



January 4, 2015

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend



Think Green
Recycle
Go Green
Go Digital

50¢
Volume 89, No. 1
todayscatholicnews.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

On Christmas, pope urges people to hear the cry of suffering children

A snapshot back and a look ahead

Page 16

New superintendent

Miller takes helm at Catholic Cemetery

Page 3

Christmas across the diocese

Come to the manger

Pages 8-9

ARISE group brings warmth

Assist those struggling with homelessness

Page 10

No issue Jan. 11

Next publication Jan. 18, 2015

BY CINDY WOODEN



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Children gather near a figurine of the baby Jesus at the conclusion of Pope Francis' celebration of Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 24.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The crying of Baby Jesus is not the only cry people should hear on Christmas; many children around the world are crying because of war, maltreatment and abuse, Pope Francis said.

"Baby Jesus," he said Dec. 25, pausing for effect. "My thoughts today go to all children who are abused and mistreated: those killed before they are born; those deprived of the generous love of their parents who are buried under the selfishness of a culture that does not love life; those children displaced by war and persecution, abused and exploited under our eyes and the silence that makes us accomplices."

Before giving his solemn Christmas blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world), Pope Francis addressed an estimated 80,000 people in St. Peter's Square, urging them to pray for peace in Ukraine, in the Middle East, Nigeria, Libya, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Congo.

With thousands of children looking at the Vatican's Nativity scene and receiving the pope's blessing with their parents Christmas morning, Pope Francis' strongest words were about less-fortunate children.

"May Jesus save the vast numbers of children who are victims of violence, made objects of trade and trafficking or forced to become soldiers," he said. He added special

POPE, PAGE 3

St. Monica celebrates Christmas, centennial year ahead

BY TRISH LINNER

MISHAWAKA — Christmas Mass at St. Monica Parish in Mishawaka was extra special this year as Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, pastor there, announced the beginning of the yearlong celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the parish.

The parish was originally founded by the Catholic families who lived on the north side of the St. Joseph River in Mishawaka. They had attempted to establish a church near their homes for many years, but had met with failure until 1915. St. Monica Parish was finally established on Sept. 4, 1915, when a Baptist church originally erected in 1868 was purchased. The church was immediately remodeled for Catholic worship.

Bishop Herman J. Alerding of the Diocese of Fort Wayne dedicated the remodeled church on Oct. 17 to serve 150 families. It became apparent from the immediate growth that a new church and

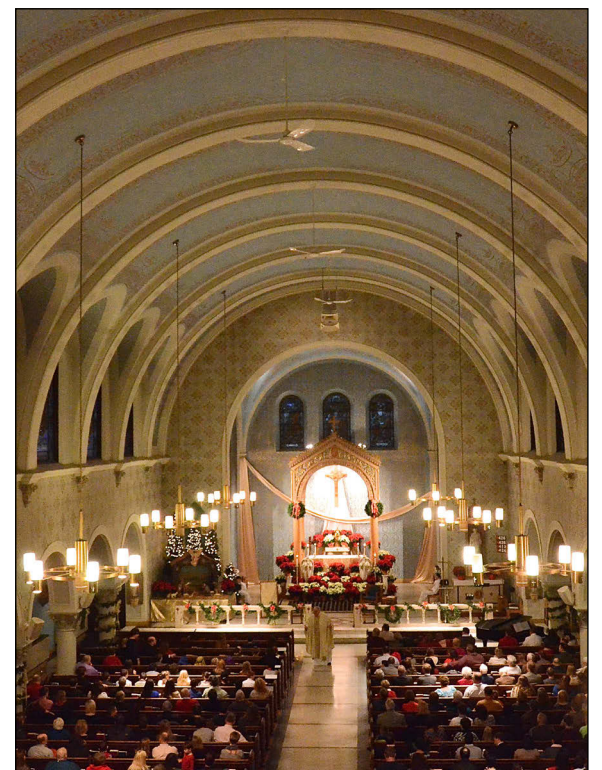
school would be needed. On April 15, 1916, the purchasing committee secured several lots on the south side of Grove Street between Elizabeth and Ann streets for a chapel, school and parsonage. The chapel and school were formally dedicated on May 13, 1917, by Bishop Alerding.

Father Bleckmann served as the first priest of St. Monica until Nov. 26, 1917, when he met an untimely death during a massive influenza epidemic.

The continued growth of the parish led to a search for more ground near the first location. The current St. Monica's Catholic Church, located on Mishawaka Avenue was designed in Italian Romanesque style with a seating capacity of 800. Individuals from the congregation donated stained glass windows and Stations of the Cross. The church was dedicated on Oct. 2, 1927.

St. Monica's current pastor, Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, has shepherded the faithful at St. Monica's since June of 2011.

ST. MONICA, PAGE 8



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Parishioners of St. Monica Parish in Mishawaka celebrate the Christmas Eve Mass Dec. 24. The parish will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2015.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

NEWS EDITOR and STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Ann Carey, Michelle Castleman, Karen Clifford, Bonnie Elbersson, Denise Fedorow, Diane Freeby, Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, Jodi Magallanes, Joe Kozinski, Vince LaBarbera and Deb Wagner

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Sean McBride

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Bethany Belleville
bbelleville@diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen

tsteffen@diocesefwsb.org

(260) 456-2824

Web site: www.todayscatholicnews.org

Published weekly except second Sunday of January; and every other week from the fourth Sunday in June through the middle Sunday of September; and last Sunday in December by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 1103 S. Calhoun St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

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

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260) 456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.
BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone (260) 456-2824. Fax (260) 744-1473.

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

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

ISSN 0891-1533
USPS 403630



Find us on Facebook!

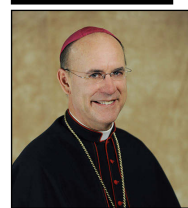
www.facebook.com/diocesefwsb



Follow us on Twitter!

[@diocesefwsb](https://twitter.com/diocesefwsb)

The Light of the Nations



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

At the Mass I concelebrated this past November 24th with Pope Francis in Rome, the Holy Father likened the Church to the moon which does not have any light of its own to give, but reflects the light of the sun. So the Church does not shine its own light on humanity, rather the Church is to reflect the light of Christ. This image of the Church as "the mystery of the moon" is a theme from the Fathers of the Church in the early centuries of Christianity. The Church is like the moon, all its light reflected from the sun, from Christ, the light of humanity.

I was thinking about this theme as we approach the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The theme of light abounds throughout the Christmas season. At Christmas Midnight Mass, we heard the announcement from the prophet Isaiah: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone. On the first Christmas, the shepherds were watching over their flock at night when the angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them.

In the Mass of Christmas Day, we heard the following words from the Prologue of Saint John's Gospel regarding the Incarnation: What came to be through Him (the Word) was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The theme of light emerges again on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The word Epiphany means "manifestation." On this solemnity, we celebrate the manifestation of the Christ Child to the world as the light of salvation for all peoples, represented in the figure of the Magi. Significantly, a star guided the Magi to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem. The Magi were guided to Christ, the Light of the World, by the light of a star. They found the goal of their quest for "the King of the Jews" below the star. Saint Matthew tells us that they were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.

In my family, we always placed a star on the top of our Christmas tree. My parents taught us that the star represented the star of Bethlehem. Some families put an angel on the top of their Christmas trees. It is interesting that some scholars, following Saint John Chrysostom, hold that the star was really an angel who appeared to the Magi as light.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany this weekend and as we begin this new year 2015, we contemplate Jesus as the light and salvation of the world as well as our vocation to be the moon that shines the light of Christ in our lives and in the world. This is the universal and missionary vocation of the Church. We are called to spread throughout the world the light of



KAY COZAD

A stained-glass window of the Epiphany at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

the Gospel, a source of life and renewal for every person and for humanity.

To spread the light of Christ to others, it is first necessary for us to be guided ourselves by His light. We must be illumined by the sun (the Son) if we are to give light like the moon. We are not able to spread to others the light of Christ unless we are first illumined ourselves by His light, by His life and teachings. It is good at this time of New Year's resolutions to be resolved to live this new year in the light of faith. This includes a regular discipline of daily prayer and fidelity to Sunday Mass. In prayer and in the Eucharist, Jesus enlightens us with His wisdom, truth, and love. Jesus is not just some external light, but a light within us, the light who gives meaning and purpose to our lives. We need His light. We need His salvation. Otherwise, we are afraid and can be overcome by the darkness of the world.

At the Epiphany, Jesus was revealed

to the Magi as the light of the nations, the light of all peoples. Jesus is the light of the nations today, yet this may not seem so evident in the context of the world today. In a sense, we can say that we need a new epiphany of Christ in the world. Is this not the mission of the Church, to be the moon that reflects the light of the sun? Is this not our mission as individuals and as a community of faith, to reflect in all we say and do the light of God who in His love came to us in the manger of Bethlehem? We can reflect this light only if we remain united to Him and if, like the Magi, we worship Him.

I invite you to meditate this weekend on the mystery of the Epiphany and the adoration of the Magi. The Magi are an example for us to open our minds and hearts to Christ and to offer Him our gifts. May Mary, the Mother of God, help us in the new year to be faithful disciples of her Son, the light of the nations!

Casey Miller appointed superintendent of Catholic Cemetery

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Charles J. Miller has recently been appointed superintendent of Catholic Cemetery and will begin his mission there on Jan. 5.

Miller, known to friends and business associates as Casey, brings seasoned experience to the position having been involved in cemetery and funeral home responsibilities since 1974, when he worked with Greenlawn Memorial Park and Mausoleum in Fort Wayne. He began as a maintenance crewmember as a young man, and over a 34-year span, moved into the positions of president of operations/owner, location manager and family service counselor. From 2008 to 2014, Miller worked with Memory Gardens, Stonemor Partners management in Indianapolis where he contributed to the operational aspects of cemeteries and funeral homes in Indiana and later at Greenlawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park as Family Service Counselor.

A native of Fort Wayne and lifelong Catholic, Miller is happy that his mission of serving families in their time of loss has led him to his new position at Catholic Cemetery. On hearing that the superintendent's position was open he felt the calling to return to cemetery management. "This is my love, my calling, my mission," says Miller. "Helping families in really difficult times regardless of their financial situation and caring for them after the burial is what I love to do."

Miller and his wife Gloria are faithful parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne and he notes that his faith will play a role in his administration of the cemetery. "Faith is part of everything we do,"



CASEY MILLER

he says adding that he intends to uphold the Catholic traditions for burial and cremation there. Miller hopes to expand burial options for those preferring cremation in the future and says, "I will do my best to accommodate any request made by the family."

As for his administration of the cemetery, Miller hopes that he can "bring the best level of service to all Catholic families regardless of their ability to pay" as he settles in his new position. "To me," he says, "The Catholic cemetery is a sacred place." And leaning on his own experience of mowing cemetery grass as a young man, Miller also knows the value of well maintained grounds and says, "I want the grounds to be kept beautiful at all times."

Miller feels outreach to area parishes is an important factor in the administration of the cemetery as well. "My mission is to make information (about Catholic Cemetery) available to the Catholics in the area. I believe all Catholics should be buried there. They belong there," he says, adding that after care and community outreach in

the form of sponsored walks and other programs will bring the Fort Wayne community in to the cemetery. Currently the cemetery hosts a memorial service the second weekend in December where families are invited to place an ornament in memory of their deceased loved one on a community Christmas tree.

As superintendent Miller plans to provide a positive and interactive environment for all the employees of the cemetery as well.

Miller has been executive director of the Indiana Cemetery Association since 2003 and has vast experience fielding calls from the 125 state cemeteries that sought a resolution to any number of issues that arise. Now as Catholic Cemetery superintendent, Miller says, "I would be delighted to assist parishes who have issues about their cemeteries. Please call me."

Of his new mission Miller says, "Catholic Cemetery has a strong foundation and I am truly honored to be able to serve as superintendent. It is where I want to be."

Catholic Cemetery was established in 1873 by Bishop Joseph Dwenger and is owned and operated by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The grounds reach across 175 acres located at 3500 Lake Ave. And according to its website "The Catholic Cemetery provides services to the Catholic families of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc. not only by making available resting places for their deceased members but also by providing pre-need services such as opening/closing of graves, granite memorials, vaults, final dates, vases/urns, Christmas wreaths and so on."

For more information on Catholic Cemetery call 260-426-2044 or visit www.catholic-cemetery.org.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Monday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2 p.m. — Installation Mass of Bishop Donald Hying, new Bishop of Gary, Holy Angels Cathedral, Gary
- Wednesday, Jan. 7, 6:30 p.m. — Meeting with Knights of Columbus, Saint Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
- Friday, Jan. 9, 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Saint Joseph High School, South Bend
- Sunday, Jan. 11, 10 a.m. — Mass at Saint Patrick Church, Arcola
- Tuesday, Jan. 13 to Friday, Jan. 16 — Pastoral Visit to Haiti with Catholic Relief Services
- Saturday, Jan. 17, 11 a.m. — Mass with Admission to Candidacy for Permanent Diaconate, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw

POPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prayers for the families of the dozens of children killed Dec. 16 by a Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar, Pakistan.

"There are so many tears this Christmas, together with the tears of the infant Jesus," he said. Children are dying "under bombardment, even there where the Son of God was born. Today their silence cries out under the sword of so many Herods," those who kill children just as Herod did in Jesus' time.

The pope prayed that Christ's "divine power, by its meekness," would "take away the hardness of heart of so many men and women immersed in worldliness and indifference. May His redeeming strength transform arms into ploughshares, destruction into creativity, hatred into love and tenderness."

In the dark of the night Dec. 24, in a St. Peter's Basilica filled to capacity, 10 children led Pope Francis toward the altar of the church. Together they stood waiting while a lector read the solemn "Christmas proclamation," recounting the timing of the birth of Christ in human history.

As the children from the Philippines, South Korea, Belgium, Italy, Lebanon and Syria looked on, Pope Francis removed the cloth that had been covering a statue of Baby Jesus. He bent over and kissed it gently.

In his homily, the pope said Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet, "announces the rising of a great light which breaks through the night. This light is born in Bethlehem and is welcomed by the loving arms of Mary, by the love of Joseph, by the wonder of the shepherds."

The birth of the Son of God in a lowly manger is the sign of "the humility of God taken to the extreme; it is the love with which, that night, He assumed our frailty, our suffering, our anxieties, our desires and our limitations."

Ever since sin entered the world, humanity was yearning for light and for peace, the pope said. The birth of Jesus revealed that "the message that everyone was expecting, that everyone was searching for in the

depths of their souls, was none other than the tenderness of God: God who looks upon us with eyes full of love, who accepts our poverty, God who is in love with our smallness."

"On this holy night, while we contemplate the infant Jesus just born and placed in the manger, we are invited to reflect," he said. "How do we welcome the tenderness of God? Do I allow myself to be taken up by God, to be embraced by Him, or do I prevent Him from drawing close?"

Put more simply, he said, the key question is: "Do I allow God to love me?"

In the face of difficulties and problems, the pope said, "the Christian response cannot be different from God's response to our smallness. Life must be met with goodness, with meekness."

"When we realize that God is in love with our smallness, that He made Himself small in order to better encounter us," the pope said, "we cannot help but open our hearts to Him, and beseech Him: 'Lord, help me to be like You, give me the grace of tenderness in the most difficult circumstances of life, give me the grace of closeness in the face of every need, of meekness in every conflict.'"

As the "Gloria" was intoned at the Mass, the bells of St. Peter's Basilica pealed; those inside the church heard a slightly muffled version, but the thousands of people watching on video screens in St. Peter's Square got the full effect. Later, during Communion, priests came out of the church to distribute the Eucharist to those unable to get inside.

Another musical note came in the midst of the Gregorian chant of the Creed. After the line, "For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven," an orchestra, conducted by Manfred Honeck of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, began playing. Chen Reiss, an Israeli soprano, sang Mozart's "Et Incarnatus Est," which the Vatican said was a special request of Pope Francis.

Shortly before the Mass, taking advantage of the satellite link of a crew from the Italian bishops' TV2000, Pope Francis made a telephone call to Christian refugees gathered for Mass in a camp in Ainkawa, Iraq.

Pope names Indianapolis Auxiliary Bishop Christopher Coyne as bishop of Burlington, Vermont

WASHINGTON — Pope Francis has named Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Indianapolis, 56, as bishop of Burlington, Vermont.

The appointment was publicized in Washington, Dec. 22 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Christopher Coyne was born June 17, 1958 in Woburn, Massachusetts. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston on June 7, 1986. He holds a bachelor's from the University of Lowell in Lowell, Massachusetts, a master's of divinity from St. John Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, and a licentiate and a doctorate in liturgy from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute (St. Anselmo) in Rome.

He was parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Hills in Milton, Massachusetts, from 1986-1989;



BISHOP CHRISTOPHER J. COYNE

a faculty member of St. John Seminary in Brighton from 1995-2002 and archdiocesan spokesperson 2002-05. He served as pastor of Our Lady of Help of Christians in

Newton, Massachusetts, from 2005-2006 and as pastor of St. Margaret Mary in Westwood, Massachusetts, from 2006-2011. Appointed auxiliary bishop of Indianapolis, he was ordained a bishop on March 2, 2011. He served as apostolic administrator for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from 2011-2012.

Bishop Coyne is chairman-elect and a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Communications.

The Diocese of Burlington, Vermont, has been a vacant see since November 2013, when then-Bishop Salvatore R. Matano was named Bishop of Rochester, New York.

The Diocese of Burlington covers 9,135 square miles in the state of Vermont. It has a total population of 625,000 of which 117,000, or 19 percent, are Catholic.

Indiana non-public schools make accounting reconciliations to state for Indiana Choice Scholarships

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Non-Public Schools Association (INPEA) and the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) announced on Dec. 17 the completion of a statewide self-review of tuition and financial aid practices that identified a need to reconcile accounting errors in calculating the Indiana Choice Scholarships.

John Elcesser, executive director of the (INPEA), said the study resulted in 80 member schools returning a total of \$3.9 million to the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program. The accounting reconciliation covers the past three

academic years, the entire period in which Choice Scholarships have been available to low- and middle-income Hoosier families.

Elcesser said some schools misinterpreted new and complex rules for calculating scholarships, especially as the rules changed each of the three years of the state Choice Scholarship Program. "Tuition and financial-aid practices are complex and vary from school to school," Elcesser said. "At some of our member schools, honest mistakes were made."

"When we discovered through our own review that unintentional errors may have been made in calculating Choice Scholarships, we quickly took action to iden-

tify the mistakes, correct them and return all overpayments to the State of Indiana," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC. "We are grateful for the Choice Scholarship Program and the educational opportunities it provides financially disadvantaged families, foster parents and students with special needs."

Tebbe added, "Each Indiana Catholic diocese initiated a program, in collaboration with INPEA, to educate school administrators in the proper implementation of the Choice Scholarship program." Tebbe said, "When we learned earlier this year that some Catholic schools may have miscalculated Choice Scholarship amounts, the dioceses initiated a statewide review of each school. The public accounting firm Crowe Horwath LLP was engaged to assure accuracy in the review process."

Most of the errors were based on not recognizing the need to apply parishioner, multi-child and employee discounts before calculating the amount of Choice Scholarships, according to Tebbe.

"The Indiana Department of Education and representatives from INPEA and ICC have worked together to clarify guidance and provide training on the proper administration of the Choice Scholarship funds," said Elcesser. "All of us are committed to an ongoing partnership to ensure proper implementation in the best interests of Hoosier schoolchildren."

Catholic schools, which enroll

approximately 60 percent of all students receiving Choice Scholarships, returned \$3.7 million to the state, said Tebbe. The five Catholic dioceses in Indiana operate 176 schools serving 55,600 students.

Tebbe, who serves as the chief spokesperson for the Indiana bishops regarding public policy matters for the state of Indiana, thanked Elcesser's organization for helping Catholic schools navigate changing school-choice regulations.

In addition to reimbursing all overpayments to the state, Tebbe said each diocese will continue to educate its school administrators and conduct regular reviews to prevent future errors.

"Good-faith programs like this will ensure better understanding of the complex rules governing the Indiana Choice Scholarship program," Elcesser said. "Miscalculations have been made as a result of confusion over interpretation of the rules, not a desire to skirt them. Schools have acted promptly to correct mistakes, and are taking proactive steps to prevent this sort of thing from happening in the future."

In 2011, the Indiana General Assembly passed the Choice Scholarship Program allowing elementary and high school students who are income eligible to receive a scholarship to attend a school of the parents' choice. The program benefits children of lower to moderate income families. Scholarships for elementary school children are up to \$4,800

per student. High school students may also receive scholarships.

More than 300 schools statewide accept Indiana Choice Scholarships. Eighty schools discovered miscalculations, Elcesser said. All of these schools have now reconciled their reports, returned overpayments and revised their procedures to avoid future problems. Approximately 3 percent of Hoosier students participate in the program statewide.

"Our schools are committed to the highest standards of financial integrity and good stewardship as they do their due diligence to provide a quality education for the children entrusted to them," Tebbe said. "The Indiana Choice Scholarship program offers educational choice for low-to moderate-income families across the state that would otherwise not have the opportunity to select a school that best fits the needs of their children."

To learn more about the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program go to <http://www.doe.in.gov/choice>



Celebrate Epiphany

Join the Cathedral Choir
Michael Dulac, conductor

Sunday, 4 January 2015 at 7:00PM

Solemn Evening Prayer
followed by
A Concert of Christmas Music

The Cathedral is conveniently located
in downtown Fort Wayne, Calhoun St. near Jefferson

FREE PARKING AND FREE ADMISSION

Interim
HEALTH CARE®



For more than 40 years....Helping YOU
STAY in the safety and comfort of your OWN HOME!

Non-Medical AND Skilled Nursing Care
RN's; LPN's; Pediatric Specialists; Physical Therapy; Home Health Aides;
Personal Care Attendants; Homemaker/Companions; Respite Care

Mishawaka
574-233-5186

FREE ASSESSMENTS
Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Medicare/Medicaid Certified
www.interimhealthcare.com

Fort Wayne
260-482-9405

KEELEY
VATICAN
LECTURE

The Catholic Church in Ireland
and Pope Francis:
Legacy and Transformation

ARCHBISHOP CHARLES J. BROWN

Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015 AT 5:30 P.M.

JORDAN AUDITORIUM, MENDOZA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

 NANOVIC INSTITUTE
FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

 UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

For more information and archives of past lectures, visit NANOVIC.ND.EDU/VATICAN.

Do not be complicit, indifferent to tragedy of exploitation, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When shopping and when interacting with people on city streets, everyone can help fight the evil of modern-day slavery, Pope Francis said in his annual message for the World Day of Peace Jan. 1.

“Together with the social responsibility of businesses, there is also the social responsibility of consumers,” the pope said. “Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral — and not simply an economic — act.”

But with the Global Slavery Index estimating there are nearly 30 million people worldwide living in slave-like conditions, Pope Francis said, “We are facing a global phenomenon which exceeds the competence of any one community or country. In order to eliminate it, we need a mobilization comparable in size to that of the phenomenon itself.”

“I urgently appeal to all men and women of good will,” he said, “not to become accomplices to this evil, not to turn away from the suffering of our brothers and sisters, our fellow human beings, who are deprived of their freedom and dignity.”

The pope’s message was released Dec. 10 at a Vatican news conference led by Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

The pope called for personal responsibility, grass-roots action and international cooperation to combat the new and growing forms of “this abominable phenomenon” of human exploitation.

His message, which the Vatican sends to heads of state around the world, invited everyone “to practice acts of fraternity toward those kept in a state of enslavement.”

Make an effort to “feel challenged when, in our daily lives, we meet or deal with persons who could be victims of human trafficking, or when we are tempted to select items which may well have been produced by exploiting others,” he said.

Instead of closing one’s eyes to this tragedy, “do something about it,” he said, by joining an association or “offering a kind word, a greeting or a smile” that may give hope or change the life of someone who



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis delivers his Christmas blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world) from the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 25. He is slated to deliver the annual message for the World Day of Peace Jan. 1.

might be a victim of exploitation.

Praying for an end to all wars, conflicts and suffering caused by natural disasters and disease, Pope Francis said his thoughts were with the many men, women and children in the world who have been robbed of their freedom and human dignity.

His thoughts went to those subjected to forced labor in the agricultural, mining and manufacturing industries; domestic workers; sex slaves; women or girls forced into marriages; people forced to fight as soldiers; and victims of terrorists, organ trafficking and “disguised forms of cross-border adoption.”

“I think also of the living conditions of many migrants who, in their dramatic odyssey, experience hunger, are deprived of freedom, robbed of their possessions or undergo physical and sexual abuse,” he said, denouncing the sometimes “inhumane conditions” migrants face when they are detained by authorities.

While many find themselves working illegally or living clandestinely, others, in an attempt to act within the law, may “agree to disgraceful living and working conditions, especially in those cases where the laws of a nation create or permit a structural dependency of migrant workers on their employers, as, for example, when the legality of

their residency is made dependent on their labor contract,” he said.

The pope made special mention of the world’s congregations of women religious, who are especially active in “enormous and often silent efforts” to help victims.

“This immense task, which calls for courage, patience and perseverance, deserves the appreciation of the whole Church and society. Yet, of itself, it is not sufficient to end the scourge of the exploitation of human persons,” the pope said.

Local, national and international governmental organizations must commit themselves to “prevention, to victim protection and to the legal prosecution of perpetrators,” he said.

Nations must create and enforce legislation that “truly respects the dignity of the human person in the areas of migration, employment, adoption, the movement of businesses offshore and the sale of items produced by slave labor.”

Cooperation between governments, organizations and “the world of finance” is needed to fight organized crime, which orchestrates human trafficking and the illegal trafficking of migrants, he said.

Businesses must “ensure dignified working conditions and adequate salaries for their employees, but they must also be vigilant that forms of subjugation or human traf-

ficking do not find their way into the distribution chain.

The conditions which put people at risk of exploitation must be addressed, too, conditions such as poverty, lack of access to education and employment, armed conflicts, terrorism and corruption by law enforcement and government officials, which happens when people are “willing to do anything for financial gain” and “when money, and not the human person, is at the center of an economic system.”

Today’s “culture of enslavement” and “the globalization of indifference” must be countered with a fresh recognition that everyone belongs to one human family and “a new worldwide solidarity and fraternity capable of giving (victims) new hope and helping them to advance with courage,” he said.

St. Josephine Bakhita, the former Sudanese slave, is “an exemplary witness of hope for the many victims of slavery” today, the pope said. The first International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking will be marked Feb. 8, St. Josephine’s feast day. The new observance is being promoted for all dioceses, parishes and church groups by the council for migrants, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the international unions of superiors general of men’s and women’s religious orders.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE PROJECT

Has there been a religious sister, brother or priest who has served in the Diocese of



Fort Wayne-South Bend that has helped form your Catholic faith in a positive way? We would like to hear from our readers. In 100 words or less, please tell us how this faithful servant impacted your life. We will run the best responses in the Feb. 1 issue of *Today’s Catholic*, honoring those in consecrated life, but we need your responses emailed to us with your name, address, city and zip before Jan. 21, 2015.

Please email responses to editor@diocesefwsb.org.

Make a Resolution

To make Redeemer Radio Part of your 2015!

Redeemer Radio
106.3 FM • 97.5 FM • 89.9 FM

Listen worldwide at RedeemerRadio.com

Contact or provide financial support at info@redeemerradio.com
4618 E. State Blvd., Suite 200 • Fort Wayne, IN 46815 • 260.436.9598

Call me for the Open Enrollment Period and for guidance.

health markets.

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency
Health | Life | Medicare | Long-Term Care



Ray A. Plagens, Jr.
Licensed Insurance Agent

Phone:
866-494-7299

Cell:
574-210-7474

Ray.Plagens@healthmarkets.com

www.healthmarkets.com/Ray.Plagens

HMIA000618

Parishioner:
Queen of Peace - Mishawaka

Partners in Inspiration



SYM

Financial Advisors
Uncommon relationships. Uncommon results.

Nick Gray

800*888*7968 | SYM.com

Wealth Management | Portfolio Management | Retirement Plan Services

Embrace, be amazed by God's great gift of children, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Becoming a mother or father is a gift from God, but women and men have a duty to embrace that gift and be astonished by its beauty, Pope Francis said. When people recognize that every child is unique and wanted by God, they will be “amazed by what a great miracle a child is,” he said Dec. 28, the feast of the Holy Family. During an audience with an Italian association for large families, the pope said, “Dear parents, I am grateful for the example of your love of life that you safeguard from conception to its natural end, even with all of life’s difficulties and burdens, which unfortunately the government doesn’t always help you bear.” The pope greeted the multiple generations present at the audience, who came from all over Italy, as well as other parts of Europe, and asked them how early they had to get up that morning to get to the Vatican. Holding the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph up as a model for all the world’s families, the pope said, “maternity and paternity are a gift from God, but welcoming that gift, being astonished by its beauty and making it shine in society, that is your task.” While each family is “a cell” that together builds the body of society, large families are “a hope for society,” he said, they are “richer, more alive,” and governments should recognize the importance of “investing in” large families.

Kidnapped priest found dead on Christmas in southern Mexico

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A Catholic priest was kidnapped from a seminary and found murdered in Guerrero, the same state in southern Mexico where 43 students were kidnapped and probably killed in September. The body of Father Gregorio Lopez Gorostieta was found on Christmas along a highway in Tlapehuala, 180 miles southeast of Mexico City, said Father Fidencio Avellaneda Reinoso, Diocese of Ciudad Altamirano spokesman. Father Avellaneda told Catholic News Service Father Lopez was grabbed from a seminary at gunpoint Dec. 21. He said the priest was shot in the head, although asphyxiation was ruled the cause of death because his mouth and nose were covered with tape. The murder of Father Lopez made national news and came as the country continued expressing outrage over the missing and murdered college students. Their parents passed Christmas Eve, a time traditionally spent celebrating with family, protesting outside the Mexican president’s residence. Only one of the missing students has been confirmed dead. The priest’s murder also came within a month of President Enrique Pena Nieto announcing plans to calm the country and an initiative to send soldiers and police to the Tierra Caliente region — served by the Diocese of Ciudad Altamirano — in a high-profile attack on organized crime.

PALESTINIAN CATHOLIC SCOUTS PLAY BAGPIPES



CNS PHOTO/DEBBIE HILL

Palestinian Catholic Scouts play bagpipes outside the Church of Nativity on Christmas Eve in Bethlehem, West Bank.

Pope Francis credited for urging U.S., Cuba to normalize relations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis personally appealed to President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro in 2014 to encourage both leaders to normalize diplomatic relations, a senior Obama administration official said. Speaking on background, the official told reporters Dec. 17 that the pope followed up the personal appeals with letters to the U.S. and Cuban leaders, encouraging them to move forward on efforts to improve relations between the two countries. The pope’s actions were part of a major diplomatic effort by the Vatican, which hosted direct talks between American and Cuban officials, the administration official said. “That (letter) gave greater impetus and momentum for us to move forward,” the administration official said. Castro and Obama acknowledged in simultaneous addresses to their respective nations the role Pope Francis played in the talks. Pope Francis congratulated both governments for agreeing to establish diplomatic relations “with the aim of overcoming, in the interest of the citizens of both countries, the difficulties which have marked their recent history.”

Fatal shooting of New York police officers called ‘brutal, irrational’

NEW YORK (CNS) — New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan joined in mourning what he called the “brutal and irrational execution of two young, promising and devoted police officers” fatally shot Dec. 20 as they sat in their New York Police Department cruiser on a Brooklyn street. “God’s holy word, which we just heard, and the sermon that follows, are supposed to be good news. Some days that’s tough to give, this good news, and this is one of them,” the cardinal said in his homily during Mass Dec. 21 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. According to police, officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu were ambushed as they sat in their marked police car in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. “We tear up thinking about their heartbroken families; as we are in solidarity with our police officers who experience a ‘death in the family’; as we worry about a city tempted to tension and division,” the cardinal said. “‘Good news’ might seem distant, difficult, even indiscrete, as we anticipate the joy of Christmas four days away, and feel more like we’re near Good Friday.” A gunman opened fire on Ramos

and Liu, shooting both fatally in the head. The suspected shooter, identified as Ismaaiyl Brinsley, then fled to the subway where, police say, he committed suicide. An AP story said Ramos and Liu were part of a special detail assigned to help reduce crime in that part of Brooklyn.

Abandoned, disabled Haitian children baptized into the Christian family

CROIX-DES-BOUQUETS, Haiti (CNS) — Young Patrick and Mika have seen more than their share of suffering. Found unclothed, nonverbal, and malnourished roaming in a cemetery in 2010, Patrick was taken to the General Hospital of Port-au-Prince, where he was nursed to good health. But, despite the care and because of the pervasive influence of the practice of voodoo, Patrick was chained to a radiator every night out of fear he would jump out of a window. Mika was abandoned at birth. Only days old when dropped off in an empty shoe box, she was blind, dehydrated and malnourished and would not have lived much longer had she not received the proper care. Today, Patrick is a happy young man about 16 years old. He cannot speak because

he is deaf and has cerebral palsy, but his personality is evident in his smile. After a few weeks of nourishment, Mika’s vision returned, and today she is a healthy, outgoing 5-year-old schoolgirl. Patrick and Mika are two of the children who are part of the Zanmi Beni family, a program based in this town near the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. In Creole, Zanmi Beni means “blessed friend.”

Australian bishops who visited Iraqi Christians see Christ reborn again

BEIRUT (CNS) — Christ is being “reborn again in the lowly stable” this Christmas because of the remarkable faith of Iraqi Christians who were driven out of their homes, said Australian bishops who visited refugees in Lebanon and the displaced in Irbil, Iraq. The Dec. 15-19 mission of the seven bishops was aimed at offering spiritual support, humanitarian aid and hope to Christians exiled from their homes in Mosul and the Ninevah Plain after they refused to convert to Islam. Some 120,000 Christians were displaced in the incursions last summer by Islamic State militants. Nuns and clergy, including bishops, are among the displaced in Irbil, the capital of the Kurdistan region of Iraq. During the Dec. 17-19 visit to Iraq, the bishops met families still camped in tents on church grounds, in half-finished buildings or in pre-fabricated huts in Irbil as well as in some surrounding villages. “So many of the people we met said, ‘We lost our homes, our lands, our jobs, all our possessions — everything — but we will not lose our faith.’” Archbishop Julian Porteous of Hobart told Catholic News Service in Beirut Dec. 19. “You can feel the faith.” An elderly woman told the bishops that when she was threatened by the Islamic militants and ordered to convert to Islam, she defiantly responded: “I am a Christian. I will not convert. You can kill me if you want.”

Pope to ride in open vehicles during trip to Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Philippine church officials said the pope will be riding in open vehicles during his five-day visit in January. For months, papal visit organizers had been asked about what kind of pope-mobile the pontiff would use during the Jan. 15-19 visit, especially after the notoriously violent group that calls itself the Islamic State said it planned to target Pope Francis during his travels. Father Anton Pascual, who is involved in papal visit preparations, said the pope-mobile will not be bulletproof and will simply have a roof. “The Holy Father wants to be accessible to the people,” he told Catholic News Service by phone. “(So) the people can see him and he can hear and be one with the people.” Church officials said Pope Francis requested that there not be any barriers between himself and the masses. “The pope will be vulnerable, like the Church is vulnerable, and will be dependent upon the government and people for security and order,” Father Pascual said.

Immaculate Conception to host family night on social media

AUBURN — Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn and its middle school Edge program are sponsoring a “Family Night on Social Media” on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 6:30 p.m. Youth in grades 6-12 and their parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. The evening will begin in the parish hall with snacks and drinks. Presenters will offer age-appropriate breakout sessions for adults and youth covering the use of social media responsibly, privacy settings and the many social media websites and apps that are available. Parents will also learn what is developmentally appropriate for pre-teens and teens, student views and current research about social media.

Presenters include Officer Ingrid Harriott and Kelly Wolfe-Stiltner. Officer Harriott has been with the Allen County Police Department for 16 years; her current assignment with the Sheriff's Department is as a school resource officer with Southwest Allen County Schools. Wolfe-Stiltner holds a master's degree in school counseling, is a licensed school counselor, and has 13 years of experience in her field.

“Many parents, myself included, don't fully understand what our children are exposed to on social media,” stated Stacy Hefty, event organizer. “Seventy-three percent of 12-17 year olds have an account on Facebook. Consequently, it's important that we keep ourselves and our children educated so that we can protect them from being a cyberbully or being cyberbullied, so that we can help them see the long-term implications of what they're sharing with their friends on social media today, and to simply preserve their innocence. We truly hope that parents and kids will take advantage of this free opportunity to learn about keeping our children safe and helping them develop a strong moral compass in this digital age.”

Immaculate Conception Church is located at 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, IN 46706. Father Derrick Sneyd is the pastor. The parish office can be reached at 260-925-3930. Visit iccauburn.com for more information.

Theology on Tap South Bend 2015 winter series announced

SOUTH BEND — Theology on Tap, a Catholic speaker series for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, has announced its 2015 winter series schedule. Theology on Tap (TOT) will meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Villa Macri, 225 Toscana Blvd., Granger.

The series, themed “The Living Church,” will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 20, with Notre Dame professor and architect Duncan Stroik, who will speak on “Understanding Sacred Architecture”; Tuesday, Jan. 27, with Dominican Father Raphael Mary Salzillo, speaking

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY COLLECTS ITEMS



PROVIDED BY THE ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY

Judges and lawyers gather in Allen Superior Court Judge Craig Bobay's chambers around Christmas gifts that members of the St. Thomas More Society of Fort Wayne donated to families via Catholic Charities' Christmas campaign. In the photo, from left, are Allen Superior Court Judge Nancy Boyer, law clerk Matt Hayes, attorney Michael Barranda, Chief Deputy Clerk of Allen County Chris Nancarrow and Judge Craig Bobay.

on “The Power of the Saints”; Tuesday, Feb. 3, with Tim and Kara O'Malley speaking on “Living the Mass”; Tuesday, Feb. 10, with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaking on “Mary, Mother of the Church”; and Tuesday, Feb. 17, Fat Tuesday, for a Mardi Gras Party, that includes a trivia night event with teams, prizes, Cajun menu and free Pączki and King Cakes.

For more information contact Sean Allen at sallen@diocesefwsb.org or 858-354-9006. Hear past talks on the TOT podcast channel.

Annulments presentation set for Jan. 28 at St. Vincent de Paul

FORT WAYNE — Father Mark Gurtner, judicial vicar of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, will make a presentation on annulments on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne.

The presentation, which will be held in the church, will offer an explanation of what makes marriage null and the annulment process.

Father Gurtner is the pastor of

Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, and an adjunct assistant professional specialist in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame.

St. Vincent de Paul Church is located at 1502 East Wallen Rd. in Fort Wayne.

Reservations are not needed for the presentation.

For additional information contact Julia Thill at jthill@saintv.org or at 260-489-3537 ext. 208.

USF receives presidential service award

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for 2014 in the area of General Community Service. This is the sixth time in the past seven years that the university has achieved this distinction.

This award represents over 36,075 hours of service given by 2,107 students to agencies in northeast Indiana area, which serve the needy during the academic year 2012-2013. One hundred nine students gave 20 hours or more of service to over 60 com-

munity partner agencies.

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll has been administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) since 2006 in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the American Council on Education, Campus Compact, and the Interfaith Youth Core.

The CNCS website explains that this award “recognizes institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships,” and it is “the highest federal recognition an institution can receive for its commitment to community, service-learning and civic engagement.”

Immaculate Conception confirmation class donates to food pantry

KENDALLVILLE — The confirmation class at Immaculate Conception Church in Kendallville organized a collection of food for the Friendship Food Pantry in Kendallville during Advent as a class project. Each grade-level religion class was challenged to donate food items and the class that brought in the most food would earn a breakfast prepared by the confirmation class. The students collected over 1,000 pounds of food, with the first- and second-grade class bringing in the most. Executive director of the food pantry, Josh Humberger, spoke to all the religious education students on Dec. 21, about the great need in their area and thanked them for their generosity.

OUR LADY OF HUNGARY STUDENTS DONATE TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



PROVIDED BY OUR LADY OF HUNGARY SCHOOL

Students at Our Lady of Hungary in South Bend donated 2,500 cans of food and presented a check for \$807 to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County on Dec. 18. The 2,500 cans are roughly 2,000 to 2,500 pounds of food. At left in photo, Oliviana DeLuna presents the food and the check to Dale Seely of the St. Joseph County St. Vincent de Paul Society. The students have been collecting money and food one day a month since September.

ST. MONICA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

St. Monica Parish celebrates Christmas, inaugurates 100th anniversary

In his homily at the Christmas Masses, Msgr. Piechocki noted that so much of the Christmas story involves listening. "When Gabriel arrives to bring Mary the news that she will bear a child ... she listens. When the angel tells Joseph in his dreams what is about to happen ... he listens. The shepherds listen when the angel announces the 'good news of great joy.' Christmas invites us to listen. Twenty centuries ago, shepherds listened, and told the world what they heard; God has no shepherds now but us. We are the ones chosen to hear His good news — and to pass it on. It is news of wonder and hope, of light breaking through darkness. God is with us. Emmanuel. God is one with us. I invite you to listen — with your ears and with your heart. Our salvation has been announced," Msgr. Piechocki said.

St. Monica parishioners enjoyed the beautiful Christmas Mass and are excited about the future centennial celebration events. "The music was so nice, we often attend the 7:30 a.m. Mass, so we don't get to hear our choir. They did an amazing job," said Nancy Sacha, who along with her family, have been parishioners at St. Monica for 13 years. "It was wonderful to see the church so full of people on Christmas and we are looking forward to celebrating the anniversary year of our parish."

Fellow parishioner Denise DeGennaro agreed saying, "We are truly blessed to a part of this community and we look forward to our continual spiritual growth and sharing with St. Monica's Church."

The parish will kick off its centennial celebration on Sunday, Jan. 4, at 4 p.m. with an Epiphany Candlelight Choral Festival at St. Monica's Church. It will feature choirs from St. Joseph, St. Bavo, Queen of Peace Churches (all from Mishawaka) and St. Monica's. A reception will follow. There is no charge for the event, but donations of canned goods for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry will be accepted.

This summer Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate an anniversary Mass on Sunday, Aug. 30, at 1 p.m. followed by a dinner. Additional events are being planned that will include an all-classes reunion. Long-time parishioners James and Nancy Olsen are the coordinators of the parish Centennial Committee.

Msgr. Piechocki said, "I am humbled to be the pastor here at this time. Many of our parishioners come from families who were part of the parish at its founding 100 years ago. Although faced with numerous challenges, St. Monica's people not only want to celebrate the past; they are embracing the future with faith in God and in each other."

For more information about the anniversary celebration, visit www.stmonicamish.org.



Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, pastor of St. Monica Church, Mishawaka, celebrated Christmas Eve Mass. The faithful, shown in this photo package, gathered for the children's Mass on Dec. 24. The parish will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2015.





Christmas celebrations abound



JERRY KESSENS

Father Phillip Widmann, pastor, incenses the Infant Jesus in the Nativity scene at St. Peter Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, at the 4 p.m. Mass Christmas Eve.



MARK WEBER

The Cummings triplets, ages 5, pray at the crèche in St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne at the Christmas Eve Mass. From left are Drew, Michaela and Ryan. They were accompanied by their grandmother Joan Klein.

ARISE group brings warmth and love to local community

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

SOUTH BEND — In late November, six members of the St. Joseph Parish ARISE program joined together and created an initiative to benefit and assist those struggling with homelessness in South Bend. This campaign, entitled “My Friends are Cold, #click2warm,” lasted from Dec. 1-12 and was promoted through social media and directed supporters to donate via an online fundraising website, www.indiegogo.com.

The group was hopeful that at the end of this time they could raise \$3,000 to benefit the Our Lady of the Road Catholic Worker Drop-In Center, a shelter that provides meals, clothing and a safe environment for the poorest in South Bend. Much to their surprise, however, they exceeded their goal on the first day.

After receiving this overwhelming response of support, their goal transitioned to helping provide for the long-term needs of Our Lady of the Road. Jon Wheeler, ARISE member and director of faith formation at St. Jude Parish, South Bend, shared that “the initial \$3,000 will go solely towards buying hats, gloves, scarves and other winter clothing to provide for anyone who comes into the center. After reaching the original goal, we shifted our focus to helping provide warmth for the Catholic Worker during January and February, assisting in maintaining their running costs, especially the heating bills and electricity.”

Our Lady of the Road’s heightened expenses during the winter stem largely from their Weather Amnesty ministry in which they provide for the needs of 10 men each night seeking refuge from the cold. These men are offered a meal, a shower, a place to sleep and the opportunity to do

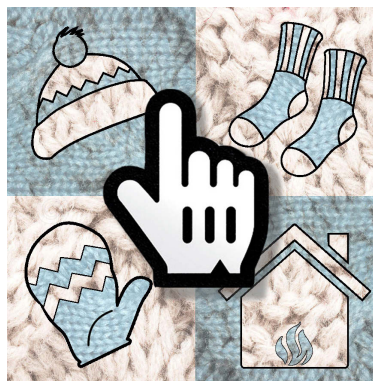


CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

Six members of the St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, ARISE program joined together and created an initiative to benefit and assist those struggling with homelessness in South Bend. This campaign, entitled “My Friends are Cold, #click2warm,” lasted from Dec. 1-12.

their laundry.

Paul Blaschko, a doctoral philosophy student at Notre Dame, helped spearhead the #click2warm endeavor after being motivated by a presentation from Professor Alasdair MacIntyre on how poverty continues to exist due to inattention and blindness to systemic injustices. Blaschko shared that “this talk really moved me and kept me thinking about how easy it would be to start something online, raise money and put it directly toward needs in our local community. After some discussions in our ARISE group focused on practicing discipleship, Kristi Haas, one of our members, suggested ‘Why not just do it?’ and we realized that we had all the resources we needed to begin such a campaign.



Everything we did was collaboration.”

Wheeler also added that “local businesses were happy to assist and help us get the word out about how we can aid in warming South Bend.” On Dec. 11 Barbici’s Italian Street Food at

Eddy Commons donated 15 percent of their entire sales for the night to the #click2warm cause.

Although the venture did prove to be much more successful than the ARISE team originally foresaw, there were some difficulties in the process as well. Blaschko remarked that “one of the more significant obstacles we faced involved how much time and energy we were able to invest in the fundraiser. So many people gave so much money so quickly, that we had to re-think the structure of the whole campaign. This involved making a new pitch video, creating new goals, spending more time responding to feedback on Facebook and Indiegogo, and advertising our campaign to local businesses and organizations,

which was challenging, since many of us work full time.”

Additionally, Blaschko shared that “although social media amplified the visibility of our campaign, and really helped us to get a narrative out there, getting someone to click on the donate button required more personal attention than we thought it would. Thousands of people were able to see our posts or videos on the local news, but some were hesitant to give unless they felt a personal connection with the cause. This meant that we had to send many more emails, Facebook messages, text messages and phone calls.”

Their hard work paid off and produced great results; the amount of funds collected at the completion of the project totaled \$7,644.

Blaschko said that they are now “in the process of responding to donors, sending thank you emails, and fulfilling ‘perks’ that people were able to select as rewards for various levels of giving.”

He expressed his gratefulness for the hard work of the team and all those who participated. “Overall, I was really impressed with the way everyone pulled together to make sure the campaign was as successful as we had hoped.”

Several parishes in the diocese recently completed the ARISE process. ARISE Together in Christ is an international parish-centered initiative for creating small Christian faith-sharing communities that focus on strengthening adult faith formation by studying Sacred Scripture, witnessing the Gospel through practical means of evangelization and becoming integrated with the local community through service and outreach.

STUDENTS SPONSOR CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR AREA YOUTH



KATHY KERSHNER

Saint Joseph High School students Nora Kelley, Dominic Ferro and Lyndee Freund host the first ever “Chuck E. Cheese Christmas.” By sponsorship of Meijer’s and the Dollar Tree, students were able to purchase, customize and stuff stockings for 60 children who were invited to an all-expense paid pizza party at Chuck E. Cheese Pizza in Mishawaka the Monday before Christmas. “It’s the first time we have ever been able to participate in such a worthy endeavor,” said Mike Naggy, Chuck E. Cheese’s general manager, “I hope it becomes a tradition.”

When I learned not to fight

When I was a little girl, our dog dug up a rabbit's nest. I can't remember if she ate the mama bunny or the mamma bunny ran away and never came back. All I remember is that five little baby bunnies were orphaned, and my gentle mother felt sorry for them. Mom called the animal shelter to find out what she could do. My memory is vague but this I do recall. Eyedroppers were purchased, and some sort of solution of nutrition (milk, baby formula) was mixed together for them. Every hour a solution of that nutrition was dropped into the mouths of the hungry bunny babies, and their tummies were gently rubbed to help them digest.

I soon found out that rabbits, like humans, have different propensities and personalities. Some of the babies accepted the milk dribbled into their mouths. Some licked the sweet nutrition. One tiny bunny, however, freaked out, for lack of a better term, squirming and flailing, instead of taking in the sustenance. I remember the frustration of trying to feed that bunny. I thought: He's not helping himself. If only he'd

relax, it'd be better.

That image stuck with me for a long time, that of fighting reality instead of accepting it. It occurred to me that rabbit was a lot like me, at times. Sometimes I resist. I fight. I freak out. I don't trust. I let fear take over. If only I would relax.

For a long time, I was terrified to fly. I just couldn't imagine how being up in the air in a manmade contraption, airborne, could be safe. It didn't help that my brother-in-law was killed in a small aircraft plane crash on a foggy night one January. But fear can consume us if we let it. It can prevent us from going places, literally. And my fear of flying almost prevented me from some of the best experiences of my life, trips with my husband, excursions to see my adult children. In time, I learned to manage my fear of flying, small step by small step, flight by flight. I listened to soothing music. I wore sunglasses to block and keep things calmer and dark. I took deep breaths and consciously relaxed each muscle group. I prayed the rosary, not frantically, but deliberately, slowly, peacefully. Each time I reached a destination, I gained confidence.



TERESA A. THOMAS

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

The year I was diagnosed with cancer was another fear-provoking time. I had nine children and a new baby when a collarbone lump was determined to be malignant. Again I fought. Again I thrashed against the situation. My mind tormented me with thoughts of "what if" and darkness. One afternoon, bald and exhausted from chemotherapy treatments, I drove to pick up my son from soccer practice. On a whim I decided to stop in the Adoration Chapel at St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart to pour my heart out to God. My son was hungry and tired. I told him it would just be for a minute. I was empty and knew I had nothing

EVERYDAY, PAGE 12

An epic love story atop the family tree

It had an echo of Nicholas Sparks to it, but it was real life, and the story went viral: an Ohio couple married for 73 years died just 28 hours apart.

Reporters across the globe culled bits of Hollywood drama from the marriage, chronicling a young Joseph Auer surviving the horrors of D-Day and missing the birth of his second child. He and his wife, Helen, enduring financial hardship as they raised 10 children.

When Helen passed away in their Cincinnati condo on a quiet Wednesday evening last October, 100-year-old Joe kissed his wife and whispered, "Mama, call me home."

She honored his request promptly.

But the part that wasn't reported, the part that the Catholic reader might have sniffed out based on the names, the location or the family size, was the Catholic faith that undergirded Helen and Joe's union. It was like oatmeal, giving them sustenance. It was like a full daily planner, lending them purpose. It was like stardust, offering them hope.

Helen and Joe combatted stresses — a night job, farm chores, miscarriages, never-ending diaper wringing, Catholic-school tuition — with Mass, weekly Confession and nightly rosary. All the kids knew of Helen's devotion to Elizabeth Ann Seton, whom she petitioned fiercely when her firstborn contracted spinal meningitis as a boy.

"They always put God first," said Mary Jo Reiners, the Auers' fifth child. "That's one of the things I'll take away from their marriage."

They weren't particularly demonstrative, but the kids never doubted their parents' commitment. It was visible in the little ways they cared for each other and the tender nicknames they used; he called her "Helen Baby," and she called him "Daddy."

Their legacy includes 16 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. A second great-great-grandchild is due this month.

Reflecting on what it means to inherit and honor that legacy is a weighty matter, said Joe Bianco Jr., a 35-year-old mortgage loan officer and the firstborn of Joe



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

TWENTY SOMETHING

and Helen's sixth child, Jeanne.

"I'm trying to instill the same values," said Joe Jr., a father of three.

But sometimes the gulf between his grandparents' way of life, with its simplicity and nobility, and his 21st-century grind feels unbridgeable. His grandpa risked his life in World War II; Joe Jr. is waging iPad wars among the kids in the living room.

He remembers his grandpa reading the *Cincinnati Enquirer* with a magnifying glass and referring to the TV as "the idiot box."

These days, Joe Jr. finds himself repeating the parental mandates he grew up with: work hard, finish your meal, say please, go to church. His kids attend a Catholic school and attend Mass, as a family, every week. He and his wife, Missy, were married in the same church as his parents and his late grandparents. He hopes the sacrament and setting can have the same effect on his 12-year marriage as it did on their 73-year one.

Their back-to-back deaths deepen his trust in God. "It just proves that God truly has a plan for all of us," Joe Jr. said. "He had it all mapped out."

His big-picture thoughts about honoring his grandparents are tinged with New Year's resolve. The goal for 2015, he says: power off the iPhone and spend more time with his family. He may still have to log 55-hour work weeks, but once he's home, he wants to be available to play with his 11-year-old son or read "Pete the Cat" to his 4-year-old daughter.

"My kids are growing up quickly," he said. "Maybe I've already missed some things, but I don't want to miss any more."

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

With repentance hope shines in our hearts



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the Epiphany Mt 2:1-12

In Greek, "epiphany" means God is visible to humans. In celebrating the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord on this weekend, the Church offers us the lessons to be drawn from this great feast, namely that in Jesus, the Son of God, the almighty and infinite, literally was recognized as such by sincere and honest strangers.

The first reading is from the third section of the book of Isaiah. When this passage was written many, maybe most, Jews were badly discouraged. The pagan Babylonians, ignorant of the true God, had invaded the Hebrew kingdoms several generations earlier.

As a result of their conquest, these two Hebrew kingdoms, Judah and Israel, collapsed. Never again in ancient times at least would God's chosen people govern themselves.

In addition, in the conquest, many of God's people had been killed. To compound the misery, the Babylonians took many survivors to Babylon itself where the Hebrew refugees, and their descendants, languished for generations.

Freedom finally came, and with it return to the homeland, but it was a hollow achievement.

The Jews returned to their ancestral homeland only to find conditions quite bleak. The land was sterile and lifeless. After all the enthusiasm that God at last had spared them and was liberating them from their misery in Babylon, they came home only to find a dreary and unhappy place.

Not surprisingly, then, many were very disappointed, to say the least. Nevertheless, this prophet eloquently sings his promise that Jerusalem, the ancient heart of Jewish life, will rise again in majesty and in prosperity.

The Epistle to the Ephesians furnishes the second reading. This reading reveals the circumstances that prevailed in the first decades of Christianity.

Jesus was Jewish, as were all the Apostles. The first followers of Christ were Jewish. The Lord's message rested very much on the revelation of Moses and the prophets.

Yet, Paul and others took the Gospel far and wide, in the process finding many gentiles who also yearned to know the Lord Jesus. Obviously, Christianity's appeal was not confined to Jews. It was for all who earnestly search for God's peace and mercy.

St. Matthew's Gospel supplies the last reading. It is the story of the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem where they paid homage to the newborn Christ. (Matthew's Gospel is the only one of the four Gospels to recall this event.)

Scholars still debate exactly who the Magi were and from where they came. At times, they are called "Wise Men." At other times they are called kings.

Regardless, they were learned, as learning was measured at the time. They came from a place faraway. They longed to know God. They found God in the infant in Bethlehem.

Their discovery was not accidental. God led them to Bethlehem by showing them a great star in the sky and by protecting them from the treachery of Herod.

Reflection

This Epiphany of the Lord recalls one of the most expressive, and best known, stories of the infancy of Jesus. It has an important message for us today.

The lesson is that we are incomplete unless God is in our lives. If we realize our need for God, and earnestly seek God, God will guide us.

Separating us from God is our own sin or indifference. Serious sin distances us from God, but it also dulls our realization that we need God. Without God, we cannot have eternal life.

All is not lost, however. We can bridge the distance between us and God by admitting that we have sinned, and by asking God's forgiveness for sinning.

If we repent, then the light of hope will shine in our hearts, just as the star guided the Magi to the Lord. Life, not death, will await us.

READINGS

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

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

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

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-8 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52

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

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

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

'A Theory of Everything': A God-haunted film

The great British physicist Stephen Hawking has emerged in recent years as a poster boy for atheism, and his heroic struggles against the ravages of Lou Gehrig's disease have made him something of a secular saint. The new bio-pic "A Theory of Everything" does indeed engage in a fair amount of Hawking-hagiography, but it is also, curiously, a God-haunted movie.

In one of the opening scenes, the young Hawking meets Jane, his future wife, in a bar and tells her that he is a cosmologist. "What's cosmology?" she asks, and he responds, "Religion for intelligent atheists." "What do cosmologists worship?" she persists. And he replies, "A single unifying equation that explains everything in the universe." Later on, Stephen brings Jane to his family's home for dinner and she challenges him, "You've never said why you don't believe in God." He says, "A physicist can't allow his calculations to be muddled by belief in a supernatural creator," to which she deliciously responds, "Sounds less of an argument against God than against physicists."

This spirited back and forth continues throughout the film, as Hawking settles more and more into a secularist view and Jane persists in her religious belief. As Hawking's physical condition deteriorates, Jane gives herself to his care with truly remarkable devotion, and it becomes clear that her dedication is born of her religious conviction. Though the great scientist concluded his most popular work with a reference to "knowing the mind of God," it is obvious by the end of the film that he meant that line metaphorically. The last bit of information that we learn, just before the credits roll, is that Professor Hawking continues his quest to find the theory of everything, that elusive equation that will explain all of reality. Do you see why I say the entire film is haunted by God?

As I have argued elsewhere,

it is by no means accidental that the modern physical sciences emerged when and where they did, namely, in a culture shaped by Christian belief. Two suppositions were required for the sciences to flourish, and they are both theological in nature, namely, that the world is not divine and that nature is marked, through and through, by intelligibility. As long as the natural world is worshipped as sacred — as it was in many ancient cultures — it cannot become the subject of analysis, investigation and experimentation. And unless one has confidence that the world one seeks to analyze and investigate has an intelligible structure, one will never bother with the exercise.

Now both of these convictions are corollaries of the more fundamental doctrine of creation. If the world has been created by God, then it is not divine, but it is indeed marked, in every nook and cranny, by the intelligence of the Creator who made it. We recall the opening lines of St. John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word ... and all things were made through the Word." The universal intelligibility of nature is a function of its being brought into existence by an intelligent Creator.

The young Joseph Ratzinger stated the relationship as follows: the "objective mind" discoverable in finite reality is the consequence of the "subjective mind" that thought it into reality. Ratzinger furthermore observes how a peculiarity of our language discloses the same truth. When we come to know something, we speak of "recognizing" a truth, but the word "recognition" (re-cognition) implies that we have thought again what had already been thought by a more primordial intelligence. Long before Hawking used the phrase, Albert Einstein characterized his own science as a quest to know the mind of God, and in so doing, he was operating out of the very assumptions I've been articulating.

WORD ON FIRE



FATHER ROBERT BARRON

In light of these clarifications, let us look again at the central preoccupation of "A Theory of Everything," namely, Hawking's quest to find the one great unifying equation that would explain all of reality. It is always fascinating to go to roots of an argument, that is to say, to the fundamental assumptions that drive a rational quest, for in so doing, we necessarily leave the realm of the purely rational and enter something like the realm of the mystical.

Why in the world would a scientist blithely assume that there is or is even likely to be one unifying rational form to all things, unless he assumed that there is a singular, overarching intelligence that has placed it there? Why shouldn't the world be chaotic, utterly random, meaningless? Why should one presume that something as orderly and rational as an equation would describe the universe's structure?

I would argue that the only finally reasonable ground for that assumption is the belief in an intelligent Creator, who has already thought into the world the very mathematics that the patient scientist discovers. In turning his back on what he calls "a celestial dictator," Stephen Hawking was indeed purging his mind of an idol, a silly simulacrum of God, but in seeking, with rational discipline for the theory of everything, he was, in point of fact, affirming the true God.

Father Robert Barron is the founder of the global ministry, Word on Fire, and the rector and president of Mundelein Seminary. Learn more at www.WordonFire.org.

EVERYDAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

to say. I just felt the urge to give Jesus that nothingness because it was all I had.

My son and I entered the chapel and I knelt down. I made the sign of the cross and felt myself sigh deeply. "I don't know what to say," I told Him, "Help me ... help me ... help me. ..."

Just when I felt I could say no more, I felt a warmth in my soul and a gentle calm washed over me. I suddenly knew that Jesus was with me and would be with me through the cancer ordeal. I knew that His

being with me was not like a husband is sitting next to a wife during labor, supporting but not experiencing the event like she is. Rather, I felt, I knew, that Jesus was with me, in me, experiencing with me every physical pain, every emotional sorrow, and every mental anguish that cancer put upon me. He willingly, through love, took that on and went through it Himself. He carried this burden no less than I did, in fact, more. Suddenly, I understood the cross and what it meant. Jesus took and takes the pain with us not merely next to us, but He absorbs it for us and walks with us every single step, enduring every pain we do, for us. And I knew I needed not to fight but to accept because God was with me. My suffering could be redemp-

tive when united to His on the cross.

Fighting a strong wave leaves us exhausted. Experts tell us if we are ever caught in a rip tide, we should not fight, but swim along sideways until the shoreline can be reached. Patience achieves what brute strength cannot. And there is nothing to fear when God is literally with us.

How to suffer? Don't fight. Unite with Christ. Breath deeply. And trust.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for January 4, 2015

Matthew 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Epiphany, the Magi in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|----------|
| JESUS | BETHEHEM | JUDEA |
| KING HEROD | MAGI | THE EAST |
| STAR | JERUSALEM | JUDAH |
| RULERS | SHEPHERD | SECRETLY |
| THE CHILD | TREASURES | GIFTS |
| GOLD | FRANKINCENSE | MYRRH |
| WARNED | DREAM | COUNTRY |

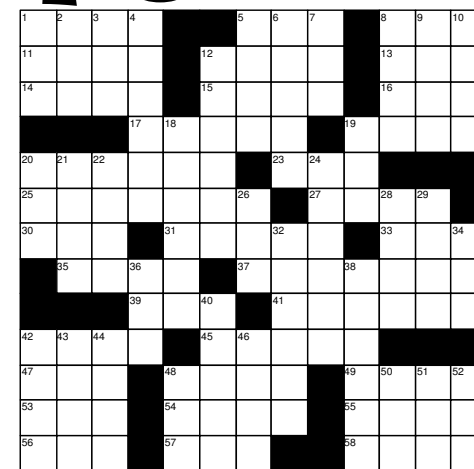
LOST AND FOUND

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

© 2015 Tri-C-A Publications www.tri-c-a-publications.com

The CrossWord

January 4 and 11, 2015



© 2015 www.tri-c-a-publications.com

Based on these readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12 and Is 42: 1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38 and Mk 1:7-11

ACROSS

- 1 Beer topper
- 5 _ you! (attention getter)
- 8 Theology degree
- 11 Type of bean
- 12 Rant
- 13 Caustic substance
- 14 Jerusalem's sons come from
- 15 Part of the eye
- 16 Able
- 17 Set in
- 19 "Lift up your ___"
- 20 Street
- 23 Abridged (abbr.)
- 25 Good taste in behavior

DOWN

- 27 Grub
- 30 Morse code dash
- 31 Glasses
- 33 Garden tool
- 35 Tenet
- 37 They shall walk by your light
- 39 Lent Wednesday
- 41 Break
- 42 Lot's wife's end
- 45 Musical production
- 47 Gone by
- 48 Papal letter
- 49 Object
- 53 Pro
- 54 Wilds

- 55 Halo
- 56 Stop
- 57 Galilee water
- 58 Frau's husband

DOWN

- 1 Farming club (abr.)
- 2 Lout
- 3 Princess saint, daughter of Pepin
- 4 Italian microstate: San ____
- 5 Rabbit
- 6 Diminutive of "Eva"
- 7 Aye
- 8 Cain did to Abel
- 9 Font
- 10 Wagers
- 12 "____ Jerusalem"
- 18 Zion's Daughters come with them
- 19 Epoch
- 20 Count
- 21 Tender beef
- 22 Resound
- 24 Rouse to action
- 26 Males
- 28 "Blessed art ___"
- 29 They "come from afar"
- 32 Dromedaries
- 34 Vane direction
- 36 Lab animal
- 38 Prophet of the Suffering Servant
- 40 Magi found Mary here
- 42 Unhurt
- 43 Contest at ancient Greek games
- 44 Title for God
- 46 Prayer
- 48 Mass transport
- 50 Mardi Gras day
- 51 Sin
- 52 Deface

Answer Key can be found on page 15

Sports

KNAPKE NAMED MVP OF RAYCOM MEDIA CAMELLIA BOWL Star quarterback James Knapke was named Bart Starr Most Valuable Player of the inaugural Raycom Media Camellia Bowl in Montgomery, Alabama, on Saturday night, Dec. 20. The former Bishop Luers standout passed for 368 yards and two touchdowns — both of which were to freshman wide receiver Roger Lewis. His winning 78-yard strike came with just 1:04 left in the game to seal the 33-28 victory for his Bowling Green State University (Ohio) Falcons over South Alabama. Bowling Green finished their 2014 campaign with an 8-6 record, a MAC East championship and their first win in a bowl game since 2004.

ICCL basketball games pick up vigor

BY JOE KOZINSKI

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — As the twilight of 2014 came to an end, the Inter-City Catholic League was still sorting out the have from the have-nots as the teams raced toward the new calendar with an inspired vigor.

One of the big dogs on the block, St. Joseph of South Bend knocked St. Pius X from the ranks of the unbeaten by disposing of the Lions, 42-28. JR Raster's dozen paced the Eagles as John Branch's double-digit effort was not enough in the losing cause.

The mighty Crusaders of Holy Cross kept pace with their division rivals by eclipsing St. Matthew, 41-25. Jaden Ivy and Charles Black scored 21 and 13 points respectively for the victors as 10 spots from Paul Cline and Coley Quinn couldn't hold back the assault.

The waves made by Christ the

King were too much for the 11 points of Surf Sadowey and his Spartans of St. Thomas as they were capsized, 38-26.

The Saints of Mishawaka Catholic were the third undefeated team from the St. Martin

De Porres Division to fall from grace, as the Panthers of St. Anthony were the conquering heroes by a margin of 50-38.

Aston Ruskowski's 16 and Austin Lee's dozen propelled the Cougars of Corpus Christi past the Pumas of Queen of Peace, 38-28.

Bulldogs Christian Tate and Jalen Hill busted out scoring big as Our Lady of Hungary held off the west siders of Holy Family, 38-27.

The balanced scoring of the Falcons of St. Jude outlasted the upset minded Eagles of St. Adalbert, 33-14.

Regular season play continues Jan. 4 and updated schedules and results can be found on the website at www.icclsports.org



ST. JOSEPH-HESSEN CASSEL HONORED AT MAD ANTS GAME



PROVIDED BY ROSE WORMAN

December 13 was St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Night at the Mad Ants basketball game in Fort Wayne. Students Jessica Collins and Gretchen Spenn along with first grade and music teacher Carol Sarasiens sang the National Anthem before tip-off. Students also participated in the "High-Five" tunnel and scrimmaged on the court before game time.

Luers tennis team brings home SAC championship, first in 46 years

BY EILEEN BRODMERKEL

FORT WAYNE — A new banner will hang from the gym rafters after the 2014 boys' tennis team brought home the first SAC championship in 46 years. Head coach Joel Pyle saw the beginnings of this success four years ago when nine new freshmen reported to a team that previously lacked sufficient players to fuel a full JV squad.

The 2013 season was a successful one, but it left the team hungry for more. "Our team has always done a pretty good job working on improving play in the offseason, and it definitely showed when we started practicing this past August," observed Pyle.

He added, "At our first practice we began talking about goals, and what success would look like at the end of the season. It was clear that the boys had one very specific goal — to win the SAC!"

The Knights kept that focus and were undefeated at 11-0 with just one conference match left.

All roads led to a final SAC matchup with rival Bishop Dwenger, a team that Luers had come up just short of in the 2013 matchup.

Coach Pyle remembered the night before the crucial match up, when he had the boys gather in the gym.

"I talked about Luers Spirit and the blood, sweat and tears that went into our victories," he said. "I had the boys look at the banners, and picture how great a '14 would look up there and what that would mean."

When Luers took the courts against the Saints, the Knights were more than ready. The matches were close and the teams were tied at two wins each. It all came down to the last match on the courts. With the entire team, parents and fans gathered around that court, the No. 2 doubles team came from behind to secure the 3-2 victory and the



first ever SAC championship.

Individual efforts were recognized as Isaiah Klotz, Erik and Johnny Woenker made first team All-SAC; Cole Scheible, Ethan Brown, Andy Mauch and Matt Palmer were each named to the second team.

Coach Pyle stated that he, along with Coaches Scheer and Brown, couldn't have been any more proud of their Knights. "They're truly a great bunch of guys, on and off the court," he said.

Pyle added that the 2014 team epitomized the words of the great Mohammed Ali. "Champions are made from something deep inside — a desire, a dream and a vision."

The SAC champions and the 1968 team will be recognized at half-time of the boys' basketball game on Feb. 6.

Retreat for farmers offered at Hartford City

HARTFORD CITY — John the XXIII Retreat Center will host its second annual retreat for area farming professionals. A special retreat for farmers and their spouses — farmers without spouses are welcome — "Restoring My Soul: The Psalm 23 Guide for the Farmer's Imagination" will be held Jan. 9-11 at the John XXIII Centers.

The retreat will offer soul-restoring and thought-provoking reflection and conversation. Sessions will be led by farmer and Pastor Jeff Hawkins of North Manchester. After 23 years as a congregational pastor, Hawkins serves as executive director of HOPE CSA, Inc., a not-for-profit clergy continuing education and congregational consultation ministry started in 2003. He also owns and operates J.L. Hawkins Family Farm in partnership with his son. Joining him will be Kathy, his wife of 38 years.

Father David Newton, pastor of St. John Church in Hartford City and St. Mary in Dunkirk will be available on Saturday for some of the time for Reconciliation. Sister Joetta Huelsmann, a Sister of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, director of the John XXIII Retreat Center, will be available for spiritual direction throughout the weekend.

A \$2,000 grant from Our Sunday Visitor will help cover the presenter and partial scholarships.

Register for the retreat by email at john23rd@sbcglobal.net or call 765-348-4008 or 888-882-1391.

Dorms at Ancilla College to open fall 2015

DONALDSON — With beds for approximately 100 students, Ancilla College has announced a state-of-the-art residence hall will be ready for students beginning the 2015-16 school year.

"This project will help us reach students from a wider area, previously unavailable for a commuter campus," said Dr. Ken Zirkle, president. "We are proud to bring our mission of empowering lifelong learners to our new programs, expanded athletic teams and safe campus."

Preliminary plans for the building include housing for 100 new students and a live-in dean and student services director, Zirkle said. Floor plans are being drawn now to possibly include a teaching kitchen for a new hospitality/culinary program.

"These dorms are not only going to help more students find Ancilla as a home, they will also bring jobs to the area," said Mike Brown, chief financial officer. "It's a win-win for the college and surrounding communities."

Immaculate Conception announces spring adult religious education dates

AUBURN — Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn, will offer adult religious education sessions during the spring 2015 semester. All are welcome to attend. Each session will begin at approximately 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings, immediately following the 8 a.m. Mass, with coffee and doughnuts in the parish hall.

Gary Helmkamp, director of the parish's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, will facilitate the meetings and lead group discussions. Childcare is available for children ages one through five.

Dates and topics are: Jan. 4 — The Pascal Mystery; Jan. 11 — The Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace; Jan. 18 — Why Do I Need the Church?; March 1 — Mary and the Saints; March 8 — The Last Things; March 15 — make up day in case of inclement weather.

Immaculate Conception Church is located at 500 E. Seventh St., in Auburn. Father Derrick Sneyd is the pastor. The parish office can be reached at 260-925-3930. Visit iccauburn.com for more information.

**NATIONAL
CATHOLIC
SOCIETY OF
FORESTERS**

Home Office:
Mt. Prospect, IL



**JOHN
HOGAN**

ADVOCATE FINANCIAL
260.267.0246
jmhogan520@gmail.com

10.14AD-NCSF

when is *winter* like ❄️
**LIFE
INSURANCE?**

Make sure you are *covered*
when it counts!

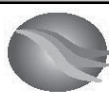
For every need, for every age.

Call for a free quote today; final expenses
can cost over \$8,000¹, NCSF may have
the right coverage for you.



¹-National Funeral Directors Association 2012 data.

SERVICE DIRECTORY
A reliable source for all your service needs



CINDY K. TRAHIN RHU, CSA
Insurance Services, LLC



- Medicare Supplements
 - Medicare Advantage
 - Prescription Drug Plans
 - Life Insurance
 - Long Term Care Insurance
- CELL: 260-312-6798
cktrahin@gmail.com

Parishioner: St. Patrick Parish, Arcola

Office: 260-625-3208 Toll Free: 866-561-0391



All your legal needs, we can help!

ALL INDIANA COUNTIES...

OFFICE APPOINTMENT OR WE WILL MEET YOU.

Attorney Richard J. Thonert: 260-637-4040

810 Mill Lake Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

One traffic light north of Dupont Road on Coldwater Road in Lake Pointe Office Park

7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. weekdays

After Hours & Weekend Hotline: 260-413-7449

*"Protecting families with wills and estates, healthcare power
of attorney, general POA, living wills, and advance directives.
DON'T LET THE GOV'T DECIDE WHO GETS YOUR CHILDREN AND ASSETS"*



Kari M. Peters
NMLS#891575

CONV - FHA
VA - USDA



**LEGACY LENDING
GROUP, INC.**

The LOGICAL Choice

FREE PRE APPROVALS!

Cell: 260-440-4181

kari@legacylend.com

Parishioner:

St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne

*"If you are what you should be,
you will set the whole world on fire."*

-St. Catherine of Siena

**Peerless
CLEANERS**
SINCE 1915

10 Locations
Ft. Wayne, Angola
Auburn and Warsaw

515 West Main Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Ph: 260.422.9374



TF: 800.514.9689
Fax: 260.424.5907

Long-time musician still plays with a passion

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Life-long musician Margaret Freiburger says, "I've always had a sincere, deep love for music."

Although music has been, in Margaret's words, "more of a hobby than a career," the lively octogenarian admits to playing an instrument since the age of 9 when her parents, also musicians, taught her to play the Spanish guitar. As soon as she learned a few basic chords, her dad pronounced her ready to join his dance band and she continued in that role throughout her teen years.

The second stringed instrument she learned to play was the Hawaiian guitar, then the mandolin.

"I picked that up easily," she says modestly. "I'm a play-by-ear person."

The family lived in Kendallville and Margaret attended Kendallville High School where she learned to play bass viol and bassoon and was a member of the high school symphony orchestra. She was a talented enough musician that her instructor asked her to teach bass viol to five other students. She also recalls entering a state music contest and winning first place on that instrument.

In the mid-1940s Margaret moved to Fort Wayne where she discovered the Fort Wayne Civic Orchestra, which she calls the amateur version of the current Fort Wayne Symphony. Her musical talent was clearly in high demand and she played with a German band as well as a popular country-western square dancing band known as the Versateers.

Margaret married in 1949 and she and her husband had five children in rapid succession.

Though busy with child rearing in those early years as a young mother, she never lost



JERRY KESSENS

Margaret Freiburger, seated with guitar, assembles with the Freiburger orchestra to entertain guests at the Christ Child Festival held in November in Fort Wayne.

her passion for music. And as the children grew, they became interested in music as well, so the Freiburger family orchestra was organized in 1966.

The orchestra grew to 13 family members at one time, she says, though it is currently down to five members. They are her daughter Caroline Dewey, who plays violin, daughter Eve Becker, who plays cello, daughter Ginny Hite on bass viol, grand-daughter Sheila Hite on clarinet, and Margaret on Spanish guitar. They performed recently at the annual Christ Child Festival at Franke Park and play regularly at nursing homes and other venues in the Fort Wayne area, she says.

Margaret's musical talent found expression throughout the 1970s and mid-1980s when she

played bass viol and bass guitar with the Four Dimensions. And while her children were students at Bishop Dwenger High School, she recalls playing with the orchestra for the school musicals. "Music is a pure joy in my life," she says with conviction. "I do it for fun."

She advises young people who are learning an instrument, "Don't be discouraged. Keep at it." And even in her late 80s Margaret follows her own advice and continues to take on new challenges. She recently picked up the resonator or Dobro guitar, which she counts as her 12th instrument.

Tim Johnson, music director at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Yoder who has played music with Margaret, says, "Margaret can play anything with strings."

A convert to the Catholic faith since her marriage, Margaret is now a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish where, for the past 44 years, she has been seen and heard playing her bass viol at the Saturday evening Mass there. She doesn't always attend the group's rehearsals since she's played the traditional hymns "forever." And even with the newer music, Margaret confesses that she can easily "wing it" once she's heard the song.

Parish musical director Tony Andorfer says that she is "a wonderful person with a positive attitude."

She admits, "I just love playing with them," and adds that if the Good Lord is willing, she will continue to make joyful music for many more years to come.

'Don't be discouraged.

Keep at it.'

MARGARET FREIBURGER

**health
markets**

Life | Health | Medicare | Long-Term Care

healthmarkets.com/aherber

C 260-452-8333

P 855-221-1466



Angela Herber

Licensed Insurance Agent
HealthMarkets Insurance Agency

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.

St. Anthony de Padua School plans open house

South Bend — St. Anthony de Padua School will have an open house Sunday, Jan. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mass Mob Part II

South Bend — Be part of a group bringing "flash mob"-style solidarity and support, plus a love of local Catholic history and the enthusiasm of the New Evangelization, to great churches in the Michiana Area. The second monthly South Bend Mass Mob will gather at Our Lady of Hungary Church, 829 W. Calvert St., for the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Jan. 11.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8.50, children 5-12 \$3.50. Shrimp for \$9 and chicken strips for \$8.50 will be available.

Rally and March for Life planned

Elkhart — A rally and march for life will be Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Lerner Theatre in downtown Elkhart at noon. Keynote speaker David Reardon, Silent No More Witnesses and a teen speaker for life. Free and open to the public. Families welcome.

USF offering Saturday morning art classes for children

Fort Wayne — Registration is open for Saturday morning art classes for children through the University of Saint Francis School of Creative Arts. Classes are for children in grades 1 through 8 from 9-11 a.m. on Saturdays from Jan. 31-April 18. The cost is \$75 per child, which includes all materials and instruction fees. Early registration is advised, as enrollment is limited. For more information contact the School of Creative Arts at 260-399-7700, ext. 8001.

Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Jan. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Peace and Non-Violence." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by Jan. 2 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-5427.

Polish and English Epiphany Mass planned

Fort Wayne — A Polish Epiphany Mass will be celebrated at Sunday, Jan. 4, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church by Father Tim Wrozek, pastor. A prelude of organ music and Polish Christmas carols (koledy) will begin at 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be served after the Mass.

Adult classes set to begin

Fort Wayne — The Adult Learning Center, St. Joseph Parish, 2213 Brooklyn Ave., will offer free adult classes such as home maintenance, citizenship, computer skills (English and Spanish), ESL (English as a second language), medical ethics, Bible study, Spanish language: conversation, spiritual growth and more. Classes will begin the week of Jan. 6. Child care is not available. To request a schedule and to register, contact Terry Stuczynski at 260-432-5113 ext. 355 or tstuczynski@saintjosephfw.org.

Christmas concert at St. Pius X

Granger — St. Pius X, under the direction of Jeremy Hoy, Carol Flora and Melissa Butner, will close the Christmas season with a concert on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 2:30 p.m. in the church, 52553 Fir Rd. Featured choirs include: children's choir, middle school

choir, Sunday morning and evening adult choirs, adult and youth handbell choirs and instrumentalists. The concert is free.

March for Life plans being made now

All high school teens are invited to join the diocesan March for Life youth pilgrimage traveling to Washington, D.C., in January. Space is limited. Learn more and register at www.fwsbYM.com.

Catholic Business Network Group

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, Jan. 9, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Mass will be followed by guest speaker Joe Brown with Rekindle the Fire, diocesan men's conference. Refreshments provided by Rekindle the Fire.

The **C**rossWord
January 4 and 11, 2015



REST IN PEACE

Bristol

Guy F. Quarandillo, 77, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Columbia City

Harry P. Chalk, 84, St. Paul of the Cross

Culver

Herbert R. Newman Sr., 85, St. Mary of the Lake

Fort Wayne

Thomas A. Ream, 85, St. Charles Borromeo

Bernard James Beier, Sr., Sacred Heart

Phyllis J. Glaser, 86, Queen of Angels

Jack Parriott, 81, St. Vincent de Paul

Colleen A. Griffith, 85, St. Charles Borromeo

Mary C. Simunek, 92, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Richard J. Noll, 82, St. Jude

Ellen C. Kitt, 93, St. Charles Borromeo

Rosemary Maher, 89, St. Jude

Mary Lou Sedlmeyer, 84, St. Jude

Albert E. Jacquay, 92, Queen of Angels

Judith Korn, 74, St. Charles Borromeo

Thomas J. Lapp, 75, St. Peter

Granger

Margaret Ann Shafer, 84, St. Pius X

Charles E. Tychsen, 92, St. Pius X

Huntington

Todd A. Petre, 49, Ss. Peter and Paul

James R. Biggers, 80, Ss. Peter and Paul

John 'J.D.' Hill, 74, Ss. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka

Mary Jo Stabrowski, 74, St. Joseph

Fred Bud Demske, 80, Queen of Peace

Mary Muncie Sweeney, 90, St. Monica

Mary Van Bruaene, 82, St. Bavo

Agnes D. Petersen, 83, Queen of Peace

Sister M. Alfreda Bracht, OSF, 103, St. Francis Chapel

New Haven

Joel Bartholomew, 26, St. John the Baptist

John J. Renner, 81, St. John the Baptist

John M. Filosa, 86, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Father James F. Blaes, CSC, 88, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Leslie M. Bodnar, 98, St. Joseph Chapel

Jerome McElroy, 77, Our Lady of Loretto

Dennis J. Stark, 91, St. Joseph Chapel

Plymouth

Eileen R. Stepp, 81, St. Michael

Dorothy M. Lesch, 80, St. Michael

James J. Lesch, 80, St. Michael

South Bend

Rose M. Burkhart, 79, Holy Family

Mary Ellen Adams, 71, St. Stanislaus

Regina Agnes Sniadecki, 90, Christ the King

Virginia S. Tapolcai, St. Casimir

Unalea Kolb Robb, 91, St. Matthew

Mary Jo Tompos, 85, St. Matthew

Janice M. Gavin, 81, St. Therese Little Flower

Helen D. Kawka, 92, St. Stanislaus

Jean G. Torok, 81, St. Anthony de Padua

Sophie C. Opaczewski, 97, St. Adalbert

Catherine L. Gramza, 94, Holy Cross

Ruth M. Walkowski, 81, Holy Family

Rose Marie Polonka, 83, Holy Family

Stacy M. Cooreman, 33, Holy Family

Louis Fred Kazmierski, 86, St. Adalbert

Available Now!

The Official 2015 Directory for the DIOCESE of FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

Over 200 pages of information covering diocesan HISTORY • OFFICES • PARISHES • CLERGY • SEMINARIANS • GRADE SCHOOLS • HIGH SCHOOLS • COLLEGES and UNIVERSITIES • RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES and SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Please send _____ copies of the 2015 Diocesan Directory at \$16 per copy. (Shipping cost: 1 book \$5.00 - 2 to 4 books \$6.00 - 5 or more \$10.00)

Enclosed is my check payable to the CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE, for \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Mail to: Catholic Communications Office • 915 South Clinton Street • Fort Wayne, IN 46802 (Please allow 4 weeks for delivery) Phone: 260-744-0012

Directories also available at: Cathedral Books & Gifts, 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne (260) 422-4611 Blessed John Paul II Center, 1328 W. Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka (574) 234-0687

A JOURNEY THROUGH 2014



Father Zachary Barry was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on June 7.

KAY COZAD



FRANCIE HOGAN

Overflow crowds attend the Consecration to Jesus through Mary on Aug. 15, the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. The faithful flowed outside the church onto the cathedral grounds and Calhoun Street.



PROVIDED BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

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

A LOOK AHEAD

Diocese announces plans for 2015 World Meeting of Families

BY FRED AND LISA EVERETT

As we have reported previously, World Meeting of Families events will be taking place in downtown Philadelphia, Sept. 22-27. Phase 1 begins mid-day Tuesday, Sept. 22, and will feature the Theological Congress that ends mid-day Friday, Sept. 25. The congress will include tracks for both adults and children (ages 6-17). Childcare also will be available on-site for children under age 6. Phase 2 will feature Pope Francis at a Saturday afternoon festival for families and will end with a Mass celebrated in downtown Philadelphia on Sunday, the 27th.

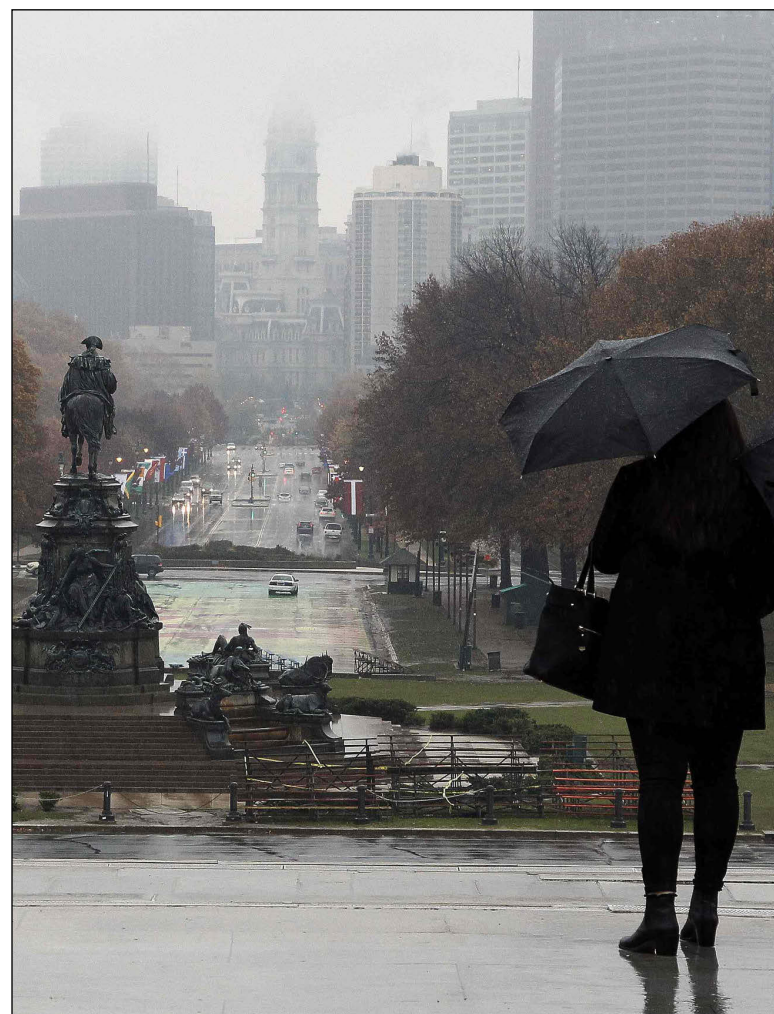
The diocese now has announcements regarding Phase 1 accommodations and congress scholarships.

- Beginning on Jan. 15, the diocese will begin online reservations for the downtown Philadelphia Courtyard Marriott. The Courtyard is a three-minute walk from the congress convention center. Rooms have been reserved for clergy, married couples and families consisting of at least one parent and one child. The cost of a room per night will be \$275, which includes taxes and room fees. Check-in at the hotel will be Monday, Sept. 21, and registrants can choose either four or five nights as their length of stay in Phase 1. Online registration will be first come, first served and will require a non-refundable deposit of \$275 that will cover the first night at the hotel. The reservation deadline for Phase 1 will be March 1, 2015.

- Those who have reservations during Phase 1 will be able to choose to stay for the events featuring Pope Francis on Sept. 26-27. Total room cost for Phase 2 at the Courtyard has not been published, but will likely be over \$500 per night. We expect prices to be set in early 2015. If rooms are still available for those unable to attend the congress, they will be made available to any other individuals in the diocese who would be interested in reserving them.

- The diocese has also reserved rooms for Phase 2 at a Hampton Inn just off I-76 about 45 minutes from downtown Philadelphia. The total cost per night should be about \$175 for a three-night stay beginning on Friday, Sept. 25. Married couples and families attending the congress during Phase 1 will have the option of staying at this hotel instead of remaining at the downtown Courtyard. If rooms are still available for those unable to attend the congress, they will be made available to any other individuals in the diocese who would be interested in reserving them.

- Due to the length of time in the fall for all the events and the diversity of groups going — families, married couples, young adults — the



CNS PHOTO/TOM MIHALEK, REUTERS

A view of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway is seen from the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art looking toward City Hall in Philadelphia Nov. 17. Pope Francis confirmed he will attend the 2015 World Meeting of Families. The weeklong event in Philadelphia will end with a papal Mass on the city's Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is expected to draw over 1 million worshippers.



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis talks with Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Nov. 19. The pope confirmed Nov. 17 that he will attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September.

diocese will not be renting buses for those from our diocese participating in the 2015 World Meeting of Families. For many families, espe-

cially, going by car will be a more economical and convenient method of transportation.

- Finally, through a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, the diocese will be providing full scholarships that will cover the basic packages for both the adult and child tracks for those attending the Theological Congress. The scholarships for adults will be \$125 and for children (ages 6-17), \$95. Married couples and families who will be staying at the Courtyard will have first priority for these funds. Scholarships per family are not limited. So, for example, a family of two parents and two children would be eligible for \$440 in scholarships. Couples or families will only need to produce their congress registration receipt and a form signed by their pastor that they are active members of the parish in order to be reimbursed for their registration. Again, this will be first come, first served. More registration information can be found at the World Meeting of Families website: www.worldmeeting2015.org.

- For more information about our diocesan plans, please feel free to contact us at fredeverett@sbcglobal.net.