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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

St. Rose School in Monroeville blessed

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

MONROEVILLE — The easternmost Catholic school in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will now be known as St. Rose of Lima School, and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed the school's new chapel and new location in a community celebration on Dec. 5.

St. Joseph School has been the parish school for St. Rose of Lima Parish in Monroeville for over 100 years, but the parish and diocese agreed that the new location in the former Monroeville Elementary School building presents an opportunity to give the school the same name as the parish's patron saint — St. Rose of Lima — the first saint canonized from the Americas.

Bishop Rhoades celebrated Mass in a new chapel, which was sponsored by John Tippmann, Tom Tippmann and the Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation. The bishop blessed and incensed the altar and blessed the chapel. After Mass, the celebration continued with a blessing of the school building's common areas, gymnasium and classrooms.

St. Rose Principal Stan Liponoga may have hours of hard work and preparation behind him, but feels his work is really just beginning, "We have immediate goals to increase enrollment and fill our empty seats," he said.

He noted the school is looking at the possibilities of adding a daycare, preschool program and school bus with stops at St. Henry and around the Bishop Luers area.

Liponoga said, "I knew this day would one day come, but even as late as last evening, wondered if we would be prepared!"

The whole story through this journey has been, "If we pray, He will answer." But back in March, 2013, when things looked bleak and

BLESSING, PAGE 5



KAY COZAD

Students at St. Rose of Lima School, Monroeville, stand to greet Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Father Lourдино Fernandes, pastor of St. Rose of Lima, during the blessing of the new school building on Thursday, Dec. 5. The school's chapel was also blessed.

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Bishop Dwenger launches capital campaign

FORT WAYNE — As Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne celebrates its 50th year, the administration announced the Golden Traditions Capital Campaign to raise \$7.25 million for improvements to the school. The major components of the plans include: renovation of their current gymnasium; construction of a multi-purpose facility; upgrades to their 36 original classrooms; and the construction of a new chapel.

The school hosted a Holy Ground Prayer Service to formally introduce the Golden Traditions Campaign to its student body of 1,040 and their parents on Dec. 5.

Principal Jason Schiffli said, "We believe that change is a good thing and it is so exciting to be involved in preparing our school for the next 50 years!"

The school's chaplain, Father Jacob Meyer,

blessed small bottles of holy water and prayer cards for the students and guests. They will all be invited to bring the holy water back to the school to bless the building and students as each phase of the project is completed.

The renovations and construction will begin in March of 2014 and all phases plan to be completed by the fall of 2016. The school is very pleased with the response and commitments received from the Bishop Dwenger community.

Development Director Katie Burns said, "Although the investment seems daunting, we are confident that our Bishop Dwenger family will continue to be generous in their support of our school. Our family and friends understand that these improvements will ensure that we produce generations of Citizens of Two Worlds (the school's vision), well into the future."



JOE ROMIE

Bishop Dwenger High School chaplain Father Jacob Meyer offers a reflection before blessing bottles of holy water and prayer cards for students and guests at a Dec. 5 prayer service where the Golden Traditions Capital Campaign was introduced.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Marriage as covenant between one man and one woman

A pastoral statement of the Catholic Bishops of Indiana

The dignity of the human person, rooted in his or her creation in the image and likeness of God, is a fundamental principle of Catholic social teaching. The Church upholds the dignity of every human person, including persons with same-sex attraction, who "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity." (CCC 2358)

At the same time, the Church upholds the dignity and sanctity of marriage, a natural institution established by God. By its very nature, marriage is a permanent partnership between one man and one woman ordered to the good of the couple and the procreation and education of children. It is the foundation of the family, where children are raised and nurtured, and learn values and virtues that help them to grow in maturity.

It is not within the power of either the Church or the State to redefine marriage since God is its author. Male-female complementarity is essential to marriage. Marriage is a "unique" communion of persons with the potential to bring forth human life.

With deep respect for all our brothers and sisters, we affirm the institution of marriage as the intimate communion of life and love between one man and one woman. Marriage is an intimate sharing of conjugal life and love. It involves the total gift of self in a partnership for the whole of life. Only by means of the complementarity between a man and a woman can this total gift of self be fully given and received.

We respect the equal dignity of all persons while upholding the uniqueness of the covenant of marriage as established by our Creator. The wellbeing of children, of the family, and of society is closely bound to the healthy state of marriage and respect for its true nature and purposes.

We urge the people of Indiana to respect and defend the dignity and equality of all persons as well as the truth about marriage, according to God's plan and laws, with charity towards all.

Given at the Catholic Center in Indianapolis on this, the 4th day of December, 2013.

+ Joseph W. Tobin

Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin
Archbishop of Indianapolis

+ Dale J. Melczek

Most Reverend Dale J. Melczek
Bishop of Gary

+ Kevin C. Rhoades

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

+ Timothy L. Doherty

Most Reverend Timothy L. Doherty
Bishop of Lafayette-in-Indiana

+ Charles C. Thompson

Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
Bishop of Evansville

+ Christopher J. Coyne

Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Auxiliary Bishop of Indianapolis

Pope tells theologians 'sense of the faithful' is not majority opinion

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said the Church must pay attention to the 'sense of the faithful' ('sensus fidelium') when exercising its teaching authority, but never confuse that sense with popular opinion on matters of faith.

The pope made his comments Dec. 6, in an address to members

of the International Theological Commission, a Vatican advisory body.

"By the gift of the Holy Spirit, the members of the Church possess the 'sense of the faith,'" he said. "It is a question of a kind of 'spiritual instinct,' which permits us to 'think with the Church' and discern what is consistent with the apostolic faith and the spirit of the Gospel."

The pope said the magisterium, the Church's teaching author-

ity, has the "duty to pay attention to what the Spirit tells the Church through authentic manifestations of the 'sense of the faithful.'"

But he told the theologians this sense "must not be confused with the sociological reality of majority opinion. That is something else. It is therefore important, and it is your task, to elaborate the criteria that permit discernment of authentic expressions of the 'sense of the faithful.'"

Citing his predecessor, Pope

Benedict XVI, Pope Francis said theologians "must always listen to the faith as lived by the humble and little ones, to whom it has pleased the Father to reveal what He has hidden from the learned and the wise."

Joking that he was not trying to give "publicity to the Jesuits," the pope recalled that even his order's founder, St. Ignatius Loyola, used to teach the catechism to children.



Appointment to Presbyteral Council

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has appointed Father Kevin Russeau, CSC, pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, South Bend, as a member of the Presbyteral Council, effective January 1, 2014.

Angola parish captures the social service aspect of ARISE

ANGOLA — Teens, adults and families from St. Anthony of Padua Church in Angola came together during Season 3 of ARISE Together in Christ, forming 18 faith-sharing groups with over 180 participants. The focus this session involved learning more about Catholic social teaching and putting the work of social justice into action.

Anne Ferguson, the ARISE coordinator at St. Anthony Parish, told *Today's Catholic* that in response to the call for social justice, several actions were undertaken.

"One group, determined to help combat the 'culture of death' that seems to come with drugs, decided to speak with government officials about supporting a law that makes pseudoephedrine (used in the making of crystal meth) into a drug requiring a prescription," Ferguson said.

Several families passed out cards with parish Mass times as a thank you at Halloween. Other groups gave monetary donations to Compassionate Pregnancy to honor life. Another contributed to a missionary trip to Haiti, accompanied by a group prayer.

"Many groups contributed tangible goods, including non-perishable food to the Knights of Columbus's food bank, paper products and cleaning supplies to the TLC (Transitional Living Center for women and children)," Ferguson noted, and gave "socks, towels and personal products to the Turning Point Homeless shelter and clothing to a needy student."

One small-faith group of ladies delivered a fully cooked Thanksgiving dinner to the TLC house on Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving, and delivered a turkey and other staples for a family in need.

Another St. Anthony ARISE group offered to assist Trine's Newman Fellowship.

Ferguson said, "Another gave 'God's Word Among Us' to our RCIA members to grow in Catholic teachings, knowledge of God and their faith."

One lady from a small-faith sharing group designed and the group purchased and donated St. Anthony car decals to the parish.

Raking leaves for the homebound was a project another group chose.

"In the Christmas spirit," Ferguson added, "groups com-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Church's ARISE Together in Christ small-faith sharing prepare a meal for the poor as part of their Catholic social justice initiative set out in Session 3. ARISE members Darlene Schhimmoller, left, and Fran VanWagner, right, are shown in the photo.



St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola, ARISE Together In Christ participants Mary Jo Krebs, standing, who designed a car decal to promote the parish, is shown with Fran VanWagner, seated and to the right, Conventual Franciscan Father Bernie Zajdel, parochial vicar.

bined to purchase big ticket items for needy families, and another group planned to send Christmas cards to service men and women with a religious card, prayer or Bible verse enclosed."

Many participants from ARISE are continuing to give their time, talents and treasure toward creating a Live Drive-Thru Nativity on the parish grounds on Sunday, Dec. 15, from 4-8 p.m. at 700 W. Maumee St. The event will feature candle-lit biblical scenes with actors, music and live animals.

A Mass of Thanksgiving concluded the season and was celebrated by the pastor, Conventual Franciscan Father Fred Pasche, on Tuesday, Dec. 3. During the offertory procession, nonperishable food was brought to the altar for those in need.

A social gathering followed with appetizers, comic relief by the parochial vicar, Conventual Franciscan Father Bernie Zajdel and the kick off to "Catholicism: The New Evangelization," a new DVD series by Father Robert Barron to begin January.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m. — Mass at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame
- Monday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m. — Mass for Legatus Chapter, Saint Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m. — Penance Service, Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church, New Carlisle
- Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2:30 p.m. — Golden Jubilee Mass of Cardinal Francis George, Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago
- Thursday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m. — Mass and Luncheon for Diocesan Employees, Saint Francis Convent, Mishawaka
- Friday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m. — Mass and Luncheon for Diocesan Employees, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. — Mass and Luncheon for Seminarians and their Families and Serra Club, Saint Peter Church, Fort Wayne

Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty Holy Hour across the diocese

• Immaculate Conception Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, has a holy hour Mondays 5:30-6:30 p.m. and every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon. The Adoration Chapel is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. and people are encouraged to spend time in Adoration and pray for the intentions of life, marriage and religious liberty.

• St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne, has a holy hour all Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel.

• Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka has an hour and a half (3:30-5 p.m.) every Saturday of Adoration and Exposition prior to the Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m. They dedicate this time in honor of private prayer for the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.

• St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur, hosts Eucharistic Exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m. The parish asks participants to pray for the protection of marriage, religious freedom and unborn children.

• Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, hosts a holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

ELKHART STUDENTS RING IN THE SPIRIT



ANNE RICE

The St. Thomas the Apostle School Young Vincentians from Elkhart rang bells and sang Christmas carols for the Salvation Army outside Walmart on CR6 in Elkhart on Tuesday, Dec. 3, after school.

Notre Dame sues for relief from federal mandate

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame on Dec. 3 re-filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana for relief from a mandate by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that, contrary to Catholic teaching, requires Notre Dame and similar religious organizations to provide through their insurance plans or third-party administrators contraceptives, sterilization procedures and drugs that some assert induce abortions.

“Our abiding concern in both the original filing of May 21, 2012, and this re-filing has been Notre Dame’s freedom — and indeed the freedom of many religious organizations in this country — to live out a religious mission,” Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, the University of Notre Dame’s president, said. “We have sought neither to prevent women from having access to services, nor even to prevent the government from providing them.”

Notre Dame and government administration officials have been in conversation for more than a year to resolve the matter.

“We believe the participants undertook these discussions in good faith, and we are grateful to the administration for the time it gave to this matter and for its efforts to accommodate our concerns,” Father Jenkins said. “We have concluded, however, the government’s accommodations would require us to forfeit our rights, to facilitate and become entangled in a program inconsistent with Catholic teaching and to create the impression that the university cooperates with and condones activities incompatible with its mission. In these ways, we contend, the regulations compel us to violate our religious beliefs.”

In a statement from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on Dec. 3, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said, “I am happy that Notre Dame remains in strong solidarity with the diocese and U.S. bishops in defending our religious liberty. I hope and pray that we are successful in our lawsuits opposing this government intrusion into our mission to serve the common good according to our teachings.”

In its filing Tuesday, the university asked, among other things, that the court enter declaratory judgments that the HHS mandate violates Notre Dame’s rights under the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and that

the court enjoin the government from enforcing the mandate. The lawsuit names as defendants Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez, Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew and their respective departments.

Citing the Nov. 13 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Special Message regarding the mandate, Father Jenkins said that “Notre Dame wholeheartedly supports, in accord with Catholic teaching and in union with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the effort to provide ‘accessible, life-affirming health care’ for everyone. It is deeply regrettable that rather than joining with the Catholic Church, which has long been a leader in providing such care, the Department of Health and Human Services through this mandate has created a conflict that has demanded time, energy and resources and distracted all parties involved from seeking ways to provide such care.”

Father Jenkins added: “As I said regarding our original filing, because at its core this filing is about the freedom of a religious organization to live its mission, its significance goes well beyond any debate about contraceptive services. For if we concede that the government can decide which religious organizations are sufficiently religious to be awarded the freedom to follow the principles that define their mission, then we have begun to walk down a path that ultimately will undermine those institutions. For if one presidential administration can override our religious purpose and use religious organizations to advance policies that undercut our values, then

surely another administration will do the same for another very different set of policies, each time invoking some concept of popular will or the public good, with the result these religious organizations become mere tools for the exercise of government power, morally subservient to the state, and not free from its infringements. If that happens, it will be the end of genuinely religious organizations in all but name.”

In an Interim Final Ruling issued Aug. 3, 2011, the federal government required employers to provide services that religious organizations found objectionable. A narrow exemption was given to religious institutions, such as houses of worship, that serve and employ primarily members of their own faith, but, departing from a long tradition in federal law, organizations like Notre Dame — schools, universities, hospitals and charitable organizations that serve and employ people of all faiths and none — were granted no exemption, but instead were made subject to the law to the same extent as any secular organization.

On Sept. 28, 2011, Father Jenkins submitted a formal comment encouraging the administration to follow precedent and adopt a broader exemption. Despite some positive indications, the administration announced on Jan. 20, 2012, that its interim rule would be adopted as final without change. After an outcry from across the political spectrum, President Barack Obama announced on Feb. 10, 2012, that his administration would attempt to accommodate the concerns of religious organizations. Encouraged by the announcement, Notre Dame engaged in conversations with

administration officials to find an acceptable resolution. Regrettably, the HHS Advanced Notification of Proposed Rulemaking on preventive services policy, issued on March 16, 2012, provided little in the way of a specific, substantive proposal or a definite timeline for resolution.

Consequently, Notre Dame filed suit May 21, 2012, challenging the regulation as an infringement of the university’s religious freedom. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana dismissed the initial suit, indicating that the regulation was not sufficiently final, or “ripe,” for judicial review. Again the university engaged in discussions with the administration, urging adoption of a rule that would fully respect the right of religious organizations to live according to their beliefs. These discussions continued until the adoption of the final regulation on June 28, 2013. Now, against

the threat of punitive fines, Notre Dame’s third-party administrator, Meritain, is required to notify all females of child-bearing age among the university’s employees and their dependents of the availability of the objectionable services. As this notice must be given by Jan. 1, 2014, the university has re-filed its suit, seeking relief from the courts.

Notre Dame, with 5,200 employees, is the largest employer in St. Joseph County. About 4,600 employees use its self-insured health plan — 11,000 in all when dependents are factored in. About 2,600 of the university’s 11,000 students get health insurance through Notre Dame’s plan with Aetna, with about 100 dependents also covered.

Paul Browne, Tim Johnson and Catholic News Service contributed to this article.

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Amber L. Taylor

BLESSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some might have even started to lose hope at the stand-still with East Allen County School district, Liponoga acted on the encouragement of Dr. Mark Meyers, superintendent of Catholic Schools, "We had been at a principal's meeting and he told me to get a statue of St. Joseph," Liponoga said.

After a trip to the Cathedral Bookstore to purchase the statue, Liponoga called upon his fifth graders to join him at the bell tower of the new building. "After shared prayer, I told the students about the tradition and meaning behind the statue. We called on the intercession of St. Joseph and buried the statue on the seventh of March. It was just a few short weeks later that we got the news the sale would go through!"

So, the group let the whole student body in on their story and on the first day in the new building, each was gifted with a medal of St. Joseph in thanksgiving. The statue was to be uncovered on the first day of school in the new building, but because the ground was frozen, the ceremony was delayed until the second day, Nov. 26, 2013, when boiling water was used to resurrect it.

Father Lourdino Fernandes, the parish's devoted pastor who had the vision, bold initiative and support to move this project forward, was given a standing ovation after the Mass.

He detailed, "I am absolutely overwhelmed by what our parishioners and benefactors have done — and mostly, our Lord. My prayer is that this facility will be a center for



KAY COZAD

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, accompanied by Father Lourdino Fernandes, blesses the gymnasium of St. Rose of Lima School.

excellence for many generations and becomes an asset, not only to St. Rose School, but the whole community. And my dream is for Catholic education here to be affordable for all."

He continued, "It was the generous financial contributions and tremendous volunteer efforts by all who made this dream a reality."

It was an emotional day for many. When asked what she thought of the new chapel, Theresa Sorgen, simply stated, "It is unbelievable." The lifetime member of the parish added, "We have been praying for a long time. I never thought I would see this day. It is wonderful."

Jodi Linder agreed, "It is amaz-

ing." For Linder, the move was especially meaningful as she was in the first grade when the building was brand new and she attended Monroeville Elementary as a child. Her husband, Chad, was in the fourth grade — the same grades their daughter and son are in now. Linder joined the Catholic Church when they married and now they send their children, Lexi and Landri, to the beautiful, "new" facility, St. Rose School.

Two of the eighth-grade girls at St. Rose School, Erica Renninger and Hailee Wallen, were gift bearers for the Mass and served punch at the reception.

Wallen is very happy they will get to spend their final semester in the new facility and is pleased with

the results of the vote to change the name of the school, "I like that our school is now the same name as our church."

See more photos on page 10.



Renninger agreed, "There are a lot of great schools named St. Joseph, but now we will be unique."

General Manager of Tippmann Properties Joe Wharton was also on hand for the celebration. Among many of his assignments for the chapel project, Wharton was responsible for finding the new pews, which were actually ordered on Ebay from Albany, N.Y.

Also instrumental in supporting those on the long list of volunteers who gave tireless hours were Carol Johnson and Marilyn Castleman. Along with the other women of the Rosary Sodality, they hosted a wonderful luncheon after the Mass and made countless meals for the workers during the long days and weeks of painting, cleaning and

preparing for the move.

"We fed the multitudes," Castleman quipped cheerfully.

Indiana State Representative Matt Lehman attended the celebration. He played a key role in changing the law on how long a school has to wait to be sold to the private sector.

Carolyn Kirkendall, former principal, said, "It truly is a blessing ... a dream come true. Father Lourdino has challenged us to think outrageously, and we did, and today it has become a reality and we are so grateful to God and to everyone who has made this possible."

Mary Rennels, parishioner, told *Today's Catholic*, "I am the organist at St. Rose and I went to school at St. Joseph ... and was married here ... and am so happy to see these children and this parish blessed in such a generous way."

Donna (Linder) Weber went through eight grades in St. Joseph School, receiving the sacraments and was married in St. Rose of Lima Church. "I hoped and prayed that this building would become available," she said. "Today's students are truly blessed with this new facility."

Dr. Mark Myers, the superintendent of Catholic Schools, said, "This is the culmination of the work of a lot of people, more important, the faith of a lot of people ... and the children prayed for this as well as the parents. The pastor worked very hard. Father Lourdino did a great job ... and we'll have many blessings here for many years."

Tim Johnson, Kay Cozad and Mark Weber contributed to this story.



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Mandela recalled as a man who inspired others to uphold human dignity

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis joined church and government leaders from around the world in crediting Nelson Mandela for a steadfast commitment to promoting human rights and upholding the dignity of all people in response to the death Dec. 5 of the former president of South Africa. In a message to South Africa President Jacob Zuma, Pope Francis said he offered a prayer to assure that Mandela's efforts to forge a new nation based on nonviolence, reconciliation and truth after the apartheid era "will inspire generations of South Africans to put justice and the common good at the forefront of their political aspirations." The pontiff also asked God to "console and strengthen all who mourn (Mandela's) loss." Mandela, who had been battling complications from a lung infection, died at his home in Johannesburg. He was 95. Others commended Mandela for leading a peaceful transition to democratic rule after he was released from prison in 1990 after 27 years and his election in 1994 as South Africa's first black president. President Barack Obama praised Mandela for striving to achieve a "democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities." We will not likely see the likes of Nelson Mandela again," Obama said during a press briefing Dec. 5. "So it falls to us as best we can to forward the example that he

NEWS BRIEFS

CHRISTMAS TREE PLACED IN ST. PETER'S SQUARE



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A worker erects scaffolding for the Nativity scene as the Vatican Christmas tree is positioned in St. Peter's Square Dec. 5. The 82-foot-tall tree is a gift from people in the town of Waldmunchen in Germany's Bavarian region near the Czech border. It arrived a day earlier than expected in order to beat the threat of bad weather in Germany.

set — to make decisions guided not by hate, but by love, to never discount the difference that one person can make, to strive for a future that is worthy of his sacrifice."

Red February: Pope to hold meeting with cardinals, create new ones

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In late February, Pope Francis will be seeing red and a lot of it as he meets with the College of Cardinals and creates new members. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told reporters Dec. 5 that the international Council of Cardinals advising the pope on the reform of the Roman Curia and Church governance decided to extend by a day their next meeting. It will be Feb. 17-19. The spokesman also announced that Pope Francis would hold a consistory or consultation with the entire College of Cardinals Feb. 20-21 at the Vatican. The meeting will precede the celebration of the Feb. 22 feast of the Chair of St. Peter, which is when Pope Francis will create new cardinals. The pope and the newly expanded College of Cardinals will concelebrate Mass Feb. 23. Pope Francis has not announced the names of the new cardinals, although the date of the ceremony was announced in late October. As of Dec. 5, the College of Cardinals had 200 members, 109 of whom are under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. One cardinal will turn 80 Dec. 25 and two more will celebrate their 80th birthdays in January.



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Federal court blocks key part of Indiana chemical abortion law

INDIANAPOLIS — A United States District Court recently blocked a key provision of an Indiana law governing chemical abortions by granting Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky a preliminary injunction against new physical plant requirements for its Lafayette abortion clinic. The law, which was scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1, 2014, required Planned Parenthood's abortion clinic to meet the physical plant requirements of all other Indiana abortion clinics.

Indiana Right to Life President and CEO Mike Fichter issued this statement: "Today's court action means that Planned Parenthood will be allowed to continue its abortion operations in Lafayette without meeting a single physical building requirement. We believe this action proves once again that Planned Parenthood holds little regard for the health and welfare of its clients. Planned Parenthood simply does not want to cut into its profit margin by doing the renovations required by Indiana law."

Fichter notes that while today's preliminary injunction is a temporary setback, he is confident the State of Indiana will ultimately prevail.

Seminarian name omitted

Seminarian David Huneck, who is studying first-year theology at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., was omitted from the listing of St. Vincent de Paul Parish seminarians in the Dec. 8 issue of *Today's Catholic*.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

SCHOOL BAKES 'COOKIES FOR CHRIST'



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH-ST ELIZABETH SCHOOL

St. Joseph-St Elizabeth School first graders and their families baked dozens of cookies for their annual fund-raising service project, "Cookies for Christ." With the guidance of first-grade teachers Julie Peters and Kaitlynn Gallaway the cookie sale proceeds were presented to the Sunshine Club after the All School Mass on Dec. 6. The Sunshine Club is a joint venture of St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Seton parishes, which collects and purchases items and food for families in the St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Seton parish boundaries. First-graders Elizabeth Hormann, Milo Diehm and William Verslype show the cookies they contributed for "Cookies for Christ."

USF awarded \$1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc

FORT WAYNE — Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded the University of Saint Francis (USF) \$1 million to begin a new bachelor-level risk management insurance degree and implement strategies that build the career readiness of its students. The five-year grant provides the upfront investment to launch what university administration officials report as long-term strategies that will pay dividends far into the future for the students and the community. USF is contributing in-kind services of approximately \$500,000 to support these initiatives.

The new Risk Management Insurance (RMI) degree, targeted for fall 2015, will be the first of its kind in northeast Indiana. "The new degree was endorsed by Ash Brokerage, Brotherhood Mutual Insurance, Hylant Group, Lincoln National Life Insurance and Medical Protective," said Robert Lee, USF's interim dean for the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership. "The insurance industry is expected to experience a high number of retirements in the next five years which is problematic for a growing industry. New insurance professionals are needed in northeast Indiana to replace those retirements," added Lee. The business school dean confirmed that responding to employer needs was the overriding reason for developing the RMI program.

The grant also will support the full implementation of USF's Media Entrepreneurship Training in the Arts (META) program. Funds will support marketing, student recruitment and other promotional needs.

FORT WAYNE VINCENTIANS PRESENT AWARDS



MARK WEBER

At their annual breakfast meeting on the feast day of St. Ambrose, St. Vincent de Paul Society members filled St. Mary Church in Fort Wayne on Saturday, Dec. 7. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades reminded those present that society founder Frederic Ozanam and St. Ambrose were inspired by the love of Christ to prayer and action and that today's Vincentians deliver not only good works but the love of Christ. Present with Bishop Rhoades to receive Top Hat awards in recognition of exemplary Vincentian work were, from left, Clara Sarrazine of the St. Louis-Besancon Conference; Helen Kehne, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne; Jeanette Hatfield, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne; and society president, Cheryl Mowan, who presented the awards. Ron Wurst, who served as society president for 12 years, also received a Top Hat award but was not present for the meeting.

BISHOP EXTENDS WELCOME AT 'MESSIAH' CONCERT



PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the University of Saint Francis sponsored a special performance of Handel's "Messiah" Dec. 8 at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center. Heartland, a professional vocal ensemble, presented the concert directed by Maestro Robert Nance. At left, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades provides the welcome.

A Church of the poor and for the poor

Food Pantry needs grow

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

SOUTH BEND — It has been a decade since Catholic Charities began offering emergency food assistance to a few people in the South Bend area. Long-time staff member Barbara Burlingham, who is currently Catholic Charities West Region assistant administrator, recalls about five families per week coming to the office seeking food assistance in 2003.

The need for food assistance grew exponentially during the following 10 years. In the last fiscal year, Catholic Charities Food Pantry served 3,479 households made up of 11,943 individuals. Just over 40 percent of the individuals served were children and senior citizens. Of the households served, 1,007 were new to the service, according to Catholic Charities West Region Director Claire Coleman.

The food pantry is a walk-in pantry, open every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon and 5-7 p.m. Residents of St. Joseph County whose income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive

food assistance once every four weeks, if needed.

At each visit, the family will receive a packet of food made up of 10-15 items as selected by the client. A typical packet of food may contain one meat item, three to four canned items, three to four dried good items and two to four additional items as available.

Coleman says, "Catholic Charities tries very hard to include meat every week and fresh items such as fruit, vegetables, eggs, butter, cheese or yogurt as often as possible. When available, personal care items are distributed to clients. Periodically, the food pantry will include informational fliers about community services, nutritional brochures and healthy recipes."

Other than the commonality of struggling with food insecurity, there is not a typical profile of the clients served at the pantry. "Some are unemployed and needing help for the first time. Others are seniors or disabled members of the community living on small pensions or social security," explains Coleman.

She continues, "A few clients are working in lower wage jobs or part-time jobs which may not pay enough to meet the family's needs, especially if there is an unexpected expense. And some clients visit the pantry regularly throughout the year, while others visit only once or twice as may be needed."

Volunteers who operate the food pantry each week are vital to the success of its operation, notes Coleman. The weekly food pantry volunteers help with signing folks in for service and helping with paperwork, as well as filling the food bags and distributing them to clients. Volunteers also organize food stock and sort personal care item donations.

Catholic Charities welcomes both monetary and food donations to help meet the increasing need of families for food assistance. "Some of the most needed items include frozen or canned meat, peanut butter, pasta, rice, oatmeal and cereal. Personal care and household care items such as laundry detergent, dish soap and deodorant are always appreciated by clients," Coleman concludes.

A safe place for immigrants

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — With immigration reform currently a hot button issue in the U.S. and locally in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Catholic Charities is doing its best to assist those in need of immigration services. Those services provided by the nonprofit agency include naturalization — becoming a U.S. citizen; family-based petitions — a U.S. citizen petitions to bring his/her family to the country; legal permanence — uniting families legally; and temporary protection status — authorizing an immigrant to remain in the U.S., among others.

Luz Ostrognai, immigration supervisor for Catholic Charities, has been working with immigrants and their families from across the globe, the largest percentage from Mexico and Burma, for the past 11 years. She is accredited with the Board of Immigration Appeals of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and works with clients on a multitude of issues.

Her service to the community requires a consultation to determine the client's need and whether she can assist them, an explanation of the particular visa process, then a meeting to organize the appropriate documents and fill out the needed paperwork. Ostrognai says some cases take months to complete while others take years. Follow up, she says, is an essential aspect of the process.

Because the immigration laws and regulations are ever changing, Ostrognai says professional training is an integral part of her business. "I attend different trainings because I must keep up with the different regulations and changing procedures. ... Sometimes it's very complicated," she says.

Because she alone works with the variety of immigration needs in the diocese, recently including religious visas for foreign priests, her considerable caseload requires a waiting list. "I see clients as soon as possible, but right now there is a waiting list into January. That can be discouraging," she says.

Her hope is to one day train another immigration specialist to assist in providing these much needed services. "We would be able to reach more people," she says, adding that funding is an issue as well in the current troubled economy.

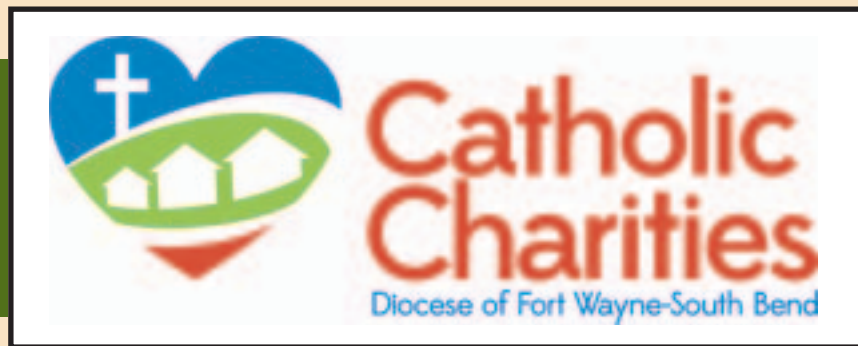
Immigration services also offer citizenship classes for those seeking green cards or citizenship status.

The classes that meet four times each



PHOTO BY KAREN CLIFFORD

Volunteers from the Catholic Charities food pantry in South Bend fill clients' request forms for food and personal care items.



migration services



KAY COZAD

Luz Ostrognai, immigration supervisor for Catholic Charities, offers immigration services to those in need.



PROVIDED BY SHIRLEY JOHNSON

Tori, left, and her volunteer mentor Valarie enjoy working together to bake some blue cupcakes after school during their mentoring time. The two are building a relationship through Catholic Charities mentoring program that assists at-risk children in Dekalb and Noble counties.

Mentoring program builds key relationships

BY KAY COZAD

AUBURN — A national mentoring program has taken the country by storm and Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has recently joined the effort. The first of its kind program in Indiana brings the total of mentoring programs to 41 in 38 states throughout the U.S.

Shirley Johnson, national mentoring coordinator for Catholic Charities in Auburn, and coordinator of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) there, reports that this pilot program is made available through a grant from Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) and the Office of Juvenile Justice. Beginning in March of this year, Johnson began recruiting volunteers to be matched with at-risk children ages 9 to 17 in Dekalb and Noble counties. At-risk behavior can be caused by a variety of factors, reports Johnson, including issues involving divorce, two working parents, moves and much more.

“The adult is a positive role model. They meet outside of school to prevent at-risk behavior — like truancy,” says Johnson. “Ultimately grades will go up and attendance at school will improve.”

Johnson provides two-hour trainings for the volunteers each

month and offers resources for their perusal as well as time for questions. A minimum of eight hours of training a year is the standard requirement and the volunteers have the choice of age and gender of the student with which to work.

In early spring, after receiving referrals from the area elementary, middle and high schools, Johnson began an interview process in which the referred student and parent expressed their needs. After interviewing each volunteer mentor, she matched student to mentor accordingly. A one-year commitment between mentor and student allows the pair to build a successful relationship. However, Johnson reports that “two years is ideal” to have a lasting impact.

Volunteer mentors meet with their students two hours a week or eight hours a month with agreed upon times and dates in this year-round program. The consistency is what’s important, says Johnson. Activities vary according to the student’s need and inclination. Many mentors have met their students at the local library, which Johnson says is a “wonderful resource” for the program. Other activities involve bowling, skating, craft design and baking. Johnson has meetings planned for the future in which all mentors and students will meet for group

activities such as playing board games.

The volunteers have been enthusiastic about the program, says Johnson. “One young man has extensive work with the Boy Scouts,” she says, reporting that he has been successfully matched with an adolescent boy who is fatherless. “They work with homework first, then they go have fun. ... They’ve gone fishing together.” Another young at-risk student wanted to learn to bake so her mentor orchestrated a cupcake-baking extravaganza.

“We’re basically ‘heading them off at the pass,’” says Johnson. “If we divert them, they will attend to something positive.”

The number of matches varies, says Johnson, who reports that the half dozen in each of the two counties served currently have been successful. Both the mentors and the students have benefitted in the short time of the program’s existence and Johnson has high hopes for its future, though there is now a waiting list. “As long as we get referrals, we’ll keep going,” says Johnson, adding, “We’d like to expand to other counties we serve.”

For more information about becoming a mentor or to refer an at-risk student call (260) 925-0917 or email sjohnson@ccfwsb.org.

year for eight sessions focus on teaching U.S. history and government, the components of the naturalization test that each client is required to pass. Ostrognai feels the classes are beneficial for her clients and they are encouraged to repeat the classes until they are confident they can pass the all-important test. Each class provides a mock interview to test the client’s capability.

The classes, which typically host 15 to 20 clients each session, have been successful, says Ostrognai, adding that educating the community on immigration is another important aspect of this service.

“For the last five years we have offered ‘Train the Trainers’ where we work with organizations in the community and

pass the right information to them about immigration,” says Ostrognai. Unfortunately, funding for community training this year is no longer available.

Ostrognai says, “The training was very well received in the community. But we need funding to provide the materials and speakers. It is as important to educate the community on immigration issues as it is to offer the services to our clients.”

Clients seeking immigration services at Catholic Charities, Ostrognai says, come mostly by word of mouth. “We are a Catholic organization, so they hear about us in the churches, and by word of mouth. There’s so much fear about immigration, but Catholic Charities is part of the Church, so they feel safe and secure.”

Ringling in a new era for St. Rose of Lima School



More photos are available in the photo gallery. Visit diocesefwsb.org

PHOTOS BY KAY COZAD

Bishop Rhoades celebrates the Eucharist and is joined by Father Derrick Sneyd, Father Cyril Fernandes, Father Lourdino Fernandes, pastor of St. Rose, and Father Robert D'Souza. Bishop Rhoades referred to the universality of the Church and thanked the devoted priests from India for serving the Church in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.



St. Rose of Lima students cantor for the liturgical celebration of the blessing and formal inauguration of St. Rose of Lima new chapel and school in Monroeville on Dec. 5.



St. Rose of Lima School's students sing their traditional blessing song for guests at the school blessing on Dec. 5. Principal Stan Liponoga stands at right.



Bishop Rhoades greets students after the ceremony.



Principal Stan Liponoga, left, assists in placing the crucifix on the wall of the school's entrance hall.



Members of the Tippmann family and the Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation, who sponsored the chapel, are shown.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blesses the playground equipment.

Making babies — life without love

The dangers of artificial reproductive technologies

Helping couples struggling with infertility is a challenging and rewarding part of my practice. I await the results of pregnancy tests just as eagerly as the couples do. If months or years go by and a couple has not achieved a pregnancy, they often turn to infertility clinics where little investigation is done to find out why a couple is infertile.

Fertility specialists typically steer couples towards their “best (and most expensive) chance” of having their own baby through in vitro fertilization (IVF), intrauterine insemination (IUI), or even surrogate pregnancy. Children are treated as commodities as each embryo is tested for genetic diseases, sex, intelligence, height, hair color,

etc. before discarding, freezing or implanting them in the mother’s womb.

Today, many couples believe that having a biological child is a right. While the Catholic Church endorses the fruitfulness of marriage, it does not promise that marriages will always bear the fruit of biological children. Though infertility is extremely painful for couples, they deserve a loving response from other Christians and the Church. They do not deserve dangerous reproductive procedures that separate them from God’s authentic marital love.

What are the physical and moral dangers of embracing IVF and similar technologies?

The meaning of marital sex as God intended it is undermined. We are not mere animals producing offspring; we are co-creators with God, procreating human beings with

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. KATE HEIMANN

immortal souls. If the holy, conjugal love between a couple has already been distorted by the use of contraception (sex without babies), one can see how slippery the slope can be towards undergoing IVF (babies without sex).

The marital act is replaced. A woman’s eggs are harvested after the use of potent hormones that stimulate super-ovulatory cycles that can lead to life-threatening complications. Sperm

DOCTOR, PAGE 12

Imitation of the Lord brings life



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday in Advent Mt 11:2-11

The Book of Isaiah is the source of this weekend’s third reading.

Isaiah was between a rock and a hard place, so to speak. He realized that unwise alliances, and behavior that forgot God, put the Hebrews’ kingdom of Judah at great risk. The prophet was convinced that if the nation did not return to God in genuine obedience and piety, then the whirlwind eventually would sweep away life, as he and his contemporaries knew it.

He met dispute and outrage. It must have been frustrating, but despite the angry reaction to what he said on the part of many of his contemporaries, Isaiah unflinchingly called the people back to God.

It was not as if God would bring a terrible punishment upon the kingdom. Rather, the people, by their impiety, would create a nightmare for themselves.

The Epistle to James supplies the second reading. This epistle rarely appears in the liturgy.

The identity of the author is unclear, and it leads to another question. The New Testament mentions four men with this name. Which, if any, wrote this epistle? Some insist that James, the foster brother of the Lord, was the author. (Here is the other question. Did Mary have

other children? Ancient Christian writers surmised that James in this reference was a son from a previous marriage of Joseph, the eventual spouse of Mary. They reasoned that this must have been the case, as they believed, with the Church today, that Mary had only one child, namely Jesus.)

Regardless, this reading solidly establishes the author’s faith that Jesus will be victorious. No power can exceed the power of the Lord. After all, the Lord is the Son of God.

However, while final victory undoubtedly will come, it will not necessarily come at a time that humans predict, and certainly it will not come at their bidding. But, it will come.

So, the epistle urges strong faith, but also forbearance.

The third reading, from St. Matthew’s Gospel, centers on John the Baptist, whose denunciations of sin in high places led to his arrest. (In time, they would lead to his death.)

Despising the Roman occupation of the land, pious Jews at this time yearned for a Messiah who would rid the Holy Land of the pagan intruders.

John gave another description of the Redeemer. He saw the Savior not as a warrior, commanding armies to slaughter the enemies of the One God of Israel, but the compassionate, truly holy, leader and guide of the pious.

Jesus met this description, healing the sick, giving hope and restoring life, lovingly coming to earth as God.

In the last verses, Jesus affirms that John is a prophet. In fact, John insists, Jesus is the greatest prophet.

Reflection

Advent is approaching its close. Since Christmas is near, the Church looks ahead to the wonder of the Lord’s birth. It is “Gaudete Sunday,” using a title taken from the first word of the Introit in Latin, “Gaudete!” or “Rejoice!”

Priests may wear rose vestments this weekend, using them instead of violet, as if the rays of dawn already are brightening the somberness of Advent.

The readings make several points. Isaiah warned us, as he warned his contemporaries, that by sin we bring heartache on ourselves. God never brings death. He brings life, just as Jesus brought life.

Advent penance and prayer hopefully lead us to imitate Christ. The liturgy presumes that we are using Advent to our advantage. If we are, and if we center our lives on Christ, then our love for God and for others will brighten the darkness and terror of our times. It is that simple. This imitation of the Lord brings life.

So, it is up to us, and, as James counsels, it will take time.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-9 Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

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

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

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

Waiting for a baby: on Advent and adoption

For years folks told Mike and Maria Slavik that their blue colonial-style house looked like a Christmas card. Maria would be out mowing the lawn in the middle of July and someone would stop to say he loved the way it was decorated for the holidays. So they decided to make it into a card, editing a picture to resemble a painting, blurring the lights into longer strokes, darkening the red poinsettias in the window boxes and the red bows on the wreaths.

Their romance was kindled on Wednesday nights at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Hastings, Minn., a river town on the southern outskirts of the Twin Cities, where Maria led youth-group gatherings and Mike attended choir practice. They’d linger till it was time to lock up the church and then they’d take it to Tamales Mexican restaurant down the road, nursing margaritas, munching on chips and continuing the conversation. There were never enough hours.

Mike was drawn to Maria’s deep faith, compassionate nature and beautiful brown eyes. Maria admired Mike’s willingness to help anyone in need, manifest in his bright smile and the friendly tilt of his eyebrows. They married four years ago and settled into an 85-year-old house with hardwood floors, cast-iron radiators and built-ins, plus a fenced-in backyard where Maria planted two vegetable gardens.

Decorating for Christmas became one of their favorite things to do together. They begin the weekend after Thanksgiving. The first ornaments they hang on the tree are their matching “Baby’s First Christmas” satin balls, a kitten and a teddy on clear plastic framing the year 1978. The rest of the ornaments, along with the wrapped gifts below, are all silver and gold, like icicles dipped in honey.

But there is something missing from the happy scene: a baby of their own. Over the past three years, Maria has miscarried four times. She is one of 6.7 million American women — nearly 11 percent — who struggles to either conceive or carry a baby to term.

The decision she and Mike made to pursue adoption through Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis gave her a new sense of purpose. “One of the things that



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

was so difficult for me, spiritually, with the pregnancy loss was this feeling of losing hope,” she told me. “Our Catholic faith is such a hope-based faith — it’s an Easter faith. The dark Friday eventually turns into Easter morning. When we moved into adoption, it was like, ‘There’s going to be some sun again.’”

Maria poured herself into creating a profile for prospective birth parents, curling up with her laptop in the three-season porch every evening for two weeks. She wrote about what kind of parents she and Mike intend to be and sprinkled in photos. With some editing from Mike, she went through several drafts. “The whole thing felt like a prayer,” she said.

Their profile is part of a personal website they built, MikeAndMariaAdopt.com, and it went live on Catholic Charities’ website two weeks before Thanksgiving. It is one of 10 in a book that birth parents who visit the agency can review.

In this open-adoption era, some adoptive couples launch ambitious marketing campaigns, securing newspaper ads, Craigslist notices, even billboards to reach women considering giving up their babies. But Mike and Maria trust that their simpler approach will speak to the right woman. Ultimately, it’s difficult to convey the three things that remain from their protracted quest to become parents: faith, hope and love.

For now Mike and Maria are embracing Advent, a season of anticipation, of waiting and praying for a baby that changes everything. Each Sunday they light their Advent wreath, trusting that light will one day conquer the darkness.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.

End-of-the-year giving opportunity

BY HARRY VERHILEY

As you consider your year-end tax planning, please consider making good use of your income tax charitable deductions by giving to seminarian support.

The Blessed John Paul II Fund for Seminarian Education is an endowment fund established to provide income for the education of our diocesan seminarians. There are many ways to give to this important

endowment, including gifts of cash, stocks, real estate, bequests or other planned gifts. Your generosity will be a financial and spiritual investment in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for generations to come.

For information on the Blessed John Paul II Fund, or other ways of giving to seminarian education, contact the Office of Stewardship and Development at (260) 399-1405 in Fort Wayne, or (574) 258-6571 in South Bend, or e-mail stewardship@diocesefwsb.org.

Focused on the New Evangelization

There's a lot for U.S. Catholics to be thankful for in 2013: seminaries that have turned the corner from the doldrums of the immediate past and are now full, or getting close; a reform of the liturgical reform that is bringing a new sense of the sacred back to Catholic worship; a pope who's put a new face on the Church while holding fast to the Church's settled teaching; the finest multimedia exposition of Catholic faith ever produced, Father Robert Barron's "Catholicism" series; strong leadership from our bishops in meeting challenges to religious freedom and moral reality; a burgeoning men's movement that draws thousands to witness for Christ; a new feminism that rejects a unisex approach to life and that is robustly pro-life.

And then there is FOCUS: the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. Founded by Curtis Martin 15 years ago at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., FOCUS's genius is peer-to-peer evangelization and catechesis: FOCUS missionaries offer the Church two or more years of their lives after college graduation, returning to campus as agents of the New Evangelization after intensive training. The missionaries go with the approval of the local bishop and work with the already-established Newman Center or campus ministry — and support themselves by their own fundraising, making FOCUS a value-added addition to campuses large and small.

I've run into FOCUS missionaries on dozens of campuses in recent years and spoken to several of their regional jamborees, and I never come away from those encounters without having my own spiritual batteries recharged. (If you've

never heard a FOCUS missionary, back home in Rapid City, S.D., tell tales of opening evangelical conversations in Harvard Yard by inviting the denizens of America's oldest university to play Ultimate Frisbee, you haven't explored the full range of the New Evangelization.) But don't just take my word for it, when it comes to measuring FOCUS's effectiveness; look at the numbers.

From that single start-up outside Kansas City 15 years ago, FOCUS is now present on 83 campuses from sea to shining sea: big state schools like Arizona State, Auburn, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Nebraska, Maryland, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin; independent schools like Northwestern, Tulane, Boston University, Columbia, New York University, Baylor, George Washington, MIT and the aforementioned Harvard; Catholic schools including Ave Maria University, Loras College, Mount St. Mary's Emmitsburg, Belmont Abbey College and Franciscan University; and two service academies: the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn.

Hundreds of Catholic couples have found their vocation to marriage through FOCUS activities. Almost 300 young men have entered the seminary after getting involved with FOCUS, and over 100 FOCUS-influenced young women have entered religious life. And that's just measuring by vocational choice. How many thousands more have taken a FOCUS formation into business, the professions and academic life? Many thousands, is a safe bet.

Curtis Martin and FOCUS are not resting on their laurels. On the contrary, in that spirit



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

of "putting out into the deep" to which John Paul II called the Church at the end of the Great Jubilee of 2000, FOCUS's strategic goal is to be present on 100 campuses in 2015 and 134 campuses in 2017, "growing" its corps of missionaries from 406 this year to 736 in four years' time. Those 736 young missionaries, according to the strategic plan, will engage almost 21,000 students in 2017 and inspire in that year 157 religious vocations.

It's all, ultimately, a work of the Holy Spirit. But if it's true that we cannot service God and mammon, it's also true that serving God as FOCUS does requires resources, for FOCUS is determined to remain a value-added apostolate for dioceses and their campus ministries, not a burden to already-strapped local churches. Those now pondering their end-of-the-year charitable giving might well consider helping FOCUS (P.O. Box 33656, Denver, CO 80233) get to its goal of 100 campuses by 2015 — an investment in the New Evangelization that, on past performance, promises a serious return.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

DOCTOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

are combined with these eggs in sterile petri dishes to make embryos; each one a child of God.

Male fertility is evaluated immorally. Men are asked to give a sperm sample generally stimulated by the use of pornography. Couples are rarely offered a morally acceptable way to collect a sample.

The husband and wife are separated during conception and the baby is separated from her mother before implantation. A baby has a right to be conceived by her mother and father and to be carried in the loving confines of her mother's womb. With IVF and other procedures, a technician uses a syringe containing embryos (young humans) to impregnate the woman. A woman shouldn't need to ask, "Who is making me

pregnant?"

Thousands of children are created — and discarded. Nearly 500,000 embryos are currently frozen across the country — lives that are suspended and abandoned in deep freezers. This number increases daily with no morally sound solution in place.

The mother and baby face many risks. Children conceived through IVF have a higher rate of birth defects and neonatal complications than naturally conceived children.

During our wedding ceremony, we take a vow to "accept children willingly from God," but we do not have the right to use any means necessary to conceive and bear biological children. The ends can never justify the means. When a couple is unable to have children, they should be counseled to investigate through moral means why they are infertile.

NaProTechnology (Natural Procreative Technology) is a medical science using moral

means to determine the cause of infertility and moral solutions to achieving pregnancy.

NaProTechnology embraces the combined fertility of the married couple in accordance with Church teaching, is proven to be inexpensive (compared to IVF, IUI, etc.), and is very effective for achieving pregnancy. The small percentage of couples who remain infertile after exhausting all moral means to bear children are asked to prayerfully consider other opportunities to live out their marriage vocation — adoption, foster care or service.

More information can be found at www.naprotechnology.com.

Dr. Kate Heimann is a NaProTechnology-trained family physician who practices in Decatur and serves as the vice president of the Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana (www.fort-waynecma.com).

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 15, 2013

Matthew 11:2-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle A: Jesus' final message to John, who was in prison. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

HEARD	OF THE CHRIST	JESUS
TELL JOHN	BLIND	SIGHT
LEPERS	CLEANSED	RAISED
GOOD NEWS	NO OFFENSE	SPEAK
REED	BY THE WIND	GO OUT
BEHOLD	BORN	WOMEN
THE BAPTIST	LEAST	HEAVEN

BORN OF WOMEN

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

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Love turns despair into hope

Christmas is about welcoming the Christ Child into our world and our hearts. In that sense, every day is Christmas for Dan and Annalise "Cubby" LaHood, who welcome severely disabled children into their Silver Spring, Md., home because they see Christ in each of them.

Their mission began in the early 1980s, when Cubby decided to open a daycare center in their house, so she could stay home with their new baby. The first person to respond was the mother of a child with "profound birth defects," explained Dan during a recent interview with me on "Christopher Closeup."

Cubby had an extensive background teaching and caring for special needs children, so she welcomed her first client with an open heart and a lot of love. When word spread that there was a woman willing to care for children with severe disabilities, the calls kept coming.

The LaHoods' work got more personal in 1988, after they received a devastating prenatal diagnosis regarding their second child. Doctors told them that he suffered from extensive medical complications and wouldn't live long. Though advised by doctors and some family members to terminate the pregnancy, Dan and Cubby connected with Dr. Joseph Collea at Georgetown University Hospital, who agreed to support them in their decision to give birth to their child regardless of the circumstances.

Their son, Francis, was born on Oct. 6, 1988. He died a few min-



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

TONY ROSSI, THE CHRISTOPHERS

utes later. Dan's heart was broken, but that brokenness brought both him and Cubby to God in a new way. Cubby, who had been raised Presbyterian, made the decision to become Catholic. And after spending much of his life as "an Easter and Christmas cultural Catholic," Dan embraced his childhood faith in a much deeper way, and left his job to work with Cubby's home daycare business full time.

He recalled, "When we started this, we didn't charge much, the people we served didn't have much money. We sat down once, and my wife said, 'I want go over the books with you to show you something.' So she opened the books and said, 'This is what we have coming in, and this is what we have in our account.' And every month, we had more in our account than we took in! And we both said simultaneously, 'St. Joseph!'"

That was when they decided to name their daycare center St. Joseph's House, because Jesus's adoptive father was known as a strong, dedicated caretaker. That ministry is still going strong.

Sports

NO. 2 NAIA DIV. II UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS KNOCKS OFF NO. 1 INDIANA WESLEYAN After outscoring defensive minded, top-ranked Indiana Wesleyan University, 85-76, on Saturday afternoon, University of Saint Francis Head Coach Gary Andrews said he'll be surprised if his Lady Cougars aren't ranked No. 1 in the next NAIA Top 25 on Dec. 10. USF improved to 12-0, its second best start in the 40-year history of the women's basketball program, and 3-0 in Crossroads League play. The Lady Cougars outscored the defending NAIA Championship champions, 51-42, in the second half before a crowd of more than 1,200 at Hutzell Athletic Center.

ICCL kicks off basketball action on the hard courts

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA — When the temperature drops and the snow starts to fly that can only mean one thing for the Inter-City Catholic League — basketball season.

The ICCL kicked off play this last weekend when 12 of the 14 teams took to the hard courts to start their quests for championships in the St. John Bosco and St. Martin DePorres divisions.

St. Joseph and Marian high schools again opened their doors and poured out their generosity to host this season's contests.

In St. John Bosco action, the Crusaders of Holy Cross dispatched the upstart St. Adalbert squad, 37-10, in early action. The Falcons of St. Jude also began their season on the positive side

by winning in a highly contested game against the Pumas of Queen of Peace, 35-26.

The west side team of Holy Family also got off to a good start as they outpaced the Panthers of St. Anthony, 43-30.

On the St. Martin DePorres side of the ledger, Josh De St. Jean led the Eagles of St. Joseph with 25 points as they clipped Alex Francoeur and his Cougars of Corpus Christi, 45-39.

The Mishawaka Catholic Saints snuck by St. Thomas, 45-39, to start atop the division.

In the only crossover contest of the day, Christ the King behind Michael Dunkelberger's 20 beat St. Michael, 48-10.

Play will resume this Sunday, Dec. 15, at the area Catholic high schools.

The complete schedule can be found on the league's website at www.icclsports.org.



Twins, with their own gym to call 'home,' look for a good season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

MONROEVILLE — Things are looking up this season for the St. Rose/St. Louis girls' basketball team. After two years with not enough players to field a team, the Twins are back in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Blue League.

And for the first time, the green-and-white Twins even have their very own gym to call "home" for practices after St. Rose School's recent acquisition of the Monroeville Elementary School building.

Coach Jerry Feasby lists seven girls on his roster. His combined seventh-and eighth-grade squad won their opener in a non-conference matchup against the eighth graders from St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, 37-21, on Saturday, Dec. 7, as CYO league games kicked off for the 2013-2014 season.

The pleased coach commented, "The girls did a great job and worked hard all four quarters. It was a good start."



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Coaches Jerry Feasby and Jeremy Wallen discuss adjustments to the game plan during a time out of the Twins' season opener.

Feasby's three eighth graders carried the team in the victory. Erica Renninger had six points, Hailee Wallen added 12 and Grace Castleman led all scorers with a game-high, 17. Seventh-grader Nevaeh

Feasby rounded out the scoring with four points.

In the loss, Eli Snyder and Colbi Nigh led the Eagles with seven and eight points, respectively, and a strong second half.

BISHOP DWENGER HONORS FOOTBALL, TENNIS TEAMS



PROVIDED BY BISHOP DWENGER

Bishop Dwenger High School honored the men doubles tennis team and the football team for earning state runner-up status this fall at an all-school assembly on Dec. 6. The doubles tennis team and the football captains shared with the student body their success of their seasons and their journey to state. Shown are Bishop Dwenger captains with Coach Chris Svarczkopf and Bishop Dwenger Principal Jason Schiffl.

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Pope asks that no one be indifferent to elderly, children, sick, poor

BY CAROL GLATZ

ROME (CNS) — Pope Francis prayed that people would never be indifferent to the cries of the poor, the suffering of the sick, the loneliness of the elderly and the fragility of children.

"May every human life always be loved and venerated by all of us," he prayed on the feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 8.

Pope Francis marked the feast day with a traditional afternoon visit to a statue of Mary erected near the Spanish Steps.

He traveled between the Vatican and the heart of Rome's tourist and shopping district riding in the passenger front seat of a four-door Ford Focus sedan. The visit was to pay homage to Mary by praying before the statue, which commemorates Pope Pius IX's proclamation in 1854 that Mary, by special divine favor, was without sin from the moment she was conceived.

The pope offered a large basket of white roses trimmed with a white- and yellow-striped ribbon decorated with the pope's coat-of-arms. The basket was set among scores of other floral arrangements at the foot of the column topped by the statue.

While he did not give a speech or make any formal remarks to the crowds gathered for the event, he spoke from a prepared prayer asking that Mary would renew in everyone the desire to be holy, charitable, pure and chaste and to speak words that "glow with the splendor of truth."

Standing before the statue, he asked Mary to "help us stay attentive to listen to the Lord's voice: that the cry of the poor never leave us indifferent, that the suffering of the sick and those in need not find us distracted, that the solitude of the elderly and the fragility of

children may move us" and that everyone seek to love and respect every human life.

At the end of the prayers, Pope Francis kissed, hugged, greeted and blessed a long line of people in wheelchairs and their caregivers. He received a few individual white roses from people and a few notes and presents.

After the ceremony, he stopped at Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major to pray before the basilica's famous Marian icon "Salus Populi Romani" (health of the Roman people).

Reciting the Angelus earlier in the day to the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope said Mary never strayed from the love and plan that God had for her even when accepting that plan fully "was certainly not easy for her."

However, God's love and plan

for Mary, he said, are not something "alien" or irrelevant to the rest of humanity, despite the presence of sin.

God wants and chooses everyone to be holy and immaculate, he said. "All along, we, too, have been chosen by God to live a holy life free from sin. It is a plan of love that God renews every time we approach Him, especially in the sacraments."

Pope Francis asked that, in contemplating Mary, people recognize their true destiny and vocation: "to be loved and transformed by love."

May people look to Mary "to learn how to be more humble and also more courageous in following the Word of God and for accepting the tender embrace of her son, Jesus, an embrace that gives us life, hope and peace," he said.



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

Bake sale and Christmas concert
Fort Wayne — Rosary Society of Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St., will have a candy and bake sale Saturday, Dec. 14, in the school gym from 4-6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15, from 8 a.m. to noon. Santa will be present both days.

candy sale Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school basement.

St. Monica Rosary Society cookie walk
Mishawaka — The St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie walk Saturday, Dec. 14,

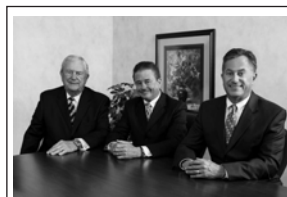
in the church basement, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave.

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.

Knights of Columbus host Sunday breakfast at Most Precious Blood
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus will be serving a breakfast Sunday, Dec. 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at Most Precious Blood, 1515 Barthold Street. \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12 and \$20 per family. Carryout will be available. All proceeds will benefit the Bill Roth Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Christmas breakfast with Santa
South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a breakfast with Santa Sunday, Dec. 15, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets available after Masses and at the door. Adults \$6, Senior \$5, children 12 and under \$3 and \$20 per family.

Christmas cookie and candy sale
Monroeville — The St. Rose Altar and Rosary Society will have a Christmas cookie and



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Eugene Johnson Jr., 80, St. Therese

Robert S. Galvas, 87, St. Adalbert

Rosemary Ann Vincent, 86, St. Vincent de Paul

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Michael R. Andert, 80, Christ the King

Anna M. Molnar, 91, St. John the Baptist

Sylvie A. Fair, 79, St. Jude

Charlotte Anne Grayson, 84, St. Joseph

Executive Administrator

Saint Anne Home & Retirement Community (www.saintannehome.com) is actively searching for a qualified Executive Administrator. Saint Anne Home is a Roman Catholic Health Care facility in Fort Wayne, Indiana in affiliation with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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- Fax to 260-399-3070 (confidential fax)
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What is the Pope trying to tell us?



Could it be that our Holy Father is serving as a direct and contemporary reminder of Jesus himself, who was born into the world this season to reach a lost and hurting world?

Dear Parishioner:

Caught up in the magic of the Christmas season, we sometimes forget about our Lord's birth in a drafty, makeshift shelter to parents far from the comforts of home. And we rarely see a Christmas card depicting Joseph and Mary's terrifying flight into Egypt, a desperate attempt to save Jesus' life from an evil king.

No doubt our Lord's language in Matthew 25 about feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and visiting those in prison stems from his first-hand experience with hunger, pain, and loneliness. Leaving little room for misunderstanding, Jesus' words demand action on our part. It is in this spirit, no doubt, that Pope Francis has chosen to live in a way that identifies his life and ministry with the "least of these," sending a clear message that he hopes we will do the same.

To join our Holy Father in honoring Jesus' instructions to us during this beautiful season, please consider making a financial contribution to Catholic Charities by year end. When you do, you'll help us in our ministry of caring for hurting, neglected people — people who need a reminder in their difficult lives of the love Jesus has for all of us.

Meanwhile, thank you for the support you've given us in the past. And may the peace of our Lord be with you and your loved ones during this Christmas season.

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