 that Claudio Sciarpetti, a computer technician in the Vatican Secretariat of State who was found guilty of obstructing the Gabriele investigation and was given a suspended sentence, has returned to work in the Secretariat of State. A full pardon also is expected for him, Father Lombardi said.

In Holy Land, Christmas traditions include family, parades and Mass

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The simmering smell of cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves in Catholic parishes across the West Bank and Israel heralds the start of the Christmas season in early December as families prepare burbara, the special wheat pudding eaten to mark the feast day of St. Barbara, known as Eid El-Burbara in Arabic.

According to local Christian tradition, St. Barbara, who was beheaded by her pagan father because of her Christian faith, was held and tortured in a tower that stood in the nearby village of Aboud.

At a special Mass Dec. 4 at St. Joseph Parish in Jifna, the parish hall was laden with the homemade puddings presented in festive plates and decorated with chocolate Santa Claus bars, colored candies, sugared almonds sprinkled with cocoa. Families send bowls of the fragrant pudding studded with dried fruit and nuts to Muslim and Christian friends and neighbors.

“Normally we begin our Christmas celebrations after St. Barbara,” said Father Firas Aridah, pastor. Families begin decorating their homes and Christmas trees after the feast, he said. On Dec. 15 parishioners begin a novena, marking the nine days before Christmas, in a community-wide celebration when the village Christmas tree is lit and all the parishioners light their home decorations.

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts lead a festive procession around the village, and the three priests from the Greek Orthodox and Catholic churches come together to celebrate and greet one another at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

In Israel, too, many Catholic communities will have their own scout procession in the days leading up to Christmas. Some parades are replete with bagpipes, a tradition that extends to the days of British control.

A newer tradition in Bethlehem, West Bank, finds people singing Christmas carols in Manger Square starting Dec. 16 as choirs sponsored by the municipality perform through Christmas Eve, said Minerva Andonia, 35, of Bethlehem who is Catholic. Her husband is Greek Orthodox.

As almost everywhere, gift-giving is an important part of the festivities, though without the shopping frenzy often associated with the Christmas season in the United States and elsewhere.

“Presents are necessary,” Andonia said. “It’s the spirit of Christmas, but you can give something not expensive.”

Children also wait — impatiently — for the arrival of Santa Claus, she said, and are good-



CNS PHOTO/DEBBIE HILL

The Musallam family puts final touches on a Christmas tree at their apartment in the West Bank city of Bethlehem Dec. 15. Christmastime for Christians in the Holy Land is family time — with many attending services, presenting gifts, visiting friends and sharing traditional treats. Pictured with Rami Musallam and his wife, Loreen, are 8-year-old Ameer, 4-month-old Sarah, and Aram, 5.

naturally admonished to behave lest they end up with nothing.

In Catholic communities in Israel, a family member traditionally dresses up as Santa Claus and hands out presents to the children on Christmas Eve. More recently, stores offer their own “special delivery service” with employees dressing up as Santa Claus to deliver gifts.

Across the West Bank in towns with large Christian populations, young people often dress up as Santa Claus during the season and ring hand-held bells as they traipse around the town. In Israeli cities such as Haifa and Nazareth, children dressed as Santa Claus are also a common sight.

While pilgrims congregate on Manger Square, most local Bethlehem Catholic families have their holiday meal at home. They attend an early Mass Christmas Eve at their local parish where there is a solemn procession with a statue of the infant Jesus.

At St. Catherine Church, adjacent to the Church of the Nativity, Massgoers participate in a tradition reaching back at least to the 18th century. A nearly life-size statue of the newborn Christ, normally kept at the side altar of Our Lady Mary, is placed in front of the main altar a few days prior to Christmas, said the Bethlehem parish priest, Father Marwan Di’des.

“At the end of Mass, in a nice procession the Latin patriarch takes the statue and places it in the grotto,” at the Church of the Nativity, said Father Di’des, who as Bethlehem parish priest will be conducting a midnight Mass in the grotto for 60 parishioners who obtained tickets on a first-come basis. “This is important not only for the people there but also for everyone watching via the mass media. For me it is a privilege to be able to say Mass in the

grotto.”

To prepare for the moment, he said, he leaves all his other duties half an hour before the Mass and goes to the sacristy to prepare spiritually.

“I feel as if ... Jesus Christ is really born at that moment in the grotto. It is very calm. I can feel the holiness of our Lord. The opportunity to say Mass in the grotto is a piece of heaven left for us on earth by our Jesus Christ,” he said.

The infant Jesus statue remains in the grotto from midnight until 2 a.m., when it is returned to Our Lady Mary altar.

“We pray in the grotto and read the Nativity story from the Gospel. The real feast is in the grotto, but we can’t say Mass there for everybody,” he said.

The traditional, more-crowded midnight Mass televised around the world is celebrated at St. Catherine Church.

In the Melkite Catholic village of Mi’ilyah in Galilee, decorating the village entrance is an opportunity for young people to socialize and have fun. However, this year, the festivities will be subdued in memory of a village resident who was murdered recently in the seaport town of Eilat, said Latifa Assaf, 33, of Mi’ilyah. As is the custom in Arab society, families who have lost loved ones during the last year do not have festive celebrations for the holiday, even though they still participate in the religious ceremonies.

The two days following Christmas are spent visiting family and friends across Israel and the West Bank. In Mi’ilyah, the male members of families go together in the early morning to pay condolence calls to families who have lost loved ones during the year. In the West Bank, brothers traditionally visit their sisters, bringing them small gifts and sweets.



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI talks with former papal butler Paolo Gabriele during a private audience at the Vatican Dec. 22. The pope pardoned Gabriele, who was convicted in October of stealing and leaking sensitive documents from the Holy See. After meeting with the pontiff, Gabriele was freed from prison and returned to his family, the Vatican said.

In Christmas message, Jerusalem patriarch speaks of 'so many concerns'

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Jerusalem's Latin patriarch said church leaders are "perplexed" by the complex situation in the Middle East.

"We are confronted by so many concerns and issues," said Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal, who said people want "more stability and democracy."

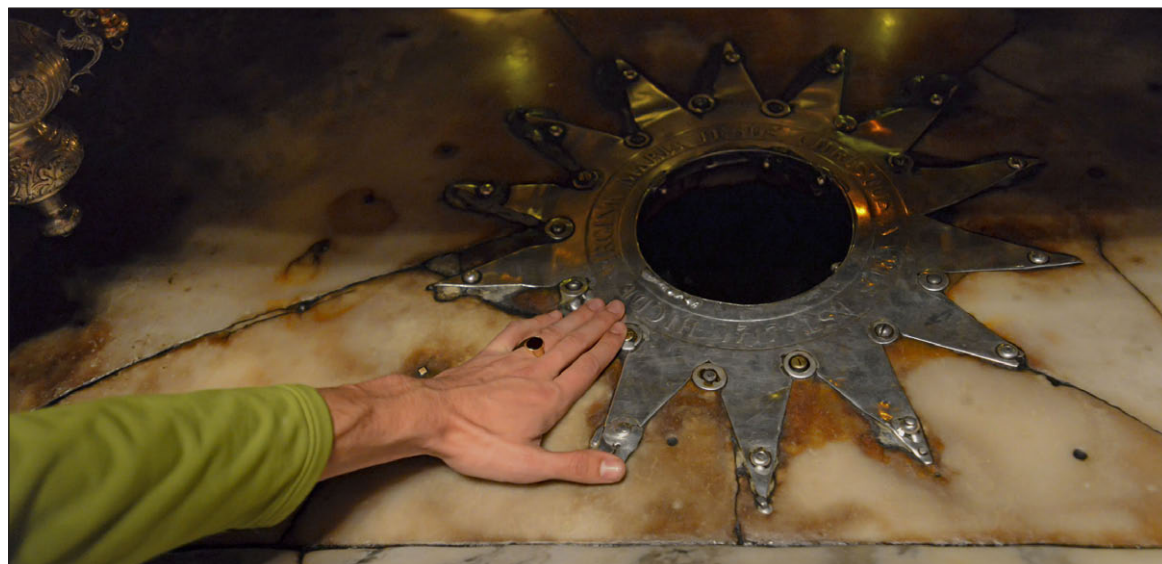
"The joy of Christmas is overshadowed by the staggering violence in Syria. We are full of compassion for the victims," said in his message, noting that the Catholic Church in Jordan has been actively helping 250,000 Syrian refugees.

He noted that on Dec. 16, he had made his first visit to the Christian community in Gaza following the violence in November and witnessed the difficult situation in which they live.

"I denounce the severe restrictions that dehumanize the daily lives of 1.6 million people and generate feelings of hatred and hostility toward Israel," he said in the message.

He noted that — unlike the Christian community in the West Bank, where emigration "appears to be slowing" — in Gaza the number of Christians decreases every year. This year there are slightly more than 1,330 Christians living in Gaza, he said.

"We can count them by numbers," he told journalists at a news conference. "When they leave, they



CNS PHOTO/DEBBIE HILL

A Christian pilgrim touches the star in the grotto of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem Dec. 13. The church is the oldest in the Holy Land still used for regular worship. The silver star — parts worn smooth by the veneration of pilgrims — marks the site of Christ's birth.

don't come back. My message to them is to stay, stay, stay, but if they don't stay I understand, without justifying this departure."

He said the Israeli authorities have said they would provide 500 travel permits for Christians in Gaza to celebrate Christmas in Bethlehem this year.

In response to a journalist's question regarding persecution of Christians in the region, the patriarch said that the issue of persecution "should not be overstated."

"We will never use this word persecution. It is not for us. Everywhere we have problems. In Europe, we have problems," said the

patriarch.

"We call it harassment in a limited scale," added Auxiliary Bishop William Shomali, who attended the press conference with the patriarch.

In a chart handed out to journalists, the church leaders listed 31 incidents of vandalism that occurred against Jewish, Muslim and Christian holy sites, institutions and cemeteries over the past year. All of the incidents were carried out either by Jews or Muslims, Patriarch Twal noted. He added that Christian leaders viewed it a positive sign that the first to condemn such actions when they have taken place against Christian institutions have

been Jewish and Muslim religious leaders.

Despite the best efforts of the police and interreligious initiatives, the vandalism continues and perpetrators are not caught, he said.

"Interreligious dialogue can only bear fruits in acts of mutual respect," he said in his message. "I reiterate my dismay at the desecration of churches, convents, synagogues, mosques and cemeteries that offends everyone. We must take out the evil at its root by educating our youth in all schools."

Patriarch Twal noted that the diocese in the Holy Land has been welcoming many immigrants, refer-

ring to the many mainly African refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in Israel, some of whom have entered Israel through Egypt in recent years.

"The church feels very close to these faithful and does not hesitate to raise their voices when these communities feel attacked," he said.

He also applauded the decision by the U.N. General Assembly granting Palestinians observer status, calling it a "step toward peace and stability in the region." At the same time, he told reporters, the planned Israeli expansion of settlements in the Jerusalem area would make it more complicated to reach an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

In his message the patriarch also noted that, in the spirit of ecumenism, the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land have decided that this year, Catholics will celebrate Easter according to the Julian calendar, on May 5, together with the Orthodox Churches in all parishes. This will not happen in Jerusalem and Bethlehem because of the Status Quo agreement and the influx of pilgrims. He said a decree is set to be approved by the Vatican to permanently establish this change as early as 2014.

He told journalists he hoped the Greek Orthodox would follow suit and agree to celebrate Christmas with Catholics Dec. 25, 2013.

"Although the Greek hierarchy was not (for) this decision, the request came from the Greek Orthodox and Catholic faithful," he said.

Peacemakers love, defend, promote life, pope says in peace day message

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — True peacemakers defend human life at every stage of its existence and promote the common good through their economic policies and activities, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In his annual message for the World Day of Peace Jan. 1, Pope Benedict said attacks on human dignity and human rights — from abortion and euthanasia to limits on religious freedom, and from religious fanaticism to "unregulated financial capitalism" — undermine efforts to bring peace to the world.

The pope's message was released Dec. 14 at a Vatican news conference led by Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

While reiterating Catholic teaching about the sacredness of every human life and about the dangers of an unregulated free-market economy, Pope Benedict's message explained those teachings as logical, natural principles needed for a life marked by dignity and peaceful coexistence.

In fact, he said, some people may not even realize they are promoting a "false peace" when

they urge the legislative adoption of "false rights or freedoms," employing "the clever use of ambiguous expressions aimed at promoting a supposed right to abortion and euthanasia."

True peacemakers, the pope said, "are those who love, defend and promote human life in all its dimensions."

"Anyone who loves peace cannot tolerate attacks and crimes against life," he said.

Pope Benedict also said peacemakers need to take a new look at the importance of the traditional family in handing on the values that promote peace and in resolving problems and tensions that undermine peace.

"The family is one of the indispensable social subjects for the achievement of a culture of peace," he said.

Cardinal Turkson, presenting the message, said Pope Benedict was being very concrete in helping people understand what it takes to promote true peace. "He calls attention to the most urgent problems, the correct vision of matrimony, the right to conscience objection, religious freedom as 'freedom to' (contribute to society), the question of work and unemployment, the food crisis, the financial crisis and the role of the family in education."

As part of Pope Benedict's discussion about religious freedom, he insisted governments recognize and uphold "the right to invoke the principle of conscientious objection in the face of laws or government measures that offend against human dignity, such as abortion and euthanasia."

"Sadly," he said, "even in countries of long-standing Christian tradition, instances of religious intolerance are becoming more numerous, especially in relation to Christianity and those who simply wear identifying signs of their religion."

In all people of good will, the pope said, the New Year brings hope for a better and more peaceful world.

Yet, he said, "it is alarming to see hotbeds of tension and conflict caused by growing instances of inequality between rich and poor, by the prevalence of a selfish and individualistic mindset, which also finds expression in an unregulated financial capitalism."

Pope Benedict said true peacemakers must work to counter the increasingly popular notion that "economic growth should be pursued even to the detriment of the state's social responsibilities."

The right to have a steady job is "one of the social rights and duties most under threat today,"

he said. With an emphasis on promoting free markets, the right and need to work is too often treated simply as a market variable.

"In this regard, I would reaffirm that human dignity and economic, social and political factors demand that we continue to prioritize the goal of access to steady employment for everyone," he wrote.

As the global economic crisis continues to be felt around the world, he said, people need to "promote life by fostering human creativity in order to draw from the crisis itself an opportunity for discernment and for a new economic model."

The current economic model, the one that led to the crisis, promoted "maximum profit and consumption," which basically is a selfish, individualistic approach, the pope said. "In economic activity, peacemakers are those who establish bonds of fairness and reciprocity with their colleagues, workers, clients and consumers."

"The creation of ethical structures for currency, financial and commercial markets is also fundamental and indispensable," Pope Benedict wrote. "These must be stabilized and better coordinated and controlled so as not to prove harmful to the very poor."

Pope Benedict said peacemak-

ers must pay attention to "the food crisis, which is graver than the financial crisis" today. According to the U.N.'s World Food Program, some 870 million people in the world are "chronically hungry," and hunger kills more people each year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

"The issue of food security is once more central to the international political agenda as a result of interrelated crises, including sudden shifts in the price of basic foodstuffs, irresponsible behavior by some economic actors and insufficient control on the part of governments and the international community," the pope said.

Peace isn't simply a feeling or a passive awareness that things are going well, the pope said. Peace implies "activity, compassion, solidarity, courage and perseverance."

At the end of the message, which the Vatican sends to heads of state around the world, Pope Benedict prayed that God would enlighten them "so that, besides caring for the proper material welfare of their peoples, they may secure for them the precious gift of peace, break down the walls which divide them, strengthen the bonds of mutual love, grow in understanding, and pardon those who have done them wrong."

Religious colleges win legal round with court ruling on HHS suit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Four days after the first federal appellate-level hearing on two religious colleges' legal challenge to the contraceptive mandate, the appeals court said Dec. 18 the lawsuit will remain pending and it "will hold" the government to its word that it plans to modify enforcement of the mandate for some religious employers. Oral arguments were heard in the case Dec. 14 by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in Washington. In their ruling, the judges said that the government said in its argument that "there will be a different rule for entities like the appellants ... and we take that as a binding commitment." The government said it will publish notice of proposed rulemaking in the first quarter of 2013 and issue a final rule before August 2013. "We take the government at its word and will hold it to it," the ruling said, adding that the government also has to report to the court every 60 days about its progress on this modification. Last year, the Obama administration put in place a yearlong period, called "safe harbor," that protects employers from immediate government action against them if they fail to comply with the mandate. The circuit court said the government must continue to protect the two colleges from enforcement of the mandate. William Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College, called the ruling "a major victory" and "the answers to our prayers." Belmont Abbey College's case was the first to be filed challenging the Department of Health and Human Services mandate last November.

Pope advances sainthood causes of Pope Paul VI, more than 850 others

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI advanced the sainthood cause of Pope Paul VI by recognizing the Italian pope as having lived the Christian virtues in a heroic way. He also recognized a miracle attributed to the intercession of an Italian martyr who, with an estimated 800 other people, died at the hands of Ottoman invaders in the 15th century, and he recognized a miracle attributed to the first blessed to be born, live and die in Colombia, Blessed Mother Laura Montoya. They now can be declared saints. The pope also formally recognized the martyrdom of 33 victims of the Spanish Civil War and advanced the causes of 18 other men and women. During a meeting Dec. 20 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, the pope signed the decree approving the heroic virtues of Pope Paul VI, making him "venerable." Before Pope Paul can be beatified, the Vatican must recognize that a miracle has occurred through his intercession. Born Giovanni Battista Montini 1897 in the northern Italian province of Brescia, Pope Paul VI is probably best remembered for seeing

NATIONAL SHRINE ILLUMINATED ON CHRISTMAS EVE IN WASHINGTON



CNS PHOTO/DANIEL SONE

Lights illuminate the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on a foggy Christmas Eve in Washington Dec. 24.

the Second Vatican Council through to its end and helping implement its far-reaching reforms. He is also well remembered as the author of "Humanae Vitae," his 1968 encyclical reaffirming Church teaching that artificial birth control is intrinsically wrong, which became a focus of controversy and dissent. Amid the strains and pressures following Vatican II, he received the nickname the "Hamlet pope," for his reportedly anguished decision-making and his evident suffering over problems of the Church. However, he was also remembered as a strong leader who decisively guided the Church through a time of crisis.

Budget deal must shield charitable deductions, tax credits, bishops say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Deductions for charitable giving, tax credits for working families and vital programs that serve poor and vulnerable people in the United States and abroad must be protected in any budget deal that reduces the country's \$16 trillion deficit, the chairman of two U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops committees told Congress. In a letter sent Dec. 14 to each member of the House of Representatives

and the Senate, the bishops also called for a "circle of protection" around programs such as poverty-focused international assistance, affordable housing and community development, education, workforce development and emergency unemployment compensation. The letter from Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, and Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, outlined their concerns as budget talks continued between Republican House leaders and the White House. No fiscal deal had been reached as of Dec. 20 as the country moved closer to a series of automatic spending cuts — known as sequestration — and the end of Bush-era tax cuts set for Jan. 1. The cuts under sequestration would affect discretionary spending on military and non-military programs alike. The bishops are among leaders of charities across a wide spectrum of services and activities who are concerned that elimination of the charitable deduction provision will cause donors to reduce contributions, a step that could be devastating to many non-profit organizations, schools and religious groups. "Any deficit reduction agreement or framework for future reform must protect

the refundability of low-income tax credits, the charitable deduction and the millions of people who benefit from them," the bishops wrote. "It is in our nation's interest that Congress act in a bipartisan manner to replace sequestration with a balanced and thoughtful alternative that calls for shared sacrifice by all, eliminates unnecessary spending, addresses the long-term costs of health insurance and retirement program fairly and raises adequate revenues," the letter said.

New collection seen as boost for Archdiocese for the Military Services

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the Archdiocese for the Military Services is expecting greater financial stability and less pressure on the delivery of ministries and services once funds from a new national collection hit the books in 2013. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio said the collection, approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during the fall general assembly, is projected to raise at least \$10 million when it is taken every three years in participating dioceses. The collection is likely to be taken near Veterans Day in November, beginning in

2013. Funds would be used to help pay off the \$1.8 million mortgage on the archdiocesan headquarters in Washington's Brookland neighborhood and establish an endowment for future needs. Both steps are expected to ease some of the pressure of having to raise \$4.5 million to \$5.5 million annually from private donors for the archdiocese's operation, Archbishop Broglio told Catholic News Service. "I think caring for military personnel is a concern of most American Catholics, and I think they will be generous," he said. The military services archdiocese is responsible for many of the same services and ministries as any other diocese. Its staffers minister not just to soldiers, but their families as well. "The Archdiocese for the Military Services basically provides all the services that a Catholic territorial diocese would provide except that our people, rather than being members of a diocese or archdiocese because of where they are located, they are members because of who they are," Archbishop Broglio said.

Irish government announces plans to legalize abortion, with limits

DUBLIN (CNS) — The Irish government has announced plans to legalize abortion in limited circumstances, but Minister for Health James Reilly insisted his plans will take "full account of the equal right to life of the unborn child." The announcement contradicts a 2011 campaign promise by Prime Minister Enda Kenny that his government would not introduce abortion in the predominantly Catholic country. In a statement, Ireland's four top Catholic churchmen said everyone should be concerned by the announcement. "If what is being proposed were to become law, the careful balance between the equal right to life of a mother and her unborn child in current law and medical practice in Ireland would be fundamentally changed. It would pave the way for the direct and intentional killing of unborn children. This can never be morally justified in any circumstances," said their statement. It was signed by Cardinal Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland; Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin; Archbishop Dermot Clifford of Cashel; and Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam. They said human dignity depended on "our respect for the right to life of every person from the moment of conception to natural death. The right to life is the most fundamental of all rights. It is the very basis for every other right we enjoy as persons." They also urged that, when the legislation is introduced, lawmakers be allowed to vote according to their consciences. "All involved, especially public representatives, must consider the profound moral questions that arise in responding to today's announcement by the government. We encourage all to pray that our public representatives will be given the wisdom and courage to do what is right," they said.

Father Timothy Radcliffe offers Vespers and lecture

NOTRE DAME — The Institute for Church Life (ICL) will host Dominican Father Timothy Radcliffe on the campus of the University of Notre Dame in January. Father Radcliffe is the former worldwide Master of the Order of Preachers, commonly known as Dominicans, and currently a scholar-in-residence at the Dominican Studium, Blackfriars Hall at Oxford University.

A distinguished international speaker and author of numerous spiritual and theological articles and books, Father Radcliffe's most recent publication is "Take the Plunge: Living Baptism and Confirmation." He was awarded the Michael Ramsey Prize for theological writing in 2007, and is a Sarum Canon of Salisbury Cathedral.

While visiting the University of Notre Dame, Father Radcliffe will be involved in one event in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and a second event on Notre Dame's campus. Both events are open to the public.

On Sunday, Jan. 13, Father Radcliffe will offer a Vespers Service at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. All parishioners from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are welcome. Vespers will be followed by a wine and cheese reception at St. Matthew Cathedral. More information is available at www.stmatthewcathedral.org. This event is co-sponsored by St. Matthew Cathedral and the Institute for Church Life.

On Thursday, Jan. 17, the ICL will host Father Radcliffe's lecture, "Can Christianity Touch the Imagination of Our Contemporaries?" The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. in Andrews Auditorium, located in the Lower Level of Geddes Hall. All are welcome, and there is no charge for admission. Details are available at <https://icl.nd.edu/icl-events/timothy-radcliffe-op/>.

Rev. James Lamb to speak at March for Life rally

FORT WAYNE — Rev. James Lamb, the executive director for National Lutherans for Life, will be the keynote speaker at the 39th Annual March for Life commemorating the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The rally, to be held at noon at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center — the former Scottish Rite — will begin at noon on Saturday, Jan. 19. The march will follow the rally.

A "Silent No More" awareness event will be held at the Federal Building immediately following the march.

The USF Performing Arts Center is located at 431 W. Berry St. in downtown Fort Wayne.

The rally and march are sponsored by the Allen County Right to Life and the Three Rivers Educational Trust Fund.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

BAZAAR BENEFITS RETIREMENT, MINISTRY WITH POOR FUND



LINDA M. DILTZ

From left, Holy Cross Sister M. Rose Edward Goodrow, director of Development for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame, presents Kathryn Schneider, executive director of St. Margaret's House, South Bend, with handmade baby blankets for families in need. The Sisters of the Holy Cross donated a variety of goods remaining after their annual Christmas Bazaar to brighten the holidays for people served by both St. Margaret's House and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Proceeds from the bazaar benefit the sisters' retirement fund and the Ministry With the Poor fund, which provides grants for Holy Cross sisters' ministries with marginalized people around the world.

Elkhart County Right to Life to hold rally, march

ELKHART — Elkhart County Right to Life will sponsor the second annual Elkhart County Rally and March for Life on Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Lerner Theater, 410 South Main St., at noon.

The program will feature emcee, Chuck Freeby with LeSEA Broadcasting, and keynote speaker Peter Heck.

Heck is host of "The Peter Heck Show" radio program, which airs daily in central Indiana and centers on political and social issues. He has debated key national figures such as Ellen Johnson (president of American Atheists) and Barry Lynn (executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State), and has interviewed many other prominent individuals such as former presidential candidate Alan Keyes and conservative commentator Ann Coulter.

The rally will include testimonies from women who have experienced abortion and will be followed by a march to Women's Care Center. For more information, go to www.elkhart4life.org.

Office of Worship posts liturgical trainings

FORT WAYNE — The Office of Worship has organized diocesan liturgical trainings in February and March for lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Registration is required.

Lector trainings will be on Feb. 9 at St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne, and on March 2 at Christ the King Church in South Bend.

Extraordinary minister trainings will be on Feb. 2 at St. Charles Church in Fort Wayne, and on Feb. 23 at St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka. More specific information, as well as the full registration form (cost is \$15 per training), can be found online at <http://bit.ly/V6HlFP>.

'Be still' evenings of reflection to be offered

NOTRE DAME — "Much of the violence in our world is due to a lack of us becoming still and a negligence of contemplative prayer!"

With these words, Father

Nicholas Ayo points to a sad reality, which many in the active world face today. To "Be Still and Know that I AM," to anchor oneself in the presence of God, is — and always has been — a challenge for the faithful believer who is active in the affairs of the world. With the parable of Mary and Martha, the Evangelist Luke highlights the tension experienced by those who feel drawn to a more contemplative form of prayer and at the same time are committed to the active realm of the secular world. But is there really a choice to be made in favor of one over the other; is it genuinely a question of "either-or"?

These and other questions will be guiding a series of Evenings of Reflection under the title: "Be Still ... The Contemplative in the Active World." The Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame will host the opportunity to explore the place of contemplative prayer in an active world. In a series of four events, distinguished speakers will share their thoughts and invite the audience to share their experience and insights:

• Jan. 8 — Holy Cross Sister

Judith Anne Beattie will speak on "Pray Always — Pray in all Ways"

• Jan. 17 — Holy Cross Father Nicholas Ayo will speak on "Contemplation — A Response to Violence"

• Jan. 23 — Jesuit Father Brian Dunkle will speak on "Discerning the Spirit in Daily Life"

• Jan. 30 — Professor Keith Egan will speak on "A Surge of the Heart ... A Glance towards Heaven." After a short break, Sister Judith Anne will lead the participants in a centering prayer.

The Evenings of Reflection will start at 6 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center on Douglas Road, north of the University of Notre Dame. Tickets are \$5. Seating is limited to 40 participants, so registration is strongly recommended.

For more information and to register, contact Patricia Bellm at pbellm@nd.edu, (574) 631-1379 or visit icl.nd.edu/icl-events.

USF hosting math competition for high school students

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will host the state's only American Mathematics Competition (AMC) 10/12 for high school students in grades 9-12 on Tuesday, Feb. 5 in the Pope John Paul II Center.

Activities will begin at 6 p.m. with food and refreshments, and the 75-minute test will follow. A program will be available to parents during the test, and the event will wrap up with awards. Depending upon scores, students may have a chance to advance to national-level competition.

An optional two-hour preparatory session will be offered in the Pope John Paul II Center on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. For additional practice materials, go to: amc.maa.org. To register for the competition, contact Carolyn Exner at cexner@sf.edu or (260) 399-8067.

First administered in 1950, the AMC's purpose is increasing interest in mathematics and developing problem-solving ability through a series of friendly mathematics competitions for junior (grades 8 and below) and senior (grades 9-12) high school students.

Academically talented students in the competition who apply to the University of Saint Francis directly out of high school may receive merit scholarships ranging from \$2,500-\$9,000 over four years. The USF mathematics program integrates theoretical math and problem solving, providing a well-rounded preparation for future scientists, analysts, problem solvers and educators.

A Year in Review –



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI met Feb. 9 with U.S. bishops from Indiana at their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican. Seated at left are Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Indianapolis; Bishop Timothy L. Doherty of Lafayette; Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend; and Bishop Dale J. Melczek of Gary. Bishops from Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin were making their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses.

JUNE 21 to JULY 4, 2012



FORTNIGHT

FOR FREEDOM



FORTNIGHT4FREEDOM.ORG

Forty-three Catholic dioceses, including the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, schools, hospitals, social service agencies and other institutions filed suit in federal court May 21 to stop three government agencies from implementing a mandate that would require them to cover contraceptives and sterilization in their health plans. The U.S. bishops encouraged a Fortnight for Freedom June 21 to July 4 in support of religious liberty. Multiple rallies were held in Fort Wayne and South Bend and special Masses were celebrated June 22 in South Bend and June 30 in Fort Wayne.

Our Sunday Visitor

Centennial Celebration 1912-2012

Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic publishing house located in Huntington and founded by Archbishop John F. Noll, celebrated the 100th anniversary in 2012. Events included an open house in May and a Mass of Thanksgiving and Rededication and symposium on Sept. 28 in Fort Wayne.



JOE ROMIE

The faithful of the diocese participated in a Eucharistic Procession through the streets of Fort Wayne on June 10, the feast of Corpus Christi.



JOE ROMIE

Ministers and representatives of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod presented 112 letters with 1,396 signatures in support of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Catholics to "stand together for religious liberty" at a gathering on the plaza of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on April 17. Msgr. Robert Schulte, rector of the cathedral and diocesan chancellor, stands at the right.



KAY COZAD

Deacon Chris Lapp was ordained to the diaconate on May 12 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.



This app, which went live Oct. 11, is titled "My Year of Faith." The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend says that with its mobile app, it is answering Pope Benedict XVI's call to use new media and technology as part of a faith-building initiative.



KAY COZAD

Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp, left of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, and Father Jacob Meyer, right, pose with Bishop John M. D'Arcy, bishop emeritus, seminarians and deacons after their Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on May 26.



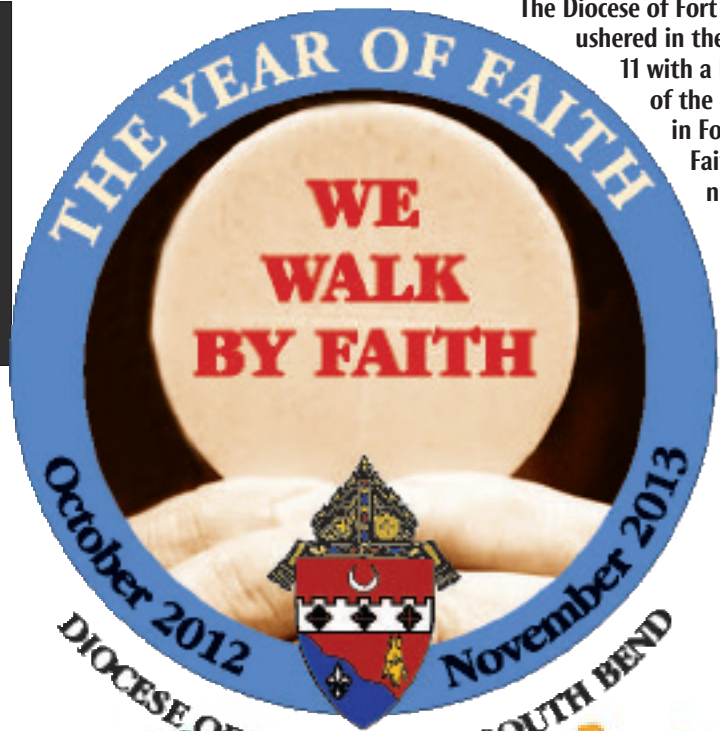
KEVIN HAGGENJOS

After blessing the new Saint Joseph High School in South Bend on Aug. 25, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades returned to the school on Nov. 28 to bless the Chapel of Saint Joseph and dedicate the altar, where he placed a relic of St. André Bessette, a Holy Cross brother who was canonized a saint on Oct. 17, 2010.



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

At right, the statue of St. Kateri Tekakwitha is located in the recently blessed Chapel of Saint Joseph in Saint Joseph High School in South Bend. St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American saint, and a worthy example of sanctity for young people today. St. Kateri was canonized along with another North American, St. Marianne Cope, on Oct. 21.



The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend ushered in the Year of Faith on Oct. 11 with a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. "The Year of Faith is a great opportunity for all of us to grow in our relationship with God and to rediscover the truth, beauty and power of the Catholic faith," Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said in anticipation of the year.



The diocese joined forces with RENEW International to introduce the new initiative, ARISE Together in Christ, a three-year parish centered process focused on spiritual renewal, evangelization and adult formation for faith seekers in the diocese. The eight- to 12-member small Christian communities formed in many parishes across the diocese in September to complete the first of the five six-week sessions.



JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades dedicated the altar and blessed the St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington on March 3. After the blessing the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist announced that the religious order would use part of the facility for formation of their sisters. The center is also used for retreats.

Nix heritage celebrated at special Mass

BY SHIRLEY SMITH

NIX SETTLEMENT — A special Mass was celebrated at St. Catherine of Alexandra Church (Nix Settlement) by Father Adam Mauman, on Dec. 14, with Father Dale Bauman concelebrating.

Father Mauman's wish was to say a Mass for Nix relatives at St. Catherine's Parish as he is a descendant of the Nixes that started the parish.

Father Mauman's great grandmother, the now deceased Mildred (Nix), daughter of the late Henry and Minnie Nix, had grown up attending Mass at St. Catherine Church. Mildred was married to the late Carl Johnson.

Jacob Nix, a few generations back, had the first Mass in his home as early as 1848 for the area, before the first church was built. The name Nix Settlement came from the large number of Nix fam-

ily members who lived in the area.

A large number of Nix relatives attended the Mass celebrated by Father Mauman and the reception following in the church hall. There were over 50 relatives attending, meeting and getting to know each other better and which branch of the Nix family they came from. Attending relatives came from as far away as California, Kentucky, Indianapolis, Muncie, Crown Point, Pleasant Lake, Fort Wayne and the surrounding area.

Seven families of the Nix heritage are currently parishioners of St. Catherine Parish.

Father Mauman was ordained on June 12, 2010. Shortly thereafter began his first assignment as associate pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in Carmel. He is the son of Richard Gene and Cynthia Mauman, of Marion, and grandson of Marceline Johnson-Wall of Huntington.



Father Adam Mauman, a descendant of the Nix family, is shown with his parents Cynthia and Richard Gene Mauman, and grandmother Marceline Wall.

Father Adam Mauman concelebrates Mass with Father Dale Bauman, pastor of St. Catherine of Alexandra Church (Nix Settlement).



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SHIRLEY SMITH

Faith is foundation of farming family life

BY LAURIE KIEFABER

URBANA — It takes more than knowledge of seeds, chemicals and equipment to be a grain farmer today; it takes a lot of faith.

Frank and Matthew Driscoll and their families have had a deep, abiding faith for generations and attend St. Robert Bellarmine Church in North Manchester. The fifth-generation farmers grow about 450 acres each of corn and soybeans, 100 acres of wheat and raise about 1,200 hogs from farrow to finish annually.

"If you didn't have faith, you wouldn't be doing it," said Frank. "You plant the seed and hope it grows; you have to have faith. ... It's a blessing we can have the lifestyle we have."

The original land where they farm was homesteaded in 1834 during Andrew Jackson's presidency, Frank said. It's always been in the Driscoll family name, but Frank and Matthew's cousins owned it until 1986.

The farm, cultivated by the Irish-Catholic family, grew over the years and now supports three families. In 1955, a national plowing contest was held at the farm where Vice President Richard Nixon attended, Frank said.

"There's a lot of rich history here," said Beth Driscoll, Frank's wife of 16 years. "There's a lot of small farmers out there plugging away with faith every day trying to make a living."

Frank and Matthew's mother, Anne, helped create their faith foundation with a good example. She grew up on a farm in Duncan, Neb., as one of 10 Catholic children.

"First of all, we did rely on our faith," the 92-year-old matriarch said. "We said our prayers every day and often recited the rosary together. We prayed, especially because of the storms. We always prayed very faithfully, as we were in the path of storms."

With the Rocky Mountains to the west, "the storm were pretty violent at times," she explained. "We wouldn't have been surprised to be in the path of a tornado. We spent time going into our basement during storms."

Anne vividly remembers shocking grain, riding cows because "they were tame" and gardening vegetables with her siblings — which included three sets of fraternal twins. She also remembers attending Catholic grade school and the Dust Bowl.

"(The grasshoppers) were determined to have something to eat," she recalled. "They bored holes in a fence post and they ate the paint off the barn. But Oklahoma had more trouble with the dust (than we did in Nebraska)."

Anne later studied nursing in Lincoln, Neb. and was a stateside Army nurse during World War II. She worked with men who had been paralyzed in action.

"You couldn't have nicer young men to work with," she said.

While working at a San Jose hospital in California, Anne worked



LAURIE KIEFABER

Matthew and Frank Driscoll sit with their 92-year-old mother, Anne, who remembers the Dust Bowl and farming the land with her late husband Eugene in rural Urbana. The Driscolls attend St. Robert Bellarmine Church in North Manchester.

with the sister of the man she would celebrate 50 years of marriage with in 1999. Anne and Eugene Driscoll were wed in 1949 and came to Indiana in 1951 to farm here. Eugene died in 2006, but they had many good years of faith and farming together.

The Driscolls continue to pass their faith on to the younger generation through prayer. Recently, Matthew, who takes an interest in breeding show pigs, took his son Ryan and Frank's son Daniel to show their hogs in Louisville, Ky.

"They prayed the joyful mysteries on the way to the hog show," Beth had heard.

The Driscolls are thankful to be raising their children on a farm.

"They get to see the real world from beginning to end, from seed to crop," Matthew said. "Living in town, they wouldn't have that kind of opportunity."

"They get to see the complete life cycle," Frank added.

Farming is a hard life, especially during planting and harvest. "There's times you'll go without sleep for a day or two," Matthew said. The two brothers shift between caring for their crops and the hogs, Frank explained.

But the Driscolls are thankful that farming allows for flexible family time. "We're tired, but Frank and I try to make an effort to attend our kids' activities," Matthew said. "We have the opportunity to take care of Mom. I'm thankful for that. We're there for our family in important times."

Frank and Matthew's two older sisters come home from Idaho and Kentucky to care for their mother a few times a year as well.

"(Anne's children) make sure she has breakfast, lunch and dinner," Beth said. "One of the boys makes sure she has help getting ready for bed. Her faith and gentleness have been a good example for me, and the family; her faith is what has kept her family together. It holds our family together as well."

Even though they and an increasing number of farmers buy crop insurance, the Driscolls continue to

pray for a good harvest.

"... During planting, we always ask (God) for a safe planting, the guidance to make the right decisions with seed selection and purchasing new equipment ..." Beth said.

Beth and Matthew's wife, Angela, have worked outside the home, which helps support the families during difficult times. The drought has not helped any farmers, but it wasn't as bad as initially predicted.

"This year's crops are at least one-quarter better than they were in 1988," Frank said.

"In a drought year, we usually have more insects and microbial life feeding on the plants," Frank continued. "That's the difference; my set cost per bushel varies depending on how much I produce. Land cost is the same whether I produce a lot or a little. Conditions are really variable and prices are subject to the board of trade."

Still, Frank and Matthew Driscoll have enjoyed farming for its freedom and opportunities. "I like driving the equipment (combines and tractors)," Frank said. "... (Farming) teaches you patience. You plant the seed and you have to wait; nothing is instantaneous."

Matthew appreciates breeding show pigs and "being around animals when they're born — the newness of life. What's their future? What will they turn into?"

But the Driscolls never forget their role as farmers. "God's there (in the seeds) and tells them when to start," Matthew said. "We just facilitate the process."

In between farming, Frank and Beth are raising three children: Sarah, 15, Anna, 13, and Daniel, 11. Beth also teaches religious education at church and Frank has served with the Urbana Volunteer Fire Department for 15 years.

Matthew and Angela have four children, as well: Bridget, 23, Kaitlyn, 21, Shannah, 18, and Ryan, 13. Matthew has served on the Metropolitan School District of Wabash County school board for 14 years.



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'The resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.'

Belief in the resurrection of the body is distinctively Christian. Many of the world's religions uphold belief in the soul's immortality and envision some sort of afterlife. Some people find it easier to believe in ghosts than in God.

Christian belief in the resurrection of the body is different. It has its foundation in the resurrection of Jesus, in His triumph over death. "If Christ is preached as raised from the dead," writes St. Paul, "how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?" (1 Cor 15:12).

When Christ rose from the dead, He did not come back as a ghost. His resurrected body was truly His body, marked with His wounds (Jn. 20:27). But it had undergone transformation. The Gospels record that the resurrected Christ suddenly appeared to the Apostles inside a closed room (Jn 20:19). Just as sud-

denly, He vanished from the sight of the disciples at Emmaus (Lk 24:31).

Piecing together these accounts with the earlier event of Jesus's transfiguration on Mount Tabor (Mt 17:2) and the appearance of Jesus in blinding light to Paul (Acts 2:3), ancient and medieval theologians enumerate four gifts or endowments of the glorified body: freedom from suffering, immortality, a shining radiance and a lightness that enables the body to move quickly above and through surfaces (as when Jesus walked through walls).

The Church's constant belief is that those who have been baptized into Christ and who share in His cross through their own suffering and death will also share in His resurrection. The hope of the faithful Christian is not only the eternal joy of the departed soul in the presence of God, but also the reunion of the soul with its resurrected body at the end of time.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

SISTER ANN ASTELL

So great a hope, so all-conquering a faith, is hard to comprehend. The resurrected body will be each one's very own, the bearer of each one's personal history and identity. Yet it is not identical with the mortal body that is buried, that decays, that is eaten (as the bodies of martyrs were) or cremated. The resurrection of the body is not its resuscitation. "What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable" (1 Cor 15:42).

CREED, PAGE 12

Follow the Star that is light of the world



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the Epiphany Mt 2:1-12

This weekend the Church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany. It long has been one of the greatest of the Catholic feasts because, together with Christmas and the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it provides not only an occasion to rejoice in the salvation given us by Jesus, but very fundamental information about the identity and mission of the Lord.

Jesus long has fascinated people. These feasts give deep insight into the person and role of Christ.

The first reading this weekend is from the third and last section of Isaiah. After long, dreary years of exile in Babylon, the Jews, residue of the Jewish nation decimated generations earlier by the Babylonian conquest of the two Hebrew kingdoms, are able to return to their ancestral homeland.

The Holy City itself should rejoice. Its role is to be the venue in which occurs the reconciliation between the merciful God and sinning humanity.

Now, able to return to their ancestral homeland, the people coming from Babylon can make this ancient dignity of Jerusalem live again. The chosen people in Jerusalem once more, its

wonderful status of being the place of God's meeting with faithful people again will be real.

The Epistle to the Ephesians provides the second reading.

In the days of the first century AD, as the Christian community was gradually forming, a certain question arose. Christianity grew from the Jews. Its founder was Jewish. The Apostles were Jews. Even the location of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus was in Jewish territory.

Part of the Jewish religion was a strong ethnic sense. Yet, not only Jews were intrigued by Jesus. Not only Jews thirsted for eternal life. Jesus opened the access to divine mercy to them all.

This reading is among others in the New Testament that insisted that salvation is for all.

St. Matthew's Gospel, the only Gospel among the four to report the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem, is the only Gospel to reveal this event in the childhood of Jesus.

Every detail is important. The Magi, certainly pagans, thirst for God. They, in a sense, represent all humans who search for God as they search for life, goodness, perfection and hope. The Magi find Jesus because God assists them. He gives them the star as a sign. He spares them from the treachery of Herod.

Very important in the story is King Herod. All his cunning and all his resources are no match for God's will to offer salvation to the world through Christ, the Son of God. The play on the term "newborn king of the Jews" is a distant echo of the crucifixion when Pilate asked if Jesus were a king. The gifts of the Magi were those often given kings, namely gold and sweet incense.

They also brought myrrh, an embalming substance. It reminded the first who heard this Gospel and reminds us that the saving mission of the Lord, and the kingship of Christ, will be confirmed in the crucifixion.

Reflection

Long centuries of venerating the story of the wise men have produced images very dear to us, but not in the Gospel text. The legend is that they were three in number, but no mention is made in Matthew as to how many Magi, or Wise Men, came to Bethlehem.

Leaving the number unstated gives a certain openness to the story, and gives power to the story of the Epiphany. Human beings from all places and at all times yearn for meaning in life, for genuine joy and for hope. All fear death.

Regardless of ethnic condition, or past circumstances, anyone can find God, in Jesus, if they earnestly turn away from sin and humbly follow the star that is the Light of the World.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Ps 2:7-8, 10-12a Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 3:22-30

God, football and Notre Dame

Sports may seem a purely secular phenomenon, but it has the potential to play an important role in our spiritual lives. In today's frenetic world, sports is one of the few areas where we still engage in authentic leisure — a sort of rest that is both enjoyable and productive. Participation in sports requires training, discipline and camaraderie, often refined over the course of many years. That is why St. Paul used racing metaphors to describe the Christian's spiritual journey.

Moreover, the traditions, rituals and fanfare that surround such immensely popular sports as college football convey a parallel sense of secular "liturgy." Think of the festivities held on campus every Saturday during the fall. Tens of thousands of faithful followers congregate to engage in something that means much more to them than 22 young men sparring over a leather ball.

This season, many football fans in this diocese have basked in the "return to glory" enjoyed by Notre Dame. It is fitting that we should feel invested in our local team, with all its rich history. However, on the eve of the national championship game, we would also do well to reflect on the unique — and often overlooked — relationship between Notre Dame's football achievements and its Catholic roots.

It is no exaggeration to assert that the university's success in the last century has been built upon the football team. In its early days, the team faced significant anti-Catholic bigotry, with certain schools refusing to play Notre Dame. Even the "Fighting Irish" moniker likely originated as a derogatory reference to the team's Catholic athletes. However, Notre Dame turned these adversities into strengths, adopting a "barnstorming" schedule that involved traveling cross-country to play against prominent schools — a strategy that caused Notre Dame's own reputation to soar nationwide. And as the victories piled up, Notre Dame became a symbol of hope and pride for Catholics everywhere.

Knute Rockne himself became Catholic after witnessing how his players' loyal Mass attendance aided their dedication on the field. Reflecting on his conversion, Rockne wrote: "these youngsters were making a powerful impression on me with their piety and devotion. ... I really began to see the light; to know what was missing in my life, and later on I had the great pleasure of joining my boys at the Communion rail."

The connection between faith and football at Notre Dame has continued to this day. Religious art and statues on campus receive gridiron nicknames, such as "Touchdown Jesus" or "Fair Catch Corby." There is a team Mass in the basilica before each game, and the radiant helmets still include gold leaf from the statue of Our Lady atop the Golden Dome. The alma mater, sung after every game,

GUEST COMMENTARY

BRIAN W. MACMICHAEL

is a Marian hymn.

Certainly, football cannot be equated with religion, and we must guard against going overboard when talking about divine intervention (though did you see that missed field goal by Pitt?!). Still, the expectations maintained by Notre Dame as an elite and Catholic academic institution make it a unique icon on the college football landscape. By recruiting kids of character and maintaining the highest team graduation rate in the country, Notre Dame shows that it is possible to remain relevant on the field while aspiring to even greater success off it.

Had I not grown up an Irish football fan, I would never have considered attending Notre Dame. There are many others who arrived at Notre Dame via a similar path, and were then edified by the strong Catholic culture they encountered. This top-ranked team is the first taste of Irish football greatness for those of my generation and younger. Win or lose in Miami on Jan. 7, this season will surely lead to a burgeoning interest in the university on the part of athletes and scholars alike, and will hopefully bring a reciprocal boost to the visibility of its Catholic identity.

Ultimately, triumph on the football field can only bring a transient sort of joy, which pales in comparison to the eternal happiness we Christians seek. Nonetheless, excitement surrounding a football team can help restore a much-needed sense of childlike exuberance and wonder — and, in the case of Notre Dame, foster greater appreciation for the University's Catholic character. I believe G.K. Chesterton aptly captured this experience when he penned these lines to "The Arena," commemorating his 1930 visit to witness the dedication of Notre Dame Stadium and a subsequent Irish victory:

"... I have seen, where a strange country
Opened its secret plains about me,

One great golden dome stand
lonely with its golden image ...

She too looks on the Arena
Sees the gladiators grapple,
She whose names are Seven
Sorrows and the Cause of All Our Joy ...

The Mother of the Master of the
Masters of the World."

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

Brown scapular offers Our Lady's protection

The Catholic Church is blessed with the gifts of various sacramentals, which are outward signs of an inward commitment to virtue and piety. Examples include holy water, blessed candles and scapulars. The scapular is two small pieces of wool cloth connected by a string or chain that is worn over the shoulders — either under or over one's clothing (typically under the clothing). One piece of cloth hangs over the chest and the other hangs over the back.

While there are about 20 different types of scapulars, The World Apostolate of Fatima (a Permanent Public International Association of the Faithful, and therefore, the "teaching arm" of our Mother Church on all matters pertaining to Fatima) promotes wearing the brown scapular because Our Lady appeared at Fatima on Oct. 13, 1917 as Our Lady of Mount Carmel. During this last appearance at Fatima, Our Lady was also holding the brown scapular. Lucia (one of the Fatima visionaries) explained that Our Lady did this because "she wants everyone to wear it."

The brown scapular has been considered a sign of Our Lady's protection for hundreds of years. On July 16, 1251, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock who was the superior general of the Carmelite order. In her hand was a brown scapular.

She told him, "Receive the brown scapular. It is a pledge of salvation, a safeguard in danger. Whoever dies wearing this scapular will never see the flames of hell."

Our Lady promised to release from purgatory soon after death all those who wear the brown scapular and try to live a Christian life.

However, with regards to these promises, it should be noted that

merely wearing the scapular without respect to one's "interior dispositions" would not be reasonable. To do so would be to attribute a magical efficacy to the scapular and make it out to be a more potent channel of grace than the sacraments.

External acts have no value in God's sight unless they are the expression of a right mind and a sincere will.

The wearing of the scapular must, therefore, be understood to include the right "interior disposition" with which it is worn. It is primarily through these, and only remotely and instrumentally through the actual wearing of the scapular, that salvation is secured.

Concerning the promise of preservation from hell, this must always be understood in conformity with the teaching of the Church regarding the uncertainty of salvation. Catholics are permitted to hold as a matter of pious belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary will extend her maternal help to the souls who were, while on earth, her faithful servants.

Anyone may begin wearing the brown scapular, but to receive the full benefit of the devotion, one must be a baptized Catholic and become invested (or enrolled) in the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Enrollment by a priest or deacon also means that subsequent brown scapulars do not have to be blessed — one just has to wear them. Membership in the Confraternity is not forfeited by failing to wear it. One need only begin wearing it again. When a scapular deteriorates, it should be burned or buried (as with any sacramental).

The Ritual of Investiture is affiliated with the Carmelite order and thus means the wearer shares in all of the daily Masses, prayers and good works of Mount Carmel

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

FATHER JAMES SECULOFF

religious throughout the world. This participation along with the great promise of salvation gives an unspeakable spiritual value to the brown scapular devotion.

A common question regarding the brown scapular revolves around whether or not the round brown plastic scapulars suffice. These should be regarded the same as scapular medals. Scapular medals (with an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on one side and an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the other) are acceptable substitutes to the wool scapulars. However, Pope St. Pius X and his successor Pope Benedict XV strongly encouraged people to wear the cloth scapular and not substitute the medal without sufficient reason.

Vanity and fear of making an open profession of one's faith would not qualify as adequate reasons. Each time a scapular medal or plastic scapular wears out and is replaced, the new one would need to be blessed.

In the words of St. Alphonsus, "the most holy Mary is pleased when her servants wear her scapular as a mark that they have dedicated themselves to her service and are members of the family of the Mother of God."

Father James Seculoff is the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for January 6, 2013

Matthew 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Epiphany Sunday, Cycle C, when the Magi came to King Herod and Bethlehem. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

| | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| BETHLEHEM | JUDEA | THE DAYS |
| KING HEROD | JERUSALEM | STAR |
| HEARD | PRIESTS | PROPHET |
| JUDAH | RULER | SECRETLY |
| SEARCH | THE CHILD | MARY |
| TREASURES | GIFTS | MYRRH |
| WARNED | DREAM | RETURN |

SEARCH

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

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Remember Jesus?

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

I am not a Scrooge, but all the activity during this time of year depresses me. People are running around frantically buying things they often do not need or cannot afford. Stores play Christmas carols even before the Halloween decorations are taken down, and lots of people put up their Christmas trees before the turkey is cooked on Thanksgiving. The malls are crowded and some people will actually get up at four in the morning to stand in long lines for Christmas specials. And you probably can give other examples. I want to tell them whose birthday it really is and why we celebrate.

Now, don't get me wrong, I am not against Christmas or gift-giving. Gifts are important expressions of appreciation and love. However, trying to outdo one another or giving gifts only because someone else is giving them to us seems ridiculous.

You might wonder what you could possibly do to turn the tide.

Every year I ask myself the same thing. The following are a few suggestions that might help us all.

Examine your gift giving. Think of those who are on your Christmas list and why you give them gifts. Maybe you do it because you feel obliged or have always done so. Hopefully your giving is out of love and that more is not better than less.

Reinforce with your family, especially your children and grandchildren, that the joy of Christmas does not depend on how many or what gifts we receive or give. Suggest to your children that gifts don't always have to be things. They can give the special gift of service, like giving a card with a promise to shovel the person's driveway and sidewalks this winter or offer a couple with little children some days of free babysitting. Let them use their imaginations. Emphasize that their time can also be a precious gift.

Gifts also can be made. Giving baked Christmas goodies or homemade candy is appreciated by all. It is very special when someone takes

the time to make something delicious to give to you.

Send Christmas cards to people who live far away and won't see during the holidays. Share the gift of your time by letting friends know what has happened in your life. It seems a waste of paper and postage to just sign your name. Also, remember that the Church's Christmas season goes far beyond Dec. 25, so cards don't have to make it to them by Christmas day.

Changing our materialistic way of celebrating Christmas will not happen overnight, but each of us can do our part to bring into focus whose birthday we celebrate. It also will help us to more appreciate the meaning of Advent and relieve a lot of stress so we can truly enjoy this beautiful season of preparation for the birth of Jesus, not primarily Santa.

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

CREED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Trying to explain this mystery of identity and difference, St. Paul compares the burial of our mortal body to the planting of a seed, which dies and rises to new life in the form of a plant. An organic continuity connects the seed to the plant, but they also vary greatly in form. "What you sow is not the body which is to be," he writes, "but a bare kernel" (1 Cor 15: 35).

The analogy is, of course, inexact. What ancient and medieval theologians emphasized instead is the close bond between body and soul, even after the soul has departed. Stored in the memory of the departed soul are sensory impressions. The soul's delight in God's presence suffuses the memory, affecting its content. The *visio beata* thus prepares the soul to receive its glorified body. Receiving that gift, the soul's joy in God overflows into the body's senses.

An ancient Christian doctrine, traceable back to Origen, maintains that the soul sees, hears, touches and tastes God through spiritual senses. These correspond to the physical senses that enable sacramental experiences of God's presence. In this mortal existence, the physical senses assist the soul in its reception of grace. In the life to come, the spiritual senses, enjoying direct contact with God, act upon the physical senses. From the time of St. Paul, mystical experiences have granted

a foretaste of the promised "new heavens and new earth" (Rev 21:1) associated with the end times.

As the Church teaches, Christ's resurrection has an eschatological consequence: the general resurrection of all the departed at the end of times, when Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead. Come, Lord Jesus!

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.

Sports

FORMER DWENGER PLAYER WINS TEAM AWARD AT THE NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL BANQUET Former Bishop Dwenger player John Goodman, '08, received the Nick Pietrosante Award for the 2012 Notre Dame football season. This award goes to the player who best exemplifies the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication and pride of the late Nick Pietrosante. This recipient is selected by Notre Dame players. Nick Pietrosante was an All-American fullback in 1958, was a 1st-round draft pick and NFL Rookie of the Year in 1959.

NINE DWENGER STUDENTS NAMED TO RUGBY INDIANA JUNIOR ACADEMIC ALL-STATE TEAM



Nine Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger High School students have been named 2012 Junior Academic All-State members. They are Sam Anderson, Bri Campbell, Gunnar Dahm, Phillip Litchfield, Jake Lyon, Colleen McCann, Logan Parrish, Gabrielle Rahrig and Brian Trahin. The 2012 Rugby Indiana Junior Academic All-State team recognizes players who have excelled both academically and on the pitch. Successful Academic All-State members qualify by holding a minimum 3.2 cumulative GPA and a 1600 SAT, or, 25 ACT.

Ancilla softball delivers gifts, socks to homeless

DONALDSON — For the second straight year, the Ancilla College softball team put their Christmas spirit to work by helping the homeless.

The Chargers kept up their tradition by allowing fans to donate socks at all home softball games in the fall and spring, in place of paying admission. Over 200 pair of socks were collected and donated to Hope Rescue Mission in South Bend.

The team went one step further this year.

"The socks were great," started Ancilla Coach Scott Reese, "but we wanted to do a little more."

And they did. Through the combination of an anonymous donation and fundraising that the team has been doing throughout the fall for the program, the 16-member team got together and purchased gifts for all 26 children at the mission.

"Seeing the look on the children's faces when they saw the gifts that they were receiving melted my heart," mentioned sophomore Rohni Beck.

After the wrapping party was complete, the Chargers headed over to the mission, where they received a tour of the facility and so much more while handing out the gifts as they reached each child's floor. At many stops along the way, they were able to interact with the children and learn their stories and the purpose of Hope Rescue Mission.

When the day was complete, the team had some time for reflection.

"It was hard to actually see all the people that were struggling, but it was nice to see that they were all like a family," stated Courtney Clark.

"I learned to appreciate others," revealed Brianna McClellan.

"Giving a present was more than just another gift, it was bring-

ing hope and joy to the kids," said Shelby McConnell.

"We should never take our life for granted," stated Kayla Dell, "and always be thankful for what we have."

Sophomore Kayleigh Schroeder capped off the day, "It was not only a time to help others, but help ourselves find who we really are and what we should appreciate."

Sacred Heart's Run for the Heart a success

WARSAW — The third annual Run for the Heart 5k run/walk and 1 Mile Santa Chase, in memory of Msgr. James J. Wolf, held Dec. 15, enjoyed a record turnout of 244 finishers combined in the two races. Eleven of Msgr. Wolf's family members, including his sister Carol from California, were in attendance.

Overall male winner was Matt Jones, 42, from Lagrange with a time of 17:38. Overall female was Mariah Jordan, 17, from Fort Wayne with a time of 20:07, breaking last year's course record of 21:54, set by Shannon Didier of Fort Wayne.

The 1 Mile Santa Chase top

finisher was Brody Glenn, 9, with a time of 7:48, second place was Elana Sullivan, 9, 8:17, and third was Will Borin, 8, 8:18.

Mike Danley, former Biggest Loser contestant and Fort Wayne Snider football coach, spoke about exercise and obesity and signed autographs. All proceeds from the race benefit the Tuition Assistance Fund at Sacred Heart School.

Complete results can be found on www.runkra.com or www.runindiana.com.



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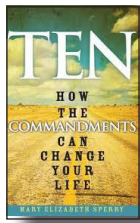
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Books for the journey into the new year

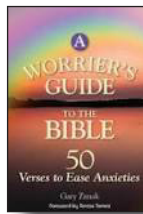
BY KAY COZAD

"Ten: How the Commandments Can Change Your Life,"

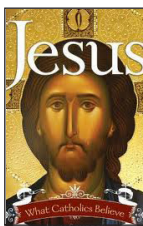
by Mary Elizabeth Sperry delivers a wonderfully contemporary spin on the rules for right living put forth through the Ten Commandments. Each chapter is devoted to one of the 10 and is laced with Scripture and quotes to drive the purpose of the commandment home. A point to remember section concludes each chapter along with culture connection, a role model, "try this" section with pertinent questions to stimulate generalization, talk it through questions and a meaningful prayer. Sperry offers her readers ways to form habits to balance their lives in relationship to Him and others. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-408-3, \$14.99.



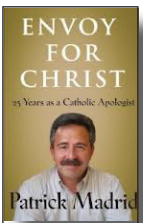
"A Worrier's Guide to the Bible: 50 verses to Ease Anxieties," by Gary Zimak presents chapters filled with Scripture verses complimented with insightful reflections and questions to help the reader defuse his or her worries. With topics including confusion, doubt, fear, sickness and trials Zimak shows in this 112-page book that worry can be a blessing leading closer to Jesus. Liguori Publications, ISBN: 9780764-821639, \$10.99



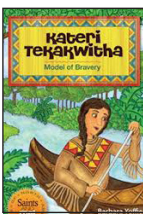
"Jesus: What Catholics Believe," by Alan Schreck is an engaging, straightforward explanation of when and how Jesus lived, what He taught, His human and divine nature and how He continues to be present in the sacraments and the lives of believers. Unpack this book to find the treasure of Jesus' life in Scripture. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-319-2, \$14.99.



"Envoy for Christ: 25 Years as a Catholic Apologist," by author and radio personality Patrick Madrid provides a fascinating look inside Catholic apologetics, covering topics that include comparative religion to all things Catholic. His personal observations offer insights into how his thinking has matured over the years. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-484-7, \$19.99.

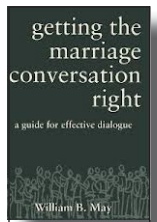


"Kateri Tekakwitha: Model of Bravery" and "Juan Diego: Mary's Humble Messenger," by Barbara Yoffie are books one and two of six in the first "Saints and Me! set, Saints of North America. The 32-page biographies in the set introduce children to the concept that saints are people who live around them. Liguori Publications, \$4.99.



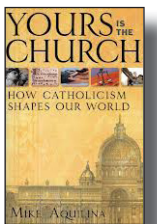
"Getting the Marriage Conversation Right: A Guide for Effective Dialogue,"

by William B. May offers a conversation in a reason approach to the public policy debate on marriage. May targets the rights of children in the legal definition of marriage and offers guidelines for avoiding common traps that hinder conversations advocating marriage. Emmaus Road Publishing, ISBN: 978-1-937155-80-3, \$5.95.



"Yours is the Church: How Catholicism Shapes Our World,"

by author and editor of more than 30 books on Catholic history, doctrine and devotion, Mike Aquilina showcases the proactive role the Church has played in preserving spiritual freedom and nourishing culture throughout the ages. This book is sure to renew the confidence of Catholics everywhere. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-434-2, \$14.99.



Elmer J. Danch, veteran news reporter, dies

SOUTH BEND — Veteran news writer for *Today's Catholic*, Elmer J. Danch, died Dec. 26 at Dujarie House at Notre Dame. He was 99.

A South Bend native, born to Hungarian emigrants in South Bend, Danch had been a "stringer," or freelance writer and photographer, for the diocesan newspaper since 1943 when Archbishop John F. Noll encouraged him to submit stories to the paper.

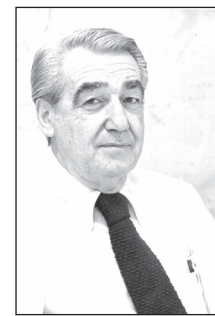
In a feature story from *Today's Catholic* in 2005, Danch said he began writing sports for the *South Bend News Times* as a high school student. When the paper closed in 1938, he moved to the *South Bend Tribune*.

"I loved sports," he explained in the 2005 interview, and at Riley High School he had received bronze, silver and gold medals for his prowess in basketball, baseball and tennis.

After graduation, he continued in journalism and stayed on at the *Tribune* until 1948 when he was offered a job at Studebaker where he was supervisor of publications. In the mid 1960s, he was offered a position as director of advertising and public relations at Da-Lite Screen Co., in Warsaw where he worked until his retirement in 1985.

"All during that time I continued writing for the (diocesan) paper," Danch said in the 2005 feature story.

In September 1937, at St. Patrick Church in South Bend, he married Angela Hertel, a coworker at the *News Times*. They were married 65 years until her death in 2003. The couple had two sons, Michael and David, and a daughter, Mary Sparks, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



ELMER J. DANCH

The Danches were parishioners of St. Matthew Cathedral since 1950.

Danch was affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and photographed and wrote about their events. He also covered events for the Serra Club of South Bend, an organization of which he was a charter member.

He held honorary lifetime memberships in both the Knights of Columbus and Serra Club.

Over the years, the diocesan newspaper's name has changed from *Our Sunday Visitor* and *The Harmonizer* to *Today's Catholic*; and Danch came to know Archbishop Noll, Bishop Leo A. Pursley, Bishop William E. McManus, Bishop John M. D'Arcy and most recently Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, as well as several *Today's Catholic* newspaper editors.

Danch especially enjoyed writing about Inter-City Catholic League news. He was also one of the earliest officers of the ICCL.

Danch, who took classes at the University of Notre Dame, considered journalism "the most fascinating career to have," he reported in 2005. "In all my professional life my greatest enjoyment came from being a reporter for the South Bend papers. I was thrilled at being a pretty good reporter."


He was also pleased that his association with the diocesan newspaper had continued for so many years. "I've enjoyed it," he said.



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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.

Mystery Dinner Theater

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School, 11521 U.S. 27 South, is presenting a Mystery Dinner Theater, "The Case of the Deadly Diamond" Saturday, Jan. 26, to benefit St. Joseph School. A social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner and show following. For reservations call the school at (260) 639-3580. Cost is \$30 per person.

Bishop Dwenger holds Trivia Night

Fort Wayne — The second annual Bishop Dwenger Trivia Night will be held on Saturday, Jan. 19. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. in the SAC. Tickets are \$10 per person. Bring your own appetizers and desserts. Adult beverages will be provided for a nominal fee. No outside beverages will be allowed. Pop and water are free. Must be 21 years of age or older to play. Reserve a table now. For information contact the Development and Alumni Office at kburns@bishopdwenger.com or (260) 496-4706.

Trivia night at St. John the Evangelist

Goshen — St. John the Evangelist Parish will have a trivia night on Saturday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Deacon Art Bleau Parish Center. Doors open 6:45 p.m., and close approximately 9:30 p.m. There will be 10 rounds of play for \$10 per person. Limited concessions will be available. Hot dogs, chips, coffee, water and pop will be sold for \$1 each. Sponsored by Christ Renews His Parish Team 5 and the Welcoming Committee. The Altar Rosary Society will also have baked goods for sale. 50/50 cash prizes, door prizes and prize for winning team. Pre-register teams by calling Denise Fedorow at (574) 831-5924 or Tena Jakubowicz at (574) 825-9901.

Pre-registration appreciated, but not required. Walk-ins welcome.

Bishop Dwenger High School offers ACT/SAT prep course

Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger High School is offering an ACT/SAT prep course on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. Classes will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 22, and end on Thursday, March 7. The 14 sessions will include test familiarity, pacing, strategies, as well as a review of English, math and science concepts. The Tuesday sessions will focus on critical reading, writing and grammar, while the Thursday sessions will address math and science. The class fee is \$195 and includes both an ACT text and SAT text for the course. The class is open to any high school student in the Fort Wayne/Allen County area. For more information and registration forms, call Bishop Dwenger High School at (260) 496-4700 or visit www.bishopdwenger.com.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 4, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$8 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

St. Joseph School plans breakfast

Decatur — St. Joseph School will have a breakfast Sunday, Jan. 27, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school auditorium. Tickets are \$5.50 for adults and \$3 for children. Call (260) 615-0967 for information.

Theology on Tap Winter Series

South Bend — Theology on Tap's Winter Series, a Catholic speaker series for young adults in

their 20s and 30s, single and married, to share in food, fellowship and faith, will begin on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at The Backstage Grill. On Jan. 15: "Living Deeper: Drawing Closer to God" — Tami Schmitz; Jan. 22: "Living for Life: Choosing to be Countercultural" — Danniell Cline; Jan. 29: "Living as Neighbors" — Connie Mick; Feb. 5: "Living Out Loud: Witnessing to the Faith" — Father Jacob Runyon; Feb. 12: "Living Joyously: Mardi Gras Party." Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/tot for more information.

Overnight retreat for young adults

South Bend — Young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married are invited to a retreat Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 12-13, at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. The theme is "You are my Beloved." Activities include talks given by young adults, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation, praise and worship music, coffee house social with live music and Mass on both days. Register online by Jan. 7. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/retreats.

Trivia night

South Bend — A trivia night will be held Saturday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at St. Therese, Little Flower Parish. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and cost is \$80 per team of eight. Prize for best movie theme table. Cash bar will be available. Call Tammy at (269) 684-3334 or ttg2@sbcglobal.net for information or to reserve a table.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father David Voors will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations.

REST IN PEACE

Culver

Katelin Grace Sexton, 10, St. Mary of the Lake

Leesa Diane Sexton, 46, St. Mary of the Lake

Elkhart

Leroy Francis Murphy, 102, St. Thomas the Apostle

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Barbara Knight, 87, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Dorothy G. Michalec, 90, Our Lady of Good Hope

James F. Scheffer, 83, St. Jude

Mary Ann Wolfe, 49, St. Charles Borromeo

Angelica DiPrimio, 77, St. Charles Borromeo

Max E. Colchin, 87, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Gregory W. Ranly, 65, St. Vincent de Paul

Marjorie M. Sliger, 96, St. Charles Borromeo

Granger

Joan D. Roberts, 73, St. Pius X

Elizabeth T. Danowski, 87, St. Pius X

James A. Davlin, 83, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Frances Vitale Rappelli, 85, St. Joseph

Diana Kay Hall, 70, St. Monica

Achille Maggioli, 90, St. Joseph

Patricia A. Schultz, 85, Queen of Peace

Marie J. Przeworski, 90, St. Joseph

New Haven

Clark W. Fagan Jr., St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

John H. Quigley, 94, Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel

Sister Dolora Marie Walker, CSC, 85, Our Lady of Loretto

Sister M. Bernadette Sneeringer, CSC, 93, Our Lady of Loretto

Roanoke

Donna J. Flora, 77, St. Joseph

South Bend

Fredric A. Hamann, 79, St. Stanislaus

Arthur A. Largent, 80, St. Anthony de Padua

Jeanne Elizabeth Gardner, 82, Christ the King

Juanita J. Pawlak, 82, Little Flower

Florence L. Borkowski, 100, Holy Cross

Richard McGlinchey, 74, St. Matthew Cathedral

Wabash

Marcia Harner, 80, St. Bernard

Angela C. Hobbs, 95, St. Bernard



Mystery Dinner Theater

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Saturday - January 19, 2013 - A Bower North Production

CASH BAR 6 PM • DINNER 7 PM • SHOW TIME 8 PM

\$50 per couple • Limited Seating • Reservation Required

MENU: Choice of

Prime Rib - Tender & Juicy or
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The Secretariat for Communications, of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is seeking qualified candidates to fill a key role within the Secretariat. This individual should possess proficiency with Microsoft Office products, be highly organized, and self-directed. This key role requires a sense of discretion and attention to detail. Familiarity with audio-visual production software helpful, but is not required. This position is based in Fort Wayne, and would be located in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. Applicants should have knowledge of, and be a practicing Catholic. Please submit your resumé to smcbride@diocesefwsb.org.

39th Annual March for Life

COMMEMORATING THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF ROE v. WADE

Sponsored by Allen County Right to Life

Three Rivers Educational Trust Fund

Saturday, January 19, 2013

RALLY AT NOON

March to Immediately Follow
USF Performing Arts Center
(formerly The Scottish Rite)

431 West Berry St. Downtown Fort Wayne

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. James Lamb

Executive Director

National Lutherans for Life



Rev. Dr. James Lamb

A
"Silent No More"
Awareness Event
at the Federal Building
will follow immediately
after the march!

Visit www.diocesefwsb.org for a complete calendar.

MASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The faithful, who filled the cathedral and gathered for Midnight Mass, first participated in a prelude that included a choral presentation beginning at 11:30 p.m. and the Christmas Proclamation.

As Bishop Rhoades processed into the church, he turned to the Nativity scene where he incensed the crèche and then prayed before the manger scene.

During this Year of Faith, Bishop Rhoades spoke in his homily about the words of the Nicene Creed. "We proclaim with renewed conviction that 'for us men, and for our salvation, He came down from heaven,'" Bishop Rhoades said.

He continued that Jesus is the light that breaks through the gloom of human history and dispels the darkness of sin. Jesus enables us to see and to understand the meaning and purpose of life.

"His light dispels sadness and fear from every human heart," Bishop Rhoades said. "Jesus brings the power of God's saving grace, which alone can transform evil into good and bring peace to the human heart and to the world."

Life on earth is a journey, a pilgrimage of faith.

Bishop Rhoades said, "We have our ups and downs on this journey. There are difficult moments in life, temptations to sin, and experiences of suffering and hurt."

Through it all, Bishop Rhoades said, "Our faith teaches us to trust in the words of Jesus: 'I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

Bishop Rhoades spoke about the tragedy in Newtown, Conn., which occurred just 11 days earlier, "The power of darkness continues to try to dim the splendor of the Divine Light. Unfortunately, we encounter this darkness all too often."

"A culture of death and violence surrounds us so often, here in our country and around the world," Bishop Rhoades continued. "St. John, in the Prologue of his Gospel, wrote: 'the light shines in the darkness, but the darkness did not receive it.' Just as people rejected Christ during His life on earth, so many reject Him today. Many prefer the darkness to the light. This is why the task of the New Evangelization is so urgent."

"As followers of Christ, we have an important mission — to spread the light of Christ in this darkness," Bishop Rhoades explained.

Although darkness and evil may seem to prevail at times, "God's saving love is more powerful," Bishop Rhoades said. "His Son, who took on our human flesh, vanquishes the power of evil and frees us from the slavery of death. The light of Christ is the light of goodness that triumphs over evil, the light of love that overcomes hatred, the light of life that defeats death."

Just as Mary, Joseph and the Magi welcomed the Christ Child lying in the manger — as well as the saints through the ages — "they teach us to be beacons of light and hope in our world today; not to stumble along in darkness, but to walk as children of the light," Bishop Rhoades said.

On Sunday, Dec. 23, Bishop Rhoades celebrated the TV Mass in Fort Wayne for the fourth Sunday of Advent.

On the feast of the Holy Innocents, Dec. 28, Bishop Rhoades remembered the 27 lives lost at Newtown, Conn., at Shady Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14.

Bishop Rhoades noted in his homily how the mystery of evil of the Holy Innocents continues to unfold today "at the hands of other Herods."

"Even today, besides the innocent children killed by the gunmen at Sandy Hook Elementary School, there are many other innocent children struck down by violence, sometimes victims of drive-by shootings, or even intentionally in other horrendous acts," Bishop Rhoades said.

"And we remember the innocent children waiting to be born who are killed in their mothers' wombs," he added. "How many mothers, like Rachel, have wept for these children. The culture of death spares no one, not even the most innocent babies. What Satan once convinced Herod to begin, he has persuaded whole cultures to continue."

In the day's Collect prayer, "the prayer says that the Holy Innocents proclaimed God not by speaking but by dying. They are considered martyrs," Bishop Rhoades said.

"We ask them to intercede for us as we entrust to them the Church's mission of proclaiming the Gospel of life and the task of building a new culture of life in our nation and in the world."



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates the Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

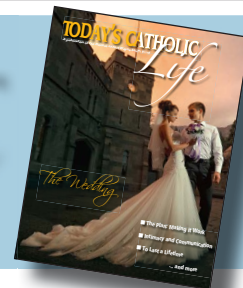


Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades prays before the Nativity scene at Midnight Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

At left, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' homily covered how God's grace, no longer hidden, appears in the flesh. Below, the Nativity scene at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is shown.



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