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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center a blessing to St. Vincent Parish

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Scripture says, “Those who sowed in tears, reap rejoicing.” That is the joy that Father Daniel Scheidt, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish was feeling at the blessing and dedication Sunday, Dec. 1, of the new Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center. Father Scheidt, who arrived at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne last summer, was most pleased to inherit the goodness that the new life center will bring.

Retired pastor Msgr. Kuzmich was on hand for the blessing and dedication of the building that will bear his name. Msgr. Kuzmich, the 18th pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, is now retired and in residence at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish near Lakeville and served as a priest at St. Vincent de Paul for 36 years. He was a parochial vicar for 7 years and pastor for 29 years.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the Sunday evening “Life Teen” Mass with a standing-room-only congregation at St. Vincent de Paul Church. The bishop was joined by Msgr. Kuzmich, Father Daniel Scheidt, pastor, Fathers Andrew Budzinski and Polycarp Fernando, parochial vicars of St. Vincent de Paul, as well Father Christopher Lapp, a son of St. Vincent de Paul Parish and Father Pius Ilchukwu who served the parish. Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick as well as diocesan seminarians from the parish assisted bishop.

Bishop Rhoades’ Advent message was to  
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on back page.



JOE ROMIE

A Eucharistic procession, led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, was part of the blessing ceremony of the new Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. Bishop Rhoades blessed and dedicated the center following the Life Teen Mass Dec. 1 at the parish.

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### TOUGH LOSS FOR SAINTS



JOE ROMIE

Bishop Dwenger football team captains Mike Fiacable, Ryan Cinadr, Nathan Niese and Ryan Watercutter hold the state 4-A runner-up trophy after the team’s 28-27 loss to the Columbus East Olympians on Nov. 30.

See story on page 13.

## Diocese surveying Catholics on beliefs, practices for synod

BY FREDERICK EVERETT

MISHAWAKA — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be conducting a 20 question online survey of Catholics through Dec. 16 (see page 14).

This survey is part of a questionnaire sent to all the national bishops’ conferences of the world in preparation for an extraordinary synod of bishops that will take place in Rome in October of 2014.

The main focus of this special synod will be on pastoral issues dealing with the Church’s teachings on marriage and family life. All the pastors of the diocese will be receiving a more extensive survey dealing with many of the same issues.

It was only this past October that Pope Francis called for the third extraordinary synod to be held

since Pope Paul VI reinstated synods in 1965 to periodically advise him on specific topics. Extraordinary synods are defined in canon law as intended to “deal with matters which require a speedy solution.” Synod participants will primarily be presidents of national bishops’ conferences, the heads of Eastern Catholic Churches and the heads of major Vatican offices, totaling about 150 people, according to Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman.

Unfortunately, due to the short timespan for preparing for this extraordinary synod next year, there is not much time to conduct these diocesan surveys. The Holy See is asking that episcopal conferences send in their responses by the end of this coming January. This, in turn, means that

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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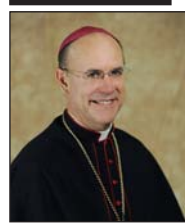
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# Heeding the words of John the Baptist during Advent

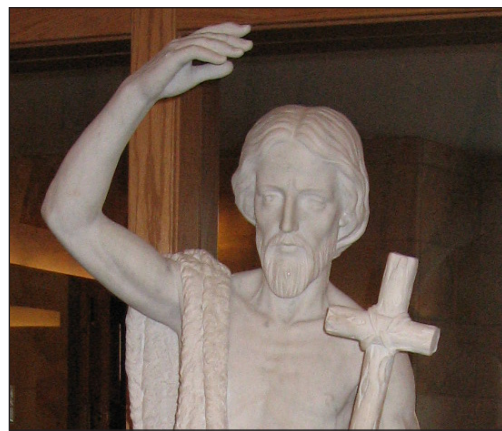


IN TRUTH  
AND  
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

During Advent, we share spiritually in the long preparation of the people of Israel for the first coming of the Messiah. At the same time, we renew our hope and vigilance for His second coming. The Mass prayers and readings of the four weeks of Advent remind us of the coming ("the Advent") of God's Son to earth, "an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries" (CCC 522).

The prophet Isaiah is frequently read at liturgies during Advent. The coming of the Messiah was announced by Isaiah and other Old Testament prophets. The last of these prophets, the immediate precursor of the Lord, was Saint John the Baptist, a major figure of the Advent season. Already from his mother Elizabeth's womb, he welcomed the coming of Christ. In this Sunday's Gospel, John announces that the coming Messiah, mightier than he, will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. He exhorts the people: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."



The Gospel of this Sunday can help us to enter into the true spirit of Advent, to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Just as John the Baptist's words prepared the people of his day for the coming of Jesus, so they can help us in our preparation for Christmas and in our vigilance before the second coming of Christ.

John's message of repentance and conversion was also preached by Jesus Himself. The Greek word for this conversion is "metanoia," which means a radical conversion of the whole person to God. It literally means "to turn around." John the Baptist was calling for a deep interior change because something tremendous was occurring: God was descending from heaven! The kingdom of heaven was at hand!

John the Baptist recognized that the

Messiah was mightier than he. He said: "I am not worthy to carry his sandals." God was coming to His people in the person of His Son who was to inaugurate the kingdom on earth. He was coming to save His people.

We can be easily distracted from the true spirit of Advent during these busy weeks before Christmas. How are we preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth? Advent should be a time of spiritual preparation and prayerful reflection. It's difficult in our culture today. But let's try! One important way to prepare, and to heed Saint John the Baptist's call to repent, is to go to confession during Advent. Taking time for the sacrament of Penance, thus preparing our souls for the coming of the Lord, is infinitely more important than many of our other activities during this season.

If we are overly focused on, and consumed with, the material preparations for Christmas, our celebration of Christmas will be rather superficial. It may be "merry," but it won't be "blessed."

Finally, returning to John the Baptist's words about the Messiah: "he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." My friends, we have received this baptism from Jesus. We have received the fire of the Holy Spirit, a fire that needs to be continually re-ignited. Advent is a good time to rekindle that fire, to repent through the sacrament of Penance, and to be more devoted to living our faith and serving our King.

## CENTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"stay awake" and to remember in the busyness of the season to make time for Confession and prayer, such as the rosary, daily Mass or reflection on Scripture. "God always has time for us," Bishop Rhoades said.

Mass concluded with a candle-light Eucharistic procession to the Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center led by Bishop Rhoades. The first to enter the new building was the Eucharistic Lord and the first activity in the new building was a period of Eucharistic Adoration by hundreds of St. Vincent de Paul parishioners.

Following Adoration, Bishop Rhoades gave a benediction and the Blessed Sacrament was reposed. Then Bishop Rhoades blessed the new facility and Msgr. Kuzmich unveiled the sign to the new facility bearing his name.

"The Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center will be a magnet for the New Evangelization at St. Vincent de Paul Parish. In particular, it will be a center of catechesis and evangelization for the Life Teen High School and Edge Middle School youth programs at St. Vincent de Paul," reported Father Budzinski.

Father Budzinski told *Today's Catholic* that the building idea was conceived 14 months ago when



JOE ROMIE

Msgr. John Kuzmich, who recently retired and was the 18<sup>th</sup> pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, stands besides the sign for the life center that is named in his honor. Father Daniel Scheidt, pastor of St. Vincent. Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades stand to the left during the blessing of the new center Dec. 1.

Msgr. Kuzmich wanted suggestions for use of the overage from the Annual Bishop's Appeal. A new life house was suggested, and it was decided that this building should be a centralized space for youth ministry and other ministries of evangelization in the parish.

The Msgr. Kuzmich Life Center was built with the needs of the youth in mind, Father Budzinski said, but it will serve the whole parish.

"One of the reasons this building was built was we desperately needed a place to meet," Father Scheidt noted. "Even with the church there are very few rooms dedicated to meeting. This building replaces the dilapidated life house that was

torn down, but it will also serve as a meeting place for groups in our whole parish."

The high school youth group will meet in a "living room" environment on Wednesday nights for Ministry Hour. About 40 to 50 students attend those evenings that provide catechesis.

A larger room will house the Life Nights and Edge Nights, which draws 60 to 100 young people.

To the side there is a café/kitchen that Father Budzinski said will be named Frassati's after Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, patron of young adult groups. He dedicated his life to service of the poor and the ill, and died as a young man. The center

will contain photos and quotes of Blessed Frassati, Blessed John Paul II, in reference to World Youth Day events, and St. Mother Teresa. "It will be a building that teaches as you use it," Father Budzinski said.

"I would like for there to be as many invitations in my parishioners' hearts as there are bricks on this building," Father Scheidt told *Today's Catholic*, "because we've built it not primarily for ourselves, but for those people who we need to invite to our parish to make it their home."

Father Scheidt hopes the life center will also be of use for the diocese — perhaps small parishes wishing to host daylong retreats.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish pre-dates the Civil War and was once a small rural parish. It is now the second largest parish in the diocese.

"There is a palpable sense of an inheritance that needs to be preserved but also a legacy that needs to be grown," Father Scheidt said.

During Msgr. Kuzmich's tenure as pastor, the Life Teen and Edge youth programs were begun at St. Vincent de Paul. A number of young men who have participated in Life Teen at St. Vincent de Paul have been ordained to the Priesthood including Father Matthew Coonan, Father Terry Coonan, Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp and Father Christopher Lapp; and eight men are currently in seminary: Matt Soberalski, Dennis DiBenedetto, Patrick Hake, Spenser St. Louis, Justin Meenagh, Daniel Koehl and Cody Martin.

# Pope lays out his vision for an evangelical Church in document

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his first extensive piece of writing as pope, Pope Francis lays out a vision of the Catholic Church dedicated to evangelization in a positive key, with a focus on society's poorest and most vulnerable, including the aged and unborn.

"*Evangelii Gaudium*" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), released by the Vatican Nov. 26, is an apostolic exhortation, one of the most authoritative categories of papal document. (Pope Francis' first encyclical, "*Lumen Fidei*," published in July, was mostly the work of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI.)

The pope wrote the new document in response to the October 2012 Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization, but declined to work from a draft provided by synod officials.

Pope Francis' voice is unmistakable in the 50,000-word document's relatively relaxed style — he writes that an "evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!" — and its emphasis on some of his signature themes, including the dangers of economic globalization and "spiritual worldliness."

The Church's message "has to concentrate on the essentials, on what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing and at the same time most necessary," he writes. "In this basic core, what shines forth is the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead."

Inspired by Jesus' poverty and concern for the dispossessed during his earthly ministry, Pope Francis calls for a "Church which is poor and for the poor."

The poor "have much to teach us," he writes. "We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voices to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them."

Charity is more than mere handouts, "it means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor," the pope writes. "This means education, access to health care, and above all employment, for it is through free creative, participatory and mutually supportive labor that human beings express and enhance the dignity of their lives."

Yet he adds that the "worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care. ... They need God and we must not fail to offer them His friendship, His blessing, His word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith."

Pope Francis reiterates his earlier criticisms of "ideologies



CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

**Pope Francis kisses a baby after his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Nov. 6. In his first extensive piece of writing as pope, Pope Francis lays out a vision of the Catholic Church dedicated to evangelization, with a focus on society's poorest and most vulnerable, including the aged and unborn.**

that defend the absolute autonomy of the marketplace and financial speculation," which he blames for the current financial crisis and attributes to an "idolatry of money."

He emphasizes that the Church's concern for the vulnerable extends to "unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us," whose defense is "closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right."

"A human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development," the pope writes, in his strongest statement to date on the subject of abortion. "Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be."

The pope writes that evangelization entails peacemaking, among other ways through ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. He "humbly" calls on Muslim majority countries to grant religious freedom to Christians, and enjoins Catholics to "avoid hateful generalizations" based on "disconcerting episodes of violent fundamentalism," since "authentic Islam and the proper reading of the Quran are opposed to every form of violence."

Pope Francis characteristically directs some of his strongest criticism at his fellow clergy, among other reasons, for what he describes as largely inadequate preaching.

The faithful and "their ordained ministers suffer because of homilies," he writes: "the laity from having to listen to them and the clergy from having to preach them!"

The pope devotes several pages to suggestions for better homilies, based on careful study of the Scriptures and respect for the principle of brevity.

Pope Francis reaffirms Church teaching that only men can be

priests, but notes that their "sacramental power" must not be "too closely identified with power in general," nor "understood as domination"; and he allows for the "possible role of women in decision-making in different areas of the Church's life."

As he has done in a number of his homilies and public statements, the pope stresses the importance of mercy, particularly with regard to the Church's moral teaching. While lamenting "moral relativism" that paints the Church's teaching on sexuality as unjustly discriminatory, he also warns against over-emphasizing certain teachings out of the context of more essential Christian truths.

In words very close to those he used in an oft-quoted interview with a Jesuit journalist in August, Pope Francis writes that "pastoral ministry in a missionary style is not obsessed with the disjointed transmission of a multitude of doctrines to be insistently imposed," lest they distract from the Gospel's primary invitation to "respond to the God of love who saves us."

Returning to a theme of earlier statements, the pope also warns against "spiritual worldliness, which hides behind the appearance of piety and even love for the Church, (but) consists in seeking not the Lord's glory but human glory and personal well-being," either through embrace of a "purely subjective faith" or a "narcissistic and authoritarian elitism" that overemphasizes certain rules or a "particular Catholic style from the past."

Despite his censures and warnings, the pope ends on a hopeful note true to his well-attested devotion to Mary, whom he invokes as the mother of evangelization and "wellspring of happiness for God's little ones."



## PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Sunday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. — Handel's Messiah Concert, University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center, Fort Wayne
- Monday, Dec. 9, 5 p.m. — Mass with Religious Profession of Franciscan Brothers Minor, Saint Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m. — Advent Day of Recollection for Priests, Saint Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse
- Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m. — Mass for Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Hungary Church, South Bend
- Friday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m. — Mass at Our Lady of the Road Chapel, South Bend

## Father Danney Pinto celebrates 50th jubilee as priest

BY KAY COZAD

CHURUBUSCO — Father Danney Pinto is celebrating 50 years of Priesthood this year, recalling the ministry that has taken him across the globe to serve God's people.

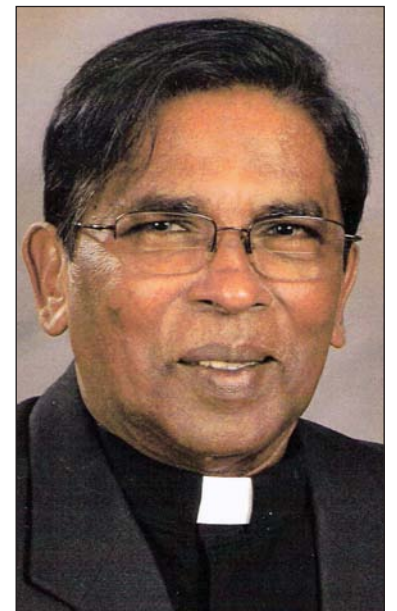
The nimble 75 year-young priest, who hales from Sri Lanka, served in his home diocese of Colombo for over 30 years. And for the past 19 years, he has generously divided his ministry time shepherding the faithful of north-east Indiana as administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Ege and St. John Bosco Parish in Churubusco.

Father Pinto was born on Feb. 28, 1938, in Negombo, the oldest of Santiago and Dona's three children. His childhood education and faith formation were guided not only by his mother's encouragement to attend Mass and recite the rosary daily but by the nuns of Good Shepherd as well. Father Pinto served in his home parish of Sea Street, Negombo, as an altar server, and was encouraged to consider a vocation to the Priesthood by Pastor Anthony Fernando.

Heeding the call, Father Pinto's theological seminary studies began at the National Seminary, Ampitiya in Kandy, and were conducted by an international staff. He was ordained into the Priesthood by Archbishop Thomas Cardinal Corray on Dec. 21, 1963. His priestly ministry took him across the expanse of his diocese in Sri Lanka until in 1995 he was asked to relocate to the U.S. to serve in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend under the tutelage of then Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

After spending a couple of months serving at St. Andrew and St. Hyacinth parishes, he was assigned as administrator of Immaculate Conception and St. John Bosco parishes.

Of his Priesthood Father Pinto



FATHER DANNEY PINTO

says, "A vocation is something very mysterious." Of his appointment in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, he says, "Your ministry is where you are. ... Where I'm sent, I work. It's a calling to obey."

Diana Muehlfeld, St. John Bosco Parish secretary for over 24 years, says of Father Pinto: "He enjoys parish life. He interacts well with the parishioners. He is very much into honoring the past (history of the parish, former pastors, etc.), while looking forward to the future. He sees where we are lacking and encourages us and helps us fill those gaps."

In his spare time between shepherding parishioners at both parishes and celebrating Masses, Father Pinto enjoys working with electronics.

A golden jubilee Mass for Father Pinto, in which a special song written in his honor will be played, will be celebrated at 3 p.m. on Dec. 15 at St. John Bosco Church in Churubusco. A dinner reception will follow at the Churubusco junior/senior high school.

# Artisans put heart-and-soul into St. Mary sculpture

BY VINCE LABARBERA

DECATUR — It was in June 2012, when the St. Mary of the Assumption 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee decided to create a Mary Garden. They contacted sculpture artists Greg Mendez and Neil Wiffill to create a statue of St. Mary of the Assumption. Their combined experience, along with the engineering expertise of Elton Bishop, helped shape the work into a one-of-a-kind sculpture they titled "Blessed Mother."

Mendez, born in Decatur, attended St. Joseph School and remains a parishioner. He graduated from the University of Saint Francis, earning a bachelor of arts degree with a concentration in sculpture. Acceptance of his works by the Adams Public Library and the local community led Mendez and local leaders in 2012 to organize what now is called the Decatur Sculpture Tour involving the public through art. Last year Mendez won the "People's Choice" and "Inspiration" awards.

Wiffill, of County Somerset, England, where he owned a workshop for five years, has been working for 20 years with scagliola, which mimics marble. Some of his restoration work is in Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. He came to Fort Wayne 15 years ago with a scagliola team to work on the \$8.6 million restoration of the Allen County Courthouse, which took eight years. Afterward, Wiffill decided to become a U.S. citizen and stay in the Summit City. He met Mendez seven years ago, and the two artists have worked on several projects together, including works exhibited in the Decatur Sculpture Tour.

"Originally, we intended to use cement on the St. Mary project, but as we went along ... we decided to try something crazy and do it out of traditional scagliola," said Mendez.

"Scagliola is a very hard, brittle substance to work with," Wiffill explained, adding the substance is not typically used to shape sculptures.

"It turned out to be the largest piece we've done together and

ola," said Mendez.

**Steel sculptor Greg Mendez, a St. Mary of the Assumption parishioner, demonstrates how the Madonna sculpture was fashioned with her one hand pointing toward heaven and the other gesturing back to earth.**



Proudly posing in front of the finished sculpture and grotto platform in the Mary Garden at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur, are artisans Greg Mendez, left, Neil Wiffill and Elton Bishop. The modern statue is life size and weighs nearly 700 pounds.

VINCE LABARBERA



we're confident in saying it's also the largest sculptured scagliola work in the world," Mendez said.

It took nearly a year to complete the sculpture with the last four months being labor intensive with some 14-hour days toward the end, Mendez said.

"To refinish the surface required a lot of sanding and smoothing," Wiffill said.

"Our original goal was to capture the moment of Mary's assumption," said Mendez, adding that their intention was not to make her symmetrical as with so many other works.

"There are a lot of subtleties to it," said Mendez. "Her head, instead of looking up, still looks down and is connected to everyone on earth. Gold speckling around her heart and head symbolizes a crown or halo."

As they completed the statue, Elton Bishop was called on to build a frame and roof to offer some shelter from the elements, since most scagliola works are indoors. A native of Fort Wayne, Bishop earned a bachelor's degree in structural design at Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne. He's done structural steel design work ranging from large box stores to 25-story buildings. And since he used to be a steel architectural engineer, the other two artists felt Bishop could match the architecture of the church and provide something that would be functional as well.

Mendez said, "He made the final frame of structural steel in about four days. It includes a rubber roof as well as recessed spotlighting."

Of the project Mendez, who noted that the three are from different faith traditions, said, "It was a team effort." Wiffill added, "The piece was made with love and laughter without a cross word between us."

The sculpture and grotto platform required a moving van and a day to move them the 20 miles from Fort Wayne to Decatur with all three artisans involved, especially Bishop who is experienced at moving large, heavy metal pieces, but not many as fragile.

After the unveiling and dedication on Sept. 8 (the birth of the Virgin Mary), more than one person said the work brought them to tears or made them want to pray, Mendez related. "We really have done some good here in making the piece for the public," he mused, "but we also made it for each other. In fact, there's a little bit of us in the work. There are three metal roses on the base. Some might see them representing the Trinity. Others like to put flowers at the base of a Madonna and we thought we would encourage that by actually including some roses there. And since Mary is our Mother, too, two of the roses represent Neil's mother and stepmother, and one rose is for my mother."



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# Bishop Rhoades delivers sermon at interfaith Thanksgiving service

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne churches, synagogues and mosques joined together Nov. 26 for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service hosted by Congregation Achduth Vesholom. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades accepted an invitation by Rabbi Javier Cattapan to deliver the sermon at the service.

"How important and beautiful it is for the diverse religious communities of Fort Wayne to gather in friendship and solidarity," Bishop Rhoades said in the sermon.

While on Thanksgiving, the pilgrims in the Massachusetts colony are remembered, Bishop Rhoades noted "we are all pilgrims on this earth — pilgrims of truth and peace, commonly engaged as people of faith conscious of our responsibility for one another, for our world, and for the whole of creation. We must live and work together to assist the poor, the needy and those who suffer as well as to promote justice, reconciliation and peace."

"We are called to respect each others' noble religious traditions," Bishop Rhoades added.

He also spoke of the mutual respect the faith groups should embrace for one another. "Mutual respect is essential for interreligious relations to flourish and grow," he said.

"We respect each other's religion, its teachings, its symbols and values," Bishop Rhoades added. "We respect one another's ethnic and cultural identity. When we respect each other and each other's religion, we build relationships, which can grow into sincere and lasting friendships."

The bishop spoke of solidarity. "When we have mutual respect and grow in friendship, this naturally gives rise to a sense of solidarity with others," Bishop Rhoades said. "We realize that, regardless of our religious differences, all of us belong to the one human family."

Bishop Rhoades focused a part of his talk on the community's embrace of immigrants in terms of a "culture of solidarity."

He reminded those gathered of the story of Exodus. "Moses led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt and, for 40 years, they lived as migrants, with no homeland of their own," Bishop Rhoades said. "From this migrant experience, the Israelites learned a deep appreciation for the plight of strangers and aliens, people they believed they were called to welcome and to whom they owed hospitality."

"In the book of Leviticus," Bishop Rhoades added, "similarly God commands: 'You shall treat the stranger who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you. Have the same love for him as for yourself, for you too were once strangers in the land of Egypt' (Lev 19:33-34). Care for the stranger and justice for the immigrant are recurring themes in the



JOE ROMIE

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was invited to provide the sermon at the 2013 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held Nov. 26 at the Congregation Achduth Vesholom in Fort Wayne. The Interfaith Choir, shown at the left in the photo, provided the music.**

Bible, reflections of the great commandment to love one's neighbor."

For Christians, the bishop said, "the most direct instruction for us comes from the words of Jesus in the parable of the last judgment: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' Christians believe that in welcoming the immigrant, as in feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, and clothing the naked, in doing these things to the least of our brothers and sisters, we are doing them to Jesus" (Mt 25). In turning them away, we are turning away Jesus and are, in the end, condemned."

"What is primary for all of us in relation to how we look upon immigrants in our community is not their national, religious or ethnic background, or their status as documented or undocumented," Bishop Rhoades said.

"First and foremost, we recognize them as our brothers and sisters in the human family, as persons with an intrinsic dignity that must always be respected and safeguarded," he noted. "For many of us, we believe that the deepest foundation of this dignity is the fact of being created in God's own image and likeness."

"We don't value people according to criteria of efficiency, productivity, social class, nor religious or ethnic background," he noted. "We don't look at immigrants and refugees as representing merely a problem to be solved, but as brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved."

Bishop Rhoades said, "We must work together to eliminate prejudices in the approach to immigration as well as attitudes of fear, indifference and marginalization."

Too often immigrants may encounter mistrust, rejection and exclusion. Some have even suffered as victims of human trafficking or other exploitation — "grave sins," he noted, "that our interreligious community unites in deploring."

"In the face of these realities, we must stand together with attitudes

and actions expressing solidarity, acceptance and genuine fraternity," Bishop Rhoades said.

Fort Wayne is home for many immigrants and refugees. Catholic Charities, Bishop Rhoades noted, has helped resettle many from Burma and other countries. He extended his thanks to those who materially and spiritually assist the Latino population.

Bishop Rhoades noted that family unity was one aspect of the immigration debate that needed to be highlighted.

"Reform is desperately needed to prevent the break-up of families that has happened to immigrants in our country and also here in Fort Wayne," Bishop Rhoades said. "We share a belief in the dignity and importance of marriage and the family. Immigration reform must include as a priority the reunification of separated families. I pray we will be united in this cause of preserving and protecting the family unity of immigrants and refugees."

Bishop Rhoades concluded, "Our mutual respect and solidarity this evening as people of faith extends to all in our community, including our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters. May no one in our community feel like a stranger! Every person is a neighbor to be loved without conditions. May we continue to grow in solidarity and friendship, faithful to the moral truths and values that unite us."

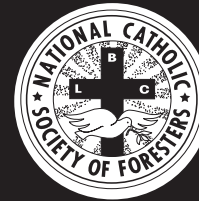
The service was a joint program sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, Congregation Achduth Vesholom, Trinity Episcopal Church, Plymouth Congregational Church of Fort Wayne, Islamic Center of Fort Wayne, Trinity English Lutheran Church, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne and Congregation B'nai Jacob. Music was led by Robert Nance and members of the participating congregations.

Donations were collected to support Habitat for Humanity's Interfaith Build.

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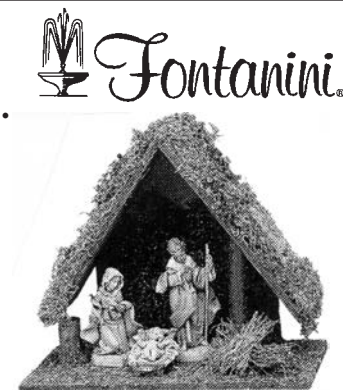
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# Holy Cross students return to Lourdes

NOTRE DAME — It has been over 155 years since the sun rose on the day that a child, Bernadette Soubirous, gazed upon the face of the most “beautiful lady” in a grotto in Lourdes, France.

In his declaration, the Bishop of Tarbes concluded five years later: “The apparitions are of divine origin, since the cures carry a divine stamp. But what comes from God is the truth! Thus we write: the finger of God is here.”

Holy Cross College in Notre Dame offers a global service program where students travel to Lourdes and serve in conjunction with the Hospitalite of Notre Dame de Lourdes, a nonprofit association of Christian volunteers engaged in the welcoming, embracing and accompanying of pilgrims who come each year to Lourdes.

Since 2007, groups of students share in the light of service. They have been the response of the heroic daily vocational opportunities to love, believe, serve and inspire.

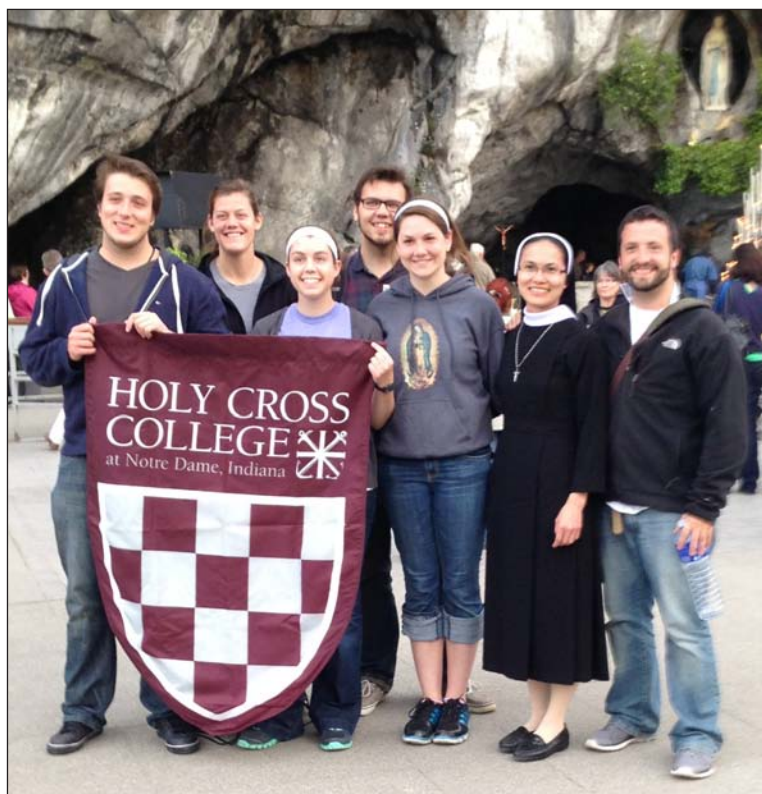
“Their Holy Cross experience takes them beyond the classroom to share a very special and unique truth: through their action, all will see how they loved one another. That is most assuredly a life worth living and a hope worth sharing,” said Casey St. Aubin, trip coordinator and assistant

director of admissions at Holy Cross College in Notre Dame.

“For the past six years, I have had the unique good fortune of watching the men and women of Holy Cross College answer the same request that was offered to St. Bernadette in 1858,” St. Aubin said. “Every year, I have witnessed with great awe as students sacrifice by whatever means necessary to raise the appropriate funds to have the opportunity and travel the 10-hour journey to serve the sick and suffering. Their stories of selling pastries at their home parish, writing letters to friends and families and reaching out to nonprofits desperately seeking financial sponsorship is a testament of their desire to live out their faith in a very real way.”

Holy Cross sophomore Rachel Staley, who went on the pilgrimage this past spring, said, “The short time of service spent in Lourdes has been incredibly influential in the deepening of my faith and how I continue to daily learn to live out this faith.”

“Working with the sick Lourdes pilgrims, Mary and Jesus’ specially beloved ones, has allowed me to learn to see every person I encounter in a new way: with the very eyes of Jesus and Mary,” Staley said. “Our Lady of Lourdes continues to teach me to find joy in every smallest opportunity to offer myself as



PROVIDED BY CASEY ST. AUBIN

**Pilgrims from Holy Cross College journeyed to Lourdes, France, and served in conjunction with the Hospitalite of Notre Dame de Lourdes, a nonprofit association of Christian volunteers engaged in the welcoming, embracing and accompanying of pilgrims who come each year to the shrine.**

a gift of love, even in the most humble acts of service, as myself and the other pilgrim-volunteers had the joy to do daily in honor

of St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes.”

St. Aubin noted, “My journey to Lourdes began with a simple

invitation from a pastor at the St. Robert Bellarmine Newman Center at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill. I had never traveled out of the country up to that point, but I discovered and noted of Lourdes that ‘it seemed to be a place where humanity embraced the true cross of Christ with great hope and that, despite their ailments, they all would be fulfilled through His sacrifice.’”

“The years since my first journey, I have traveled back to Lourdes several times, with the guidance of the North American Lourdes Volunteers, yearning to always consecrate myself to the message of Our Lady and share the beauty of this small town with others,” St. Aubin noted. “I had held within me a great confidence that others could see the indescribable magnificence of the human spirit.”

Since the days that heaven touched earth through the Marian intervention, millions from around the world have been drawn to Lourdes. They search for a healing of their bodies, minds, hearts and faith. Their unity with Mary shares the true beauty of faith restored. It was through Christ that the cross became a symbol of hope out of despair, and it was through the openness of Bernadette that a littered grotto became a place of resurrection.



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## First annual live Nativity planned at St. Anthony of Padua, Angola

ANGOLA — This year St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Angola will host its first annual drive-through live Nativity scene on Dec. 14 from 4-8 p.m. at 700 W. Maumee St., Angola. There are over 100 volunteers from the parish involved in the three scenes, supplying live animals, set design and construction, parking and many behind the scenes tasks. The live Nativity is free and open to the public.

## Festival of Lessons and Carols in Mishawaka

MISHAWAKA — The Liturgical Choir of St. Bavo Parish will host its ninth annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m. This traditional English service features nine readings from Scripture that give a brief journey through salvation history. The readings begin with the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis, continue with prophecies about the coming of the Messiah and conclude with the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth. There are musical responses to each reading. The choir or soloists sing some selections, and many involve the congregation, giving them a chance to sing some Christmas favorites. Father Bob Lengerich, pastor of St. Dominic Parish in Bremen, will preside as well as sing for the program. Father Lengerich and Stacie Bert, from St. Bavo, have recently produced a new Christmas CD titled "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful." Several selections from the CD, which will be available after the event, will be featured. Admission is free.

## Holy Cross College students provide Thanksgiving baskets for 60 families

NOTRE DAME — Students at Holy Cross College, along with the help of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of South Bend, provided Thanksgiving dinner baskets to 60 families in the Michiana area Nov. 23-24. These baskets included everything to feed a family of four in a traditional holiday feast.

At \$60 per basket, the college's Social Concerns Committee set a fundraising goal of \$3,000 in donations from faculty and staff, parents, alumni, neighbors, students and friends of the college. This goal was more than met, allowing the committee to purchase supplies for 60 families, instead of the original goal of 50.

Students filled dozens of shopping carts with turkey, stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, dinner rolls, pumpkin pie and other goodies at the Martin's Supermarket on State Road 23 on the morning of Nov. 24. Madelyn Martinec, president of Holy Cross College's Social Concerns Committee said, "We are

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## ST. JOSEPH-HESSEN CASSEL STUDENTS HOLD SOAP DRIVE



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH-HESSEN CASSEL SCHOOL

The entire student body of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School in Fort Wayne held a laundry soap drive for the Ave Maria House homeless day shelter on Nov. 20-22. Pictured are Melissa White's fourth graders who helped load the donated soap, with Dottie Carpenter, director of the shelter.

extremely grateful to partner with St. Vincent de Paul and Martin's Supermarket to feed those in need this holiday season."

Assembly of the baskets took place in Holy Cross College's Vincent Hall during the afternoon of Nov. 24, as row after row of baskets were filled, one by one, with holiday provisions. Baskets were then loaded into numerous vehicles and delivered to doorsteps of grateful families that evening through the help of faculty, staff and student volunteer drivers.

Students found the hard work of raising funds, purchasing groceries, loading and unloading goods, packing baskets, and delivering rewarding when appreciative families, who may not have otherwise enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal met them at the door with words of thanks and good will. One basket recipient told a student, "Thanks you so much. My children and I are so very thankful. We hope you have a blessed day and we thank God for people like you."

## Immaculate Conception Thanksgiving food drive

AUBURN — Parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn donated non-perishable food, paper goods and monetary donations for meat and produce during all Masses the weekend of Nov. 23-24. This is an annual food drive that the church community undertakes in an effort to reach out to those in need during

the holidays.

"Thank you to all the parishioners who were so charitable," said Father Derrick Sneyd, pastor at Immaculate Conception. "We have many 'asks' for money, but when it is on the behalf of the poor and needy, I never hesitate. And our family of faith's generous response is humbling."

Donated money and food were sorted and given to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Auburn, an affiliate of Catholic Charities, for distribution to those in need.

## Holy Cross College students help with Toys for Tots

NOTRE DAME — Each year Holy Cross College students play Santa's helpers by raising money to buy toys for the U.S Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. The fundraising activities culminate with a toy shopping spree at a local retailer, followed by a "toy parade" from Holy Cross College to the toy collection point across the street from the college at the WNDU TV studios.

To raise money for toys, the Student Government Association of Holy Cross annually hosts a "Toys for Tots Auction," which has been slated Thursday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. in Driscoll Hall. The auction is a fun evening during which the college community,

along with guests from the public, fill the auditorium to outbid one another on valuable merchandise. Items up for bid included gift baskets and certificates, college spirit-apparel, special-event tickets, athletic gear signed by the Notre Dame team members and a home-cooked dinner with the college's president. Items are donated by area businesses and individuals, and are sold to the highest bidder.

"Toys for Tots auction is an event Holy Cross College looks forward in participating every year," states Joelle Poettgen, event organizer. "I am excited to be involved with this event. It's great to see the community come together to help others in our community."

The auction and parade continue to be fun, exciting, annual events planned and carried out by Holy Cross students. Students see the operation as a rewarding way to aid Marines in their endeavor to put smiles on the faces of less fortunate children during the Christmas season.

All toys and gifts donated by Holy Cross College will be provided to children in the Michiana community.

Area businesses wishing to donate auction items may contact the director of Student Activities at [cgonzalez@hcc-nd.edu](mailto:cgonzalez@hcc-nd.edu). New, unopened toys may be dropped off at various Toys for Tots bins located in Driscoll and Vincent Halls at Holy Cross College no later than Dec. 6.

## SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL H.O.P.E. CLUB HOLDS FOOD DRIVE



PROVIDED BY SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

The h.o.p.e. Club (Helping Other People Endure) of Saint Joseph High School in South Bend kicked off their 23rd annual Thanksgiving Food Drive at their October All-School Mass. Club members requested donations of time, talent and treasure to help make Thanksgiving special for area families in need. The goal this year was to raise enough money to help 200 families. Once the money was collected, h.o.p.e. Club members purchased food to fill boxes for families. Matthys Farm Market donated all the cabbage, potatoes and onions that were needed. Shown above, Saint Joseph students pack the food in boxes to be delivered.

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# Immaculate Conception C

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

EGE — Immaculate Conception Church is the physical and spiritual heart of the tiny settlement of Ege in southeastern Noble County. On a clear autumn day its spire rises heavenward, calling the faithful to worship. Established in 1853, the parish has been a mainstay of Catholic life in the area for more than a century and a half and continues in that role today.

Longtime parishioners wouldn't have it any other way. "It's a part of my life," says Jim Bianski, who lives in a large white house just a stone's throw from the church. He and his wife Phyllis raised six children there and have always been active in church ministries. He continues as a member of the men's Holy Name Society, one of the few such groups still active in today's churches, he says. Their role at Immaculate Conception is simply "to do what needs to be done" for the parish.

The Bianskis' daughter, Connie Dusek, would agree with her dad's assessment. Not only does he do what is needed but "he does it with joy," she adds. She and her husband moved "back home" from South Bend and currently live in her late grandmother's home near the church. "It's a cornerstone to my life" and has a real "sense of family," she says.



A statue of the Blessed Mother adorns the sanctuary of Immaculate Conception Church in Ege.

Another long-standing ministry at Immaculate Conception is the ladies' Rosary Society, which has many active members. And an annual chicken dinner that involves all parishioners is held on the Sunday after Labor Day. It is the largest fundraiser for the church and always draws 1,000 or more diners from the surrounding area. The traditional event dates back to the late 1920s when it was held in a wooded area near the church and even included the raffle of an automobile, says Bianski.

Immaculate Conception Parish currently serves about 150 families and is "unique in the sense that it's growing," according to Dusek. And many of those are young families with children.

Director of religious education Judy Egolf says there are 57 children in the preschool through eighth-grade religious education program who meet for class each Sunday morning after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Eight children are in sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, while five others are studying for Confirmation.

Sixteen parishioners volunteer as teachers and high school students are very involved as well. Egolf herself began teaching classes as a high school senior and says she's always impressed when high schoolers want to help with the religious

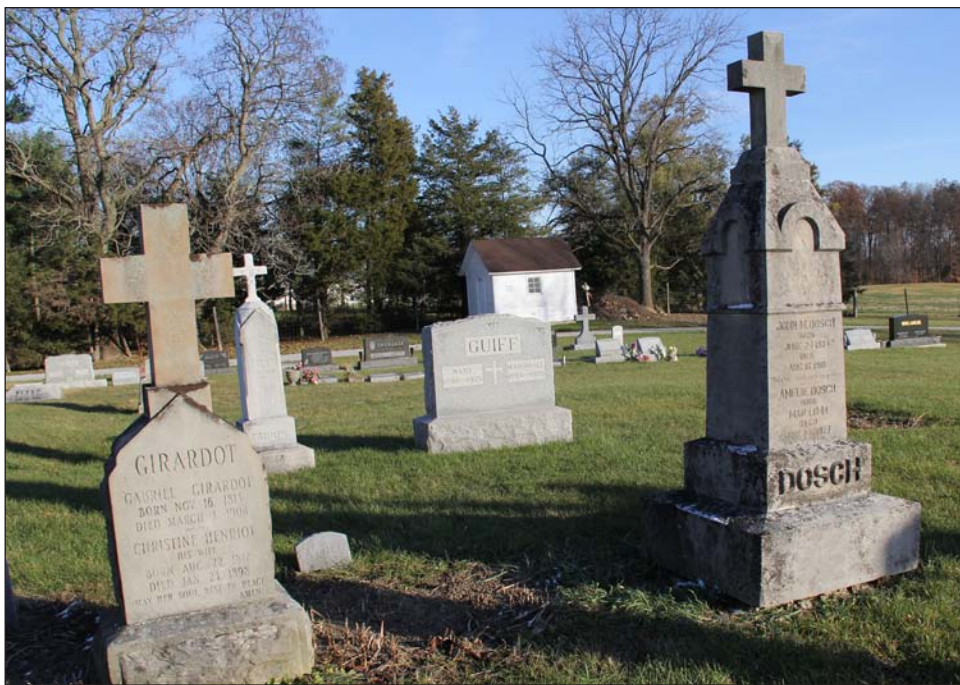
Imma  
serves



# Church is heart of Ege



PHOTOS BY KAY COZAD  
Immaculate Conception Church  
the faithful in southeast  
Noble County.



Shown above are the gravestones of Gabriel Girardot, who was instrumental in the founding of the Immaculate Conception Parish and the Dosch family, long-time Immaculate Conception parishioners.



Shown is the interior of Immaculate Conception Church, Ege.

formation of the younger children. Parish youngsters are also active in giving projects like the October Right to Life baby shower, the Thanksgiving food drive and CRS Operation Rice Bowl.

Egolf stresses that all ages are active in parish projects and ministries. "I love the warmth and unity of our small parish," she adds.

Middle schoolers and high schoolers from both Immaculate Conception and sister parish St. John Bosco in nearby Churubusco are served by a youth group called United and Ignited in faith (U & I). Their leader Maria Fischer says, "Our goal is to grow closer to God, learn more about our faith all while helping and serving others in our community." Some of the group's activities include participation in the Relay for Life in Columbia City, support of Christmas families in need and performance of live Stations of the Cross at both churches.

The teens recently joined "Catholics on a Mission" area youth

groups in a homeless outreach project in downtown Fort Wayne. Fischer says, "We share a smile, an ear, prayers and their special intentions ..." as well as donating hygiene items and clothing to those in need. These youth exemplify the group's motto, "for we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor 7)

Fischer echoes the words of others active in the parish community when she says, "We love the small-town feel and beauty of Immaculate Conception and its location."

The music ministry at Immaculate Conception has long been handled by Beth Konger, wife of life-long parishioner Mike Konger and organist for 30 years. A nurse at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, she is only available to play for the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses, but she does so happily and without assistance.

She, too, appreciates that the parish is "still very much family oriented." There are several generations of families and lots of young

children at Mass. "It's exciting," she says. After Mass everyone stops to chat and catch up on the week's activities while enjoying coffee and doughnuts. And they all pray for and look out for the needs of fellow parishioners. It's another benefit of belonging to a smaller parish, she believes.

Parish administrator Father Danney Pinto came to Immaculate Conception Church, Ege, in 1995. He is not a diocesan priest, he points out, but is simply "on loan" from his home diocese in Sri Lanka. He stays busy pastoring at Ege and also at St. John Bosco Parish where he is in residence.

Father Pinto calls Immaculate Conception a "beautiful church," and one well beloved by its people. "They hold on to tradition," he says. Their sense of community and love for their church is evident in the active ministries of the parish and make it a vibrant and welcoming place of worship.

## History of Immaculate Conception Parish, Ege

**1853** Gabriel Girardot emigrated from France and cleared land that he had purchased in Noble County, where Ege is now located. Within three years nine families lived in what was known as Girard settlement, where the first Mass was offered in Girardot's home.

**1863** Gabriel Girardot donated land for the first church, then personally built the structure and handmade the pews, altar and other furnishings. The partially completed church was dedicated later that year by Bishop John Henry Luers, along with his Vicar General, Father Julian Benoit.

**1876** A spacious frame church was built on a nearby site at a cost of \$4,500 and the original structure was later moved there and converted to a rectory/convent/classroom. The school was named St. Anne School and the Sisters of St. Francis of the Sacred Heart began teaching there within three years.

**1878** Father Francis Xavier Ege came to serve at the parish. He was so well loved and respected that the residents later decided to rename Girard settlement to Ege in his honor.

**1883** The two-classroom school had 45 students taught by two nuns. It was supported by annual pew rent from the church of \$210 and the annual per-pupil expense was \$3.23.

**1886** The parish suffered its first fire, which destroyed the original church. It was quickly replaced with a two-story brick school renamed Immaculate Conception School, with attached convent. A 10-room rectory was also built and still stands today.

**1921** A second fire destroyed the church while Mass was being offered, but parishioners were able to save the statues, organ and some of the pews.

**1923** A new church was built of the same size and appearance as the former one but with a lower level parish hall. It was dedicated by Bishop Herman Joseph Alerding on Nov. 14 of that year.

**1932** The school was closed after 53 years of operation when enrollment dropped to 26 students.

**1958** A new Catholic parish of St. John Bosco was established in nearby Churubusco, and the pastor, Father Anthony Rzeszutek, tended to both parishes while continuing to live at Ege.

**1971** A new pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish, Father Dennis Blank, was ordered to take up permanent residence in Churubusco.

**1979** A major renovation of the parish hall and kitchen area was done.

**1980** Father Donald Isenbarger became pastor and authored an extensive history of Immaculate Conception Church at Ege.

**1981** The outdoor Marian Shrine was erected.

**1984** The parish constructed a new religious education building, now named the Leslie CCD Building.

**1987** The church's interior was remodeled. A confessional room was restored and modified, and the oak chair rail, window sills, moldings, beams and columns for the main arch were added. The entire structure was rededicated by Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

**1989** The parish had a third fire, caused by an electrical problem that burned the main altar and sanctuary floor but spared the church's structure. Later that year, however, the restored altar and church were dedicated and consecrated by Bishop D'Arcy.

**1995** Father Danney Pinto was assigned to Ege from his home diocese in Sri Lanka as administrator of Immaculate Conception Church, and remains to this day.



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# Celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12

BY LOURDES E. SILVA

Celebrations of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 at various parishes around the diocese this year will enlighten the hearts and minds of the historical event that took place many years ago in Mexico, a series of apparitions that motivated Blessed Pope John Paul II to visit Our Lady of Guadalupe's Sanctuary more than once in Mexico City.

Isabel Jakob, a native of San Salvador and former professor at the University of Notre Dame, shares the story at the end of this article.

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, on the South Bend side, the Guadelupians began at a Hungarian parish at the former St. Stephen Church. To have this solemn and festive day filled with the original "fiesta" environment, the Guadelupians would gather to decorate the church with colorful paper mache flowers around Our Lady of Guadalupe's statue. Banners for the procession during the liturgy were prepared, proclamations of the Word practiced, all people and things related to this special Mass, including the extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, made their preparations, a tradition that continues today.

The "Guadalupanas" women gather in homes to prepare meals after the Mass to be sure all those attending would have a traditional meal with tamales, "champurion" (a hot tea with cinnamon sticks, cloves, fruit and other ingredients) rice, frijoles and delicious pastries.

Colorful costumes would be sewn to depict the story through

plays about the miraculous event that took place at Tepeyac, Mexico.

Typically for this special day, mariachis are chosen for the music. In at least one of the diocesan parishes, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw, mariachis sing many songs of honor to Our Lady all through the evening before, Dec. 11, and will be there early in the morning Dec. 12, to sing the "mañanitas" to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a song of honor to the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. At least 13 parishes prepare events honoring Mother Mary for this feast day.

## Parish celebrations:

### • Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend

On the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Hungary. A play will begin at 6 p.m. and Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m. with a celebration following Mass.

### • Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Warsaw

Dec. 11, 8-10 p.m. — Danzantes (Dancers); 10-11 p.m. — Rosary; 11 p.m. — Mass; 12 a.m. midnight — Mañanitas/Serenade and Celebration  
Dec. 12, 6 p.m. — Mass

### St. Michael Parish, Plymouth

Dec. 12, 4 p.m. — Procession from the Knights of Columbus to St. Michael Church; 5 p.m. — Mass

### St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart

Dec. 7, 4 a.m. — Rosary and Mañanitas followed by breakfast  
Dec. 8, 2 p.m. — Procession

from St. Thomas Parish, Elkhart, to St. Vincent, Elkhart; 3:30 p.m. — Mass

Dec. 12, 7 p.m. — Mass

### St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne

Dec. 3-11, 7 p.m. — Novena at the Church

Dec. 12, 4:30 a.m. — Mañanitas; 6 a.m. — Mass; 6 p.m. — Mass

Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. — Depiction of the Our Lady of Guadalupe event

Dec. 15, 12:30 p.m. — Mass with a procession celebration after the Mass.

## Celebrations throughout the diocese to call for more information:

• St. Dominic, Bremen, (574) 546-3601

• St. Joseph, Fort Wayne, (260) 432-5113

• Immaculate Conception, Kendallville, (260) 347-4045

• St. Joseph, LaGrange, (260) 463-3472

• St. Patrick, Ligonier, (260) 894-4946

• St. Adalbert, South Bend, (574) 288-5708.

Lourdes E. Silva is the associate director of the Hispanic Ministry Office, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

## The Apparition of the Virgin of Guadalupe

BY ISABEL JAKOB

Juan Diego, a very poor Indian man, left his home one morning on Dec. 9, 1531, in order to go to Mass in a town near Mexico City. He was walking by the hill of Tepeyac, a barren place where nothing grew, when he heard heavenly music. At the same time he saw a rainbow with a bright light shining from its center. A beautiful lady approached the man and greeted him with a beautiful voice. She told him that she was the Virgin Mary and sent him to see the bishop of Mexico and ask him to have a church built on the same place they were speaking.

The Indian man went to speak with the bishop, but the bishop did not believe the story. He asked Juan Diego for some proof. That is the reason Juan Diego went back to Tepeyac, in order to speak once more with the Virgin Mary. She told him to come back the next day in order to get proof. But the next day Juan Diego's uncle became very ill.

On Dec. 12 he went for a priest. He did not want to see the Virgin Mary so he took another road, but she appeared once more and asked what was the matter.

The Indian man explained that his uncle was very ill and that he was going to get a priest. The Virgin told him that his uncle was doing fine and that he should visit the bishop once more. This was the time Juan Diego asked for proof of the miracle that was occurring.

The Virgin sent him to climb a hill in order to gather some flowers. This surprised the man since he knew that nothing grew in that barren land. Nevertheless, he found a beautiful rose garden. He picked some of the roses, and took them in his shawl to the bishop. When he dropped the roses on the floor, everyone saw the Image of the Virgin Mary painted with full colors in the shawl. All cried, "A miracle!"

Immediately they built a church on the same place the miracle took place. They named the town on the hill "Guadalupe." In 1532, during a solemn procession, they took Juan Diego's shawl with the Image of the Virgin to the altar of the church. On the 12th of December during the feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe, people from all over the republic come to worship their mother whose original image remains in a new basilica built at the same site.

## La aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe

Juan Diego, un indio muy pobre, salió de su casa la mañana del nueve de diciembre de 1531, para oír misa en un pueblo que estaba cerca de la capital de México. Pasaba por la colina de Tepeyac, sitio árido donde nada crecía, cuando oyó música que parecía venir del cielo. Al mismo tiempo vio un arco iris y en el centro una luz brillante. Una señora muy hermosa se acercó al indio y le saludó con una voz muy dulce. Ella le dijo que era la Virgen María y le mandó ir al obispo de México a decirle que debía construir una iglesia en aquel mismo sitio.

Juan Diego fue a hablar con el obispo, pero éste no le creyó una palabra de lo que decía. Por eso Juan Diego tuvo que ir a Tepeyac para hablar otra vez con la Virgen. Ella le mandó volver al día siguiente para recibir las palabras. Pero al día siguiente el tío de Juan Diego, que estaba enfermo, se puso peor. Sin embargo, el día doce el indio fue a llamar a un cura. Quería evitar encontrarse con la Virgen y tomó otro camino, pero ella apareció otra vez y le preguntó por qué iba por allí. El indio explicó que su tío estaba muy enfermo y que iba por un cura. En ese momento la Virgen le dijo que su tío ya estaba bueno y que podía visitar al obispo otra vez. Entonces Juan Diego le pidió a la Virgen una prueba del milagro.

La Virgen le mandó subir la colina para escoger allí algunas flores, lo que sorprendió mucho al indio porque sabía que nada crecía en aquella tierra árida. Sin embargo, encontró un jardín de rosas muy hermosas. Recogió algunas y las llevó en su manta al obispo. Cundo las dejó caer al suelo a los pies del obispo, todos vieron que la imagen de la Virgen estaba estampada en la manta en colores brillantes. Todos gritaron: ¡Milagro!

Inmediatamente construyeron una iglesia en el sitio del milagro y dieron el nombre de Guadalupe al pueblo que estaba al pie de la colina. En 1532, en una procesión muy solemne, llevaron la manta de Juan Diego, con la imagen de la Virgen, hasta el altar de la iglesia. El doce de diciembre es la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe y de toda la república vienen hombres y mujeres a venerar a su santa patrona, cuya imagen todavía está en la basilica.

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## The fog and the mystics

It was foggy this morning. I found it cozy. I always have. I love the fog.

When I was a boy, we lived on a small lake in Pennsylvania. I liked to get up early to see the fog sitting on the bay. When the sun rose, it would roll out toward the deep water and scatter.

As newlyweds, my wife and I lived in San Francisco and liked to go camping. I remember pitching a tent one weekend afternoon on Mount Tamalpais. We sat up high in the sunshine and watched the fog creep in over San Francisco Bay, the way Carl Sandburg once described. It enveloped everything but the tips of the Golden Gate Bridge and the Transamerica building.

I like the feeling of watching the fog from above, and I also like being inside it. Noises are muffled and scattered. Like sounds underwater, they seem to come from some indistinct place.

And, of course, you can't see very far. It's dangerous to drive in it. If you are on foot, you can stop within your range of vision. Animals have a hard time seeing and hearing inside the fog, too. As you walk along in the fog, scared rabbits will scamper in the grass and frightened pheasants will flush near at hand.

This is the part I love best — the sense of enclosure in a small and quiet world. A psychologist might have a field day ascertaining why it appeals to me. Perhaps some genetic memory, common to prey animals, tells me it's easier to hide. I wonder, though, if there might not be a different reason for my fascination.

In the upper church at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, there is a famous cycle of 28 paintings depicting the life of St. Francis. Each painting depicts a single event in his life. The series follows the life



JOHN GARVEY

## INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

of St. Francis as written by St. Bonaventure.

The 12th in the cycle is the Ecstasy of St. Francis. Here is how St. Bonaventure describes the scene: Francis "was lost in ecstasy and had no idea what was going on around him. ... He was occasionally seen raised up from the ground and surrounded with a shining cloud."

In Giotto's painting, Francis is immersed in a cloud, looking up toward heaven. Jesus reaches

GARVEY, PAGE 12

## Loving parents after miscarriage

A friend who recently lost a child through miscarriage called to express disappointment that she didn't know where to turn for the resources and support she and her husband so desperately needed. This heart-breaking conversation reminded me of another friend who miscarried a child at six months of pregnancy, but who masked her pain with a smile instead of reaching out for comfort. Though each experienced the deep pain of losing a child, neither received the loving support she deserved.

Sadly, their experiences are common. Though most miscarriages occur very early in pregnancy, often before the woman knows she is pregnant, as many as 15 percent of known pregnancies end in miscarriage. Our culture and even some church communities don't always recognize this loss, leaving women or couples to deal with their pain alone.

Our witness to life must address the pain and grieving experienced by those who have lost a child. Just as we recognize the humanity of the unborn child lost to abortion, we must acknowledge equally the unborn child lost to miscarriage. "I see clearly that the thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity," Pope Francis said recently. As Catholics and people of life, we are called to draw close to these parents and provide care and comfort to their aching hearts.

So what can we do to help parents grieve their loss and witness to the gift of their child's life? We can acknowledge their loss, support them as they grieve, and direct them to helpful resources. How do we do this?

First, don't dismiss their loss with comments like "You're young; you'll conceive again soon," or "You still have your other children." Instead, make time to listen as they share their pain. Affirm their right to grieve. Offer your condolences and prayers, and ask if there is anything they need. Direct the parents to their parish priest, who can help them organize a memorial service, funeral or burial. The Order of Christian

## LIFE ISSUES FORUM

BY MARY MCCLUSKY



Funerals has prayers for a stillborn child, and the Book of Blessings includes a blessing for parents that can be administered by a priest or deacon after a miscarriage. Some blessings can even be adapted for use by a layperson.

Keep in mind that the father and mother may have different emotional needs. She might feel the loss more directly, or wonder if somehow she caused the miscarriage. She might prefer to talk things out with a friend. The father may need space to eventually feel comfortable sharing how the loss affects him, and may even need time to take his mind off things. He might need guidance on how to support the mother. Losing a child can drive parents apart, so the couple might need the reassuring love of a faithful community to keep close and stay together. Child loss or bereavement support groups at their parish or local hospital can provide support, as well as spiritual advice or counseling.

As members of the body of Christ, the Church, we are called to bear witness to the loss of every life, no matter how brief or small. Let us pray that our growing sensitivity to the loss of a child through miscarriage will better assist grieving parents and help them to entrust their child to God's unfailing care and mercy. For resources on miscarriage, visit [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org).

Mary McClusky is special projects coordinator at the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities, go to [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).

## God will empower in quest for holiness



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Mt 3:1-12

Indicating the importance of Advent and the message of these readings, the Church this weekend celebrates the second Sunday of Advent, rather than the great feast of the Immaculate Conception. (This feast will occur this year on Dec. 9.)

This weekend's reading again is from Isaiah. Isaiah was very unhappy with the turn of events of his time. As was so often the case with the ancient Hebrew prophets, Isaiah saw the misfortunes facing his people as the result of their own disloyalty to God.

His words, however, were neither menacing nor hostile. Rather, they were reassuring. They declared the prophet's firm belief that despite the sins of the people God would not forsake them. Furthermore, in due time, God's holy will would be vindicated. Wrongs would be righted. Errors would be corrected. Justice and peace would prevail.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans supplies the second reading. In this reading St. Paul repeats the basic message given earlier by Isaiah. It is a testimony to God's love. Throughout history, St. Paul maintains, God guided the chosen people to righteousness and ultimately to union with the Divine. Paul sees God as the source of all patience and

encouragement. Human failings notwithstanding, God's love is constant.

The Apostle also counsels the Christian Romans to accept each other in love and good will. After all, he insists, Christ accepted them. Christ was a visible and effective instrument on earth of God's mercy and goodness.

For its third reading, the Church this weekend offers us a reading from the Gospel of Matthew. The central figure is John the Baptist, mentioned in Luke as the child of Elizabeth and Zachary. Elizabeth of course was the "kinswoman," probably cousin, of Mary. Therefore, John was related to Jesus.

From the earliest days of Christianity, John the Baptist has been a favorite figure. His absolute commitment to the most basic dedication to God has made him a model for the devout.

John clearly was on a mission. Gospel testimony is plentiful. Travel in ancient Palestine was understandably rare. After all, travel was very difficult and time-consuming. It was unpredictable and risky. Very few would have traveled for diversion or leisure.

That John journeyed far and wide evidenced his sense of mission, and he encountered many people.

John was not hesitant or vague in confronting people. He chastised his listeners, in effect, for their differences of opinion. Self-interest drove them too much. Their lack of true devotion to God only strengthened the reign of sin in the land. Thus, their personal failings contributed to the burdens weighing heavily upon the entire society.

He challenged the people to purge themselves of this self-interest and humbly to turn to God.

### Reflection

As we progress through Advent, the Church calls us to make ourselves worthy of receiving God.

Frankly, it places before us our own sins and the sins of all humanity. John himself was stark and direct, absolutely and completely committed to God. His words are sharp and unequivocal. To realize our personal sinfulness, and the sinfulness of the world, believing such admission is essential to any effort to become holy, the Church calls us to a thorough examination of conscience.

Using the words, and example, of John the Baptist, the Church also urges us to put first things first. Following worldly self-interests will lead nowhere — certainly not to God.

Advent's purpose is not just to plan for a memorial of Christ's birth. It primarily calls us to make our hearts fitting dwelling places for the Lord. To be fitting dwelling places, we must rid ourselves of sin.

Isaiah and Paul both remind us that God will empower us in our quest for holiness. God wants us to live. He loves us with a perfect love.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12

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

**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10-13 Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10 Mt 11:28-30

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

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### Saint of the Week

## Immaculate Conception

19th century  
December 8



The Catholic dogma that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free from original sin from the moment of her conception and preserved from all sin throughout her earthly life was declared by Pope Pius IX in 1854. However, for centuries Catholics had believed in Mary's exceptional holiness as a divine favor in anticipation of her role in salvation; by the eighth century, the Eastern church believed her holiness was flawless and immense, and this belief gradually spread throughout the Western church. The feast is fixed nine months before the feast marking Mary's birthday on Sept. 8.

## 'CovenantEyes' helps parents protect their families online

At a recent diocesan-hosted conference dealing with pornography, one speaker used the well-known story of the three little pigs to drive home a point. We all know, of course, that the first two little pigs did not build homes strong enough to keep the big bad wolf from devouring them. The speaker likened the house of straw to a family where parents trustingly allow the kids to go online freely and to keep computers and devices in their rooms with no filters or parental supervision.

The house of twigs was likened to a family where parents have installed filters, do not allow computers and devices in the bedrooms, and may have actually talked with their children about the dangers of the Internet. These parents feel they have done what they can and are hoping for the best.

While the house of twigs did take an extra puff or two on the part of the wolf, it offered no real protection. In the end, only the house of brick that belonged to the vigilant third little pig — who was even ready with a pot of boiling water — offered real protection. This house was likened to a family in which in addition to what the parents were doing in the house of twigs, they also were regularly supervising where their children have visited on the Internet and were vigilant concerning others who could introduce their children to pornography using their own devices.

After hearing that analogy, I realized that my family and I were living in a house of twigs and straw.

No doubt, many, if not most, parents in our country have built homes of straw or twigs. It has been estimated that only a third of parents have set up parental controls. Most don't realize the gravity of the situation regarding that to which children are regularly exposed today. Here are some bracing facts:

- the average age of first exposure to Internet pornography is 11;
- 73 percent of children are exposed to pornography before age 18;
- 67 percent of children admit to clearing their browser history to hide Internet use; and,
- 57 percent of teen girls and

83 percent of teen boys have seen group sex on the Internet.

Of course, there are some who will dismiss this as typical for teens and that it is not really harmful. However, studies have shown that there are serious consequences to viewing pornography. A whole cocktail of chemicals, such as dopamine, norepinephrine and oxytocin, are released in the brain when people view pornography — especially if they masturbate while using the images to fuel their fantasies. Dopamine, for example, hooks us by building cravings for what has made us feel good in the past. Norepinephrine helps to burn images in our memories while oxytocin bonds us to others or even, narcissistically, to ourselves. It has been found that people can actually become addicted to these chemicals in a way that is similar to those addicted to illegal drugs.

In addition, for some men who become addicted, they find themselves in the degenerating spiral of needing "harder" pornography in order to maintain the same level of excitement. This often leads to websites that feature the sadistic and violent exploitation of women. Unfortunately, this has even led certain men to commit sex crimes in order to live out the fantasies they created using online pornography.

While such aberrant behavior would certainly not characterize most men who view pornography, the seriously harmful effects of pornography are nevertheless widespread. A recent study, for example, found that 56 percent of divorce cases involved one party having an obsessive interest in pornographic websites. Women, unlike many men, tend to consider the viewing of pornography by their husbands as a form of infidelity. Interestingly, even relatively young men are increasingly experiencing erectile dysfunction with their wives due to the consumption of pornographic images that seem to be more exciting.

Parents, then, would seem to have little choice but to build a house of brick if they want to take reasonable precautions to protect their children. One promising program that has developed an accountability software service is CovenantEyes. This program is



FREDERICK W. EVERETT

### GUEST COMMENTARY

installed on all the smartphones, tablets and computers used by the members of the family. Every week or two, a report is emailed to accountability partners as to all the places visited on the web and even flags websites considered suspicious. For example, all the children's reports could be sent to both mom and dad, while the parents can have their reports sent to each other or some other trusted adult.

In this way, children realize that adults also have to be careful in this area and that they too can benefit from accountability. The monthly cost for this service for a family of four runs about \$15, with each additional child costing two more dollars.

If this seems to be too much financially, parents can also do the same thing on their own by choosing a time every week when the Internet history for every device is checked. If a child is found to have deleted his history, then he would lose some privilege associated with the use of the device. It would also invite a conversation on the issue. It's time to turn in the twigs and straw for some bricks.

**Fred Everett** is the co-director of the Office Of Family Life and Assistant to the Bishop in South Bend.

cloud of unknowing."

My prayer life is too mundane to contribute anything about this from my own experience. I feel like one of the companions at the periphery of paintings depicting St. Francis' life — the one leaning back open-mouthed, as if to say, "Holy cow!"

But I think that's why I love the fog. I like to go into it with a prayer to St. Francis on my lips.

**John Garvey** is the president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

## GARVEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

down toward him in an attitude of blessing. Four of Francis' companions look on from the left, mightily impressed.

Both Giotto and Bonaventure might have had in mind St. Matthew's account of the Transfiguration. Peter, James and John went up the mountain with Jesus and witnessed the

event. Peter was so stunned that he started babbling about building tabernacles. While he was still talking, "a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.'"

Why is it that saints and mystics are shrouded in fog when they approach God? Is it because the experience so surpasses our poor ability to see and describe that it is, as we say, ineffable? An anonymous 14th-century English mystic called it "the

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 8, 2013

Matthew 3:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle A: some time with John the Baptist. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

|            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| PREACHING  | JUDEA      | REPENT     |
| HEAVEN     | AT HAND    | PROPHET    |
| THE WAY    | LOCUSTS    | WILD HONEY |
| WARNED YOU | WRATH      | STONES     |
| AXE        | TREES      | CUT DOWN   |
| FIRE       | REPENTANCE | MIGHTIER   |
| WINNOWING  | WHEAT      | CHAFF      |

### VIPER BLOOD

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

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## A modern heir to St. Nicholas

Father Joseph Marquis, not surprisingly, knows all about Christmas. But — and this is the part that might surprise you a little bit — he knows all about Santa Claus, too. At a time when many in the Church downplay the role of Santa and the gifting tradition as symbols of all that's gone wrong with Christmas, Father Marquis is something else. Not only does he embrace the concept of Santa Claus, but he makes use of the idea as a true teaching moment — about the real message of Christmas. Here's how it all came about...

As a five-year-old boy growing up in Michigan, Joseph Marquis had a disappointing experience with a department store Santa. When his mother told him that it wasn't the real Santa he'd seen but only one of his helpers, young Joseph had a ready answer: "Someday I will be Santa's helper too."

And that's just what happened. He became a department store Santa himself, and he went at it in a big way — he also appeared in parades, wrote and illustrated a book about Santa, collected awards for the way he played the role, and finally made the Santa Claus Hall of Fame. But there was something else, too. He became a hospital chaplain and grew ever more interested in the church. At first he served as deacon, then entered the seminary, and today, at 63, he's a priest — the pastor of Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia, Mich.

Through it all he never lost interest in Santa or in his real-life counterpart, St. Nicholas of Myra. Finally, last year he launched an institute that provided professional Santa Claus training, in the spirit of St. Nicholas. As he told Maryann Gogniat Eidemiller, who wrote his



### LIGHT ONE CANDLE

GERALD COSTELLO, THE CHRISTOPHERS

story in *Our Sunday Visitor*, he did so because St. Nicholas embodies the love and grace with joy envisioned in the call of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI for a Year of Faith, the ultimate inspiration for the course.

He noted that St. Nicholas, a bishop known for giving gifts and who is the patron saint of children, served as the exemplar for the core values of the institute. Thought of as "the real Santa Claus," St. Nicholas showed true compassion for the poor and forgotten, Father Marquis added. Thus the participants in the course (as Eidemiller wrote) should "treat children with the same integrity, sensitivity and unconditional love that characterizes jolly old St. Nicholas."

Father Marquis said he hoped that all the professional Santas who came to the symposium would remain prayerfully open to the real spirit of Christmas. At its conclusion he blessed the participants and gave each one a replica of a bishop's ring.

"In the prayer, I said that each was entrusted with the legacy of St. Nicholas and that while they are not shepherding a huge flock, they are shepherding small children, and that's a very serious obligation," the priest said.

"They all got choked up. It's funny how St. Nicholas can read into the hearts of people."

# Sports

**UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS' WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WINS TOURNAMENT** No. 4 USF won the Siena Heights Thanksgiving Tournament with a 76-56 win over 16th-ranked Siena Heights on Sunday afternoon Dec. 1. Akyah Taylor put together her fifth double double scoring 26 points and grabbing 13 rebounds. Taylor and Jenelle Wilson were named to the all-tournament team. Wilson, who scored 25 in the USF win on Saturday over NAIA DI No. 11 Shawnee State, was tournament MVP. USF is 10-0 and has tied the USF record for third best start to a season.

## State championship eludes Bishop Dwenger Saints with their fourth runner-up finish

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — There can only be one winner in a state championship game and once again it was not meant to be the Bishop Dwenger Saints.

Despite a valiant effort and a 27-straight point, second-half scoring rampage, Coach Chris Svarczkopf's unit came up just short of the blue rings in a 28-27 loss to the No. 1 ranked Columbus East Olympians on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 30.

The Saints trailed, 21-0, before their first score with 58 seconds left in the half on a 15-yard pass from quarterback Mike Fiacable to Gabe Espinoza. They came out of the locker room and hung on to the shift in momentum with another touchdown early in the third quarter on a great fourth and two. Now down just a score, the Saints were still in it.

With 3:59 left in the third, Gus Schrader scored his second touchdown of the day for the Saints to knot things up, 21-21.

The Saints took a late third quarter turnover and Tyler Tippmann turned it into six points with 9:10 left in the fourth to go up for the

first time, 27-21, but kicker Trey Casaburo (3-3) was brought down just short of the end zone when the Saints took a risk and went for the two-point conversion.

"We came to win," Svarczkopf detailed of the decision. "We took a lot of chances in the second half to get back into the game. Everything we did, we did to win the game."

However, the Olympians had one more score in them and dashed the hopes of the Saints to win the 2013 4-A crown. Columbus East went wire to wire with the top ranking and remained undefeated to finish with an impressive 15-0 record.

Unlike most other teams the Olympians faced this season, the Saints forced the victors to go nose to nose all four quarters and in the end it was their special running game and big powerful offensive line that prevailed.

Bishop Dwenger finished with an 11-4 record after a late losing streak before making their ninth state title game appearance.

Bishop Dwenger won Class 3-A crowns in 1983, 1990 and 1991.

"We are very proud of our school and very proud of these young men," concluded Svarczkopf.

## Queen of Angels Invitational's Thanksgiving tradition offers CYO preseason preview

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Many people have Thanksgiving weekend traditions — like football and shopping and feasting with family. But for the past 21 years, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams and other Fort Wayne area hoopsters have been busy showcasing their basketball talents in the annual weekend-long Queen of Angels Invitational.

This season's preseason champions for the seven-team girls' field was St. Charles. The seventh-grade Cardinals slipped by the eighth-grade squad from St. John the Baptist, New Haven, in a nail biting, come-from-behind final, 31-30.

Coach Scott Burkhardt felt his young team came out strong and fared well against the challenge of mostly eighth graders in their bracket. "We faced both strong inside teams and teams with scrappy guard play," Burkhardt detailed.

The Cardinals beat St. Jude,

29-19, and contained Hessen Cassel's Kathryn Knapke in a 39-22 victory.

St. Charles was well matched against the talented guard play of St. John, New Haven, but defeated them the first time around, 38-32, before the talented Raiders fought their way back into the championship of the double-elimination tournament.

"The second game against New Haven was very different than the first." With just seven on his roster (six after Mary Carroll fell ill), Burkhardt's ladies were exhausted after the string of games.

"We were down and had to make some big stops and key baskets to pull it off," he explained. The Cardinals were led in scoring by Anna Burkhardt and Jayda Smith and the inside play of Bridgett Black throughout the tournament; but in the championship game, it was a total team effort with Taylor Russell, Krystka Bugajski and Hailie Markiton adding to the balanced scoring attack.

For the boys' teams, St.

Joseph-Hessen Cassel earned the top spot out of the 13 teams participating with a win over the seventh graders from St. Charles. The Squires held a narrow 27-24 lead at the half, but pulled away for 56-46 victory.

Led by the powerful offense and scoring of eighth-graders DeShon Bussell, Nick Wyss, Abram Beard and Nick Bosler, Hessen Cassel tallied 60 plus in several games.

Their aggressive defense and 14-deep roster wore some good quality teams down and although sloppy at times, Coach Jim Knapke was pleased with his team's ability to push the ball up and down the court. "It was a great tournament and we faced some solid teams," he said.

The Squires beat St. Charles 8 in the opener then downed St. Jude and St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, before sending the runner-up (St. Charles 7) to the losers' bracket. The younger Cardinals played a disciplined tournament and were able to claw their way back to the championship game.

## BISHOP DWENGER SAINTS FIGHT FOR STATE TITLE



JOE ROMIE

Quarterback Mike Fiacable (No. 15), a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, directs the Bishop Dwenger offensive unit before a play in Lucas Oil Stadium against Columbus East in the IHSAA football state finals on Nov. 30.

## SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTS ALL SPORTS TROPHY



PROVIDED BY THE SERRA CLUB OF SOUTH BEND

Saint Joseph and Marian high schools compete each year in 20 varsity sports. To recognize this competition and the overall winner of these sports, the Serra Club of South Bend established the Bishop's All Sports Trophy in 2003. Saint Joseph Principal Susan Richter and Athletic Director Eric Gohlke are shown accepting the Bishop's All Sports Trophy for Saint Joseph High School at the Saint Joseph-Marian football game on Sept. 27. The trophy was presented by Ray and Susan Vales of the Serra Club of South Bend.

# SURVEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dioceses across the country need to send in a report to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops by the end of this month. Consequently, a mid-December deadline has been established for our diocesan surveys in order to properly prepare this report.

Catholics interested in participating may access the survey through Dec. 16 at the homepage of the diocesan website ([www.diocesefwsb.org](http://www.diocesefwsb.org)). There will be a Spanish version of the survey as well.

## Survey of Catholics on Teachings on Marriage and the Family

1. What year were you born?
2. Gender: Male Female
3. Frequency of Mass Attendance:  
Rarely  
A few times a year  
Once or twice a month  
Weekly or more
4. How familiar are you with the Church's teachings on the value of marriage and the family as found in the Bible, "Familiaris consortio" (Pope John Paul II's exhortation on the family) and the Catechism of the Catholic Church?  
Not at all  
A little familiar  
Somewhat familiar  
Very familiar
5. To the degree that you are familiar, how supportive are you of these teachings?  
Not at all  
A little supportive  
Somewhat supportive  
Very supportive
6. Briefly comment on your answers (especially as regards difficulties in putting these teachings into practice).
7. How familiar are you with the Church's teachings regarding divorce and remarriage as found in the Bible, "Familiaris consortio" (Pope John Paul II's

exhortation on the family) and the Catechism of the Catholic Church?

- Not at all  
A little familiar  
Somewhat familiar  
Very familiar

8. To the degree that you are familiar, how supportive are you of this teaching?

- Not at all  
A little supportive  
Somewhat supportive  
Very supportive

9. Have you personally or do you know someone personally who has gone through or is considering going through the annulment process?

- Yes No  
10. Briefly comment on these issues (especially as regards the annulment process and ways in which the Church can improve the pastoral care of the divorced).

11. How familiar are you with natural law arguments?

- Not at all  
A little familiar  
Somewhat familiar  
Very familiar

12. How familiar are you with the Church's teaching (based on natural law reasoning) that the institution of marriage is solely between a man and woman?

- Not at all  
A little familiar  
Somewhat familiar  
Very familiar

13. To the degree that you are familiar, how supportive are you of this teaching?

- Not at all  
A little supportive  
Somewhat supportive  
Very supportive

14. Briefly comment on your answers below (especially as regards difficulties in accepting marriage as solely between man and woman based on natural law reasoning).

15. How familiar are you with the Church's teaching on responsible parenthood and family planning as found in "Humanae vitae" (Pope Paul

VI's encyclical on contraception), the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body?

- Not at all  
A little familiar  
Somewhat familiar  
Very familiar

16. To the degree that you are familiar with this teaching, how supportive are you of it?

- Not at all  
A little supportive  
Somewhat supportive  
Very supportive

17. Briefly comment below (especially as regards difficulties in putting this teaching into practice).

18. How familiar are you with natural methods of family planning that help a married couple to either avoid or achieve pregnancy?

- Not at all  
A little familiar  
Somewhat familiar  
Very familiar

19. Have you found your parish to be supportive of marriage and family life (e.g. homilies, programs, liturgy, retreats, etc.)?

20. In general, do you have any recommendations for the Church with regard to better promoting marriage and family life?

Patricia Zapor from Catholic News Service contributed to this article.

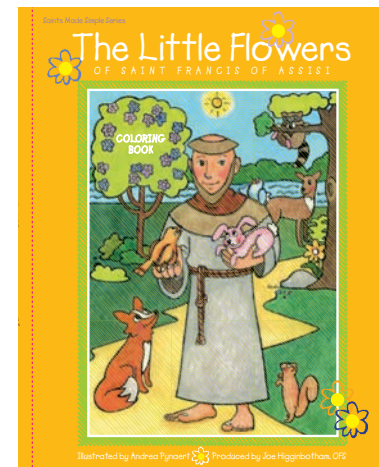
# Saints Francis and Clare Press releases new children's series

MISHAWAKA — A coloring book titled, "The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi," is the first book in the series "Saints Made Simple" to be released by Saints Francis and Clare Press. The book, beautifully illustrated by Andrea Pynaert and produced by Joe Higginbotham, director of liturgy and music at St. Bavo in Mishawaka, offers simple captions under each picture.

Higginbotham explains that the "Saints Made Simple" series is a collection of books on the greatest saints of the Church.

The first book of each series will be a coloring book; the second will have color illustrations with short stories written for five to eight-year-old children. Some of the saints series will have a third book for readers nine and up that will have more detailed stories.

Higginbotham said, "We have gotten tremendous response on the coloring book. Kids love it. Andrea has done a wonderful job capturing the spirit of St. Francis, complete with lots of cute animals and vivid illustrations. Our hope is that not only parents but schools and religious education programs throughout the country will make these



materials available as enrichment for their students. And with Christmas coming up they make a great stocking stuffer."

The coloring book is 32 pages and retails for \$2.99. It is available through FranciscanMusic.com or by calling Franciscan Music at (574) 514-0395.

## Kevin Donley, Saint Francis agree on contract extension through 2018

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis has given Head Football Coach Kevin Donley a contract extension extending Donley's term at USF through 2018.

"The university administration is pleased to be able to provide Kevin Donley with what is essentially a lifetime contract," USF Director of Athletics Mike McCaffrey said. "By signing Coach Donley to a five-year rolling contract, our current recruits understand that they will be playing for the NAIA's greatest coach for their entire college career. There is no other person on the planet that we would rather have leading our student-athletes. What Coach 'D' has done since he began this program speaks for

itself."

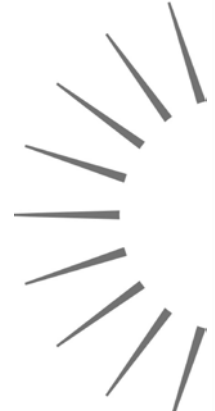
"We understand that young men and their parents take many factors into consideration before choosing where they will play college football. Consistency in the coaching staff is something that we have always provided to those recruits and this solidifies that for the foreseeable future," McCaffrey said.

Donley, the founder of the USF Football program in 1997 and two-time NAIA National Coach of the Year, has a 158-36 record in 16 seasons at USF and has been named 2013 MSFA Mid-east League Coach of the Year for the ninth time. Donley is the NAIA career wins leader with 272 in 35 seasons and under his guidance, the Cougars have cap-

ured 11 MSFA Mid-east League championships. Donley will be inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in January.


Succeeding with programs that had previously suffered through hard times is nothing new for the Springfield, Ohio, native. Prior to taking the head-coaching job at Georgetown College, where he captured a National Championship title in 1991, he had four successful seasons at Anderson College. In 1981, he led the Ravens to a 9-2 record and a berth in the NAIA Division II playoffs, as well as Hoosier-Buckeye Collegiate Conference championships in 1980 and 1981. Donley's teams compiled a 28-9 (.757) overall record during his four-year stay. He was named conference coach of the year while at Anderson, and on nine occasions while at Georgetown (Ky.).

"I am truly grateful to the entire Saint Francis community for this opportunity to continue to coach football," said Donley. "We started this program with a mission to develop quality young men into meaningful contributors to our community and to win some games along the way. I think we've been able to do that — but we still have goals to accomplish."



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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.

**Day of Reflection**

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "The Treasure of Advent." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by Dec. 13 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

**Christmas cookie and candy sale**

Monroeville — The St. Rose Altar and Rosary Society will have a Christmas cookie and candy sale Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school basement, corner of Mulberry and Forest St.

**St. Monica Rosary Society cookie walk**

Mishawaka — The St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie walk Saturday, Dec. 14, in the church basement, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave. Variety of cookies for \$5 per pound. Free hot coffee and a cookie.

**Christ Child festival to be held at USF**

**Performing Arts Center**  
FORT WAYNE — The Christ Child Festival will be held at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center Dec. 6-8. Opening night, Dec. 6, will be from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 7 the festival will run from noon to 8 p.m. and Dec. 8 from noon to 5 p.m. Festival admission is free, but a nonperishable food item is welcomed. Free parking is available directly across the street from the PAC. On-street parking is free during festival hours.

**Breakfast with St. Nick**

South Bend — St. Patrick Church, 308 S. Scott St., will host Breakfast with St. Nick on Sunday, Dec. 15, between 9 a.m. and noon. A pancake breakfast is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children, \$12 for a family. Stocking Quest gifts will be available for children.

**St. Charles to offer Advent movie night**

Fort Wayne — The Nativity Story will be shown Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. in the Hession Center, door No. 3. Snacks will be available. RSVP to Carolyn Hunneshagen at care0920@aol.com or call (260) 486-7823.

**Knights plan fish fry**

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 6, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$8 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

**Holiday concert planned**

South Bend — The Saint Joseph High School band and choir will host a holiday concert Saturday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. at the Kroc Center.

**Handel's Messiah performed**

Angola — Handel's Messiah

## REST IN PEACE

**Fort Wayne**

James Harter, 69, St. Charles Borromeo

Antoinette Sorg, 69, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Virginia C. Meier, 92, St. Charles Borromeo

Michael L. Miller, 74, St. Vincent de Paul

Terrence J. Morris, 66, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Michael Glen Rose, 63, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

**Huntington**

Marjorie H. Meyer, 94, Ss. Peter and Paul

**New Haven**

Rosalie M. Federspiel, 87, St. John the Baptist

Ivan Bernon Brames, 76, St. John the Baptist

**South Bend**

Annette Strozewski, 96, St. Adalbert

David A. Sibert, 65, St. Matthew

Jeanne M. Burgess, 70, St. Anthony de Padua

Sandra K. Kucharski, 55, St. Hedwig

Josephine Lakovits, 96, Our Lady of Hungary

Irene A. Vanslager, 89, Holy Family

Sister Eleanor Pierce, 90, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Sister served at St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne.

Sister Angelita M. Fenker, 83, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Sister was a columnist for Today's Catholic.

will be presented by the Steuben County Festival Choir and Fort Wayne Philharmonic Sunday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony Church. Directed by J. Joseph Peters, a good will offering will be taken.

**CCD Christmas bake sale**

South Bend — St. Patrick Parish will have a bake sale Sunday, Dec. 15, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Parish Center, Religious Education Room, 308 S. Scott St.

**Fiddler's Hearth**  
127 North Main Street, South Bend, Indiana  
Family-Friendly Public House  
fiddlershearth.com

Join us  
for **SUNDAY BRUNCH!**  
For Reservations,  
call 574-232-2853

**Holiday Bazaar**  
St. Vincent de Paul School - Elkhart  
Saturday, December 14, 2013 • 10am - 2pm

Meet your friends and check out loads of crafts and baked goods!  
**GREAT GIFT IDEAS**

1114 South Main Street • Elkhart • (574) 293-8451

**Cathedral Books & Gifts**

**Annual Saint Nicholas Sale**  
20% Off Everything - Dec. 6 - Dec. 14, 2013  
• Willow Tree • Fontanini • Memorial Tear and More!

**Bring your children to meet Saint Nicholas!**  
Saturday, Dec. 7 • 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Hours: Mon, Thur, Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm • Tue & Wed 8:30 am - 7:00 pm  
Extended Saturday Hours Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, & 21: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS is located downtown Fort Wayne  
in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 South Clinton Street, Fort Wayne 46802  
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**MARY OF NAZARETH**

Special Christmas Presentation!

presented by  
**Knights of Columbus**  
St. Jude Council #1043

**THE LERNER THEATER**  
410 S. Main St., Elkhart  
Thursday, December 19th  
6:30 p.m.

Tickets available at  
the Lerner Box Office or  
[www.thelerner.com](http://www.thelerner.com) or [www.koc1043.org](http://www.koc1043.org)

CATHOLIC BUSINESS MEET AND GREET

# Christmas Network Events

Wednesday, Dec. 11: 5-6:30 p.m.

**LASALLE GRILL**  
115 W. Colfax, South Bend

\$10 per person includes hot and cold hors d'oeuvres  
Cash bar available.  
RSVP by Dec. 6 to  
tsteffen@diocesefwsb.org  
or call (260) 399-1457

Thursday, Dec. 19: 5-6:30 p.m.

**BROOKSIDE MANSION**

University of Saint Francis  
2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne

\$10 per person includes hot and cold hors d'oeuvres  
Cash bar available.

Self-guided tours of Brookside available.

RSVP by Dec. 13 to  
tsteffen@diocesefwsb.org  
or call (260) 399-1457

A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Women's Care Centers in Fort Wayne and South Bend.

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## Blessing of the Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

Msgr. John Kuzmich, retired, for whom the new life center was named, is shown at the left of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the "Life Teen" Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church on Dec. 1. The Life Center was spearheaded by Msgr. Kuzmich, who served 36 years at St. Vincent de Paul Parish before retiring this year.



Bishop Rhoades blesses the new Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center on Dec. 1 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne.



Thank you for 20 years.

"One of the greatest things I learned at Hannah's House was not to give up." – Tiffney  
 "I learned that I could be a good Mother all by myself and that I didn't need to depend on any one else. This has me put my daughter first. I am proud that I have been able to make it." – Deidre  
 "Being at Hannah's House gave me a sense of belonging and helped me to realize my place as a mother and a woman." – Janorhea  
 "I moved into Hannah's House and was welcomed with love. Hannah's House became my home during this difficult time of my life, and I still consider it 'home'. Jordan Christopher is now seven years old and we often stop by to visit or volunteer. I want to teach my son about 'giving back' and help him understand that Hannah's House was his first home." – Ruby  
 "Hannah's House helped me accomplish goals I never thought were possible. Because of the love and support I received at Hannah's House, I have been able to continue my education and go to college. I've let go of the person I was, love the person I am, and can't wait for the person I'll become."  
 – Olivia

