



Third Week of Advent

December 14, 2014

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Spend time in silence and service before Christmas, pope suggests

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) — In the heart of Rome's high-end shopping district, sparkling with Christmas lights and shiny baubles in the windows of famous designers, Pope Francis prayed that people would spend time in silence and in service as they prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 8, Pope Francis prayed for Mary's intercession so that, "in us, your children, grace also will prevail over pride, and we can become merciful like our heavenly Father is merciful."

Before laying a basket of cream-colored roses at the foot of a statue of the Immaculate Conception near Rome's Spanish Steps, Pope Francis recited a special prayer he composed for the occasion.

The feast is a major Rome holiday, and with brilliant blue skies replacing days of gray and rain, thousands of people lined the streets near the Spanish Steps to catch a glimpse of the pope and pray with him for Mary's assistance.

Pope Francis said Mary being conceived without sin should give all Christians hope and strength "in the daily battle that we must conduct against the threats of evil," because her immaculate conception is proof that evil does not have power over love.

"In this struggle we are not alone, we are not orphans," he said, because Jesus gave His mother to be our mother.

"Today we invoke her maternal protection on us, our families, this city and the world," the pope said, praying that God would "free humanity from every spiritual and

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CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A firefighter places a wreath on a tall statue of Mary overlooking the Spanish Steps in Rome Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Rome's firefighters have observed the tradition every year since 1857.

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Father Paul Bueter dies

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WANYE — Father Paul R. Bueter, beloved retired priest and past vicar of the Hispanic ministry of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, died Sunday, Dec. 7. He was 81.

A native of Fort Wayne, Father Bueter was born April 21, 1933 to Raymond and Annette Bueter, the third of five children. He received his primary education at St. Jude Parish, in Fort Wayne, and following his 1951 high school graduation from Marmion Military Academy in Illinois, Father Bueter enrolled in Our Lady of the Lake Minor Seminary in Syracuse and later at St. Mary Major Seminary in Baltimore. On May 30, 1959, Paul Bueter was ordained to the Priesthood at the Cathedral of the

Immaculate Conception by then Bishop Leo A. Pursley.

His first assignment was as theology teacher at Saint Joseph High School and associate pastor at St. John the Baptist in South Bend. After six years of devoted service there Father Bueter requested he be sent to Latin America, to provide assistance there as a missionary. In 1965, he arrived in Panama where he spent the next 16 years of his Priesthood first as assistant, then pastor to various rural mission parishes.

Father Bueter was called back to the U.S. in 1981 to pastor the faithful of St. Bavo Parish in Mishawaka. In 1987, he was named vicar of Hispanic Ministry and appointed pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Milford that met in a garage at that

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FATHER PAUL BUETER

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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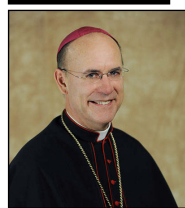
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Loving devotion to Mary



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the text of Bishop Rhoades' homily on December 8, 2014 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne:

It is with special joy and gratitude that I celebrate this Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the title of our beautiful cathedral, the patroness of our diocese and nation. Tomorrow, December 9th, the feast of Saint Juan Diego, is my 10th anniversary of episcopal ordination. My heart is filled with gratitude to God for the gift and privilege of serving as a successor of the apostles these past ten years. My heart is also filled with gratitude to you and all the faithful of our diocese for your love and goodness to me during the past five years that I have been privileged to serve as your bishop. Half of my life and ministry as a bishop was in Harrisburg and half of my life and ministry as a bishop has been here in Fort Wayne-South Bend. It's hard to believe it has been ten years already. I think back to December 9th, 2004 and the joy of my family and friends that day. It was Pope Saint John Paul II who named me as a bishop at the age of 46, a huge surprise to me. God is a God of surprises, Pope Francis says. It's true. Another big surprise came when Pope Benedict XVI transferred me to Fort Wayne-South Bend. These surprises have all been blessings for which I thank the Lord.

The greatest surprise and greatest event of grace in human history was the Incarnation, the great mystery of God becoming man. We heard the surprising announcement of the Incarnation in our Gospel today. Imagine Mary's surprise (shock really) when the angel Gabriel said to her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

Though Mary was surprised and even naturally afraid, God had prepared her for the awesome vocation to be the Mother of His Son. He prepared her by preserving her from all stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. In view of the merits of His Son, God enriched her with the rich fullness of His grace. That's why Gabriel would greet her as "full of grace." This is the beautiful mystery we celebrate today: the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

I have always felt close to Mary throughout my life, including these past 10 years as a bishop. I think back to the Marian year we celebrated in the diocese of Harrisburg when I was bishop there and also of the Marian consecration here in our diocese this past summer. Pope Saint John Paul II used to speak about "the Marian thread in his life." Inspired by the great John Paul, I also see a Marian thread in my life. It is good today for all of us in this



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, ordained Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Dec. 9, 2004. Above, Cardinal Rigali anoints Bishop Rhoades with chrism oil during the ordination rite. Lower photo, Cardinal Rigali places the miter on Bishop Rhoades. Bishop Rhoades was installed the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on Jan. 13, 2010.

diocese, which has Immaculate Mary as our patroness, to think about our relationship with Mary — are we close to her? Do we practice devotion to her? She is our model of holiness. She is our loving mother who protects us and leads us to her Son. She is an advocate of grace for us. Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote that "the Blessed Virgin was so full of grace that it overflows onto all mankind." She then surpasses even the angels. In every struggle or danger, we can find refuge in her. She's involved in our salvation. Love for Mary helps us tremendously to live a deep spiritual life of love with her Son. As I mentioned, I was ordained a bishop on December 9th, the feast of Saint Juan Diego. Interestingly, 500 years ago the feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated throughout the Spanish empire on December 9th.

December 9, 1531, was the date of the first apparition of the Virgin of Guadalupe to the humble Indian, Juan Diego. At the fourth and final apparition, Mary said some beautiful words to Juan Diego, words that have meant so much to me and given me so much joy and consolation these past ten years. They express our Blessed Mother's love and tenderness. Our Lady told Juan Diego to put these words into his heart. I invite all of you to do the same. Mary says: "Am I not here, I, who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?"

"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

BISHOP RHOADES CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO EPISCOPACY



KAY COZAD

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, surrounded by priests and deacons from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, commemorated the 10th anniversary of ordination to the episcopacy at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Monday, Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Rhoades was ordained a bishop on Dec. 9, 2004 and ministered as bishop of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He was installed the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on Jan. 13, 2010.

POPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

material slavery.”

“In this time that leads up to the feast of Jesus’ birth, teach us how to go against the current.” Pope Francis prayed to Mary. Teach people how to be unencumbered, “to give ourselves, to listen, to be silent, to not focus on ourselves, but to leave space for the beauty of God, the source of true joy.”

In a small blue Ford Focus, the pope was driven to the Spanish Steps’ neighborhood after first stopping for a private prayer at the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

Earlier in the day, with thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis led the recitation of the Angelus, a Marian prayer.

Commenting on the feast day’s Gospel reading — Luke’s story of the annunciation to Mary that she would be Jesus’ mother — the pope said it was important that Mary did not respond, “I will do what you say,” but “May it be done unto me.”

“The attitude of Mary of Nazareth,” he said, “shows us that being comes before doing, and that we must let God do in order to be



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

An image of Mary is adorned with flowers at the foot of a tall Marian statue overlooking the Spanish Steps in Rome Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

truly as He wants us to be. He will accomplish marvels in us.”

“We, too, are asked to listen to God, who speaks to us and accept His will,” the pope said. “According to Gospel logic, nothing is more effective and fruitful than listening and accepting the word of the Lord.”

The pope also said the Gospel story shows how Mary “is receptive, but not passive.” She agrees to God’s will, receives the power of the Holy Spirit and gives “flesh and blood” to

the Son of God.

And while Mary was conceived without sin — a special and unique privilege — “we, too, always have been ‘blessed,’ that is loved, and therefore ‘chosen before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before Him,’” as the day’s reading from Ephesians said.

Recognizing how blessed they are, the pope said, Christians must be filled with gratitude and ready to share their blessings with others.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m. — Mass at SS. Peter and Paul, Huntington.
- Tuesday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m. — Mass for Legatus Chapter, Saint Theodore Guerin Chapel, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m. — Mass for Legatus Chapter, Saint Patrick Church, South Bend
- Friday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m. — Mass and Luncheon for Diocesan Employees, Saint Francis Convent Chapel, Mishawaka
- Saturday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m. — Mass and Luncheon for Seminarians and Families and Serra Club, Saint Therese, Little Flower Church, South Bend

BUETER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

time and a year of pastoring at St. John the Evangelist in Goshen.

The Hispanic ministry, dear to his heart, grew under the gentle guidance of Father Bueter, who saw many changes including the building of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw. In an interview with *Today’s Catholic* Father Bueter noted, “I am blessed to be able to work in Hispanic ministry. I thank the bishop and the Lord for that.”

Father Bueter retired from administrative duty in January of 2009 and moved to Fort Wayne to share a home with his sister, Jeanne McCormack, where he attended St. Jude Parish once again. In his retirement Father Bueter enjoyed working with the preschool students at St. Jude and frequented Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community where he visited with retired priests and concelebrated Mass. He was always available to fill in at other parishes where needed. He also loved the game of golf.

In 2011, Father Bueter was among the 120 youths and adults who made the spiritual pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain, to attend World Youth Day with Pope Benedict the XVI.

And in 2012 Father Bueter was the seventh recipient of Marmion Academy’s Ad Regnum Dei Award in recognition of exceptional public witness and service of Gospel values for the kingdom of God.

Of his Priesthood, Father Bueter told *Today’s Catholic* recently, “I bring my love for people and love for the Lord to my vocation. I am happy to celebrate Mass and hear Confession. All the priestly stuff I love very much.”

Enid Roman-DeJesus, director of Hispanic Ministry in the diocese, worked alongside Father Bueter and said, “It’s a huge loss. He was a part of the whole thing and was perfect for this ministry. He was so gentle with the people

and always prayed for them.” Roman-DeJesus, who met Father Bueter in 1991 when she came to the diocese, feels he was a mentor who allowed her room to grow. “He was patient — an outstanding priest. He’ll be greatly missed. If I knew someone who was holy, he would be it,” she said.

Father Robert D’Souza, parochial vicar of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, and a longtime friend of Father Bueter’s said of his brother in Christ, “I have known Father Paul for the last 18 years as a good friend. He was a very committed priest to his ministry and his prayer life. He was very generous serving in different parishes for Mass, Confession and other sacraments. Father Paul shared with me years ago that he wanted to go to Panama again where he worked as a missionary for 15 years and last October he went there and visited all the parishes where he worked. It was a fulfilling experience for him. He had a sweet tooth and loved ice cream. He was a very sociable man and talked to every child and every person whom he met in the parish and neighborhood. I will miss him as my friend.”

Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Therese, Little Flower in South Bend, knew his friend of 25 years as “a very humble man, never drawing attention to himself. He was unflappable. He smiled through whatever life brought him.”

Two sisters, Jeanne McCormack and Marguerite Ulliman, and several nieces and nephews, cousins and great nieces and nephews survive Father Paul Bueter. His parents and sisters, Jacqueline Weis and Claire Clemens and four nephews preceded him in death.

Funeral arrangements are as follows: Visitation at St. Jude on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. with rosary service at 4:30 p.m. A funeral Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Jude Parish on Friday, Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at 11 a.m., following the 9:30-11 a.m. visitation. Burial will follow immediately in Catholic Cemetery.

Pope, religious leaders pledge to work together to end slavery by 2020

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Pope Francis and leaders of other churches and religions signed a declaration pledging to work together to help end modern slavery in the world by 2020, he urged governments, businesses and all people of good will to join forces against this “crime against humanity.”

Tens of millions of people are “in chains” because of human trafficking and forced labor, and it is leading to their “dehumanization and humiliation,” the pope said at the ceremony Dec. 2, the U.N. Day for the Abolition of Slavery.

Every human person is born with the same dignity and freedom, and any form of discrimination that does not respect this truth “is a crime and very often an abhorrent crime,” the pope said.

Inspired by their religious beliefs and a desire “to take practical action,” the pope and 11 leaders representing the Muslim, Jewish, Orthodox, Anglican, Buddhist and Hindu faiths made a united commitment to help eradicate slavery worldwide.

The leaders signed the joint declaration at the headquarters of Pontifical Academy of Sciences in the Vatican Gardens. The signatories included: Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury; Rabbi David Rosen, international director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee; Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi

al-Modarresi, an influential Shiite scholar; and representatives signing on behalf of Ahmad el-Tayeb, the grand imam of Al-Azhar University — a leading Sunni Muslim institution in Cairo — and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople.

The declaration recognized that any action that fails to respect every person’s freedom and dignity “is a crime against humanity.”

“We pledge ourselves here today to do all in our power, within our faith communities and beyond, to work together for the freedom of all those who are enslaved and trafficked so that their future may be restored,” it said.

“Today we have the opportunity, awareness, wisdom, innovation and technology to achieve this human and moral imperative,” said the joint declaration, which was read aloud in English by a man from Ghana and in Spanish by a woman from Mexico, both of whom had been victims of human trafficking and forced labor.

The initiative was organized by the faith-based Global Freedom Network, which was launched in March after a joint agreement by the Vatican, Al-Azhar University and the Anglican Communion.

Pope Francis thanked the men and women religious leaders for this “act of fraternity” on behalf of the countless numbers of women, men and children who are exploited for personal or commercial gain.

Despite global efforts, the scale of this “atrocious scourge” is on the rise and it often “disguises itself



CNS PHOTO/GFN HANDOUT, CHRIS WARDE-JONES

Pope Francis and other faith leaders attend a Dec. 2 ceremony at the Vatican in observance of the U.N. Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Tens of millions of people are “in chains” because of human trafficking and forced labor, and it is leading to their “dehumanization and humiliation,” the pope said at the ceremony.

behind apparently acceptable practices” like in tourism and different forms of labor, he said.

“It hides behind closed doors, in homes, on the streets, in cars, in factories, in the fields, on fishing boats,” in the biggest cities or smallest villages and in the richest and poorest countries of the world, he said.

The pope asked that people of faith join together in the fight to end slavery and he called for the “steadfast support” of the world’s governments, businesses and people of good will to “join this movement.”

“We cannot tolerate that the image of the living God” present in every human being “is subjected to this most abominable form of

trafficking.”

Each of the religious leaders present was asked by the moderator — CNN correspondent Christiane Amanpour — to give “an appeal” to the world to support an end to human exploitation.

Hindu leader Mata Amritanandamayi said she has heard the stories of hundreds of victims and “if we fail to do something, it will be a travesty against future generations,” she said through an interpreter.

Values are skewed, she said, when a man can sell his sperm or a woman her eggs for a huge amount of money, but yet a child can be sold “for as little as 20 dollars.”

“We need laws without loopholes” to stop traffickers and

their activities, she said.

Thich Nhat Hanh, a Zen Buddhist leader, said in a message read by his representative that activists also must have compassion for the traffickers, to see that they, too, have suffered in some way and to “help them wake up” from the wrong they are committing.

Contemplation must be accompanied by action, he said, and a greater detachment from material things will let people “have a lot more time” to work to bring freedom to the world.

Archbishop Welby said people can avoid the exploitation of others with their “own actions and choices as consumers and users of financial services whose managers can put great pressure on companies in which they invest.”

Communities can welcome and support those who are freed from traffickers, and businesses worldwide can “ensure robust systems for slave-free supply chains,” he said.

According to the 2014 Global Slavery Index, almost 36 million people are currently caught in some form of modern slavery; the International Labor Organization estimates that organized crime networks reap about 150 billion dollars a year from trafficking in persons, about 80 percent of that from prostitution.

Also attending the signing ceremony at the Vatican were: Luis CdeBaca, ambassador-at-large in the U.S. State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; and actress Mira Sorvino, who starred in a miniseries on human trafficking in 2005, and in the 2012 film “Trade of Innocents” about the sex tourism trade.



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It remains important for our Church to protect children and young persons from the evils of abuse. To abuse a child is a sin. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend remains committed to upholding and following its guidelines, policies and procedures that were implemented for the Protection of Children and Young People. These can be reviewed on the diocese’s website, www.diocesefwsb.org under “Safe Environment.”

If you have reason to believe that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, Indiana law requires that you report this to civil authorities. If you or someone you know was abused as a child or young person by an adult, you are encouraged to notify appropriate civil authorities of that abuse. In addition, if the alleged abuser is or was a priest or deacon of the Catholic Church, you are encouraged to contact Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, 260-399-1458, email: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org, or Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, or at 260-399-1419, email: mraatz@diocesefwsb.org. The diocese is committed to helping prevent the abuse or neglect of children and young people and to assist those who claim to have suffered harm as a result of such abuse.

Permanece importante para nuestra Iglesia proteger a los niños y jóvenes adultos de los actos maléficos del abuso. Abusar a un niño es pecado. La Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend permanece comprometida en mantener y seguir sus directrices, pólizas y procedimientos que fueron implementados para la Protección de Niños/as y Personas Jóvenes. Esto se puede observar en la página cibernética de la Diócesis, www.diocesefwsb.org bajo la sección de Ambiente Seguro “Safe Environment.”

Si usted tiene razón para creer que un niño puede ser víctima de abuso o negligencia, la ley de Indiana requiere que usted reporte esto a las autoridades civiles. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce fue abusado, ya sea niño o persona joven por un adulto, lo animamos a que notifique las autoridades civiles apropiadas de ese abuso. También, si el alegado abusador es o fue un sacerdote o diacono de la Iglesia Católica, lo animamos a contactar a Mary Glowaski, Coordinadora de Asistencia de Víctimas, 260-399-1458, correo electrónico: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org, o al Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, Vicario General de la Diócesis de Fort Wayne - South Bend, al P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, o al 260-399-1419, correo electrónico: mraatz@diocesefwsb.org. La Diócesis esta comprometida en ayudar a prevenir el abuso o negligencia de niños y personas jóvenes y dar asistencia a aquellos quienes reclaman haber sufrido daño como resultado de tal abuso.

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend placed on the College Board's fifth Annual AP District Honor Roll

A record 547 school districts across the nation are honored

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is one of 547 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the fifth Annual AP District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP course work, while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. The year 2014 is a milestone for the AP District Honor Roll, and more districts are achieving this objective than ever before. Reaching these goals indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for the opportunity of AP.

Since 2012, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has increased the number of students participating in AP, while improving the number of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

"We believe that our AP courses not only challenge students, but give them a fair glimpse of the rigor of college coursework," said Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan. "Students enrolled in AP courses seem more readily prepared for the transition to college academics. The advantage of achieving potential college credit for coursework is an undeniable additional benefit. We are very proud of the academic achievements of our students, but also of the talented teachers who work diligently to assist students in their success."

Data from 2014 show that among African American, Hispanic and Native American students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half of students are participating. The first step to delivering the opportunity of AP to students is providing access by ensuring courses are available, that gatekeeping stops and that the doors are equitably opened so these students can participate. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

"The devoted teachers and administrators in this district are delivering an undeniable benefit to their students: opportunity," said Trevor Packer, the College Board's senior vice president of AP and Instruction. "When coupled with a student's hard work, such opportunities can have myriad outcomes, whether building confidence, learning to craft effective arguments, earning credit for college or persisting to graduate from college on time."

"We applaud your conviction that a more diverse population of students is ready for the sort of rigor that will prepare them for success in college," Packer added.

Helping more students learn at a higher level and earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with a variety of initiatives and strategies to determine how to simultaneously expand access and improve student performance.

In 2014, more than 3,800 colleges and universities around

the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, and/or consideration in the admission process, with many colleges and universities in the United States offering credit in one or more subjects for qualifying AP scores.

Inclusion on the fifth Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2012 to 2014, looking across 34 AP Exams, including world language and culture. The following criteria were used.

Districts must:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts, and at least 11 percent in small districts;
- Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and
- Improve performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2014 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2012, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

When these outcomes have been achieved among an AP student population in which 30 percent or more are underrepresented minority students (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native) and/or 30 percent or more are low-income students (students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch), a symbol has been affixed to the district name to highlight this work.

SOUTH BEND MASS MOB VISITS ST. STANISLAUS



PROVIDED BY NATHANIEL J. TIMM

The South Bend Mass Mob visited St. Stanislaus Parish, South Bend, the first by the recently organized group, on Dec. 6. One participant commented on the Facebook page, SouthBendMassMob, "Thank you for bringing the Mass Mob to South Bend. St. Stanislaus is not only a beautiful church, but is also a wonderful faith-filled community. After Mass we met a young man who was interested in the Catholic Church and felt that going to a Mass Mob would be 'an easy way to blend in and not stand out.' This Mass made it easier for him to explore the Catholic faith!"

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N.Y. religious leaders ask that protests of jury decision be peaceful

NEW YORK (CNS) — The day after a grand jury decided it would not indict a New York police officer in the chokehold death of Eric Garner on Staten Island, the New York City Commission of Religious Leaders asked that any protests arising from the matter be peaceful. “We all agree that these protests must remain peaceful, for the benefit of our communities, our children, and as an example to all who hold peace dear,” the Dec. 4 statement said. “We know that demonstrations can be a constructive part of this process, when they call attention to essential concerns and mobilize individuals and government to act,” the religious leaders said. “Peaceful discourse of this nature will ensure the progress we all hope to achieve.” A Staten Island police officer, Joseph Pantaleo, used his nightstick to place a chokehold July 17 on Garner, 44, who was unarmed. Chokeholds are banned by the New York Police Department. The episode was captured with a smartphone and later posted on YouTube. In the video, Garner can be heard saying repeatedly, “I can’t breathe.” A Staten Island grand jury did not indict Pantaleo for his actions in Garner’s death. The Dec. 3 release of the grand jury report spawned protests in New York and elsewhere. The religious leaders’ statement did not comment directly on Garner’s death, the grand jury’s decision or the initial protests. “As we move forward we need to work to avoid destructive violence, build trust and create a more just city in which the dignity of each person as made in the image of God is respected and enhanced,” they said.

Faith groups ‘key’ to fighting Ebola, says U.N.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More cooperation is needed between the international community and faith leaders in stemming the ongoing Ebola epidemic, said a joint communique issued by the United Nations and the World Council of Churches. “It is important to share information at all levels, but much more important to intensify our direct efforts, especially at community levels,” said Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, who represents Caritas Internationalis at the U.N. agencies in Geneva. “This is where the urgent need can be found.” More than 20 organizations participated in a daylong consultation at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva on fighting Ebola. Among the participants was Caritas Internationalis, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNAIDS, the International Organization for Migration and the Lutheran World Federation. In a video message to the Nov. 28 consultation, Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury stressed the “absolutely crucial” contribution of churches and other faith communities in responding to the

TYPHOON VICTIMS WAIT FOR RELIEF GOODS OUTSIDE CATHOLIC CHURCH AFTER EVACUATING HOMES



CNS PHOTO/ROWEL MONTES, REUTERS

People wait for relief goods outside a Catholic church in Tacloban, Philippines, Dec. 5, after evacuating their homes due to Typhoon Hagupit.

health crisis, said the communique. Dr. David Nabarro, the U.N. secretary general’s special envoy on Ebola, told the consultation that “faith groups are absolutely key to the Ebola response because they have access to the communities,” it said.

Priest sees Ferguson as ground zero where change can be made in society

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The destruction throughout Ferguson left Blessed Teresa of Calcutta parishioner and former mayor Brian Fletcher speechless. “My heart is broken,” he wrote in an email. “Words can’t describe the near destruction of our beloved city of Ferguson.” Hours after the Nov. 24 announcement that a grand jury wouldn’t indict Police Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown, vandals hijacked protests and violence exploded in Ferguson, overwhelming law enforcement and firefighters. Businesses near three major intersections were looted and burned. Windows were broken at businesses near the Ferguson police department. Firefighters arrived to fight the fires but took gunfire and with-

drew for their safety. In all, 21 businesses were destroyed by fire. Father Robert “Rosy” Rosebrough walked through the area Nov. 25, the day after the violence, and quietly blessed businesses and employees, who are now out of work. Among the discussions in the aftermath of Brown’s death, lack of economic opportunity in poor communities has been at the forefront, yet the robbing, looting and arson eliminated the source of employment and economic opportunity for many.

Loudest cry in world is for peace, says papal preacher

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The “loudest cry” in the hearts of the world’s people is for peace, said the preacher of the papal household. Though most people think of peace in a “horizontal” way, as in between peoples, races or religions, the Bible teaches that “the first and most essential peace is the vertical, between heaven and earth, between God and humanity,” Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa told Pope Francis and top Vatican officials. The Capuchin priest gave the first Advent reflection to the pope and his closest aides Dec. 5 in the

Vatican’s Redemptoris Mater Chapel. The theme of the first of three weekly meditations was “My peace I give to you” from the Book of John (14:27). The creation story in Genesis demonstrates that all forms of peace depend on the peace between God and humanity, said the Capuchin preacher. “While Adam and Eve were at peace with God, there was peace within each of them ... between the human being and the rest of creation. No sooner they rebelled against God, everything became a struggle,” he said. Despite this “rebellion,” he continued, “God did not abandon humanity to its fate, but He decided on a new plan to reconcile man with Himself” through Jesus.

Christian, Muslim leaders vow to ‘walk hand in hand’ to promote peace

ROME (CNS) — Catholic, Anglican, Sunni and Shiite leaders vowed to do all they can to combat “ugly and hideous” distortions of religion, and to involve more women — often the first victims of violence — in official inter-religious dialogues. Holding the third Christian-Muslim Summit in Rome Dec. 2-4, the leaders said that while more and more women

are involved in high-level dialogues, there is still much to be done, including recognizing that “women play a key role in peace-building.” The Catholic, Sunni and Shiite delegations at the summit each included one woman scholar; the Anglican delegation included two women clergy and two female scholars. “Enough is enough. We are brothers in Abraham, we speak different languages, we live in different parts of the world,” but Christianity and Islam both teach that “humanity is one family” and religious leaders have an obligation to resist attempts to divide brothers and sisters with violence, said Episcopal Bishop John Bryson Chane of Washington. Bishop Chane spoke Dec. 4 at the final, public session of the summit, which concluded with a “call to action” that also included pledges: to travel together to areas affected by severe violence as a sign to their followers that Christianity and Islam are religions of peace; to focus more attention on equipping young people to live with respect for other faiths; and to promote collaboration among Catholic, Anglican and Muslim aid agencies.

Court stays execution of Texas inmate argued to be too mentally ill

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS) — The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Dec. 3 stayed the execution of Scott Louis Panetti to “fully consider the late arriving and complex legal questions at issue” in response to appeals citing his severe mental illness. The brief order from the New Orleans-based court came hours before Panetti was due to be executed for the 1992 murders of his in-laws. The court added that a schedule for briefs and oral argument would follow. The Texas Catholic Conference had been among those urging Texas Gov. Rick Perry to act in accordance with his “deep Christian values” and commute Panetti’s sentence to ensure that the inmate receives proper medical treatment for mental illness. “Our request for mercy in this case is motivated not only by the Catholic Church’s active opposition to the death penalty as a desecration of human life, but also in part by Mr. Panetti’s circumstances,” said the conference, which is the public policy arm of the state’s Catholic bishops. The Associated Press reported that Panetti has been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic. For several years leading up to the 1992 murders he was convicted of committing, he was hospitalized several times for mental illness. At times, he believed he was in a spiritual war with the devil. Panetti was found guilty of capital murder and sentenced to death by a jury in 1995 for the brutal slaying of his mother-in-law and father-in-law. AP said he never denied that he had entered their home in Fredericksburg heavily armed and shot them multiple times. At his trial, Panetti wore a cowboy costume and defended himself.

Production company to offer performances of 'Maximilian'

St. Luke Productions will tour in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Feb. 26 through March 3 with the drama performance called "Maximilian." The performance, about the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, is now booking for that tour. For more information or to book a performance for a parish or church group contact Janice at St. Luke Productions 360-487-9979.

Christmas at Loretto to ring in Christmas season

NOTRE DAME — The South Bend Chamber Singers, an ensemble-in-residence at Saint Mary's College, is proud to present Christmas at Loretto as part of its 26th concert season. The annual event will take place at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto on the Saint Mary's campus on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

The South Bend Chamber Singers ensemble is made up of approximately 30 members from throughout north central Indiana and southwestern Michigan. The Christmas at Loretto program includes music for the Christmas season, nearly all of which is by living composers. Nancy Menk, music professor and Mary Lou and Judd Leighton Chair in Music at Saint Mary's College, serves as conductor and music director of the South Bend Chamber Singers. The evening concludes, as it always does, with a candle-lit "Silent Night."

Ticket information can be found at MoreauCenter.com. Tickets may be purchased in advance on the website or by calling 574-284-4626. Tickets will be available at the door as long as the event hasn't sold out.

Lessons and Carols at the Center at Donaldson

DONALDSON — The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and The Center at Donaldson are hosting Christmas at the Center with Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 14. Everyone is invited to this free event.

Prior to the performance, children's activities led by Susie the Elf, will include face painting and decorating ornaments from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Emmaus Dining Room on the lower level of the PHJC Motherhouse. Photographs with Santa will be taken and snacks served.

Lessons and Carols will be performed from 7-8 p.m. in the Ancilla Domini Chapel. Andrew Jennings, PHJC liturgist, will direct the Ancilla Domini Community Choir. The chapel has seating for 500 people with additional seating available in Cana Hall in the lower level. Refreshments will be served after the performance in Cana Hall.

The beautiful grounds at The Center at Donaldson will be decorated for Christmas with lights, wreaths and candles. A live Nativity will greet guests as they enter the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CAN WE FEEL THE LOVE?



MARK WEBER

Shouting Jesus Loves Us, students from St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne, surged forward holding cans of vegetables and fruit collected to form a Circle of Love surrounding their school building. The 2,694 cans demonstrated service to the community by the St. John Confirmation class. The food was delivered to St. Mary Food Kitchen, Fort Wayne, to be combined with its Christmas Box Program that includes turkeys and hams. Coordinating the project was Confirmation student teacher Rachel Merz assisted by student council teachers Martha Wyss, Gail Welling and Joella Graney.

handicap-accessible motherhouse building. Luminaries decorated by Catherine Kasper Home residents will light the drive to the entrance.

Shuttle bus service is available for those in remote parking.

Sons of St. Philip Neri to host Dec. 19 open house

FORT WAYNE — The Sons of St. Philip Neri will host a Christmas Open House on Friday, Dec. 19, between 6 and 8:30 p.m. at the Providence House Convent behind St. John the Baptist Church in Fort Wayne. There will be refreshments, an opportunity to visit, as well as candy tasting of Father Daniel's famous homemade Christmas candy and a viewing of some of Father James' photography. Candy and photography will be available for purchase to raise funds for the community. Father James' new book, "Toolkit for Evangelization," will also be available for purchase. All are welcome.

Students raise money for Women's Care Center

FORT WAYNE — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School first graders and their families were busy as Advent

began, baking and bagging dozens of cookies for their service project "Goodies for God." The project is an annual tradition at the school in which first grade families bake and donate dozens of cookies and other sweets to sell to the school and parish community Dec. 1-4.

The cookies are priced at 25 cents a bag, and all proceeds were donated to the Women's Care Center. Anne Koehl, the Fort Wayne director of the Women's Care Center, was present at the All School Mass on Dec. 5 to accept the first graders' donation.

"This is such a wonderful way to reach out to the community and show support," said St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School Principal Lois Widner. "Our first graders are learning the gift of stewardship and being true witnesses of their faith — all by simply selling cookies."

The Women's Care Center is a northern Indiana charitable organization that gives support to women in crisis pregnancies by offering the women ultrasounds, prenatal vitamins, parenting classes, diapers and baby clothes.

The "Goodies for God" is a part of a unit of study for the first graders, according to first-grade teachers Julie Peters and Kaitlynn Gallaway. Earlier this fall, the first graders took a field trip to Ellison Bakery to see a commercial cookie operation. On Dec. 5, the first graders took another field trip to the University of Saint

Francis' "Santa's Village" put on by USF education majors. There the first graders celebrated the feast day of St. Nicholas, as well as the close of their week of selling cookies in the "Goodies for God" service project.

Live Nativity planned for Angola parish Dec. 21

ANGOLA — The parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola are once again offering a gift to the residents of Steuben County and northeast Indiana.

On Sunday, Dec. 21, from 5-8 p.m. the public is invited to a Live Drive-Thru Nativity where, in the comfort of their own car, people can experience the Christmas story in four live scenes. Live carolers will provide entertainment while participants weave through a route adorned with 500 luminaries.

This year a new scene depicting Mary and Joseph at the Bethlehem inn inquiring of the innkeeper if there is room at the inn has been added. Following the new scene visitors will continue on to the angel appearing to the shepherds, the three Wise Men on their journey to Bethlehem and culminate their journey at the manger scene all the while being accompanied by pre-recorded music at each scene supplied by John Peters.

Last year in addition to the live

animals provided by Matt and Susie Zimmer, a camel named Amy appeared with the three kings. Unfortunately, this year Amy is on maternity leave as she is expecting a young one in December, but a "special guest" will represent her.

Last year more than 100 people braved sub-freezing temperatures and deep snowfalls to play the roles of the people of Bethlehem on that first Christmas night while over 300 cars and even a few busses made their way through the candle-lit pathway to experience St. Anthony's first live drive-thru Nativity. Some visitors asked if it would be possible to drive through more than once.

Marilyn Karpinski, coordinator of the event says, "Last year many visitors were surprised to find that there was no good will offering basket at the end of the drive. But then if there were it would not be a gift."

St. Bavo recognized for Habitat contributions

MISHAWAKA — St. Bavo Catholic Church in Mishawaka received the 2014 "Church of the Year" award from Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County.

This was given in appreciation of the church's deep commitment in their support of the mission of Habitat through providing volunteer hours and financial resources.

St. Bavo has embraced Habitat's mission for bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Bishop Luers High School and Barnes and Noble join forces for holiday fundraiser

FORT WAYNE — In an effort to raise funds to replenish and expand their library collection, Bishop Luers High School is working together with Barnes and Noble Booksellers to host a bookfair for their family, friends and supporters at the Barnes and Noble at Jefferson Pointe on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Barnes and Noble will donate a percentage of every sale made by Bishop Luers supporters with a special voucher throughout the day. Supporters can choose from bestsellers, children's books and toys, games, gift items, home and office products, CDs and DVDs, café items, including Starbucks coffee and Cheesecake Factory cheesecake and NOOK and NOOK accessories. Also, shoppers can choose from a special "wish list" table of books selected by Bishop Luers librarian Laura Sturm to donate directly to the school's library.

Help support Bishop Luers High School by shopping at Barnes and Noble or online at www.bn.com on Sunday, Dec. 14. For more information, or to get donation vouchers, visit www.bishopluers.org or call Laura Sturm at Bishop Luers at 260-456-1261 ext. 3011, or Susan Derr at Barnes and Noble at 260-432-2123.

Catholic Charities meets one family's many needs

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Aris and Heather Eracleous have made their home in the Summit City and are thrilled to now be a family of three. Their homeland and their precious son are blessings they say, crediting immigration and adoption assistance from Catholic Charities for both.

Aris was born in Cyprus, an island country in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. He made his way to the U.S. in 1999 when he was recruited to play volleyball at Indiana University-Purdue University in Fort Wayne where he pursued a degree in computer science. Heather, a Fort Wayne native, was pursuing her career in sports marketing in Chicago.

The couple met one weekend while Heather was home visiting and soon after they began dating. Aris earned his computer science degree in 2003 and in July of that same year the two were bonded in holy matrimony. Aris then began meeting with Luz Ostrognai, Immigration Supervisor for Catholic Charities, to complete the process of becoming a legal resident.

"I was given an extra year through school to work, which afforded me the time to complete the process to become a legal resident. ... She (Ostrognai) took care of everything for me. I honestly couldn't have done it without her,"

says Aris, who became an American citizen in 2011.

As a legal resident, Aris and his new wife settled into married life. Heather was raised in the Catholic Church, a life-long parishioner of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne. As a couple, the Eracleouses attend Mass at St. Jude and services at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church as well. Heather says of their faith community, "I wanted to make sure that Aris was able to meet other Greek people in our community and we found that Holy Trinity was a great place to do this."

Aris and Heather longed to start a family and after facing fertility issues, they began to consider adoption. Heather says, "Very early in our adoption journey we attended the Adoption Celebration in 2010 and met several agencies. ... When we met Tosha (Gearhart) at Catholic Charities we felt an instant connection and knowing that we already had a past with Catholic Charities helped us feel even more at ease with the process."

Their faith, they say, sustained them through the arduous process. "The journey or process is not an easy one. ... My faith is something I leaned on through the entire process to give me strength," says Aris.

Heather, a self-proclaimed "control freak," has felt a deepening of her faith as she let go of her worries. "I wanted a child so badly that I had to put it in God's hands."



PROVIDED BY THE ERACLEOUS FAMILY

Aris and Heather Eracleous, who partnered with Catholic Charities for immigration and adoption services, pose with their son.

... He taught me to put all of my faith in His hands and trust that when the time was right, He would bless us... and He did... at the right time, with the right child," she says.

After working for over a year with Tosha Gearhart, Family Services Supervisor at Catholic Charities, on the adoption process, the couple decided to take a break from the emotional rollercoaster. While traveling they received a call from an attorney they had retained in the past, who knew a birth mother in labor and had chosen them for

the child.

The 11-hour drive back home was the longest of the expectant couple's lives. Miraculously, as they arrived at the Fort Wayne hospital, they discovered that the baby had not yet been born. "Our son waited for us to arrive," says Aris, who was honored to cut his son's umbilical cord. The couple says of the courageous birthmother, "She is an angel and gave us a gift bigger than anything we could have ever hoped or prayed for."

As the Eracleouses joyfully

settled into being new parents, Heather started a Facebook group called, "Fort Wayne Adoption Support and Social Group."

She says, "I wanted a group that would share stories, offer support in certain situations and meet for lunch or coffee or a play date now and again. ... The group is slowly growing."

As for Gearhart and their affiliation with Catholic Charities, the Eracleouses say, "Tosha did our home study, updates on our home study and did our post-placement. She was extremely detail oriented and communicated with us all through the process. Not all agencies are organized or communicate well so this was just another factor in why we feel so thankful for Catholic Charities and Tosha."

The happy little family of three stays in touch with staff at Catholic Charities, attending Adoption Celebrations each year and says, "We always go and show our support of Catholic Charities and Tosha and what they have done for us."

Grateful for their partnership with Catholic Charities the Eracleouses highly recommend its services. "Their thoroughness and communication style has been the key factor that anyone looking for immigration or adoption services should look for and expect to receive. Catholic Charities is professional and caring," they say.

'Beca's Bread Brigade' providing Food Pantry staple commodity

BY VINCE LABARBERA

AUBURN — When Rebekah Graber entered her junior year in 2008 at Canterbury School, Fort Wayne, she was rushed to complete her yearly, mandatory volunteer hours so she could play volleyball. Her decision is still helping provide a vital staple to those in need in DeKalb County.

Graber tried several volunteer projects, such as tutoring and working with the GED program. But since her mom, Janelle, worked with Catholic Charities' Auburn Community Service Center with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Food Pantry serving DeKalb County, she decided to volunteer her services there.

Before she started, Graber admits to "being a little uppity" and "kind of full of herself." She finally realized "there were many people in the community in need of help in so many ways," she related. "And when the economy got really hit that need increased. It made me realize there was more to the world than just my little bubble. That was really huge for me, not just as a person, but to understand my future," she continued. "And even when my community service hours were done I kept going back," she said.

Graber didn't drive back then so when she got off the bus her dad, Steven, would pick her up and drive her to first get a snack and then to

RSVP on Mondays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. (The Food Pantry also is open from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and from 1:30-4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays).

"Those times are some of my best memories," she mused. At 16 years old, she was the youngest in the program consisting mostly of 50 and 60 year olds. Even though there was a big age gap, Graber said she has always worked well with older people, enjoying hearing their stories and experiences, or just getting to talk with them.

Graber would meet with clients initially, registering them by getting their phone numbers and other details before food items were distributed.

She continued to work at RSVP through her junior and senior years. But it didn't take her long to notice they were constantly running out of bread. Living at home with her parents, there always was at least two loaves of bread in the house. It was taken for granted, but soon she realized "bread is expensive!"

"A lot of children rely on having peanut butter and jelly sandwiches; even for college students, it's a staple," she emphasized. "For the Food Pantry to not always have bread just tugged at my heart," she stressed. "I couldn't wrap my head around why they always didn't have it!"

"I wanted to create a lasting endowment to allow the Food Pantry to buy bread and not have it



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHIRLEY J. JOHNSON

come out of their expenses, and to be a gift so other people could enjoy this staple. I wanted the children to be fed. And, I wanted something to be lasting in the community for a while and not be a one-time thing that's forgotten," she said.

Graber first met with Wendy Oberland with the DeKalb County Creative Foundation for Auburn who was very receptive of Graber's endowment idea. The plan was to begin with \$500 gifts, which could be given with a one-time payment or spread out over five years. Armed with a list of supporters, which included Wendy and her parents, she next met with the late Gloria

Fink, an avid community supporter, to present the idea. Graber was acquainted with her, she said — their cats "exchanged" Christmas cards — but she was nervous about asking for an initial gift of \$5,000 within a few months. To Graber's surprise, she was given the check on the spot!

"That gave me a huge boost because I knew I was doing the right thing," Graber said.

Next she met with people at her church, First Christian Disciples of Christ. After explaining the workings of the endowment to them from the pulpit, the congregation pledged an additional \$5,000 by the

Rebekah Graber pauses for a photo after describing the endowment program titled "Beca's Bread Brigade" she began for the RSVP Food Band serving DeKalb County to students at DeKalb Middle School.

end of the day.

Graber did her part that first summer often rising at 6 a.m. to make and sell double-chocolate cookies for \$1 each at the farmer's market and donating half of her proceeds to the fund. She also did some babysitting and contributed 35 percent of her earnings.

The name "Beca's Bread Brigade" came from a "tinkering session" with her mom, who said they needed to come up with an alliteration to make the campaign easier to remember.

After graduating from high school, Graber attended Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, earning a bachelor's degree majoring in English writing with a minor in chemistry. With her love of both writing and chemistry, her ideal job someday would be to do the technical writing for the information packaged with most medicines and prescriptions. "The things nobody reads," she quipped.

Graber lives with her parents in Auburn and has one older brother, Daniel. She works in patient access at DeKalb Hospital as well as on the switchboard. She's still taking classes in the continuing education program at Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, "for the fun of it," she said. When she has time Graber visits the Food Pantry with a sack of food. The last time she checked, the endowment had reached more than \$46,000.



Catholic Charities

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Catholic Charities' ECHO program provides education and support for teenage parents

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

SOUTH BEND — The Catholic Charities ECHO program in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has offered young parents the encouragement and resources to achieve their academic goals and provide a more secure future for their families since 1998. This program, entitled "Education Creates Hope and Opportunity" (ECHO), was a partnership first begun with Lutheran Social Services in East Allen County, which recently expanded to St. Joseph County in the fall of 2011.

The purpose of ECHO is to provide one-on-one assistance and support for students who face unplanned pregnancies and struggle with the challenges of parenting, specifically by helping them address the barriers they face in meeting their educational goals.

ECHO was created to serve as witness of the Gospel by demonstrating genuine care and compassion for these young, vulnerable members of the community. Teen parents and children need resources and support to overcome the obstacles they face. Those who do not graduate from high school are at high risk for struggling with poverty throughout their lives, which constrains their children's future and weakens the community. Some of the issues they will face include insecure housing, transportation difficulties, fewer employment opportunities, lower incomes, reliance upon public assistance, food insecurity and poorer health.

In response to this need, ECHO provides individualized academic support, assistance in accessing community service and practice setting and achieving personal and academic goals. ECHO case managers encourage positive relationship building with school personnel and extended family members, as well as faithfully attending all medical appointments to ensure that both mother and child remain healthy.

Students in these situations often need assistance with the college and financial aid application process, visiting and enrolling in school, identifying resources to assist with medical, childcare, household or other needs, and finding information when seeking a part time job. Because every situation is unique, ECHO case managers work with the students one-on-one to determine their specific needs and help locate those resources, providing individualized services for each client. The individualized focus and dedication from the ECHO team has even included having case managers bring girls their homework when on bed rest and unable to be present at school.

Claire Coleman, ECHO director for St. Joseph County, explained the steps case managers take to begin leading the young parents in a positive direction. "We first focus on setting small short-term goals, which the young women see as within their ability to achieve. These goals include developing time management skills, making positive decisions and building self-confidence."

She emphasized that these initial steps serve as a catalyst to larger successes, saying, "We notice as we work with them that once their confidence improves and they begin to hit some of their small goals, their attendance improves, their GPA improves and any behavior issues they previously demonstrated rapidly diminish."

ECHO coordinates with most of the South Bend community schools and is active in all of the high schools, including the alternative schools. Since the introduction of the program in St. Joseph County, 99 students have come to receive service: 95 girls and four boys. In the first two years having the program locally, 100 percent of the high school seniors enrolled in the ECHO program graduated from high school. This past year 91 percent of the high school seniors received their diploma on time and three

students have received their GED.

The case managers also work with those applying to college through a variety of services, including assistance in filling out a FAFSA application and recommending what questions to ask when visiting a prospective school. For those who enroll in the program while in high school, ECHO case managers are able to continue working with the client up to age 24 so long as he or she is enrolled in a post-secondary educational program. Currently, 35 students overall are enrolled in the program, comprised of 22 high school students and 13 college students.

Coleman shared, "Amazingly, the ECHO case management work has been overseen and completed primarily by two members of the Catholic Charities staff, Kwajalein Dodd and Michelle Story. Kwajalein has been a member of the ECHO staff since the program first started and has been instrumental in making connections within the community, especially in establishing relationships for referrals with other social service agencies and through sitting on the advisory board of the school-age mothers program. Additionally, Michelle, who joined last year, was willing from the very beginning to jump right in and be part of the team."

The ECHO program has also been supported through generous funding from both private organizations, including the Raskob Foundation and Our Sunday Visitor, and individual donations. Additionally, the Catholic Charities ECHO staff works often with Women's Care Center in the diocese to ensure that the needs of every woman they encounter are cared for appropriately and compassionately.

Anyone who is in need or knows of anyone in need of the support provided by Catholic Charities or ECHO is encouraged to visit their website at www.ccfwsb.org.

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 2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne

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Senior volunteers find guiding basilica tours rewarding

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — It would be hard to imagine a better setting for doing volunteer work: The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in a golden tabernacle tower reflecting the Book of Revelation's vision of the New Jerusalem; exquisite murals, statues and stained glass windows depict the lives of Jesus, the Blessed Mother and scores of saints and Old Testament figures; a reliquary chapel holds relics of all the Apostles and numerous other saints; and the soaring Gothic Revival architecture draws the eye and the soul upward to contemplate the eternal joy of heaven.

This workplace is, of course, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, the biggest tourist attraction in the state. The basilica is staffed seven days a week by volunteers who provide visitors with guided tours of the 19th century building and its impressive ecclesial art and artifacts.

Most of those tour guides are retired people who enjoy sharing their interest in the basilica, according to Mike Fitzpatrick, tour guide coordinator for the basilica. Some volunteers have no formal connection to the university, while others are parents of Notre Dame alumni or alumni themselves, like Bob Bramer.

Bramer had served as a tour guide during his graduate studies at Notre Dame. After he retired from a career in higher education 14 years ago, he drove to Notre Dame from East Lansing, Michigan, every



Bob Bramer, a Notre Dame alumnus, loves the basilica so much that he moved from Michigan just so he could spend more time as a tour guide. Patti Olive, a retired teacher whose daughter and son-in-law are Notre Dame alumni, works two to three days a week giving tours of the basilica. At right, Joe and Rosemarie Massa are pictured in the Our Lady Chapel in the basilica. They enjoy telling guests that they were married in that chapel in 1963, the year Joe graduated from Notre Dame.

week for a year to resume the role of basilica tour guide. He enjoyed the work so much that he decided to move to South Bend so that he could volunteer more than one day a week.

Tour guides can choose afternoon shifts from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays through Fridays or 9 to 11 a.m. Mondays through Fridays. At least two tour guides are assigned to each shift.

Rosemarie and Joe Massa, a Notre Dame alumnus, enjoy working together. After retiring, the couple moved from Pennsylvania to South Bend in 2012 to be near family. Rosemarie, who had a career with the federal government, was encouraged by a friend to become a tour guide last spring. She enjoyed

showing the basilica to visitors from many countries and many faiths, so she convinced Joe, a retired lawyer, to join her.

"The basilica has been very special to us because we were married here and blessed enough to celebrate our 50th anniversary here at Notre Dame 50 years to the day," Joe explained.

The training to be a tour guide is much less intimidating than one might expect, given all the images and art in the basilica. Rosemarie explained that training consists of shadowing an experienced tour guide for a few sessions and reading through some of the brochures about the church.

Tour guide coordinator Mike



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Fitzpatrick said that tour guides do not need to memorize a lot of facts, but rather they learn a great deal about the basilica just by spending time there and listening to the other guides. If a guide or visitor wants more in-depth information about any aspect of the basilica, Fitzpatrick can provide that information from data he has collected. Often, he said, a tour guide will develop an interest in a particular image or feature of the basilica and become an expert on that item.

For example, Dr. Steve Gable, a retired South Bend physician and Notre Dame alumnus, has such a great interest in the basilica's stained glass windows that he has memorized the dozens of images on

the windows during the one-and-a-half years he has been a tour guide.

After he retired, Dr. Gable saw an ad in *Today's Catholic* asking for tour guides and decided that would be the perfect retirement activity, for he could spend time in the basilica and learn more about it.

"I like to take myself on mental tours of the windows," he said, and when guests ask about images of favorite saints, he is able to show people where that saint is located.

Patti Olive, a seven-year tour guide, also named the stained glass windows as her favorite feature. She and her husband lived in England for several years and had the opportunity to travel in Europe, and she believes the basilica windows are the finest stained glass she has ever seen.

Like the Massas, Olive and her husband chose South Bend for their retirement, coming from Texas to be closer to grandchildren. A former first-grade teacher, Patti did not want to be tied down to a full-time job again, so she opted to be a tour guide and loves the spiritual aspects of spending time in the basilica and sharing its features with guests.

"They're very in tune with listening and really taking in as much as you have to give out. And afterwards they are very appreciative," Olive said.

All the basilica tour guides would probably agree with Dr. Gable's reaction to his volunteer job: "It is an honor to be there, and I find it exciting to take people around."

Mike Fitzpatrick currently is recruiting more tour guides for the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Interested persons call 574-631-7329.

Senior chaplain still ministering to others

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — Goshen's St. John the Evangelist parishioner, octogenarian Monica Cherniak is still ministering to others in her role as hospice chaplain after over 20 years as jail chaplain. She recently shared some of her journey.

Cherniak was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, and attended an all-girls Dominican high school. She said she always knew she wanted to work in the medical profession so she got a degree in medical technology, working in clinical labs and cancer research.

She met her Canadian-born husband, Rudy, and moved to Canada. The couple has been married 62 years, and has six children — five girls and a boy — including a set of twins. Rudy was in the recreational vehicle business so the family moved around from Canada to Michigan, Kansas and then Indiana. For a time while she was home raising the family she also worked as his office manager.

"Then the kids wanted to go to college," she said, which sent her back out to the workforce.

Sister Mary DeCleave started the St. John the Evangelist Parish's RCIA program and asked Cherniak

to be a sponsor. At the end of the year Sister DeCleave asked Cherniak to take over as director as she retired. Cherniak said she was surprised and felt ill equipped, so she and another woman took classes in Ohio.

"And that's how I got in the religious business!" she said, laughing.

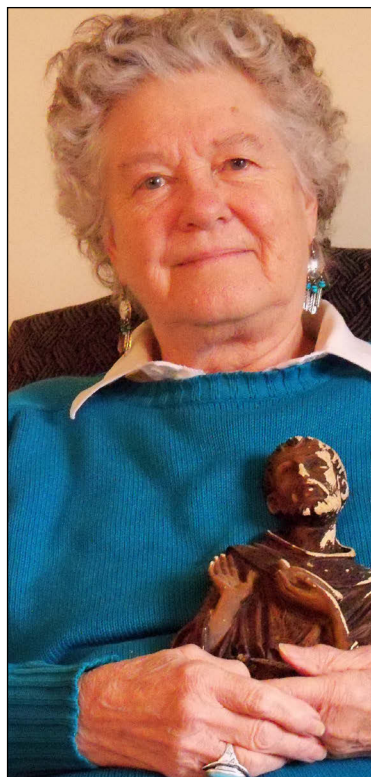
Working with participants of RCIA for six years as director led Cherniak to take classes at Indiana University, South Bend, in counseling. During that time she became a member of Spiritual Directors International.

Father Paul Bueter was pastor at St. John at the time and was visiting inmates at the Elkhart County Jail. He asked Cherniak and her husband to join him on his jail visits.

The couple would visit the men on Wednesdays and the women on Thursdays. But Rudy only stayed on for a short while. And Cherniak said, "After Rudy quit I just visited with the women."

Then in 1988, she was asked to be chaplain for the women. Cherniak started as a volunteer, but was later hired and worked two days a week. She was the first women's chaplain and the first to distribute Communion.

At the jail Cherniak sometimes ministered one-on-one; but often she'd bring the group into the gym,



PHOTOS BY DENISE FEDOROW

Hospice Chaplain Monica Cherniak is holding the statue of St. Francis that survived a home fire. The statue has been with her many years and as a Third Order Franciscan is special to her.

where she would encourage the women to stand in a circle, hold hands and offer petitions. She said, "I'd tell them, 'Ladies, this is church — being one together; praying — God is here.'"

Cherniak ministered to every religious denomination at the jail. At one point the head chaplain suggested she work on the third floor where there were two men's wards and three women's. During this time Cherniak prayed a lot, went on retreats and found a spiritual advisor, Sister Mary Ann McGriffin at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart. Sister McGriffin conducted "pray with clay" sessions.

"She would give everyone a lump of clay and tell us to say, 'God be with us,' and then whatever comes, comes," she explained.

Cherniak said the very first thing that she made was a kneeling monk with a hood. When Sister McGriffin asked about it, Cherniak replied that she thought it meant she needed to get back to her Franciscan roots. She explained that in high school she and her brother belonged to a youth group and became Third Order Franciscans. Little by little she'd given it up, "But I still felt at heart I was a Franciscan."

She shared that a fire in their home at one time destroyed

everything but a statue of St. Francis and the kneeling monk.

She said many of the inmates she visited in jail read the Scriptures and about 90 percent were Protestants. She recalled that two ladies at the work release center were brought into the Church and another went to Confession after not having gone for five years. There were many other stories of healing as well.

During her chaplaincy at the jail, a hospice volunteer invited Cherniak to be their chaplain. Cherniak said she'd give it a try.

"When I got started I realized there's a connection between those in jail and those dying. Both are shut-ins, relying on others and cannot escape. Just like the people in jail when they leave they're going to a better place. Both need affirmation," she said.

She retired as jail chaplain about four years ago at age 78 and became the full-time hospice chaplain.

Her hope for the Church is "to follow Pope Francis' lead to be Christ to everyone — those most neglected, loneliest, without hope. We are all disciples and our job is to be out there and seeing what the needs are. ... My hope is that the Holy Spirit keeps blowing until it blows us over and we do as Christ wanted."

Sacred and human: New Washington art exhibit shows both sides of Mary

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — If the saints, because of their sheer holiness, can sometimes seem hard to relate to, the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, can seem even more distant.

But a new exhibition of Western European artwork portraying Mary during the 14th through the 17th centuries shows her in another light and reminds viewers that she was indeed human. Artists portrayed her holding a squirming son, resting during a long journey, visiting her cousin and watching her grown son die.

The exhibition, "Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea" at Washington's National Museum of Women in the Arts Dec. 5-April 12, includes more than 60 works of art from well-known Renaissance and Baroque artists, including Botticelli, Michelangelo, Durer, Titian, Rembrandt and Caravaggio. It also features the work of four women artists: Sofonisba Anguissola, Artemisia Gentileschi, Orsola Maddalena Caccia and Elisabetta Sirani.

The works — primarily paintings but also some sculptures, textiles and etchings — are predominantly from Italian museums, churches and private collections, and many have never been on display in the United States.

"Religious visitors will be deeply moved" by the exhibit, but it will also "speak to nonbelievers" about our universal experience and the importance of a mother's embrace, said the exhibit's curator, Msgr. Timothy Verdon, an art historian who was born in New Jersey but lives in Florence, Italy, where he directs the archdiocese's Office of Sacred Art and Church Cultural Heritage and the Cathedral Foundation Museum.

The priest, who led a group of reporters on a tour of the exhibit Dec. 3, did not hesitate to point out works of art that particularly highlighted Mary's humanity.

In some of the typical Madonna and Child poses, Jesus is either playing with Mary's hands or her veil. One marble relief from 1340, originally on the bell tower of a church in Florence, shows a smiling Mary tickling a laughing baby Jesus.

"It's a miracle in its ordinariness," Msgr. Verdon told reporters.

Mary is shown barefooted, sleeping and about to breast-feed. She is often looking down at Jesus and in some works she is sad and contemplative. She sits on a throne, is approached by angels and sits on the ground in the two renditions of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, including one by Caravaggio where Joseph holds the sheet music for an angel playing the violin for the family.

The works are also full of religious symbols. In a Botticelli painting, Mary is reading from Scripture or a book of prayers while holding the infant Jesus, or the "word made flesh" as Msgr. Verdon noted. The infant is holding gold nails in one



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Msgr. Timothy Verdon, an American who serves as director of the Office for Catechesis through Art of the Archdiocese of Florence, Italy, gestures during a Dec. 3 preview press tour of the "Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea" exhibit at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington. The exhibit runs Dec. 5 through April 12, 2015.



A woman reads a press packet during a Dec. 3 press preview tour of the "Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother Idea" exhibit at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington.

hand and wearing a gold crown of thorns on his wrist. The priest said the symbolic items were likely added later by another artist.

Another painting, with Mary holding Jesus with one hand and supporting a wooden cross with the other, also includes an angel holding a crown of flowers and a crown of thorns, depicting the "sweetness" of religious life and also the suffering that goes along with it, the priest noted.

The special exhibit, which will only be shown at the Washington museum, was four years in the making and is part of a partnership with the Italian Embassy and The Catholic University of America, which is sponsoring a number of programs throughout the year related to the exhibit.

Nora Heimann, chair of Catholic University's art department and associate professor of art history, said the partnership was "a unique fit."

In a Nov. 18 interview, she told Catholic News Service that the exhibit brings out "all the showstoppers" by great artists.

One of her favorites is Rembrandt's small etching called "The Death of the Virgin," which depicts an elderly Mary in bed surrounded by onlookers, people praying, someone taking her pulse, children playing on the floor at the bed's

edge, and angels hovering overhead.

"I have a soft spot for Rembrandt," she said, noting his style of humility and sensitivity.

Her other favorite, which she notes is on the other end of the spectrum, is Caravaggio's "Rest on the Flight into Egypt," which she said "almost steals the show" with its

"exuberance that grabs you by the throat and says, 'Look at me.'"

A related CNS video can be viewed at: http://youtu.be/HUZK3K_fZY. For information visit <http://nmwa.org/exhibitions/picturing-mary-woman-mother-idea>.

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Should oral contraceptives be used to treat acne in women?

You are in a doctor's office with your daughter who is traumatized by her acne and oily skin. Her physician suggests using oral contraceptives to treat the acne. What should you ask? What should you do?

Four causes of acne

Acne has four underlying causes. No, not the four basic food groups of Santa's elves (candy, candy canes, candy corn, and syrup — with apologies to Will Farrell), although there is evidence that a high glycemic diet does make acne worse. The four underlying causes are increased sebum (oil) production, abnormal keratinization (sticky dead skin cells that plug pores), bacterial overgrowth (of *P. acnes*), and inflammation. Effective treatment will

attack at least two of these factors.

Benzoyl peroxide kills bacteria. Retinoids (such as Retin-ATM, Differin™, and Tazorac™) unplug the plugged pores and reduce inflammation. Oral antibiotics (doxycycline and minocycline) both kill bacteria and reduce inflammation. Isotretinoin (formerly known as Accutane™) attacks all four factors.

Oral contraceptives only reduce oil production by reducing the amount of circulating androgens ("male" hormones such as testosterone which are made in both the ovaries and adrenal glands) that stimulate the oil glands to make sebum.

Principle of double effect

The Church teaches that one may, under certain circumstances,

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. THOMAS MCGOVERN

legitimately choose to carry out an act that is morally good, but which has one or more unintended side effects that are evil. This is called the principle of double effect. The desired action (prescribing and taking hormones with both anti-oil production and contraceptive effects) has both a good and intended effect

DOCTOR, PAGE 12

Continue looking for Jesus



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday of Advent Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

This weekend the Church celebrates "Gaudete Sunday," the name coming from the opening word of the Entrance Antiphon. In Latin, "gaudete" means "to rejoice." Rejoicing is not indicated because Advent, and its stress on prayer and penance, almost are completed, but rather because Christmas is nearer.

Another reason for rejoicing is that, hopefully, everyone feels closer to God as a result of observing Advent with prayer, reflection and penance. If Advent has been followed as intended by the Church, all are nearer to a fuller communion with the Lord, the "light of the world."

Priests may wear rose-colored vestments on this weekend, symbolizing that the dark violet of Advent is already being lightened by the forthcoming light of the Lord's arrival in our souls.

The third part of Isaiah furnishes the first reading. When this passage was written, God's people were weary and, frankly, quite frustrated.

They, or their forebears, had undergone great hardship in Babylon. When finally allowed to leave Babylon to return to their homeland, they understandably were overjoyed.

Returning home, however, they found a sterile and parched land. Want was everywhere.

Had God tricked them? Did God provide for their release from Babylon only to subject them to further trials at home? Did God even exist, anyway?

Typically for Third Isaiah, this reading glows with optimism. Whatever may be the reality of the moment, for those loyal to God, a wondrous future awaits. The faithful always have cause to rejoice.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians provides the second reading. Belief in this Second Coming, and impatience to see it occur, were widespread in the first generations of Christianity. This reading clearly anticipates the Second Coming of Christ.

Longing for the Second Coming among the early Christians is not hard to explain. They had much to endure. Fearful persecution had developed. Christianity was outlawed. The culture all around the Christians was hostile. Temptations to renounce the Gospel abounded.

Paul reassured the Christians of Thessalonica, telling them to be true to the Gospel. God's goodness one day would prevail.

St. John's Gospel is the source of the last reading. The reading is a story about John the Baptist whose own identity puzzled many of his contemporaries. Some assumed that John was the Messiah. If not the Messiah, others wondered if he were Elijah, or another prophet who had returned to earth.

Replying to these questions, John was very firm. Another would follow him. John's calling was to prepare the way for the true representative of God, who eventually would come. It will be wonderful. John is not worthy even to untie the straps of his sandals.

Reflection

The Church calls us to rejoice, presuming that we have spent the weeks of Advent pondering within ourselves the meaning of salvation for us personally and individually. It presumes that we have sought God, and truth, in our prayer and in our penance. It supposes our sincerity.

It also presumes that in this process of prayer and thought, we have increased our faith in Jesus. When the Lord's kingdom comes, we are prepared to sing, "Gaudete!" Rejoice!

The Lord's coming, anticipated in Advent, will face obstacles. We will be tempted to ignore God, to forsake our resolve to be saints. Also tempted were the people once trapped in Babylon and the Thessalonians. The Lord, however, will prevail. We will not be patient and determined in vain.

Always the good teacher, always interested in guiding us through reality to God, the Church, in these readings, instructs us to continue looking for Jesus, as Jesus actually is, and not to create our own version of the Messiah.

If we have the true image of the Lord in our eyes, we will reject sin. We will find God.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 (Ps) Lk 1:46-50, 53-54 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23 Mt 21:28-32

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

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

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-4b, 5-6 Lk 1:26-38

We will never forget

As the day of the first anniversary of my husband's death came to a close in early September all those years ago, and I sat gazing out my window at a picture perfect sunset, I realized I had made it — made it through that first heart-wrenching year of grief. Those 365 days that followed Trent's sudden death in a car accident brought an onslaught of deep sadness, confusion, painful loneliness and more than a little anger. And if truth be told, the days and weeks leading up to that first anniversary startled me with their intensity, dredging up those emotions I thought I had laid to rest with my grief work.

As I considered all that had taken place that first year, my spirit lightened. I had weathered the storms of single parenting, social and financial adjustment and a very dry spiritual drought. And that, I told myself, was a very good thing. The future looked a little brighter.

But an interesting thing happened as I sat congratulating myself on my victory. I found myself in a struggle with my hard won joy and the sense that each day I made it through took me further and further from the time Trent was alive and walking beside me in this life.

It was a bittersweet awareness.

I had found myself as that anniversary date approached struggling with my memory. It was becoming a bit more difficult to remember Trent's smile and see him clearly in my mind's eye. Those of us who have lost a loved one know that feeling of fear that suddenly nips at our hearts when we realize it seems we may be forgetting our loved one.

But I can tell you from my own experience and the experiences of those I've walked with through their grief, that we will never forget our loved ones. Never! That bittersweet phase of my grief journey, though frightening, proved to be a profound transitional period for me in which I learned that my relationship with my beloved husband was shifting from one of physical presence to one of memory.

You see, I believe love never dies — and that the love we have for our beloved dead continues to exist long after they are gone. It sustains us in our loneliness and calls us to a higher spiritual realm. I've learned that it's within that love that our memories thread their way to a permanent place in our lives.

I hold Trent's memory dear even to this day and find joy in the telling of his story though opportunities are now few and far between. But there remains a plethora of places, music, objects and others' memories when shared that remind me that I loved and still love Trent and was loved by him. Over the years the memories I have of Trent have softened and found their



HOPE IN THE MOURNING

KAY COZAD

perfect place in my heart. Though I miss him still. I appreciate the consolation I find when an event or anecdote stirs my memory. I have moved forward with his memory in my heart.

The memory of our loved one is of utmost importance for the healing of our hearts and can be shored up with those linking objects that we hold dear. Special photographs, clothing and trinkets all bring the memory of our loved one to our minds and hearts whenever the need arises.

I feel blessed to have retrieved a tape of my husband's voice that he used for dictation at work. What a consolation it was on many a lonely night. And when my girls, who were preschool age when their daddy died, grew older I shared the tape with them, much to their delight.

I've spoken with many who agree that a song or story will stir a memory thought long forgotten and bring consolation and even joy to the heart. And those memories, though perhaps dormant, strengthen the fabric of our lives with the very love we know to be true.

It can be a scary prospect in early grief to think we may forget our loved one as the time span between the loss and the present expands. We may want to live in the past rather than be present to life in the now. But as we work through our grief, we must, in faith, turn to our future with the knowing that we will never forget those who we lived and loved with no matter when they died. We must weather the stormy process of grief, opening our broken hearts to their healing memory.

Our beloved dead are part of us. We will never forget them. How could we?

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

St. Anne, grandmother of her Savior

The National Museum of Women in the Arts, with support from The Catholic University of America and the Archdiocese of Washington, will soon open an exhibit entitled "Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea." The exhibit, which comes just in time for the Dec. 8 feast of the Immaculate Conception, will feature more than 60 paintings, sculptures and other works portraying the Virgin Mary from collections in the Vatican, the Louvre, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence and elsewhere.

The one I'm most anxious to see has never been exhibited before in the U.S. It is a painting of the Madonna and child with Mary's mother, St. Anne, by Orsola Maddalena Caccia. Mary sits beside her mother, their knees almost touching, and they hold Jesus between them. Jesus leans back and looks over His shoulder at His grandmother. At their feet are roses — a reminder that St. Anne conceived Mary, the "rose without thorns."

Maybe my recent experience of being a grandparent has me fixated on St. Anne's part in salvation history. The Immaculate Conception, after all, is about Anne's conception of Mary, not Mary's conception of Jesus.

The Gospels don't talk about St. Anne. There were early traditions about Mary's parents, her birth and childhood written down as early as the second century, and there are icons and paintings from early medieval

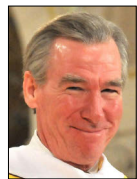
times. One common theme is a double Madonna, showing Anne seated or standing behind (not beside) Mary, who holds the child Jesus. (In some versions, including a famous one by Michelangelo, Mary sits on St. Anne's lap.) Another typical composition shows St. Anne teaching Mary to read.

Caccia's painting imagines a scene that is less theologically freighted but more human. That is the direction my thoughts take when I think of St. Anne. I wonder what it would have been like to raise a child like Mary, and what St. Anne made of her precocious grandson.

Surely Sts. Anne and Joachim noticed that their daughter was unnaturally well-behaved and attentive to her prayers. Was that their first indication that she was untouched by original sin? I like to think of Mary as a gangly and awkward teenager. Did she sometimes come crying to her mother that she was no good at the games children played in those days or that her hair was unattractively curly? (She might have been without fault, but she was human.)

What would her parents have thought of St. Joseph as a fiance? Mary would surely have shared with her mother the news of the Annunciation. Even for someone as saintly as Anne, that would have been cause for sober reflection.

Caccia's painting shows St. Anne as a typical grandmother. It is not surprising that Jesus' gaze



JOHN GARVEY

INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

is directed at her. Grandparents spoil their grandchildren, which is the way it ought to be.

When our children were growing up, we had a number of rules, which I strictly enforced. But one of the rules was that my wife's mother, who lived with us, could ignore the rules. She gave the children candy and let them watch TV with her on weekdays. She could spring them from timeouts and take them into her room. She was the engine of mercy in the family justice system.

It was an ideal arrangement, and her dispensations did not undermine the rules. The children knew what was expected of them and what constituted proper behavior. There was no entitlement to mercy — it was a gift freely given.

St. Anne, I imagine, played that role for Jesus. How fitting that she should spoil the Son of God and teach Him the virtue of mercy.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 14, 2014

John 1:6-8; 19-28

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

A MAN	FROM GOD	LIGHT
BELIEVE	JEWES	LEVITES
DENY IT	ELIJAH	I AM NOT
PROPHET	ANSWER	STRAIGHT
THE WAY	THE LORD	ISAIAH
BAPTIZE	WATER	AMONG
WORTHY	UNTIE	BETHANY

WHO IS JOHN?

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

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DOCTOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

(treatment of acne) and an evil and unintended effect (contraception). Acts that have evil effects are permissible only when three conditions are met: the evil effects are not intended; the evil effects are not the means by which the good effect is achieved; and, the evil effects are outweighed by the good effect.

In the case of a fertile woman who is committed to sexual abstinence, the moral question is reduced to weighing the negative physical effects of using the synthetic hormones and looking to see if there are any better alternatives. For those who are not sexually abstinent, I have listed further considerations below.

In addition, physicians who prescribe isotretinoin regularly prescribe two forms of contraception (with FDA pressure) because of its extremely high rate of causing birth defects. Such use of oral contraceptives would be sinful for a woman who is not sexually abstinent since they would be used primarily for its anti-conception effect. I have given women isotretinoin in the past when I believed that they would be abstinent.

Other considerations

Even though it can be morally

licit to take contraceptive medications for non-contraceptive purposes, I cannot think of a time when it is the best option for acne. Consider the following:

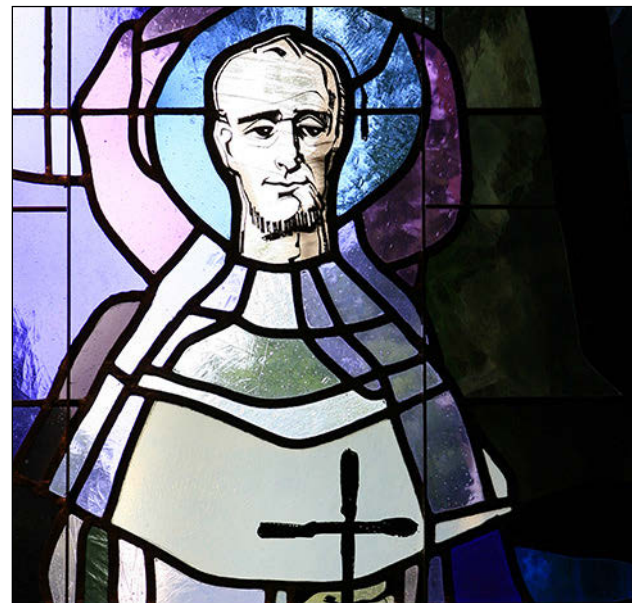
- The three oral contraceptives approved for the treatment of acne were approved by the FDA for women who "need contraception" as well as acne treatment. They were not approved for stand-alone acne treatment.
 - Oral contraceptives used for acne contain both estrogen and progesterone-like drugs ("combination pills"). These have more significant side effects than non-estrogen containing contraceptives. These can cause worse side effects than anything else I prescribe to women for acne: blood clots in lungs, heart, brain and legs; depression, headaches, mood changes, bloating, high blood pressure and many others. And they are Class I Carcinogens according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer.
 - Taking these medications may provide a "near occasion of sin" for girls and women tempted to have intercourse outside of marriage.
 - These medications can act as early abortifacients.
 - Other acne treatments can successfully control acne in girls and women.
 - There is another medication that effectively reduces oil with less side effects and is not a contraceptive.
- During over 20 years of dermatol-

ogy practice, I have never found a girl or woman whose acne could not be controlled without oral contraceptives or isotretinoin. The majority of acne in females can be controlled with an initial course of oral antibiotics using long-term topical benzoyl peroxide and a topical retinoid. In those patients in whom this is not sufficient, such as women with very oily complexions and/or irregular periods (who should be checked for polycystic ovary syndrome), I have found the anti-androgen medication spironolactone incredibly helpful. While the medical literature usually says that it must be given with an oral contraceptive, I have found no convincing explanation for this and have been using it without contraceptives safely and successfully for nearly 20 years.

While oral contraceptive medications can, in certain situations, be morally acceptable for the treatment of acne, there is almost always a better option. Now that you are armed with information, make the best use of it when you see a physician for acne treatment.

Dr. Thomas W. McGovern is a dermatologist specializing in skin cancer and reconstructive surgery in Fort Wayne and is the president of the Doctor Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana.

Saint of the week:



John of the Cross

1542 - 1591

Feast December 14

A doctor of the church, John is also one of its great mystics and poets. Born Juan de Yepes de Alvarez in Spain, he was raised by his mother and entered a Carmelite monastery in 1563. He was ordained in 1567. Finding the Carmelites very lax, he joined with St. Teresa of Avila to reform the order. In 1568, he entered the first reformed house for men, taking the name John of the Cross. He encountered severe opposition, and was even imprisoned for nine months in a monastery cell, where he began writing poems. "The Dark Night of the Soul" is his most famous work. Only after his death was John recognized as co-founder of the Discalced Carmelites. He is the patron saint of mystics and poets.

Sports

FOR BENEDICTINE, FOOTBALL COACHING ABOUT PASSING ON MISSION, VALUES TOO Sister Lisa Maurer is a Benedictine nun who lives at the St. Scholastica Monastery, on the campus of the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. She prays, studies and ministers at local parishes. She also happens to coach a men's football team. "I was never involved in coaching football ... until this year," Sister Lisa said in an interview with Catholic News Service. "I was around football only because my dad was a football coach, obviously my brothers played and, you know, football is a staple in America. So I'm a lover of football, but never played or coached it until this year."

CYO GIRLS' BASKETBALL SEASON OPENS



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Most Precious Blood's Olivia Dickerson sinks a free throw in the opening weekend of CYO basketball. Dickerson went 7-7 from the charity stripe and led all scorers with 11 points, but her team lost to St. Rose/St. Louis, 35-21, in a hard fought battle. Liz Zelt led the Twins with 10 in the win.

Coach to finish last year with St. Jude

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Although he had to give up his athletic director post, Dave Westendorf will finish up one last year at St. Jude, but couldn't possibly do it on his own.

A promotion at work took the veteran coach to Chicago four days a week, but emailed practice plans, three faithful assistants (Casey Kolkman, Tom Obergfell and Blake Oliphant) and a multi-tasking wife (Amy), allow Westendorf one final season at the helm — his 20th to be exact.

And so for his youngest son, Alex's eighth-grade year, the now-commuter hopes to go out with a bang.

"I have known these boys since kindergarten and couldn't imagine not coaching them their last year," he lamented.

His Eagles are off to a good start with a 5-0 record and a Queen of Angels Invitational preseason tournament

championship already under their belts.

"The games over Thanksgiving break are a good test. I like to play Hessen Cassel early, as they are a good measuring stick. Jim (Knapke) always brings a tough, well-disciplined team," Westendorf detailed.

The Eagles went undefeated at the tournament and won their CYO opener over St. Rose/St. Louis on Saturday, Dec. 6.

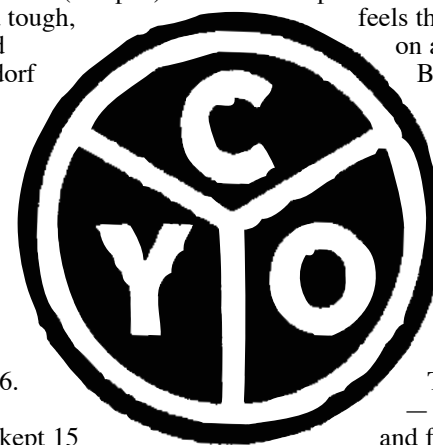
The Bishop Dwenger alum kept 15 players on his roster this season.

"It's a few more than I normally might have, but a couple extra earned their spot through effort and attitude," he explained.

In their first five games, three different players have led the scoring and the Eagles have tried out four different starting line-ups. While the team is loaded with talent and very athletic from top to bottom, Westendorf feels the leaders early on appear to be:

Bobby Johnson — likely racked up the most points; Chris Wilkins — just plain phenomenal in everything he does; and T. J. McGarry — big, strong and fast.

"At this level, our main goal is to not only teach fundamentals and hustle, but a love and appreciation for the game, while preparing them for high school and how to have fun," Westendorf summarized.

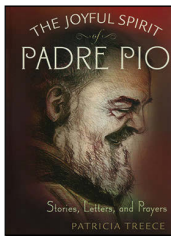


Curl up this winter with some popular Catholic reading

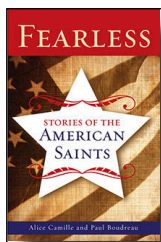
BY KAY COZAD

The following are recently published books that have been sent to *Today's Catholic* that can touch the fancy of Catholic and non-Catholic readers alike. Each book is reviewed using publishing house press releases and includes publisher name and ISBN number for ease of purchase at your local Catholic bookstore.

"The Joyful Spirit of Padre Pio: Stories, Letters, and Prayers," by Patricia Treece is a collection of inspirational stories that highlight the writings of one of the most beloved saints of the 20th century. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-732-9.

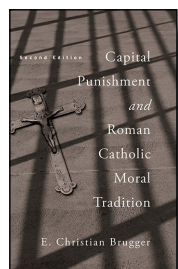


"Fearless: Stories of American Saints," by Alice Camille and Paul Boudreau presents its readers with fascinating stories of American saints who will inspire

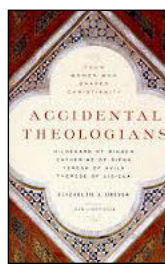


them to live their own faith fearlessly. Chapters on saints like Isaac Jogues, Elizabeth Ann Seton and more offer a portrait, biography and timeline. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-637-7.

"Capital Punishment and Roman Catholic Moral Tradition," by E. Christian Brugger is the second edition that traces the path the Church has taken over time to its present position on capital punishment. University of Notre Dame Press, ISBN: 978-0-268-02241-9.

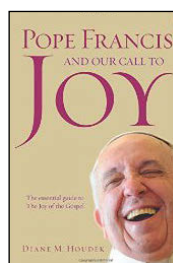


"Accidental Theologians," by Elizabeth A. Dreyer examines four women named "Doctors of the Church," Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila and Therese of Lisieux, and how they changed history in the Church and the world with their unique theolo-

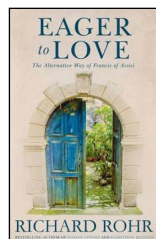


gies. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-541-1.

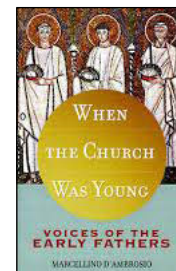
"Pope Francis and Our Call to Joy," by Diane M. Houdek offers Pope Francis' words and example to encourage a personal encounter with Christ in the Gospels. Each chapter closes with "joy in Action" reflections. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-849-4.



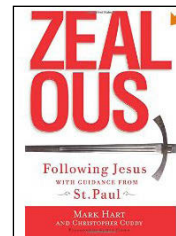
"Eager To Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi," by bestselling author Richard Rohr offers a view of this beloved saint that speaks to the long tradition founded on St. Francis' revolutionary, live changing embrace of the teachings of Christ. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-701-5.



"When the Church was Young: Voices of the Early Fathers," by Marcellino D'Ambrosio brings his readers exciting stories and great heroes such as Ambrose, Basil and Jerome who preserved the rich legacy of the early Church. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-777-0.



"Zealous: Following Jesus With Guidance from St. Paul," By Mark Hart and Christopher Cuddy examines Scripture aimed at inspiring readers to discover God's truth and provides a contemporary look at the basics of spiritual life through the eyes of St. Paul. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-796-1.



ICCL boys' basketball season opens

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — The Inter-City Catholic League opened up their boys' basketball season with a bang as a dozen of the 14 teams took to the hardwood courtesy of Saint Joseph and Marian high schools' hospitality.

The Trojans of Holy Family overwhelmed the upstart team from St. Adalbert by the score of 53-19 relying on the duo of Ryan Hesse and Latrell Franklin who scored 19 and 16 points respectively.

St. Thomas doubled up neighbor Queen of Peace, 23-11, and the Lions of St. Pius X also won by taking care of St. Matthew, 41-22.

The Eagles of St. Joseph dispatched Christ the King by a score of 47-23 as both JP Raster and Brendon Horvath netted double-digit tallies.

The Saints of Mishawaka Catholic beat the Bulldogs from Our Lady of Hungary, 46-25, behind Zach Whitfield's 21 and Hunter Renner's 12.

The Panthers of St. Anthony, were toppled by rivals Holy Cross. The Crusaders were paced by 16 points by Jaden Ivy in the victory, and Kyron King and Ryan Schmidt both added double digit totals for the Panthers.

All 14 teams will be in action this weekend. A complete listing can be found on the league's web site www.icclsports.org.

—Joe Kozinski

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.

Knights host Sunday breakfast at Most Precious Blood
Fort Wayne — The Knights will be serving a breakfast Sunday, Dec. 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at Most Precious Blood, 1515 Barthold St. \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12 and \$20 per family. Carryout will be available for \$5. All proceeds will benefit support of seminarian J.D. Kimes.

Theology on Capp
Mishawaka — High School teens are invited to Theology on Capp Monday, Dec. 15, from 7-8:45 p.m. at the Knights Hall, 114 W. First St. Presenter Aaron Seng will speak on Spiritual Warfare. Cappuccino, hot chocolate or soft drinks are free. Guests are welcome to bring snacks.

Celebration of the Good News
Mishawaka — St. Bavo Parish will host a Celebration of the Good News on the first Wednesday of each Month at 7 p.m. in the church, 502 W. Seventh St. The celebration features praise and worship, and a personal testimony followed by a fellowship.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
Granger — Lessons and Carols with the choirs of St. Pius X will take place before each Christmas Eve Mass. The children's choir and adult ensemble will sing at 4:30 p.m. The Sunday evening

choir will sing at 7 p.m. The Sunday morning choir will sing at 11:15 p.m. Instrumentalists will join all choirs. The adult and youth handbell choirs will play prelude music 15 minutes before Mass on Christmas day at 9 and 11 a.m.

Young Adult Christmas party planned
Fort Wayne — Young adults in their 20s and 30s will celebrate the season on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 6-10 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall. Bring a dish to share and your favorite drink. Donations for mothers in need (diapers, other baby supplies, etc.) is encouraged. For information, visit www.diocesefwsb.org/yam-fw, the Fort Wayne Area Young Adult Catholic Facebook page or contact Kristen at krinaldo@gmail.com.

Theology on Tap
Fort Wayne — Theology on Tap for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married, will be held at Soups Salad and Spirits, 1915 S. Calhoun St., Thursday, Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m. "Make Art Not War: Engaging Our Culture With a Message of Hope," with speaker Cory Heimann, artist/videographer of "Likable Art," who will crack open the topic of how we engage culture. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/TOT for information.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 19, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8.50, children 5-12 \$3.50. Carry-out available.

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 Mass planned
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Parish will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday, Dec. 12, at the church

REST IN PEACE

Arcola Joan M. Wilhelm, 75, St. Patrick	Helen Hopkins Cook Langmeyer, 83, St. Therese	Roanoke Clarence E. Hinen, 78, St. Joseph
Churubusco Adam P. Ross, 29, St. John Bosco	John F. Maher, 91, St. John the Baptist	South Bend Joseph J. Csiszar, 88, St. Anthony de Padua
Decatur Mary Ellen Kortenber, 88, St. Mary Assumption	Granger John D. Patterson, 90, St. Pius X	Edward M. Szalewski, 84, Holy Family
Fort Wayne Marie K. Hollo, 99, St. Charles	Lisa A. Trojan, 47, St. Pius X	Rose V. Walkowski, 103, St. Stanislaus
Scott Howard Vogan, 33, St. Jude	Nancy Joan Wieger, 77, St. Pius X	Dolores Przybysz, 86, St. Patrick
Sandra L. Novak, 73, St. Jude	Huntington Todd A. Petre, 49, Ss. Peter and Paul	Maxine F. Senesac, 88, Holy Cross
Mary H. Delagrangue, 96, Queen of Angels	Mishawaka Joseph B. Trippel, 94, St. Monica	Jacqueline Jeanne Eufemi, 85, St. Joseph
Timothy J. Eisaman, 32, St. Jude	New Haven Manford J. Gremaux, 91, St. John the Baptist	Gay Hazinski, 91, St. Matthew
Roberto P. Martinez, 89, St. Joseph	Herman F. Spieth, 83, St. John the Baptist	Mary M. Nawrot, 95, St. Stanislaus
David M. Smithson, 78, Our Lady of Good Hope	Walter A. Moore, 90, Basilica of the Sacred Heart	Barbara V. Plamowski, 81, St. Stanislaus
		Dorothy E. Tholen, 94, St. Jude

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 and Our Lady of Guadalupe play. A potluck dinner will be held in the school following Mass. Bring a dish to share.

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 choirs.



CHRISTMAS
at
St. Monica Church
222 W. Mishawaka Ave., Mishawaka, IN 46544
*Experience the beauty of the Liturgy
and the music of this Holy Night*

December 24 Christmas Eve Mass. 10:00 pm
Music Prelude at 9:30 pm
Vigil (Children's Mass) 4:30 pm
December 25 Christmas Day Mass 10:00 am

"Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy..."
Luke 2:10

JOIN US! ALL ARE WELCOME!
www.stmonicamish.org

PRE-ARRANGEMENT SPECIAL

10% OFF

**In-Ground Grave Spaces,
Opening/Closings and Vaults
or \$250 off Single Crypt Spaces
(Above Ground Entombment)
or \$75 off single niche (cremains) spaces.**

Graves now available in the new Garden of Our Lady of Guadalupe-Section Q.

The Catholic Cemetery is a sacred place, long since consecrated according to our Catholic tradition. The Catholic Cemetery has beautiful, tree-lined areas available for burials. Respond now if you would like these lovely areas for your final resting place.

In addition to in-ground lots, the Catholic Cemetery has many other burial options available including garden crypts, cremation niche columbariums, and mausoleum entombment spaces.

We invite you to consider your burial needs thoughtfully and without pressure before the need arises, relieving others of those difficult decisions.

Call Larry Fisher at 260.426.2044 for an appointment or visit the Cemetery Office at 3500 Lake Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

www.catholic-cemetery.org



Promotion ends December 12, 2014.

There aren't many
Christmas gifts
 that last over
2,000 years.



Christmas, 1946



Christmas, 1964



Christmas, 1970



Christmas, 1982

Most Christmas presents come and go, bringing us a brief moment of pleasure. In fact, how many of us today still have, much less use, gifts we received as kids?

This is all the more reason to be thankful that the gift who came on the first Christmas so many years ago keeps giving to the world He came to save.

Dear Friends:

While many expressions of the holidays come to a noisy crescendo on Christmas morning, only to fade quickly into memory, Jesus' presence in the world continues to provide us with gifts that will never fade, break, or go out of style.

These gifts—including love, joy, peace, and eternal hope—are more real, more lasting than anything we could ever find brightly wrapped under the tree on Christmas morning. Most Christmas gifts require little of us in return (except for batteries, which usually aren't readily available!). However, the gifts we are blessed with from Jesus ask much more from us.

The Incarnation is a call to live our lives differently in light of the eternal gifts we've received. We are called to share what we have received with others. This is what Catholic Charities is all about—a means of acting on Jesus' instruction to care for the poor and vulnerable. When you give to Catholic Charities, you are helping to share the love of Christ with those most in need in our diocese—not just at Christmas, but throughout the coming year.

As you share the love that you have received with others, we believe you'll find that the Christmas glow and sense of joy you experience will last well beyond the holiday season. For your convenience, we've included a donation envelope in this issue of *Today's Catholic*, or you can give online at our website, www.ccfwsb.org.

With best wishes for a blessed Christmas, we thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Patrick Houlihan
 Board President

Gloria Whitcraft
 Executive Director



**Catholic
 Charities**
 Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

OUR SERVICES

Adoption | Pregnancy Services/ECHO | Community Services | Food Pantries | Refugee Resettlement | Immigration Services | Older Adult Services | HHF Volunteer Service Program