



Second Sunday of Advent



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Saint Mary's presents 'Voices of Young Catholic Women' to pope

BY TIM JOHNSON

VATICAN CITY — Even cloudy skies and showers could not dampen the spirits of a Saint Mary's College senior, a 2014 alumna, college President Carol Ann Mooney and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, as a handmade stole, art and letters collected by the college titled "Voices of Young Catholic Women" were presented to Pope Francis during his general audience on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

Students, supported by Saint Mary's Center for Spirituality (CFS) and the Campus Ministry office, organized a national letter-writing response to Pope Francis's outreach to young people to encourage the Millennial Generation — those born between 1981-1995 — to write to the pope about their love for Catholic tradition and offer ideas on how the Church might better reach their demographic. CFS advertised the Voices project in *America* magazine and sent letters and

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L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney and Kristen Millar of the class of 2015 hand-deliver the "Voices of Young Catholic Women" project to Pope Francis on Wednesday, Nov. 26. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades introduced the contingency to Pope Francis.

European Parliament

Pope appeals to leaders in Strasbourg visit

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Pope in Turkey

Dialogue and meeting refugees

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Seniors

Active, joy-filled lives

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Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8 is a holy day of obligation

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World Youth Day memories spark renewed interest for 2016 trip to Krakow

BY KAY COZAD

Youths from around the world are making plans to converge on Krakow, Poland, in July of 2016 to experience the universal Catholic Church in all its glory at the weeklong World Youth Day (WYD) event. Pope Francis has announced the theme for the 31st World Youth Day as "Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them." (Matthew 5:7).

World Youth Day was introduced in 1985 by then Pope John Paul II who desired that a celebration of youth be at the diocesan level each year as well as a weeklong international event every two to three years.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has sent its youth on several WYD pilgrimages across the world over the years and 2016 will be no different. Registration for World Youth Day



2016 began July 26, in the diocese. The total cost for the pilgrimage is estimated at \$4,000. The pilgrimage cost includes the registration fee for

WYD, round trip airfare, transportation to and from the airport, motor coach transportation between cities in Poland, hotel accommodations, breakfast daily at the hotel and all meals on days seven through 11. And though WYD 2016 is not a diocesan-wide fund raising event, some parishes around the diocese are working to ensure their youths have the opportunity to grow in faith on this spiritual pilgrimage.

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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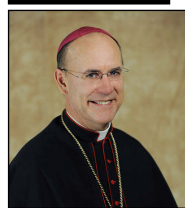
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'Prepare the way of the Lord'



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

In this season of Advent, we frequently encounter in the readings of the liturgy the austere figure of Saint John the Baptist, the Precursor of the Lord. He preached in the wilderness of Judea. His mission was to prepare and clear the way for the Lord. He called the people to repent of their sins and to correct every injustice.

During these weeks of Advent, while we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, it is important that we hear the voice of John the Baptist and respond to his appeal for conversion. In this holy season, through the voice of John, the Church invites us to open our hearts to receive the Son of God. Unfortunately, we can easily lose the focus of faith during these weeks before Christmas and fall into the materialistic mindset of our culture. We must not allow the voice of John the Baptist to be drowned out by the noise around us.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths. These words of Isaiah foretold the message and mission of John the Baptist. This call to prepare the way of the Lord and to make straight His paths was urgent and is still urgent. God came in the Person of His Son when the Word became flesh. This is what we celebrate at Christmas. He still comes today. The Lord invites us to receive Him and His gift of salvation. God invites us to accept His Son into our lives, to be His disciples in the world today.

What does it mean to *make straight His paths*? There are so many *crooked* paths that we can be tempted to walk. We can get off track in our Christian lives, falling into sin, walking along roads that deviate from our faith. There are many temptations to stray from the path of the Lord and to get lost along the way, to stray from the Gospel. During Advent, it is good to make straight the path of the Lord in our hearts by examining our lives, clearing the way for the Lord to act in us with His grace. It is important to look at our lives and to see where our choices and actions have not been in harmony with the Gospel. The sacrament of Penance is a great way for all of us to heed the call of John the Baptist to repentance and conversion.

Advent is a season of commitment and conversion in preparation for the Lord's coming. It is also a time of joy since we are preparing for the celebration of Our Savior's birth. This joy comes from faith in the Incarnation, in the fact that Jesus brings us salvation. In the midst of so much darkness in our world, we see light, the light of Christ that overcomes the darkness of sin, selfishness, and death. The Lord comes. He is not a distant God; He is Emmanuel (God-with-us). This is the cause of our joy, the true joy of Christmas that God not only exists, but that He comes to us and is close to us always. He came to earth to be with us and to share in our human condition. He came to save us and He is with us even now. He is with us in the Church and in the Holy Eucharist. He is always at our side, no matter the challenges and problems we encounter. He loves us and He saves us.

To experience the true joy and peace of



WEB GALLERY OF ART

This painting by the Dutch painter Rembrandt from 1634 depicts St. John the Baptist preaching.

Christmas, we need to prepare ourselves during these weeks of Advent. I mentioned that confession is a great way to prepare for Christmas. Prayer is also so important. Maybe you can find some time to attend a few daily Masses during Advent, a great way to put the focus on the true meaning of Christmas. We can so easily get caught up in the secularism of our culture's observance of Christmas, including the materialism that surrounds us. In a consumer society, we can be tempted to seek joy in things, but things really do not bring us fulfillment. When we neglect the spiritual, we end up living Christmas as a merely external holiday. It is so much more: it is the feast of the Son of God who came to bring us peace, life, and true joy.

Besides confession and prayer, I would like to recommend an act of charity as a way to prepare the way of the Lord and to observe the true meaning of Christmas. There are many opportunities to give a gift to the poor and needy during this season, or to make a visit to someone who is sick or lonely. To practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, to reach out to those in need, is an integral part of our faith. To be mindful of those who are hurting and to bring them Christ's love is a great way to live the true meaning of Christmas.

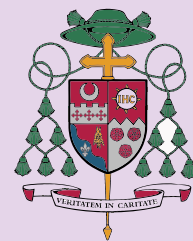
During these weeks of Advent, let us make sure that we listen to the voice of John the Baptist so as to make room for Jesus, the Word who saves us, and to welcome Him into our hearts. Let us keep our focus on the Child in the manger and make sure that we preserve the primacy of God in our life.

This week we will celebrate two beautiful feasts of Mary: the Immaculate Conception on December 8th and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th. Mary is the Virgin of Advent. She awaited and prepared silently and prayerfully for the birth of her Son. May

she intercede for us, that we will be ready to receive anew, in our hearts and in our whole lives, our Savior, Christ the Lord!

Bishop to celebrate 10th anniversary of ordination to episcopacy

Remembering the 10th anniversary of his episcopal ordination, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Mass on Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne at 12:05 p.m. The faithful are invited to the Mass. He was ordained a bishop on Dec. 9, 2004, for the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He was installed the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on Jan. 13, 2010.



Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

I'd like to share with you in this additional column about my recent pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi during Thanksgiving week. The reason for my trip was to present to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, President Carol Mooney and a student representative from Saint Mary's College who presented to the Pope 250 letters from young Catholic women of Saint Mary's College and throughout the United States. The letters contained many beautiful and touching reflections by these young women about their Catholic faith. They also shared their ideas for "the new evangelization" of women their age in the United States. The Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization supported this project and arranged for the presentation at the end of the papal audience on November 26th.

While in Rome, I had the opportunity to celebrate Mass for the Saint Mary's students who are studying for a semester or year abroad in Rome. They got up early to attend the Mass at the beautiful Basilica of Sant'Andrea della Valle, near their hotel. Deacon Royce Gregerson, a seminarian of our diocese studying in Rome, served as deacon at the Mass. I was happy to spend some time with Deacon Royce and also with Father Francis Chukwuma who is working on his doctorate in canon law at the Lateran University. Father Francis, a priest of the Diocese of Awka, Nigeria, has served in our diocesan tribunal and also as pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Bluffton. Both Father Francis and Deacon Royce are happy and doing well and, of course, working hard in their studies.

It was a joy and an honor to meet Pope Francis twice during the week. I concelebrated Mass with the Holy Father in the chapel of his residence on November 24th and spoke with him after Mass. He gave a beautiful homily on the Gospel of the poor widow who gave all she had in the temple. The Pope spoke of how the poor widow is an image of the Church and our calling. Then I was able to meet him again on November 26th at the end of his public audience. On both occasions, I spoke to the Holy Father a little about our diocese and asked for his blessing upon the priests and faithful of our diocese. On both occasions, Pope Francis humbly asked for our prayers. On Wednesday, he shared with me that he needs our prayers. I can only imagine the heavy responsibilities of the Pope. I promised him my prayers and told him I would share his request for prayers with you.

At the papal audience, I sat next to Archbishop Amel Nona, the Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Mosul in Iraq, and Bishop John Vadakel of Bijnor, India. We spoke for about an hour before the audience began. I was deeply moved by the conversation with both bishops. Bishop John Vadakel's diocese is a Syro-Malabar Catholic Eparchy in the north of India in the Himalayan Mountains. Less than one tenth of 1 percent of the population is Catholic (3,705 Catholics among 3.5 million people). They live in some danger from Hindu extremists. His is truly a missionary diocese, yet the diocese runs 26 Catholic schools, 12 health centers, and other social service institutions.

Archbishop Nona's archdiocese has been decimated by ISIS. Some of the faithful have been killed. The previous archbishop was kidnapped and murdered in 2008. There were over 25,000 Catholics in the Mosul Archdiocese before the 2003 war. Before ISIS took control earlier this year, there were approximately 10,000 Catholics. Almost all have now fled. There are hardly any Catholics left in his archdiocese,



PROVIDED BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spent two days in Assisi, time for prayer, reflection and hiking. He celebrated Mass each day in the 13th century Basilica of Saint Francis, in the Lower Basilica on Nov. 27 and in the crypt chapel at the tomb of Saint Francis on Nov. 28.

so Archbishop Nona leads and serves them "in exile," so to speak. Many live in churches, schools, and refugee camps in Kurdistan, northern Iraq. The archbishop now lives in the city of Irbil where the largest number of his faithful now reside. Archbishop Nona told me that he doesn't have much hope that his people will return to Mosul even if ISIS is expelled, since the Christians were already living in danger and persecuted prior to the invasion and occupation by ISIS. He said that radical Islamic extremists were already residing in Mosul and had welcomed ISIS. The Archbishop, however, has some hope that some of his people may return to smaller villages in his archdiocese where there had been good relations between Christians and Muslims.

Archbishop Nona and I shared the hope of staying in touch. I was thinking that perhaps we can help him and the archdiocese of Mosul in future rebuilding, if indeed they return and try to rebuild their churches and communities.

I was grateful to spend two days of prayer in Assisi before returning home this past Sunday. I was grateful to celebrate Mass at the Tomb of Saint Francis. And I prayed for all of you in both Rome and Assisi.

May this season of Advent be for all of us a time of joy and prayer!



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, December 7, 10 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, Saint Jude Church, South Bend
- Sunday, December 7, 7:30 p.m. — Handel's Messiah Concert, University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center, Fort Wayne
- Monday, December 8, 12:05 p.m. — 10th Anniversary Mass of Episcopal Ordination, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, December 9, 3:30 p.m. — Meeting of Indiana Bishops, Indianapolis
- Wednesday, December 10, 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of Indiana Catholic Conference, Indianapolis
- Thursday, December 11, 11 p.m. — Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
- Friday, December 12, 5:15 p.m. — Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
- Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m. — Annual Mass for Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Saint Mary, Mother of God, Church, Fort Wayne

Support Catholic religious in their mission, ministries, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — During the Year of Consecrated Life, all Catholics are called to thank God for the gifts members of religious orders have given the Church and the world, to join them in prayer and find practical ways to support them and their ministries, Pope Francis said.

"Let them know the affection and the warmth which the entire Christian people feels for them," the pope said in a letter issued for the special year, which opened Nov. 30 and will close Feb. 2, 2016, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

The Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court, issued a note Nov. 28 specifying that both lay and consecrated people can receive an indulgence for participating in events related to the Year of Consecrated Life, going to Confession, receiving the Eucharist and offering prayers for the intentions of the pope.

In his letter, Pope Francis also offered greetings to Orthodox communities of monks and nuns, and to members of Protestant religious orders, who also take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and are "expressions of fraternal communion and service." Dialogue between Catholic religious and those of other traditions "can prove helpful for the greater journey toward the unity of all the churches," he said.

The bulk of the pope's letter and video messages he sent for a Nov. 29 prayer vigil in Rome and the year's opening Mass the next day in St. Peter's Basilica were addressed specifically to the world's more than 900,000 Catholic religious priests, brothers, sisters and consecrated virgins.

"Leave your nests and go out to the peripheries," he told those at the vigil in the Basilica of St. Mary Major. "Live on the frontiers" where people are waiting to hear and understand the Gospel.

"Wake up the world, enlightening it with your prophetic and countercultural witness," he said in the message to those at Mass in St. Peter's the next morning.

"Being joyful," he said in the message, "being courageous" and "being men and women of communion" are the common traits of the founders of religious orders and are the key to their future.

The pope's letter for the year explained that while he was writing as pope, he was also writing as a Jesuit, "a brother who, like yourselves, is consecrated to the Lord."

Knowing the gifts and challenges of religious life from the inside, Pope Francis urged religious to "look to the past with gratitude," rediscovering the way their predecessors read "the signs of the times" and responded with creativity. However, it also involves recognizing the difficulties and inconsistencies resulting from human weakness and learning from them.

Religious are called "to live the present with passion" and "embrace the future with hope," he said, knowing that the Holy Spirit continues to inspire new responses to the needs of the Church and the world and to give religious the strength to be faithful servants of God.

Within communities, within dioceses and within the Church, he said, religious are called to be "experts in communion," a call that is prophetic in the modern world. "In a polarized society where different cultures experience difficulty in living alongside one another and where the powerless encounter oppression, where inequality abounds, we are called to offer a concrete model of community which, by acknowledging the dignity of each person and sharing our respective gifts, makes it possible to live as brothers and sisters."

Pope calls European Parliament to rejuvenate 'grandmother' Europe

BY CINDY WOODEN

STRASBOURG, France (CNS) — The 77-year-old grandson of European immigrants to Argentina, Pope Francis urged the European Parliament to value the continent's faiths and recuperate a sense of responsibility for the common good to rejuvenate Europe's social, political and economic life.

"In many quarters we encounter a general impression of weariness and aging, of a Europe which is now a 'grandmother,' no longer fertile and vibrant," he said Nov. 25. In too many cases, he said, the Judeo-Christian values and the humanist ideals that inspired the continental drive toward unity seem to have been replaced by "the bureaucratic technicalities of its institutions."

Pope Francis, the first non-European pope in almost 1,300 years, was scheduled to spend less than four hours in Strasbourg visiting only the European Parliament and the Council of

Europe. It was the shortest foreign papal trip ever and the first that did not feature at least one visit to a church.

Because it was organized strictly as a visit to the European institutions, the pope traveled to and from the airport in a closed car, not the popemobile. Along the route from the airport, scattered groups of a few people waited at the intersections with smartphones or cameras in their hands. There were plenty of French police lining the route, but the only significant groups of bystanders were at the tram stops.

Instead of making a pastoral visit, Pope Francis went to the heart of European unity and bureaucracy: the European Parliament, the legislative arm of the 28-member European Union; and the Council of Europe, an organization of 47 countries formed to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law on the continent.

A few parliamentarians objected to the pope's visit, saying it violated the separation of Church and state. But Martin Schulz, the parliament's



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis speaks during a visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, Nov. 25.

president, told the pope his words "carry enormous weight not only because you are the spiritual leader of more than 1 billion believers. Your words carry enormous weight because they speak to everyone" and because "the issues you raise concern everyone."

"Your words," he told the pope, "provide counsel and direction in times of confusion."

The only other pope to visit the European Parliament was St. John Paul II in 1988, a year before the Berlin Wall fell and marked the beginning of the end of a Europe divided into democratic West and communist East.

Despite the expansion of democracy and the incorporation of more countries into the European Union, Pope Francis told the parliament, "Europe seems to give the impression of being somewhat elderly and haggard, feeling less and less a protagonist in a world which frequently regards it with aloofness, mistrust and even, at times, suspicion."

But strength is needed, he said, to defend the democracy dreamt of for so long. The continent's democracies, the pope said, "must not be allowed to collapse under the pressure of multinational interests which are not universal, which weaken them and turn them into uniform systems of economic power at the service of unseen empires."

Giving new life to the European project, he said, "depends on the recovery of the vital connection" between transcendent values and attention to the talents of Europe's peoples and their concrete needs. "A Europe that is no longer open to the transcendent dimension of life is a Europe which risks slowly losing its own soul and that 'humanistic spirit' which it still loves and defends."

European Union discussions are filled with references to human rights, but, the pope said, the idea of duties that go along with rights seem to be largely absent. "As a result, the rights of the individual are upheld, without regard for the fact that each human being is part of a social context wherein his or her rights and duties are bound up with those of others and with the common good of society itself."

Even worse, he said, the most basic right — the right to life — is denied to many, including the unborn, the terminally ill and the elderly. "There are still too many situations in which human beings are treated as objects whose conception, configuration and utility can be programmed and who can then be discarded when no longer useful due to weakness, illness or old age."

The selfish live with "an opulence" that is not sustainable and is indifferent to others, particularly the poor, he said. Economic, trade

and employment policies seem dictated by technical and financial considerations to such an extent that "men and women risk being reduced to mere cogs in a machine."

In addition, he said, too many of Europe's citizens face active discouragement from expressing their religious convictions, too many of them go hungry and even more "lack the work which confers dignity."

The original inspiration for European unity was the "transcendent dignity" of the human person, a dignity that endowed each person with inalienable rights, which could be respected most fully in a democracy, in peace and with special concern to help the weakest members of the community and the world, the pope said.

In the parliamentary chambers he also denounced "the many instances of injustice and persecution which daily afflict religious minorities, and Christians in particular, in various parts of our world." He urged attention to the plight of those facing "barbaric acts of violence" because of their faith. "They are evicted from their homes and native lands, sold as slaves, killed, beheaded, crucified or burned alive under the shameful and complicit silence of so many."

Protection of the environment, an agriculture policy that respects farmers and the land, improving employment rates and handling migration are particularly urgent, concrete problems that require a response honoring the transcendent dignity of the human person and recognizing the realities of this world, he said.

As the Italian government continues to decry a lack of European Union solidarity and assistance with the thousands of migrants who cross the Mediterranean seeking freedom and a better life in Europe, the pope insisted the response to migration must be continent-wide.

"We cannot allow the Mediterranean to become a vast cemetery," he said, referring to the thousands who have drowned trying to cross from northern Africa on rickety boats.

Pope Francis insisted: "The time has come to work together in building a Europe which revolves not around the economy, but around the sacredness of the human person, around inalienable values."



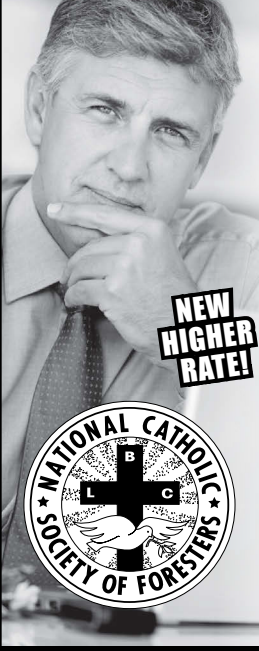
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WYD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One parish, St. Michael the Archangel in Waterloo has been diligent with their youth. Jenny Buchs, youth minister there, sees the WYD pilgrimage as a once in a lifetime opportunity. "We recognize that our youth are the future religious and laypeople of the Church. We are delighted that they have this opportunity to connect with the universal Church, visit historic and spiritual sites and hear Pope Francis speak. We want to make it financially possible for our youth and college students to continue their faith journey outside our close-knit parish," she says.

St. Michael youth pilgrims have been saving money in anticipation of their trip and are grateful for the assistance of their parish. St. Michael has held a rosary and religious jewelry sale recently and plans to host fundraisers over the next year "to ease the cost burden for our pilgrims."

Father Dave Carkenord, St. Michael pastor, has announced that a special collection for the pilgrims will also be taken up and other groups within the parish plan to help raise funds as well.

Kelly Ley, now director of religious education at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, attended the eighth WYD in Denver as a freshman in high school in 1993. Traveling with her sister and dad as chaperone, Ley experienced the universal Church. "It's easy for people to get stuck in 'this is my Church, my Mass' mentality and think that anything different is wrong. Obviously there are norms that must be followed, but we need

to remember that Catholic means 'universal' and this trip helped solidify that," she says, adding, "I would like to tell the youth that this is a very unique opportunity and you will get out of it what you put into it. Be open on the trip to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, prepare yourself spiritually ahead of time, and enjoy all of the experiences, even the trial-some ones, because they'll make for great stories later!"

In 2005, then 18-year-old Aaron Seng made a WYD pilgrimage to Cologne, Germany, the 20th on record. His spiritual preparation at home and at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish led him to the event that he says was "a tremendously fruitful time for me personally." He holds dear his memories of "seeing the pope in person, traveling internationally with thousands of like-minded Catholics, and celebrating Mass with a million other pilgrims."

These words offered to the youths by Pope Benedict XVI still resonate with Seng: "Dear young people, the Church needs genuine witnesses for the New Evangelization: men and women whose lives have been transformed by meeting with Jesus, men and women who are capable of communicating this experience to others. The Church needs saints. All are called to holiness, and holy people alone can renew humanity." Seng is currently the director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Daniel Niezer and Flower Ortega both parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne attended WYD in Madrid, Spain in 2011. It was the final World Youth Day that would be led by Pope Benedict XVI. Their preparation began a year in advance of their pilgrimage and had them

learning about Spain and historical information with a parish group that made their experience "10 times more meaningful," says Ortega.

Seeing the pope had a profound effect on Niezer, who has been led, in part by his WYD experience, to a vocation to the Priesthood. He admits, "At the time, I didn't think I would be that excited to see Pope Benedict, but when he passed us and I looked at his joy-filled face, an inexplicable joy and happiness overcame me. Perhaps for the first time, I felt that being Catholic was the greatest and surest way to find authentic joy and freedom."

What is his advice to those who might be considering the 2016 pilgrimage? "I just want the youth to know that it is important to get outside of your comfort zone in your life. ... World Youth Day gave me a freedom for loving life in all of its beautiful forms despite any personal struggles that I carry with me." Niezer is currently a diocesan seminarian in his senior year of philosophy.

Ortega feels her experience of WYD has influenced her faith and vocation. "While I am still discerning my vocation, I feel that the seeds and habits that were planted at WYD have helped me over the last few years and provided a solid grounding for me to grow upon," she says, adding, "I wish that every young person could experience a WYD. ... The value of WYD is immeasurable and we will never truly know just how great of an impact it has had (and will continue to have) on the entire world." Ortega is employed at Our Sunday Visitor as advertising traffic project coordinator.

For more information on World Youth Day 2016 contact Natalie Kohrman, WYD coordinator at 260-399-1420 or wyd@diocesefwsb.org.

A new way to support Catholic Schools: SGOs

BY JODI MAGALLANES

Charitable giving is a year-round practice. But as the window of tax-deductible giving draws to a close for 2014, it may once again be on the minds of both individuals and corporations.

"There are many ways in which the Church invites us to give: opportunities such as one's parish offertory, the Bishop's Appeal, Pentecost collection and parish capital campaigns," noted Harry Verhiley, director of the Office of Development for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "These are all necessary giving opportunities, and our act of giving reflects the deeper work of the Holy Spirit within us."

One relatively new vehicle through which one's giving does local, immediate and direct good is called a scholarship granting organization or SGO.

The Indiana Department of Education passed a bill approving the formation of SGOs in 2011, the same year that it established the Indiana Choice Scholarship program — known as the "voucher" program. SGOs provide scholarship funds to families to further help them afford the private or parochial school of their choice.

Funding for SGO scholarships comes from corporations and business owners, as well as private donations, and rewards donors with a 50 percent state tax credit on top of the usual state and federal charitable tax deductions.

During the 2013-14 school year, which was the first that SGO scholarships were given to students at all grade levels in the diocese, 1,900 students received one. The scholarships are awarded in a minimum amount of \$500 and are based on income and family size.

These awards allowed many of the approximately 5,600 children in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to qualify for vouchers that enabled them to pursue a Catholic education this school year.

The Scholarship Granting Organization of Northeast Indiana exclusively serves Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Donations to SGONEI can be restricted to a particular school, or unrestricted — to be used in the

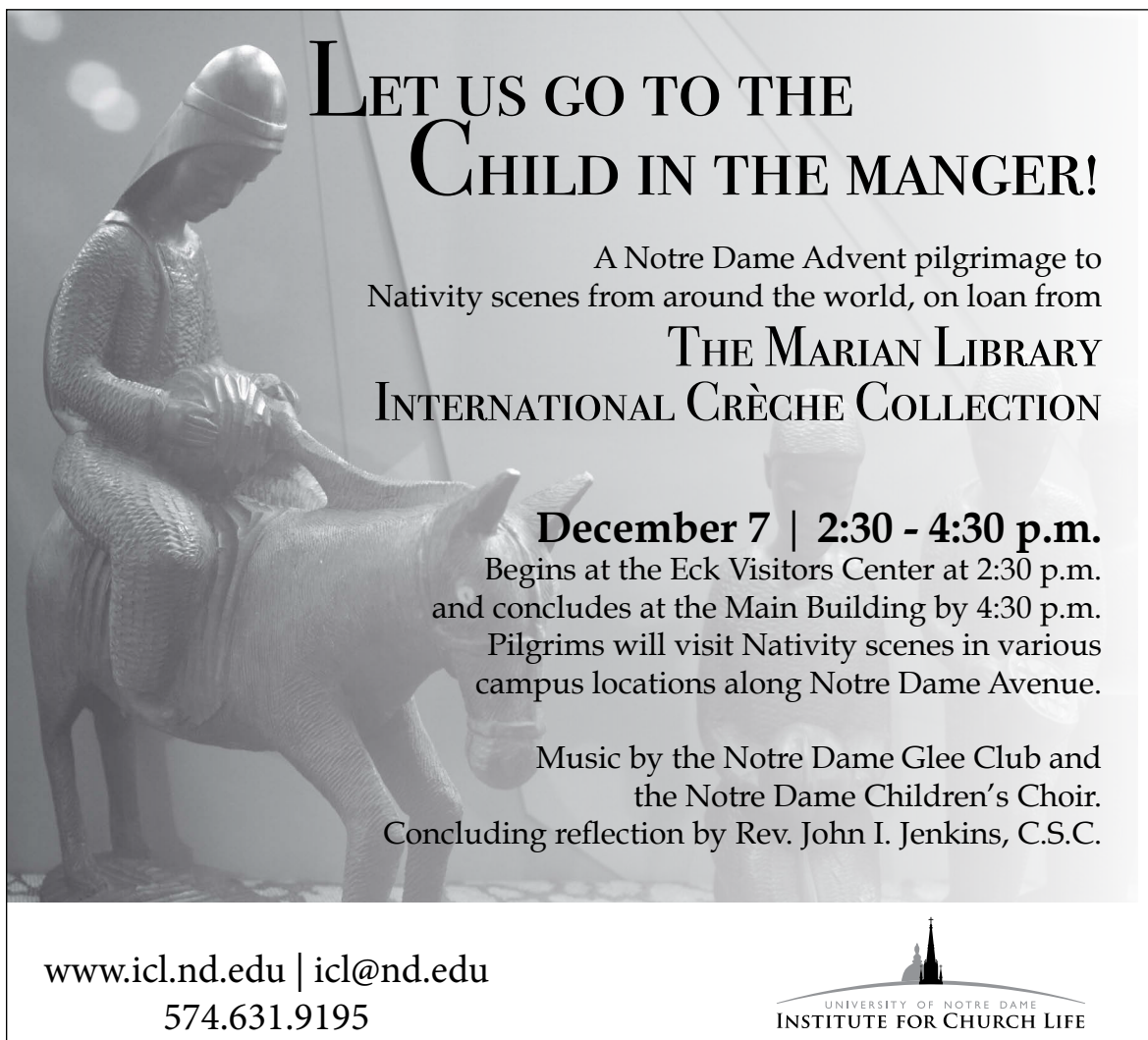
schools with the greatest needs. Individual schools do their best to raise funds for their own students, and those funds are channeled through the SGONEI office and returned to the same school, said Jeffrey Boetticher, director of Diocesan Tuition Assistance for the Catholic Schools Office. Donations given independently of any particular school serve to supplement the individual efforts of all the schools.

As development director at Saint Joseph High School for 10 years, Boetticher headed up the capital campaign to build the new high school. The doors of the new Saint Joseph High School opened in 2012, and in August he joined the Catholic Schools staff to manage the SGONEI and the large number of Indiana School Choice vouchers being utilized by students to attend schools in the diocese. Both programs have grown tremendously over the past few years, and parishioners across the diocese continue to support Catholic school students in ways that impress Boetticher on a daily basis.

"Thanks to programs like these and the generosity of so many people, our schools are now more affordable than they've ever been for low and middle-income families," he said. "That's so important to us — we want to provide a great education and have it be as affordable as possible."

The programs are also the reason why he is encouraging proponents of Catholic education to contact their representatives about increasing the SGO tax credit cap. The combined amount of donations to the five Indiana SGO organizations threatens to meet an imposed \$7.5 million tax credit limit. Once that cap is reached donations to SGOs can still be accepted, but donors do not receive the state tax benefits. A proposal to increase the tax-credit cap will be debated by lawmakers in the spring.

"A gift to the SGO offers a tax benefit, which is a good thing for the donor," acknowledged Verhiley. "However, as Christian stewards, we must always be careful not to simply — give to get. The noteworthy point of an SGO gift is that students will receive Catholic education and be formed in the faith."



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CLOSE TO HOME!

Pope tells Mideast, African refugees wars that caused flight must end

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

ISTANBUL (CNS) — Pope Francis met with young refugees from civil wars in Syria and Iraq, a few hours after joining Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to denounce the plight of Christians there.

“The degrading conditions in which so many refugees are forced to live are intolerable,” the pope told about 100 young refugees in Istanbul Nov. 30, less than an hour before boarding his flight to Rome. “We must do everything possible to eradicate the causes of this situation.”

Addressing the refugees, who included Christians and Muslims, Pope Francis publicly reiterated his appreciation for Turkey’s acceptance of refugees from neighboring lands — an estimated 1.6 million from Syria alone.

The pope did not repeat his earlier statements of qualified support for multilateral military action against Islamic State militants who have targeted Christians in Syria and Iraq. However, he appealed for “greater international cooperation to resolve the conflicts which are causing bloodshed in your homelands, to counter the other causes which are driving people to leave their home countries, and to improve conditions so that people may remain or return home.”

Meeting about 100 young refugees in the Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis told them, “I wanted to meet other refugees, but it was not possible.” The young people, who also included refugees from Somalia and other parts of the Horn of Africa, sang for the pope in Spanish, English and Arabic.

Earlier in the day, the pope joined Patriarch Bartholomew, considered first among equals by Orthodox bishops, to sign a joint declaration that highlighted violence against Christians in the region.

“We cannot resign ourselves to a Middle East without Christians,” the leaders wrote, specifically noting the conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

“Many of our brothers and sisters are being persecuted and have been forced violently from their homes,” the declaration said. “Tragically, all this is met by the indifference of many.”

The statement described an “ecumenism of suffering,” according to which the “sharing of daily sufferings can become an effective instrument of unity.”

“We no longer have the luxury of isolated action,” the patriarch said during a liturgy



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Francis meets with young refugees from civil wars in Syria and Iraq, a few hours after joining Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to denounce the plight of Christians there.

celebrating the feast of St. Andrew, patron saint of the Patriarchate of Constantinople. “The modern persecutors of Christians do not ask which church their victims belong to. The unity that concerns us is regrettably already occurring in certain regions of the world through the blood of martyrdom.”

Pope Francis, also speaking during the liturgy, said that the “cry of the victims of conflict urges us to move with haste along the path of reconciliation and communion between Catholics and Orthodox. Indeed, how can we credibly proclaim the message of peace which comes from Christ, if there continues to be rivalry and disagreement between us?”

The leaders’ joint declaration called for peace in eastern Ukraine, where a war between government forces and Russian-backed separatists has exacerbated historic tensions between Eastern Catholic and Orthodox communities there.

“We call upon all parties involved to pursue the path of dialogue and of respect for international law,” the declaration said, in an apparent reference to Russia’s support for the separatists, which has drawn international condemnation.

Pope Francis said unity between the churches is also necessary to combat the

“structural causes of poverty,” including unemployment and scarce housing, and a “dominant culture” of materialism that particularly demoralizes the young.

The pope assured his listeners that, “to reach the desired goal of full unity, the Catholic Church does not intend to impose any conditions except that of the shared profession of faith,” and that Orthodox Christians would not lose their distinctive forms of worship, spirituality and governance in a reunion with Rome.

Full communion between the churches, which have been divided since 1054, “means neither submission of one to the other nor absorption, but rather welcoming of all the gifts that God has given to each to show the whole world the great mystery of salvation realized by Christ the Lord through the Holy Spirit,” the pope said.

The pope’s first meeting of the day was with Rabbi Isak Haleva, chief rabbi of Turkey. Turkey’s Jewish community of about 25,000 traces its origins to the 1492 expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

On the way to the airport for his return flight to Rome, Pope Francis stopped at an Istanbul hospital to visit 58-year-old Armenian Orthodox Patriarch Mesrob II, who is seriously ill.

Education, parish programs aim to address issues of justice, race

BY JOSEPH KENNY

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — St. Frances Cabrini Academy students are from all economic levels, ethnic backgrounds and faith traditions. Because of support from throughout the community, the school in south St. Louis is able to enroll students whose families need help to meet tuition costs.

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, in a letter to business leaders in 2010, explained that the Archdiocese of St. Louis has long been morally and financially committed to urban education — at a number of elementary and high schools.

“We are motivated by strong religious values, of course. But we also know that an investment in urban children — regardless of race, creed, social or economic status — will provide a substantial return in the quality of life, economic productivity and human values that make St. Louis a world-class community,” the archbishop wrote.

Archbishop Carlson’s commitment has only grown since then. Much of it is made possible through the Today and Tomorrow Foundation’s donors and contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Through the foundation, scholarships of \$2.3 million were given to 946 students last year. The current school year is the third of the Mission Advancement Initiative, whereby more than \$2.8 million was awarded to 1,853 families with children in 102 Catholic schools.

The commitment to urban education is just one area where the Archdiocese of St. Louis and Catholic-related programs in St. Louis have addressed justice and race issues.

Other examples include the Queen of Peace Center, a Catholic Charities agency that has several programs working with youth in the Ferguson area; the Incarnate Word Foundation, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, which works as a partner to fund and assist projects improving the lives of poor and marginalized people; and a beekeeping business that provides youth with job-training skills and receives a grant from the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Campaign for Human Development, or CCHD.

Archbishop Carlson, in summarizing one of the points made by the U.S. bishops on the Catholic Church’s social teaching, stated that “solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace.”

Father Richard C. Creason, pastor of Most Holy Trinity Parish in north St. Louis, cited the importance of faith-based organizing, which the archdiocese has supported. “It builds relationships and works on the systemic side.”

Organizing faith groups brings



CNS PHOTO/LISA JOHNSTON, ST. LOUIS REVIEW

St. Louis Archbishop Robert J. Carlson greets parishioners of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church in Ferguson, Mo., Nov. 24 following a prayer service held as violence began to erupt in the town following the announcement that a St. Louis County grand jury determined there was not enough evidence to indict Ferguson, Mo., Police Officer Darren Wilson in the Aug. 9 shooting death of Michael Brown.

people together to work on common projects, share a common vision and address the common good, he told the *St. Louis Review*, the archdiocesan newspaper. Parish social ministry groups also are important, he said.

Kathy McGinnis of the Institute for Peace and Justice in St. Louis said that poverty and racism are intermingled, and a lack of employment and underemployment leads to a loss of hope in achieving a better life. Projects funded by CCHD address such issues as does advocating public policies that work against poverty, she said.

Issues of racial justice often involve the criminal justice system, McGinnis added. “It is one of the dividing lines between people of color and white people. For those of us who are white, we really have to understand that system better. Parish sessions can help people understand it ... the drug war, quality policing initiatives ... and all that.”

The number of young, unarmed African-American males killed in police officer-involved shootings shows something is wrong, McGinnis said. “There has to be more contact between people of color and white people. That means people have to take initiative. Parishes have to be willing to do some work together. Not (just) coming in to help people, but interaction.”

Programs at the parish level that address racism will help, she said.

When people begin to see the big picture — including meeting an array of other needs such as employment and transportation — solutions will come, McGinnis added.

Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund awards tuition assistance to 13 elementary schools

FORT WAYNE — Thirteen Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend including 20 students are being awarded tuition assistance of \$500 per student for school year 2014-2015 from the Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund. Seven are Fort Wayne area elementary schools and six are South Bend area schools.

The Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund is a restricted endowment fund within the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana. Bishop John M. D'Arcy established the fund in 2007 with gifts from the 50th anniversary of his Priesthood, from memorials of his late sister, Mary Caprio, and from other special donations. The purpose of the fund is to grant tuition assistance to Catholic students in Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Schools that have a student receiving an award for the school year 2014-2015 are as follows:

- Fort Wayne area: Most Precious Blood (two students), Queen of Angels, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel and St. Therese (two students), all in Fort Wayne; and Huntington Catholic, Huntington.

- South Bend area: Corpus Christi, Holy Family (four students); Our Lady of Hungary, and St. Jude, all in South Bend; and St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, and St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart (three students).

The fund makes distributions each year based on an annual payout of 6 percent of the value of the fund at June 30. Recipients are awarded financial assistance based on need by a committee that consists of Daniel Fitzpatrick, Deacon James Fitzpatrick, Joseph Ryan, diocesan CFO, and Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan.

Bishop D'Arcy celebrated 50 years as a priest on Feb. 2, 2007. He contributed gifts that he received from the golden jubilee of his Priesthood to create the Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund. In addition, when his sister, Mary Caprio, died in September 2007, Bishop D'Arcy requested that memorials be given to this fund. Moreover, a special gift from a family foundation was contributed to the Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund in May 2008. The total value of the fund was approximately \$133,622 as of June 30, 2014.

The committee sent letters and tuition assistance application forms in August 2014 to principals and pastors of all Catholic elementary schools in the diocese, inviting them to recommend one student who qualified for tuition assistance based on financial need from the school. Also, the committee requested a written essay, not more than 100 words, from each student who applied, titled, "Why Catholic Education Is Important to Me."

Each award granted to a student is for one time and is nonrenewable.

Those who would like to make

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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PROVIDED BY SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, SOUTH BEND

Saint Joseph High School students unload truckloads of food for the h.o.p.e. (Helping Other People Endure) Thanksgiving Food Drive. The South Bend school raised more than \$20,000 through donations from student, faculty and staff. More than 350 families received boxes of food and toiletries, which were delivered by volunteers.

a current gift of cash or stock or a planned gift such as a will bequest to the Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund may contact Julie Kenny, director of Planned Giving at 260-969-9148 or jkenny@diocesefwsb.org.

Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols to be held at St. Bavo Church

MISHAWAKA — The 10th annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held at St. Bavo Parish, 511 W. 7th Street, in Mishawaka, on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. This year, the St. Bavo Liturgical Choir will be joined by the Antioch Youth Group along with students from Marian and Saint Joseph high schools. Father Bob Lengerich, pastor of St. Dominic Parish in Bremen, will be the presider and will also perform. Instrumentalists from St. Bavo Parish will play the cello, violin, viola, guitar, flute and piano.

Directed by Joe Higginbotham, the director of liturgy and music at St. Bavo Parish, the format for Lessons and Carols includes nine readings or lessons from Scripture that offer a brief journey through salvation history. Interspersed with the readings are carols. The audience will be invited to sing along on some of the more traditional Advent and Christmas hymns.

New Women's Care Center opens in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis Roman Catholic Archbishop Joseph Tobin presided over a blessing ceremony at a new pregnancy resource center in Indianapolis on Nov. 19. The new Women's Care Center, which helps women facing unplanned pregnancies, opened Nov. 20 at 86th and Georgetown Road — next door to the busiest Planned Parenthood in Indiana's 92 counties.

The center will provide support, medical care, parenting skills classes and mentoring to women who visit the location.

"As our Holy Father has said over and over again, he wants the believing community to be a field hospital for wounded humanity," Archbishop Tobin said during the blessing ceremony. "And wounded humanity will arrive here — and will be treated with love and respect."

The Indianapolis facility will become the 23rd care center to open in seven states. Today, Women's Care Centers also are located in Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Together, they serve 25,000 women annually. In Indiana, care center locations are open in Bremen, Elkhart,

Fort Wayne, LaPorte, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Plymouth and South Bend.

Sarah Bardol, the center's director, said, "The center saves babies from abortion by loving and serving their scared young mothers."

The place where the center is located is no accident. Bardol reported that land right next door to the largest abortion clinic in Indiana was originally purchased by a doctor in Lafayette with the objective of making it available for a pro-life outreach.

The location is an important part of fulfilling the organization's mission, which is to provide a visible and loving, supportive environment that gives women the opportunity to choose life for their babies.

Bardol said that translates into encouraging healthy pregnancies, and helping young moms create personalized plans to stay in school, find housing, child care and job opportunities and learn about positive parenting and adoption.

But will having a resource like Women's Care Center next door to a place that performs abortions at a rate of approximately 77 a week really make a difference?

Bardol said, "Ninety-seven percent of the pregnant women who received services chose life for their babies." Bardol also pointed out that when Women's Care Centers opened in Fort Wayne and South Bend, abortions declined dramatically. The number of women having abortions in South Bend and Fort Wayne has declined 54 percent since 1998, almost double the declines for the rest of the state.

SEMINARIANS CELEBRATE CANDIDACY



PROVIDED BY BOB GARROW

Seminarians from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who accepted candidacy on Nov. 21 in a Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul S. Loverde, center, of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, include from left of Bishop Loverde, Craig Borchard (St. Pius X, Granger), Bob Garrow (St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend), and David Violi (St. Pius X, Granger). Also in the photo at left is Father Andrew Budzinski, vocation director.

Pope prays in Istanbul mosque, rallies local Christians

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

ISTANBUL (CNS) — A day after hearing Turkish leaders demand the West show more respect for Islam, Pope Francis prayed alongside a Muslim cleric inside Istanbul's most famous mosque.

At the Blue Mosque, Istanbul's grand mufti Rahmi Yaran led Pope Francis to the mosque's "mihrab," a niche indicating the direction to the holy city Mecca. He explained that the name is related to that of Jesus's mother, Mary, who is revered by Muslims.

Then, as the grand mufti continued speaking, the pope fell silent and remained so for several minutes, with head bowed, eyes closed and hands clasped in front of him. A Vatican statement later described this as a "moment of silent adoration."

The Sultan Ahmed Mosque, an early 17th-century structure, is known as the Blue Mosque for the predominant color of the 21,000 tiles decorating its interior.

The pope's Nov. 29 visit had been scheduled for later in the morning but was moved up, out of concern that it would interfere with noon prayers.

The event recalled the last papal visit to Turkey, in 2006, when Pope Benedict XVI's prayer in the same mosque went far to ease an international furor over his speech in Regensburg, Germany, which had quoted a medieval description of the teachings of Islam's prophet Muhammad as "evil and inhuman."

For Pope Francis, the prayer was only the latest dramatic sign of a desire for closer relations with Islam, including his washing the feet of two Muslims during a Holy Thursday liturgy in 2013, and his invitation to Muslim and Jewish leaders to pray for peace in the Vatican Gardens the following year.

After his arrival in Turkey Nov. 28, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised the issue of prejudice and intolerance against Muslims in other countries, saying that "Islamophobia is a serious and rapidly rising problem in the West" and lamenting that "attempts to identify Islam with terrorism hurt millions."

Later, during a visit to the Presidency of Religious Affairs, its president, Mehmet Gormez, decried what he called the "dissemination of terror scenarios by the global media through anti-Muslim expressions, which is a form of racism and which has now turned into a crime of hatred."

After visiting the Blue Mosque, Pope Francis walked to the nearby Hagia Sofia, a sixth-century basilica converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest in 1453, then turned into a museum in the 20th century. The interior decoration today includes gigantic calligraphy of Quranic verses as well as medieval mosaics of Jesus

and Mary. As the pope toured the museum, it was filled with the sound of the noon call to prayer from the minaret of a nearby mosque.

During both visits, as at events later in the day, the pope looked tired but attentive.

In the afternoon, Pope Francis celebrated Mass at Istanbul's 19th-century Catholic cathedral, which ordinarily holds fewer than 600 people, but was filled to overflowing for the Mass. It was the first event during his visit to Turkey — a country whose population is less than 0.2 percent Christian — that recalled the enthusiastic crowds who ordinarily greet him on his travels.

The congregation included Catholics of the Armenian, Syriac, Chaldean and Latin rites and prayers in several languages, including Turkish, Aramaic and English. The varied music included African drumming.

Pope Francis' homily, which acknowledged the presence of several Orthodox and Protestant leaders, focused on the challenge of Christian unity, which he distinguished from mere uniformity.

"When we try to create unity through our own human designs, we end up with uniformity and homogenization. If we let ourselves be led by the Spirit, however, richness, variety and diversity will never create conflict, because the Spirit spurs us to experience variety in the communion of the church," he said.

The pope's last public event of the day was an evening prayer service with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the patriarchal Church of St. George. The service was a kind of prelude to a liturgy planned for the next day in the same church.

Like his predecessors Blessed Paul VI, St. John Paul II and retired Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis timed his visit to Turkey to include Nov. 30, the feast of St. Andrew, patron saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, in what is today Istanbul. As it was for the earlier popes, his primary reason for visiting was to strengthen ties with the ecumenical patriarch, considered first among equals by Orthodox bishops.

A 1964 meeting between Blessed Paul and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras opened the modern period of ecumenical dialogue by lifting mutual excommunications that started the East-West schism in 1054.

Pope Francis already has a strong relationship with Patriarch Bartholomew, having met with him both at the Vatican and in Jerusalem. At the prayer service, the pope and the patriarch prayed the Our Father together in Latin, then each offered a separate blessing, respectively in Latin and Greek.

In a brief address, Patriarch



CNS PHOTOS BY PAUL HARING

Pope Francis greets the faithful as he arrives to celebrate Mass in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Istanbul Nov. 29.



Pope Francis visits the Sultan Ahmed Mosque, also known as the Blue Mosque, in Istanbul Nov. 29.

Bartholomew noted that the church contains relics of St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom, taken by crusaders during the 1204 sack of Constantinople and returned eight centuries later by St. John Paul II.

"May these holy fathers, on whose teaching our common faith of the first millennium was founded, intercede for us to the Lord so that we rediscover the full union of our churches, thereby fulfilling His divine will in crucial times for humanity and the world," the patriarch said.

At the end of the service, in a typically spontaneous gesture, the pope asked the patriarch to bless him and the Church of Rome.

Pope Francis speaks with grand mufti Rahmi Yaran during a visit to the Sultan Ahmed Mosque.



Parishioner continues legacy of ushering at cathedral

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — The concept of an usher is not new. In the Old Testament, there were positions addressed as “doorkeepers” or “gatekeepers,” and their roles were very similar to the ministry of ushering in a church today.

In fact, Jesus’ disciples can be considered ushers, in the sense that they prepared the way for Jesus, kept order among those listening to Christ, served food to the audience and cleaned up after a service, such as the “Feeding of the Five Thousand.”

For Lois Devine, a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, ushering is a ministry she is continuing for her late husband, John. Literally following in the footsteps of his father, Calistus, John served as the head usher at the cathedral from about age 14 until his death in 2003.

“I don’t greet and seat,” said Lois, “Since John’s death, I’ve been helping take up the collection at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday. I feel I’m doing it for John,” she added. “It was the Mass he served for so many years. And I enjoy seeing people I know.”

Like John, who arrived for Mass early to set things up, Lois usually is at the cathedral by 11 a.m.

The long-handled baskets used to take up the offertory collection are unique to the cathedral, Lois thinks. An usher can reach parishioners seated in the middle of a pew.

“Sometimes I have to ask someone to assist when an usher can’t be there,” Lois related. “They often say they haven’t done it before and I say just leave enough room between you so you don’t jab each other. And if they don’t put anything in the basket, just bump them in the nose with it! But when I see the shocked look on his/her face, I add that I’m just joking.”

There have been instances when children have attempted to take money out of the basket instead of putting something in, she explained. And, children often are reluctant to let go of their money when they are given something to contribute by their parents.

Lois also is an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, serving as the coordinator of the ministry. And she attends the 12:05 p.m. Mass in nearby St. Mother Theodore Guérin



VINCE LABARBERA

Lois Devine quips that a goal in her life eventually is to change the “e” to an “i” in her name to read: “Divine.”

Chapel three times a week, serving as the proclaimer once a week. She also belongs to a rosary group at the cathedral that gathers at the funeral home to pray the rosary when a parishioner dies.

A native of Fort Wayne, Lois was an only child for 10 years until a brother and a sister were born. “Then my whole life changed,” she joked. She attended Most Precious Blood School and then briefly enrolled in Central Catholic High School until she took ill and had to drop out of school for several years. She

finished her secondary education at Central High School across Clinton St. from Central Catholic.

Friends started bringing Lois to the cathedral long before she joined the parish in the early 1960s. She noticed John, she said, since he was ushering, and when she joined the Catholic Young Adult Club, she spotted him there, too.

“We dated off and on for a long time and finally married in 1960,” she related. The couple has a daughter and a son, both now living out of state. And Lois now has grandchildren with the birth of her

son’s twin boys. “I feel doubly blessed,” she added.

Lois worked for 21 years at IBM and was a senior secretary when she retired. She’s an avid reader and belongs to a reading club.

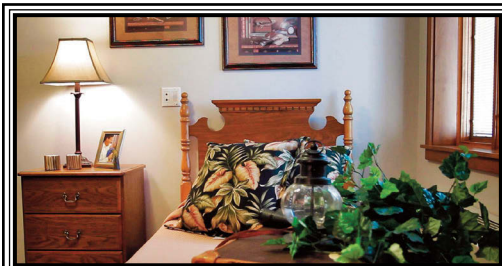
She meets monthly, except in the summertime, with the original members of a Tripoli

Club formed 54 years ago. Lois belongs to her high-school reunion committee, a group of about 20 classmates who meet quarterly to plan a reunion every five years. They just held their 60th.

“I consider it a privilege to serve in these ministries and other activities,” Lois said. “They are but another service I can give.”

“I feel I’m doing it for John. It was the Mass he served for so many years. And I enjoy seeing people I know.”

LOIS DEVINE



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Holy Cross Brother Donard Steffes turns 100

BY BROTHER CHARLES MCBRIDE, CSC

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross Brother Donard Steffes, will turn 100 on Wednesday, Dec. 10, and many say he is a model Holy Cross religious. He is up early each morning, a routine he's led the past 70-plus years, spending time before the altar in the chapel of Columba Hall, the residence of the Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province, at the University of Notre Dame.

Donard Louis Steffes was born in Carleton, Michigan, and grew up on the family farm. He attended a parochial school in nearby Maybee, Michigan, where, the good sisters convinced him that he should be a Holy Cross Brother. He went to Sacred Heart Juniorate in Watertown, Wisconsin, for his high school years. He attended the Brothers of Holy Cross Novitiate in Rolling Prairie and then studied at the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a bachelor's degree

in physical sciences in 1941. He taught math and sciences at high schools in New Orleans, Holy Trinity in Chicago and at Gilmour Academy and was the athletic director at each school.

Growing up on the family farm honed his mechanical skills so that he enjoyed doing maintenance chores. In 1952, he was one of the original four brothers who founded a high school in Rome, Italy. Brother Donard was the person who coined the name, Notre Dame International School.

He returned to the U.S. in the 1960s when the "Sputnik era" began and found that he was out of touch with new trends in science. He attended many workshops sponsored by the National Science Foundation to improve his teaching skills. He spent 20 years teaching at Archbishop Hoban High in Akron, Ohio. He and Holy Cross Brother Edwin Mattingly were famous for their many survival camping trips for students to the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota.



Holy Cross Brother Donard Steffes is shown at Columba Hall.

Brother Donard was an avid photographer and organized photography clubs at each school in addition to maintaining his shortwave radio hobby. He influenced many students into careers in science and engineering as well as professional photography. In 1980 one of his former students, David Naples, asked him to come to Liberia to teach physics and chemistry at St. Patrick's High School where Brother Donard spent five years teaching.

When he returned, a close friend invited him to come to Austin, Texas, to teach swimming and life-saving courses at St. Edward's University, where he spent more than 30 years. He was extremely proud of the 40-year Service Award he received from the Red Cross for water safety instruction. Brother Donard still has a trim, muscular physique

and bearing that belies his age. While he was in Austin, his early morning meditation periods, daily swims, fishing trips, communication sessions on shortwave radio, maintenance work for students or the community, and bicycle rides were legendary.

He moved to Columba Hall at Notre Dame a couple of years ago. Unfortunately, a foot infection prevents him from daily swims and does slow his gait. But he maintains a vigorous pastime using his motorized wheelchair to tour the University of Notre Dame campus and take photographs with his trusty Nikon camera. He shares the photos with numerous friends via email.

Brother Donard's generous work in teaching, his creative ingenuity, mechanical talents and example are inspirations to all who associate with this marvelous man. A close friend of his once said, "I've admired this man for years, he's the best example of an exemplar I've ever seen." On Wednesday, Dec. 10, beginning at 4:45 p.m. the Holy Cross Community will gather for Mass, a social and dinner to honor Brother Steffes, for his service to Holy Cross and the community.



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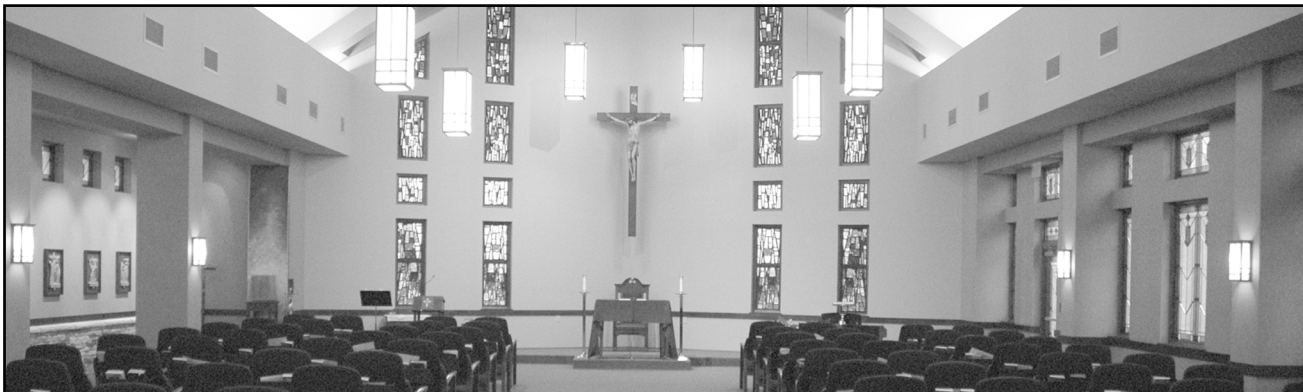
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The power of a little foresight

I was reading a post in an online Catholic mom's group to which I belong. A young mother was extremely frustrated. Actually, "livid" was her exact word. She had put her seven year old in charge of the four year old, three year old and one year old, and was trying to cook dinner. The baby got into the dog's water dish, and the children started out playing together, but ran into the back bedroom and began jumping on the bed.

Mom pulled the children back near the baby and again instructed the seven year old to watch the one year old. In a few minutes, the baby had poured the dog's water out and was splashing in it. The kids started running around. Then the baby got mama's purse, had unzipped it and was playing with lipstick and hand sanitizer. Whew! This made me really feel for this mama. All she was trying to do was cook some dinner for her family!

Mama was really, *really* frustrated, and I don't blame her. A seven year old is absolutely capable of entertaining a one year old for 15 or so minutes under the watchful eye of mom. And four and three year olds can surely sit still for that amount of time and obey the instruction to play quietly. But upon pondering the situation for a few minutes, it seemed to me that mom had inadvertently set herself up for disaster.

Several things could have made the circumstance easier for this mom: Before she started cooking, the dog and its dish could have been put away in another room; the purse could have been put up high, out of reach of little hands. The baby could have been contained safely, perhaps in a crib or playpen with special toys only allowed at that time, or strapped in a high chair with Cheerios or with a little background music



TERESA A. THOMAS

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

and a spoon for pounding out the rhythm as no one year old can resist.

I don't know exactly how mom instructed the children because her post didn't say, but the best case would have been for her to get down on their level and make eye contact as she told them specifically what she wanted them to do in a peaceful, soft voice. Most importantly, she would exude calm because a mother's demeanor sets the tone of the

EVERYDAY, PAGE 12

Light the candles, pour the wine: the Catholic call to celebrate

Grace Osterbauer was a 24-year-old bride-to-be when she took her first cake-decorating class, and the impulse compelling the Texas beauty to make that \$35 investment remains today, now a 40-year-old mother of eight.

"I wanted to make the Catholic events of our lives super special," she said.

Grace and her husband, Paul, are both frugal, raised in homes where "celebrating was minimal," she says. There's a widely circulated story in Paul's family about a grandpa who didn't want to light the candles at his daughter's wedding reception until she and the groom arrived, hesitating to burn them longer than necessary, a Great-Depression mentality he couldn't shake.

An exasperated protest from the groom's mother became a punch line and a call to action: "Light the candles!"

Some occasions warrant celebration, even if it costs a bit more, like the Costco bottled root beer Grace splurged on for her son's first Communion party, which made for a nice decorative touch and well-received root-beer floats.

She has filled a hutch with merry-making contents: crystal glassware, gold candlesticks, festive tablecloths, hand-cut banners, pedestal cake stands. And for the past six years, the homeschooling mama has made a business of sweetening others' celebrations, taking orders for customized sugar cookies that mark Baptisms and birthdays, first Communions and Confirmations, graduations, promotions and retirements.

She waits till the kids are in bed to whip up her royal icing and retrieve her piping tips, squeezing out scallops as her iPad sounds a mix of Dixie Chicks and Bob Marley.

"It may be just a cookie," Grace said, "but it can help people realize how special they are. It makes them feel worth and love."

I've been collecting stories of Catholics like Grace, people who make a point to celebrate blessings in their lives — both the neon and the pastel.

I spoke to Greg Arrigoni, a certified balloon artist who first developed an understanding of "sharing and caring" as a boy at Sacred Heart Parish, where he and his dad brewed huge pots of coffee for social gatherings. By 22 Greg was dressing up as Santa Claus at Christmas. His grandma bought the most expensive white fur at the fabric store — \$15 a yard — and made the Santa suit he still wears today, 37 years later.

The balloon art came about in response to an annual tradition



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

TWENTY SOMETHING

at a Mississippi River marina: to share a bottle of champagne each spring when your boat is launched. One year Greg decided to up the ante, surprising fellow boaters by filling his houseboat with balloons and releasing them at the river. There was something about balloons — bright, cheery and nostalgic — that kept beckoning to Greg. Soon he was buying them wholesale and flipping through the pages of a magazine called Balloon Images, astounded by the intricate creations.

"I had to be part of this," said Greg, who has since created the world's largest balloon arch, the product of 65 helium tanks and 140,004 three-foot balloons.

Despite its reputation for deprivation, our Catholic faith is a celebratory one. We are drawn into thanksgiving with incense and bells, candles and wine. We mark feast days and holy days. We celebrate the Mass.

Every act of celebration, however simple, can be a spiritual exercise, affirming life and honoring the Creator. When we pause and applaud the occasions that have meaning but no traditional link to invitations or toasts — the creation of a Bible study, the loss of five pounds, the mastery of a junk drawer — our hearts expand. We can catch a whiff of heaven, a world that is whole, healed and joyous, where the celebration never ends.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and editor of SisterStory.org, the official website of National Catholic Sisters Week.

God's mercy gives hope



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday of Advent Mk 1:1-8

The second part of the Book of Isaiah provides the first reading for this Second Sunday of Advent.

When this book was written, God's people were very happy. Their long, dreary exile of four generations in Babylon was about to end. They were looking forward to returning to their homeland.

This section of Second Isaiah well captures the joy and relief the people felt. It certainly captures their longing to return to their homeland. Also, and importantly, these verses well convey the sense that this happy circumstance has occurred as a result of God's mercy and of God's faithfulness to the covenant.

It was not as if the people had earned God's munificence in this regard, or that they had been unusually loyal to the covenant themselves. To the contrary, their sins had brought misery upon themselves.

But, nevertheless, God's mercy lives! So, the prophet insists that upon returning to their homeland, the people must go to Jerusalem, to the holy mountain where stood the temple, and there proclaim aloud the goodness of God.

To any who doubt, this release from exile is proof of God's existence and of God's love.

For its second reading this week-

end, the Church presents a passage from the Second Epistle of Peter. Its theme differs from that of the first reading. The first reading was wonderfully optimistic. This reading is grim in its predictions of dark days and of gloom.

However, it is not predicting everlasting death. Bad things will happen. Difficult times will come. But, God will protect the faithful. In this last reassurance, the reading parallels the message of the first reading.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is the beginning of the Gospel, as the first verse of the reading states, however of course it is not the beginning of Luke's Gospel. Already in earlier chapters, Luke's Gospel has revealed the Infancy Narratives, with their stories of the conception, birth and youth of the Lord.

This reading quotes Isaiah. In this prophecy God pledged to send a representative to guide the people from death to life, from the deadly effects of their sins to the bright realms of God's forgiveness.

The Gospel then tells of John the Baptist, who went throughout Judea calling people to repentance.

Luke's Gospel, however, is careful to say that John himself was not the messenger promised by God in the writings of Isaiah, but rather that John came before this messenger. The messenger, the Savior, of course, was the Lord Jesus.

Reflection

Advent is the time of the year in which the Church clearly, frankly and directly calls people to remember that they are humans, and to recognize the devastating results of sin. This message quite bluntly is the lesson of Second Peter and also the messages of Second Isaiah and

of Luke.

Sin, total estrangement from, and rejection of, God, is indeed the root of all evil. It produces death itself, not simply earthly death but eternal death. And, inevitably, it leads to misery in life on earth.

These lessons, while unequivocal and admittedly dour, are not in the end terrifying or filled with doom. Instead, they remind us in all three readings that God's mercy is overwhelming and unending. God's mercy gives hope, because through God's mercy sins are forgiven and everlasting life is acquired.

The key to obtaining this mercy personally is to recognize personal sin and repent. God never turns away a sincerely sorrowful sinner. Always, God's love prevails. God, however, never drags us kicking and screaming into heaven. We must turn to God voluntarily, wholeheartedly.

Advent calls us realize our situation. Our situation is that we need God, especially in our sinfulness. We need God's mercy. We must seek it. We must repent.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 85:9-14 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

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, 10ac, 11-13 Mt 18:12-14

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

Thursday: Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13b Mt 11:11-15

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

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

Lessons from Dietrich von Hildebrand

Dietrich von Hildebrand (1889-1977) was a German Catholic philosopher, part of a circle of thinkers that first formed around Edmund Husserl, founder of the philosophical method known as “phenomenology.” Others in that circle included Max Scheler, on whom Karol Wojtyla (St. John Paul II) wrote his second doctoral thesis, and Edith Stein, now St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. The phenomenologists thought philosophy had gotten detached from reality, drifting into the quicksand of thinking-about-thinking-about-thinking. Their motto was “to the things themselves,” and their project was to reconnect thought to reality by a precise observation and analysis of Things As They Are.

Phenomenology, alas, also rates a special shrine in the philosophy wing of the Opacity Hall of Fame. The phenomenological method lends itself to a certain circularity, and a lot of patience is required to work through a typically dense phenomenological text — especially when the author is German. In my brief experience of him as a philosopher, Dietrich von Hildebrand was no exception to this rule.

Imagine my happy surprise, then, in discovering a collection of Hildebrand’s diaries and pre-World War II lectures, edited by John Henry Crosby and John F. Crosby and recently published as “My Battle Against Hitler: Faith, Truth, and Defiance in the Shadow of the Third Reich” (Image). Here was a Hildebrand I’d never met before: a crisp, feisty writer, who wore his emotions on his literary sleeve as he fought against the emerging Hitler regime and the Catholic intellectuals who were seduced by it, some for brief periods, others for longer.

That seduction was, in a word, appalling. In May 1933, for example, the Catholic Academic Association met at the Benedictine Abbey of Maria Laach (one of the centers of the pre-Vatican II liturgical movement). To what Hildebrand described as his “great distress,” Hitler’s vice chancellor, Franz von Papen, a Catholic, was invited to lecture; even worse, “a priest from Maria Laach praised the Third Reich as the realization of the Body of Christ in the secular world.” Hildebrand resigned from the association to protest this “ignominious affair.”

Dietrich von Hildebrand believed that Nazism breathed the ancient spirit of the Antichrist, with whom the Church could have no truck. Thus he wrote friends in Munich at Pentecost 1933, explaining that “it is completely immaterial if the Antichrist refrains from attacking the Church for political reasons, or if he concludes a Concordat with the Vatican. What is decisive is the spirit that animates him, the heresy he represents, the crimes committed at his behest. God is offended regardless of whether the victim of murder is a Jew, a Socialist, or a bishop. Blood that has been innocently spilled cries out to heaven.”

Why did intelligent Catholics in Germany and elsewhere fall prey to the siren-songs of German National Socialism? A close reading of Hildebrand’s diaries suggests that it was in part because they despised liberal democracy, which they regarded as “bourgeois” and decadent. And there certainly were elements of decadence, and aggressive secularism, in Germany’s inter-war Weimar Republic.

But a Catholic answer to the quandaries of political modernity was not going to be found in Hitler’s Third Reich (which some foolishly imagined the forerunner of a new Holy Roman Empire) or in



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

Mussolini’s Fascism (which some Catholics thought an expression of the “corporatism” espoused by Pius XI’s 1931 social encyclical, “Quadragesimo Anno”). The answer was a democracy (even under a constitutional monarch) tethered to moral truth through a religiously-informed public philosophy drawn from Europe’s heritage of reason and revelation — from the legacies left to Europe by Athens and Jerusalem.

As I read the Hildebrand diaries, that option was not on the table when European Catholic intellectuals discussed the crisis of their continent during the Great Depression. That failure of imagination helped foster the catastrophes of the Holocaust and the Second World War, and helped pave the way toward Europe’s current moral-cultural sclerosis. There are lessons here for all, but especially for those “radical Catholics” tempted to turn legitimate critiques of democratic practice into contempt for the democratic experiment.

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

down and concentrate? Do we eliminate distractions and put temptations out of reach?

If we plan ahead and anticipate potential trouble spots, we set ourselves up for success. We give ourselves the best opportunity to grow in faith and goodness and to reach all goals, spiritual and otherwise. We also offer our children an example for which to strive. It has once been said, and I agree: Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate.

A little foresight has a lot of power, the power to create the best possible scenario for us to get things done.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 7, 2014

Mark 1:1-8

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B: the beginning of Mark’s account about Jesus Christ. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| GOSPEL | JESUS CHRIST | SON OF GOD |
| ISAIAH | MESSENGER | PREPARE |
| YOUR WAY | VOICE | LORD |
| FORGIVENESS | SINS | PEOPLE |
| BELT | WAIST | LOCUSTS |
| HONEY | WORTHY | STOOP |
| SANDALS | WATER | SPIRIT |

IT STARTS

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

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EVERYDAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

entire household. You’ve heard “when Mama ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy?”

Lastly, mom could have ended with telling her little ones, “Thank you for helping me. I’m counting on you. Can I count on you?” or something like that. In short, while the children should have obeyed, mom could have made it easier for them to do so, and that would have helped everyone.

Obedience, of course, is a very important virtue to learn as a child, but it is equally important to *help a child* achieve it. Our little children are like tiny boats and we need to send them coasting down the stream in the proper direction before we ask them to swim against the current. We need to set up our children for success in doing what’s right and make it easy to do so. The challenges and difficulties

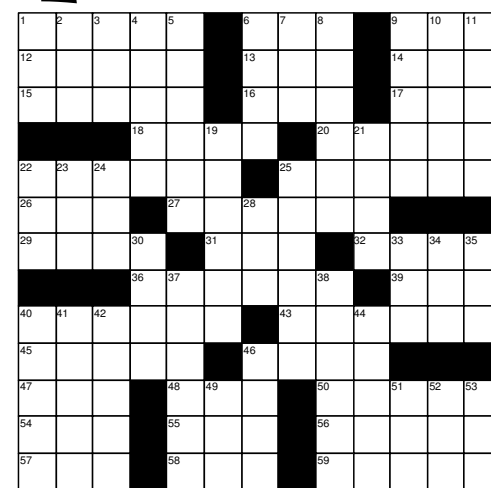
will come soon enough.

As I thought about this, I realized that we can take a lesson from this mom’s situation and apply it to our lives in general and our prayer lives specifically. We can be organized and smart in helping ourselves reach goals.

Here are a few questions to ponder: How many times do we set spiritual goals such as “pray the rosary more” or “read the Bible each day” but we don’t do the little things that set us up for success with these goals? Do we actually put the rosary at the side of the bed, where we can reach it and see it first thing in the morning? Do we consciously carve out time at midday, turning off the cell phone after lunch and closing the door of our office so that the atmosphere is really conducive to reading the Bible? If we want to attend a weekday Mass do we purposefully not schedule doctor’s appointments or meetings that day so we can actually meet that goal? Do we take a deep breath, slow

The Cross Word

December 7 and 14, 2014



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Mk 1:1-8 and Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

ACROSS

- 1 Civil rights group
- 6 Central daylight time
- 9 Resort hotel
- 12 Farewell
- 13 Popular papal name
- 14 White vestment
- 15 Opposite
- 16 American College of Physicians (abbr.)
- 17 Confucian concept
- 18 Junk email
- 20 Rugged land will be one
- 22 45A wears
- 25 Flaxen
- 26 Monks’ brew

DOWN

- 27 Queen in the Old Testament
- 29 Happiness
- 31 Promissory note
- 32 Coin
- 36 Harasses
- 39 Dawdle
- 40 First season of church year
- 43 Moon mission
- 45 She is bedecked in jewels
- 46 Clip
- 47 Shirt protector
- 48 Seed bread
- 50 Split apart
- 54 First mother

- 55 “To the right!”
- 56 Silly
- 57 Mary told angel
- 58 Talk
- 59 Belief of faith

DOWN

- 1 Snooze
- 2 “Much ___ About Nothing”
- 3 Not be well
- 4 Come to an end
- 5 Advent color
- 6 Shellfish
- 7 Christmas month
- 8 Tumble
- 9 Devil
- 10 Striped fabric
- 11 Dog toy (2 wds)
- 19 Give aid to
- 21 The ___ God
- 22 Navy lawyer
- 23 Wing
- 24 Small
- 25 Asian country
- 28 foot digit
- 30 ___-Melech, saved Jeremiah
- 33 Unwell
- 34 Bad (prefix)
- 35 Pride
- 37 Verve
- 38 The ___ of the Lord
- 40 Monks’ home
- 41 Use a car
- 42 Vibrations
- 44 Speak up
- 46 Ooze
- 49 Congressional vote
- 51 Truck
- 52 Vane direction
- 53 Peter and Andrew used

Answer Key can be found on page 15

Sports

SHULA'S LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION, OTHER CAUSES HONORED His legacy is established as one of the greatest NFL coaches who in the early 1970s twice led his team, the Miami Dolphins, to Super Bowl victories and once to a perfect winning season. The Ohio-born coach is known as a community-minded civic leader, businessman, philanthropist and often daily communicant at Mass in south Florida. The Shulas launched a \$10,000 annual scholarship endowment fund in the Shula name, which will assist one local family in public schools transition to a Catholic high school in the Miami Archdiocese. The endowment will be supervised by a parish committee.

St. Charles takes Thanksgiving tourney

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — With just eight players on her roster, Brooke Neuhaus, coach of the eighth-grade squad from St. Charles explained, "The Queen of Angels Tournament was a great way for our girls to get some games in."

Her Cardinals played four games in all over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, winning each along the way to be crowned champions of this year's preseason showdown.

Although she has been coaching at the high school level in different capacities for over 20 years, this is Neuhaus' first year with this group.

"They are a good bunch of girls — very talented and work well together," she added.

Assisted by her brother, Brad, she was very pleased with her team's performance early in the season. "We were definitely more tired in the championship after the long weekend of play, but the girls did well keeping their composure even when they were down," she detailed of the second meeting with St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel.

Like they did in the tournament opener, St. Charles ended up beating the Squires, but this time, by just three points, 37-34.

Over the three days, guard Jayda Smith led the scoring for the Cardinals chalking up 25 points in the final game. Sophia Talarico and Taylor Russell added solid defensive play, while Bridgette Black and Krystka



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Eighth-grader Bridgette Black from St. Charles goes in for a lay up against St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel in the opening round game of the annual Queen of Angels Invitational held at the University of Saint Francis over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Bugajski controlled the boards. St. Charles never lost a beat with play off the bench from Hailie Markiton, Veronika Miller and Mary Carroll.

"It was a total team effort. Each girl contributed by hustling after the ball and doing whatever we asked of them all weekend," Neuhaus summarized.

The girls have several non-CYO games scheduled for week

night play, but officially kick off the CYO season on Saturday, Dec. 6.

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel also made it to the championship game on the boys' side, coming out of the losers' bracket to face St. Jude a second time. But it was the Eagles who claimed this year's title going 4-0 to remain undefeated for the tournament.

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Franciscan Music releases Marian CD

Just in time for Christmas, Franciscan Music is releasing their latest CD entitled "Hail Queen of Heaven, the Ocean Star." It is dedicated to the Blessed Mother and features 17 inspiring songs, containing perennial favorites such as "Hail Mary: Gentle Woman," "Immaculate Mary," and more.

Father Bob Lengerich, pastor of St. Dominic Parish in Bremen, and Stacie Tepe, cantor at St. Bavo in Mishawaka, are the vocalists. This is Father Lengerich's fourth CD with Franciscan Music and Stacie's sixth. Joe Higginbotham, the director of liturgy and music at St. Bavo Parish, is the producer of the CD.

Immaculee Iibagiza, New York Times best-selling author of the book, "Left to Tell," also has a song on the track entitled, "Let Your Will Be Done," that she composed and sings herself on the recording. Her marketing manager (and adopted mom — Immaculee's parents were killed in the Rwandan genocide), Betty



McMillan is underwriting the project. McMillan has a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother, and has long desired a recording of traditional Marian hymns. After a chance meeting with Higginbotham, they decided to work together to create this CD, filled with the traditional hymns that McMillan hoped for, plus a few more contemporary pieces.

The recording is available for \$9.99 from FranciscanMusic.com, the Cathedral Bookstore in Fort Wayne and Divine Mercy Books in South Bend. It can also be ordered through iTunes for \$8.99. Past Christmas CD's, "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Christmas at Greccio" are also available for the same price.

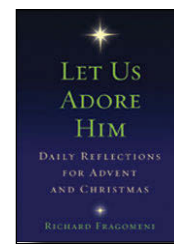
For more information contact joe@FranciscanMusic.com or call 574-514-0395.

Wait in good company this Advent with inspiring Catholic books

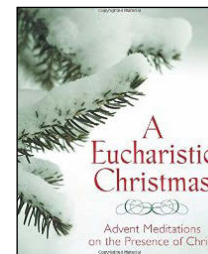
BY KAY COZAD

Recently published books that have been sent to *Today's Catholic* can touch the fancy of Catholic and non-Catholic readers alike. Each review includes publisher name and ISBN number for ease of purchase at your local Catholic bookstore.

"Let Us Adore Him: Daily Reflection for Advent and Christmas," by Richard N. Fragomeni focuses on the Communion Antiphons with Scripture and the Word of God to walk the reader through the Advent and Christmas seasons. Each reflection concludes with a suggested practice to help the faithful live out the joy of Advent. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-666-7.



"A Eucharistic Christmas: Advent Meditations on the Presence of Christ," begins on Dec. 1 and continues through the twelve days of Christmas. Each entry includes a meditation from a well-known writer, a thought for reflection and a prayer. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-808-1.



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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.

Catholic Business Network Group

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, Dec. 5, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Mass will be followed by guest speaker Madeline Nugent with the Confraternity of Penitents. Refreshments provided by Darrel Dodane with the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Children's Adoration

Roanoke — St. Joseph Church will have children's Adoration Sunday, Dec. 7, from 4-5 p.m. All ages are welcome, even babies. The rosary, Stations of the Crib, songs, Scripture and prayer time will be offered. Contact Tim and Shirley Sorg at 260-638-4562 for information.

Men's prayer breakfast planned

South Bend — All Catholic men, young and old are invited to a men's prayer breakfast following the 8 a.m. Mass at St. Therese Little Flower Church, 54191 Ironwood Rd., Saturday Dec. 6. Brother Roy E. Smith, CSC, will speak on Habitat For Humanity of St. Joseph County. Donations are appreciated but not necessary. Call Joe at 574-261-7938 for information.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 5, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8.50, children 5-12 \$3.50. Shrimp for \$9 and chicken strips for \$8.50 will be available.

Rosary Society Christmas candy and bake sale

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St. will have a Christmas candy and bake sale Saturday, Dec. 13, from 4-6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14, from 8 a.m. to noon in the school gym. Santa will be present both days.

Altar and Rosary Society plan cookie and candy sale

Monroeville — St. Rose Parish will have a cookie and candy sale Saturday, Dec. 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the former school basement, 209 Mulberry St. Goodies will be sold by the pound. Call 260-623-3354 for information.

Rosary Society announces cookie walk
Mishawaka — The St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie

walk Saturday, Dec. 13, from 9 a.m. to noon in the church basement, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave. Cookies will be sold for \$5 per pound.

Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration planned

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Parish will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday, Dec. 12, at the church located at Brooklyn and Hale. Las Mananitas will be held at 5 a.m. followed by hot chocolate and cookies. Mass will begin at 6 p.m. and will include Aztec dancers, children's choir, Our Lady of Guadalupe play and announcement of coloring contest winners. A potluck dinner will be held in the school following Mass. Bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. For students preschool and up, pick up coloring sheets for contest from the back of the church or the school office. Return by Wednesday, Dec. 10 for judging.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass planned

Notre Dame — A special bi-lingual Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday, Dec. 12, at 5:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Join in prayer and song with the Notre Dame Folk Choir, Coro Primavera de Nuestra Senora, Mariachi ND and Ballet Folklorico.

Euchre party planned

Auburn — The Immaculate Conception Parish Knights of Columbus will have a euchre party Saturday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 500 E. and Seventh St. Cost is \$5 per person. Call 260-925-0612 for information.

Friends of St. Patrick celebrate with lessons and carols

Lagro — The Friends of St. Patrick will host a Festival of Lessons and Carols Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m. at the church. Refreshments will follow the traditional event.

Notre Dame, Saint Mary's alumni clubs join for holiday gathering

Fort Wayne — A Mass will be held Sunday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. for the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College alumni clubs at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 10700 Aboite Ctr. Rd. Appetizers will follow in the parish hall. RSVP at eventbrite.com.

The CrossWord

December 7 and 14, 2014



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Clear Lake

Robert P. Hine, 87, St. Paul Catholic Chapel

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Arthur C. Frericks, 87, St. John the Baptist

Dennis A. Girardot, 73, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Michael Baron, 71, Our Lady of Good Hope

Christopher O. Brough, 67, St. John the Baptist

Theresea C. Hoot, 45, St. Vincent de Paul

Paul P.J. O'Boyle, 83, Most Precious Blood

Goshen

James E. Yahne, 78, St. John the Evangelist

Granger

Matthew Riley, 23, St. Pius X

Huntington

Rita M. Borton, 85, Ss. Peter and Paul

Rex Thrift, 60, Ss. Peter and Paul

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Daniel J. McGuinness, 43, Queen of Peace

Rachel M. Schafer, 86, St. Monica

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Promotion ends December 12, 2014.

SMC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

posters to campus ministry offices at colleges and universities across the U.S.

The women who took part in the project were instructed to send letters, prayers, poetry, art and other forms of creative expression to the CFS at Saint Mary's.

On Nov. 26, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades accompanied Saint Mary's senior Kristen Millar of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, and recent graduate Grace Urankar of San Francisco as well as President Mooney and her husband George Efta to the general audience in St. Peter's Square to make the presentation.

Both Millar and Urankar worked on the Voices project.

President Mooney described that she and Millar had reserved seats for those who would be able to speak with Pope Francis. The others had close seats and could see very well, she said.

"Bishop Rhoades was able to join us when Pope Francis approached us," Mooney related, "and the bishop introduced us. Kristen and I presented the stole and the letters."

"We told Pope Francis that the letters contained the joys and hope, grief and sorrows of our young women," she shared. "The interchange was brief but truly moving. He asked us to pray for him, he said that he needs our prayers."

Kristen Millar said, "I am honored to be able to advocate on behalf of the women of the Millennial Generation and am hopeful that the pope will hear our message. It is truly wonderful to be an outspoken and truly inspired Saint Mary's woman."

Millar added, "I am very blessed to be a part of a project as wonderful as this. This is not about me, but is truly about the Church and for all women struggling to maintain their Catholic identity in a time when religion is not deemed as necessary. I am here to give a voice."



After celebrating Mass at the Basilica of Sant' Andrea della Valle, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades gathered with students in the Saint Mary's Rome Program. In the back is Deacon Royce Gregerson, a seminarian of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend studying in Rome. In the photo, at left of Bishop Rhoades, is Portia Prebys, director of the Rome Program and a native of South Bend. Grace Urankar, Saint Mary's class of 2014, stands to the left of Prebys in the photo. Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney stands right of Bishop Rhoades.

Millar said she was thankful for all of the support in the project. "It has been much appreciated and it's awesome to see everyone at home as excited as we are," she said.

Grace Urankar shared, "It was really incredible to be in St. Peter's Square and so close to the pope himself. I'm sure anyone who goes to an audience would say this, but it was such a testament to the universal Church."

"Pilgrims from all over the



Pope Francis greets Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the general audience on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

PROVIDED BY SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

world were present, and the pope's reflection was summarized in at least 10 languages after he read it in Italian," Urankar added.

"I was really struck by what a small group we were in the presence of so many, but I had to focus on all the women we were representing," Urankar emphasized. "I really hope the pope reads our letters and takes the concerns of young American Catholic women to heart."

Elizabeth Groppe, director of the Center for Spirituality, reported 225 contributions to the project, including 10 students and three alums from Saint Mary's College. Fifteen other Catholic-affiliated organization, including Catholic and secular colleges and universities and Newman Catholic Communities from across the country, participated.

There were also some letters from women with no affiliation with any particular school.

One Saint Mary's alumna sent a poem, "My Church, My Home." She gave voice to the caring relationships and bonds of communion that flow from the worship of God and sharing of the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Groppe related another woman had shared that she was sexually abused in high school and developed an eating disorder. In the aftermath of this, she attended a Kairos retreat that renewed her relationship with God and enabled her to discover her leadership abilities. Through the community of women in the Catholic campus ministry program at her college, she found hope, focus, meaning and direction. She recommends that the Catholic Church would provide all teenage women in parishes with the opportunity to have a woman mentor.

Students at Saint Ursula Academy in Cincinnati hand made a stole as a gift for Pope Francis. Their letters spoke of some of the challenges teenage women face in the culture today, including media images of women that establish false ideals of beauty that are impossible to meet, degrading language about women in the lyrics of popular music, degrading and objectifying images of women in advertising, films and other media, assumptions that girls are inferior to boys, and social pressures related to drinking, sex and social media. In this context, one wrote, it is "difficult for me to accept myself as God's good creation made in God's divine image and likeness." Some wrote about the lack of confidence, depression and eating disorders that many teenage women experience. They also made recommendations for ways in which the Catholic community can work to foster a culture of respect for women in the United States.

November 26 marked Bishop Rhoades' birthday and his second meeting with Pope Francis. Earlier in the week Bishop Rhoades concelebrated Mass with Pope Francis at Domus Sanctae Marthae, where the pope resides, and then greeted Pope Francis after Mass. The pope extended a blessing on the priests and faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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