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U.S. bishops debate priorities, focus at fall assembly

Prelates also approve documents on faithful citizenship, pornography

BY MATTHEW BUNSON

BALTIMORE, Maryland — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops held its annual fall meeting in Baltimore from Nov. 16-19, and the deliberations of the participants revealed both the massive influence of Pope Francis and the immensity of the pastoral challenges facing America's shepherds as we head into an election year. On the agenda for the bishops were a series of votes for new officers and staff, approving several notable documents and looking closely at their strategic priorities for the coming few years.

But all of the machinery of ballots and conversation only served to underscore how significantly tested we are as a Church and the degree to which the bishops are looking to Francis for inspiration in facing them.

Pastoral approach

Bishops tend to emulate the sitting pontiff, of course. Under Pope Benedict XVI, there was frequent mention of the New Evangelization and the

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CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Retired Bishop David E. Foley of Birmingham, Ala., casts his vote during the 2015 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore Nov. 17.

Diocesan Mass celebrating the Opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

The Jubilee Year of Mercy begins on Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. All are cordially invited to attend the special Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year in our diocese, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, on Monday, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. This is also the patronal feast of our diocese, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



The Door of Mercy at our cathedral and in cathedrals throughout the world will be opened on the Third Sunday of Advent.

'God turned my mess into a message'

Sally Thompson shares story of abortion, forgiveness and call

BY KRISTI HAAS

SOUTH BEND — Life was a mess. When she walked into the abortion clinic in her late 20s, Sally Thompson said, she thought having an abortion would solve the problems she faced. As a leader at her church, she feared disappointing the elders in her Christian community, since she had become pregnant out of wedlock. She kept her pregnancy secret — along with her decision to have an abortion.

Years later, Thompson said, she realizes more and more how many lives have been "connected to that one life" she bore. A long journey of both pain and God's healing mercy have brought her to share her story and the message of life with many people, including the crowd

that gathered on Saturday, Nov. 21, at St. Augustine Catholic Church in South Bend. The event was entitled "Abortion, Healing and Forgiveness: A Conversation with Sally Thompson, President of Urban Life Matters."

The cloud of guilt, sin, shame and fear surrounding childbearing is one way society today experiences the effects of original sin, Deacon Mel Tardy said in his opening reflection. He recalled the description of fallen humanity in the Book of Genesis, which says: "In toil you shall bring forth children" (Gen 3:16).

Several participants, along with Thompson, reflected on the particular dynamic of this toil in African-American

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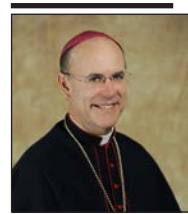
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Two resolutions for Advent



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

This coming Sunday we begin the journey of a new liturgical year as we enter into the season of Advent. The liturgical season of Advent celebrates the coming of God in two moments: the moment of Christ's glorious return at the end of the world (the focus of the first part of Advent) and the moment of Christ's coming in *the fullness of time* at the Incarnation (the focus of the latter part of Advent as Christmas draws near).

The word *Advent* means "coming" or "presence." The season of Advent reminds us of Christ's coming in glory at the end of time and of Christ's coming in the flesh at Christmas. Very fundamentally, Advent teaches us about God, that our God is "the God who comes." The one true God is not distant from us, up in heaven, unconcerned about us and our history. He is the God-who-comes. Pope Benedict XVI expressed this well when he said:

God is a Father who never stops thinking of us and, in the extreme respect of our freedom, desires to meet us and visit us; He wants to come, to dwell among us, to stay with us. His 'coming' is motivated by the desire to free us from evil and death, from all that prevents our true happiness. God comes to save us.

I invite you to live this beautiful season of Advent by immersing yourselves in the liturgies of Advent which focus on the coming of God to us, in the past, in the future, and in the present. We can easily forget about God and His coming to us now, in the present. So many things can distract us from God. In the Advent season, when the Church focuses on God's coming, strangely we can become even more oblivious to God because of the busy-ness of this season. Our time can become consumed by material preparations for Christmas to the neglect of the preparation of our souls for the coming of the Lord.

In our daily lives, we can feel that we don't have time for the Lord or even time for ourselves. We become absorbed in so many tasks: writing Christmas cards, buying presents, decorating our homes, attending parties, etc. None of these things are bad, but when they consume us and all our time, when we become absorbed in these things and neglect what really matters and is most important, the coming of the Lord, we will find ourselves unable to experience the hope of Advent and the true joy of Christmas.

How can we avoid the common pitfall of getting carried away with the materialism of "the holiday season" and absorption in the multiple distractions that easily monopolize our attention? I think it's good to just step back and anticipate how we will spend our time these next four weeks. How can we reduce excessive activity and say no to some of the superfluous elements of the season? How can we create that "interior space" we all need to be with the Lord who



CNS PHOTO/LISA JOHNSTON

Amy Olsen holds her 1-year-old daughter, Piper, as she lights a candle on the Advent wreath at St. Raphael the Archangel Church in St. Louis Oct. 29. The wreath, with a candle marking each week of the season, is a traditional symbol of the liturgical period.

desires to come to us now in the present? How can we allow God to enter into our life and speak to us? He wants to be close to us. Certainly, we wish to be close to Him, so we must make that closeness a priority, *the* priority of this season.

We are used to making resolutions in Lent. I suggest that we make two Advent resolutions. First: a commitment to prayer during the four weeks of Advent. Here are some examples to choose from: daily Mass; daily meditation on the Scriptures of the day; daily rosary; daily visit to the Blessed Sacrament. I think we should get concrete, otherwise, given our human weakness, we can end up with some generalized resolution to pray more and find ourselves forgetting about it.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says: *Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap... Be vigilant at all times and pray...* Moderation and prayer: great advice for the observance of Advent!

The second resolution I recommend relates to good works. In the opening prayer (the Collect) of the First Sunday of Advent, we pray that God will grant us "the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at His coming." In this per-

spective, Advent is meant to be a season in which we live in special communion with those who are in need, the sick, the poor, and the oppressed. Advent and Christmas should stimulate us to charity.

I recommend, in addition to a prayer resolution in Advent, a charitable resolution. God is love. He has come to us and given us life in Jesus. He will return at the end of time and judge us according to our love for the least of our brothers and sisters. We are called to meet our God-who-comes with our works of charity, seeing God's face in the face of our poor and suffering brothers and sisters. As we buy Christmas gifts for our loved ones, we can also buy a gift for someone in need or visit someone who is sick or lonely to share the joy of our faith.

We can learn how to live the season of Advent from the Woman of Advent, our mother Mary. She is a model of prayer whose Magnificat teaches us how to praise God and rejoice in Him. She is Our Lady of Charity who teaches us to go out, to serve the needy, as she went in haste to help her cousin Elizabeth. Mary helps us to center our lives on the God-who-comes since she is His Mother. May our Immaculate Mother guide us by her example and help us by her intercession to live Advent in a spirit of prayer and with charity, ready to receive anew the gift of her Son!

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dictatorship of relativism. Francis, for his part, can be both edifying and stressful to his bishops. He has called on the world's shepherds to be intensely pastoral, not to be what he terms "airport bishops" who are constantly away from their dioceses. He wants them to be at home providing care for their flock and proclaiming God's loving mercy. He has issued a growing body of writings that highlight that pastoral orientation but that also make for often highly charged discussions about their exact meaning. The recent papal encyclical "Laudato Si'" ("Praise Be to You") is a case in point, with its teachings on integral ecology, its discussion on climate change and globalization and its eloquent reminder that you cannot call yourself pro-environment and not be pro-life.

The influence of Francis was pervasive in Baltimore. He was referenced repeatedly in speeches, most notably by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the USCCB, in his opening address. And bishops quoted him in defense of their opinions and perspectives.

It was clear that the bishops are united in their commitment to embrace Francis' vision of intense pastoral care, proclaiming God's mercy and being loving leaders to a community that can feel at times under assault by the culture, confused by a shifting moral landscape and frequently underwhelmed by the Church's ability to communicate the faith, especially to the young. The ordering of priorities, however, is very much open to debate depending on where you put the emphasis. Do we prefer, for example, Francis' repeated call to focus on the poor, the environment and the impact of globalization and a throwaway culture? Or do we look instead at ideological colonization — the imposition of Western values and materialism — that includes the destruction of authentic marriage, gender and the most weak and vulnerable?

'Forming Consciences'

Francis wants frank and open discussion. That is what everyone saw in Baltimore, especially on Day 2 and the deliberation over the revised document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" that was originally issued in 2007.

Bishop Robert McElroy, recently appointed Bishop of San Diego, spoke for those who felt the document should not have been revised but instead scrapped and rewritten in light of the perceived pastoral priorities of this pontificate. "Alongside the issues of abortion and euthanasia," Bishop McElroy said, "which are central issues in our effort to transform this world, poverty and the degradation of the earth are also central. But this document keeps to the structure of the world-view of 2007."

Against this view were the



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of Catholic Relief Services, second from right, responds to a reporter's question during a Nov. 17 news conference at the 2015 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

majority of bishops who believed that while composed nearly a decade ago, "Faithful Citizenship" reflects a "hermeneutic of continuity" in Catholic social teaching and between Benedict XVI and Francis. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, vice-president of the conference, led the discussion and responded on behalf of the committee of bishops that drafted the revised document by noting that the revision reflected "real attentiveness to the pastoral ministry and the magisterium of Pope Francis ... I think we have brought a dimension of the magisterium of Pope Francis and the later magisterium of Pope Benedict."

It was a moment of drama and strong personalities, much as the Church has always had forceful characters with intensely held opinions and beliefs. Pointing a way forward, Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington, D.C., suggested that his brother bishops remember that "the perfect should not be the enemy of the good." He urged them to be united and to help the faithful who are trying to understand the complex issues that will be in the mix in the 2016 election.

The debate, ultimately, was less about a document or some hermeneutic of rupture or continuity as much as it was about a hermeneutic of Francis. Some in the media have proposed that Catholics must choose between Benedict and Francis, between continuity and rupture. The bishops resisted the trap. They reached a consensus, approved the document by a vote of 210-21, with five abstentions, and then embraced Francis' call to make the most of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Other business

Archbishop Kurtz made the impending jubilee the centerpiece of his address to his fellow bishops and held up Francis as the model. The pope came, Archbishop Kurtz said, "with that kind of pastor's presence — touching the hearts of the most

influential, the forgotten and all of us in between."

Like the pastors they are called to be, the bishops moved forward with several significant initiatives that may help many in need.

They voted in favor of the document "Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography," the first formal statement issued by the bishops' conference on the scourge of pornography (see sidebar).

They heard a report on the work of Project Rachel and the massive plan for the jubilee year — including the Missionaries of Mercy and the Holy Doors in each diocese — and approved a set of strategic pastoral priorities for the coming years, including how to: "open wide the doors to Christ through missionary discipleship and personal encounter," "encourage and heal families"; "inspire Catholics to embrace the sacrament of Matrimony"; "uphold the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death with special concern for the poor and vulnerable"; "encourage vocations to the Priesthood and consecrated life, and provide meaningful ongoing formation to clergy, religious and lay ministers"; and "promote and defend the freedom to serve, witness and worship in the U.S. and abroad."

It was a memorable few days, and it ended by providing one other useful lesson for every Catholic watching or reading about the bishops' meeting, or any synod for that matter. When you put 200 bishops into a room to discuss the needs of the Church, there will be clashes of temperament and perspective — and even the occasional rhetorical flourish. But in the end, they will come together and speak with the mind of the Church.

Matthew Bunson is OSV's senior correspondent.

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PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Tuesday, Dec. 1, 12:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw
- Tuesday, Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m. — Mass for Saint Vincent de Paul Society, St. Anthony of Padua Church, South Bend
- Wednesday, Dec. 2, 10:30 a.m. — Advent Day of Recollection for Priests, St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse
- Friday, Dec. 4, 10:30 a.m. — Blessing of Catholic Charities new Mobile Unit, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. — Mass for St. Vincent de Paul Society, Saint Mary, Mother of God, Church, Fort Wayne

Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty Holy Hours

- St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., Bluffton, hosts prayer for vocations and religious freedom the first Thursday of each month beginning with Morning Prayer at 7:45 a.m., Mass at 8 a.m., Adoration from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m., Litany of the Eucharist and Benediction at 6:45 p.m. and Mass at 7 p.m. On the second Wednesday of the month, Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty takes place beginning at 5 p.m. and ending with Mass at 7 p.m.
- St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne, has a holy hour all Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel.
- Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka has an hour and a half (3:30-5 p.m.) of Adoration and Exposition every Saturday prior to the Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m. They dedicate this time in honor of private prayer for the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.
- St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur, hosts Eucharistic Exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m. The parish asks participants to pray for the protection of marriage, religious freedom and unborn children.
- Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, hosts a holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

U.S. Bishops make statement on pornography

On Nov. 17, the U.S. bishops approved by a vote of 230-4 (with one abstaining) "Create In Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography." The document — the USCCB's first formal statement on the subject — was developed by the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family and Youth.

"So many people — including within the Church — are in need of Christ's abundant mercy and healing," said Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, chairman of the committee. "My hope is that the statement can serve as a foundation and catalyst for increased pastoral attention to this challenge at the national and local level."

According to a news release from the USCCB following the document's approval, "Create In Me a Clean Heart" provides "catechesis on human sexuality and chastity, an explanation of why the production and use of pornography is a sin and an overview of its effects in our society ..."

"Create In Me a Clean Heart" will be available online at USCCB.org/cleanheart, and printed versions in English and Spanish are scheduled to be available in early 2016.

More resources

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website has various resources at this link <http://tinyurl.com/q8pxhwd>, including a list of support groups for those battling an addiction to pornography, educational resources about its harmful effects and guidance for families and those who work with children to protect youngsters from pornography.

Columbia City clinic serves those who 'fall through the cracks'

BY TIM JOHNSON

COLUMBIA CITY — The Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic in Columbia City needs a few more volunteers — doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses and office support staff.

The clinic serves those who could be best described as “falling through the cracks” — they don't qualify for assistance through the Affordable Care Act and don't earn enough income to pay for private insurance.

Tucked away between State Road 9 and State Road 109 and U.S. 30 on Columbia City's north side in a space made available by Parkview Whitley Hospital, Thomas Hayhurst, M.D., is the medical director and Margo Phillips, a registered nurse and member of St. Mary of the Angels Oratory at Big Long Lake, functions as the executive director.

Patients come from the surrounding counties and beyond — as far away as South Bend, and some from Michigan. “We don't close our doors to anybody,” Phillips said.

Some patients, Phillips said, don't have an income. “There are people who are homeless, living under bridges, in tents, in campers,” she noted.

Others have incomes, but either lost their insurance, or make less than \$22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about \$15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted.

The clinic is a walk-in clinic and operated the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, but the schedule varies with holidays in November and December — operating the second and third Thursdays. Dr. Hayhurst and Phillips hope to add additional days.

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic. Dan worked construction, and one day in 2009 after working in the hot sun for an entire day on a roof, his body broke down. After being unemployed, he started a masonry business and got back on his feet



TIM JOHNSON

Volunteers at the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic, 524 Branch Court in Columbia City, include Sarah Mossburg, at left, Shirley Rucks at the filing cabinet, Margo Phillips, the executive director, Gary Terrell and Dr. Thomas Hayhurst. The medical clinic is seeking additional medical professionals to volunteer and serve those in need of medical care.

financially, but he didn't have any insurance. After noticing shortness of breath, he was diagnosed with the respiratory illness COPD.

“I came in here, because it is a free health clinic,” Dan told *Today's Catholic*. A series of tests discovered he had other health issues as well.

“They got me all checked out,” Dan said. “They were all on me about quit smoking cigarettes too.”

Phillips was able to enroll Dan into a smoking cessation program at Columbia City's Parkview campus. But it was difficult. Still, Dr. Hayhurst and another clinic volunteer doctor, Dr. Terry Frederick, kept encouraging Dan to quit smoking.

The good news is Dan has quit smoking since July. “If it wasn't for you people, I would be dead today,” Dan related. “So I love these guys. They are excellent people.”

The clinic served as a stepping stone medical alternative for Dan, who now qualifies for Medicare and

Medicaid.

The clinic makes wellness education a focal issue and offers information sessions on diabetes, obesity, women's health issues and smoking cessation.

Other community organizations and businesses assist the patients. Walgreens provides free flu shots. A representative from Brightpoint offers counseling if a patient is in danger of losing his home.

One of the clinic's founders, the late Patricia Ruah, has a fund in her honor called the Patricia Ruah Patients' Assistance Fund, which

through grants, provides funds for patients who may not be able to afford medical attention.

Phillips noted that even though they are a small church, her home parish of St. Mary of the Angels at Big Long Lake offers one week's tithe twice a year to the Patients' Assistance Fund.

Phillips' motto is “Give it back and pay it forward,” a motto echoed by other clinic volunteers who receive much from the clinic as well.

For years, volunteer Gary Terrell has functioned as office manager, scheduler and a former clinic board

**MULTI-COUNTY
MEDICAL OUTREACH CLINIC**
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member. He estimates there are about 40 volunteers of which about 18 or 19 regularly volunteer at the clinic.

Volunteer Shirley Rucks, a parishioner of St. Paul of the Cross Church in Columbia City, checks patients in and files office work. After retiring from a successful career with General Motors, Rucks said, “I felt it was my need to give back to those in need.”

Sarah Mossburg, a nurse who works surgery at Parkview Whitley Hospital and also a clinic board member, told *Today's Catholic*, “It's my favorite thing I do. You feel the appreciation the people have for the services we are offering them.”

Mossburg often hears from patients that they would like the clinic to be open more days, and they would also like a dental clinic. “We have this need, and we really want to be able to meet that,” Mossburg said.

Phillips said, “If there is a group of Catholic doctors or nurse practitioners or any type of medical professionals that could give us four hours every three to six months, it would be amazing to have them come here and just deliver the care to the patients.”

Doctors and nurse practitioners that wish to volunteer should contact Dr. Hayhurst at 260-433-0057. Other medical professionals interested in volunteering should call Phillips at 260-564-1946.

2nd Annual International Crèche Display and Pilgrimage at the University of Notre Dame LOVE INCARNATE WITH US DWELLS

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God never shuts the door; Church always must be open, too

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Because God always keeps open the door of His mercy and offer of salvation to everyone, the doors of every church and every Christian heart must never be closed to others, Pope Francis said.

All over the world, individual Christians and the whole Church must be seen as “the hospitality of a God who never shuts the door in your face with the excuse that you’re not part of the family,” he said during his weekly general audience Nov. 18.

The pope dedicated his catechesis to the symbol of the Holy Door, which will be opened at St. Peter’s Basilica Dec. 8 to mark the start of the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

Holy doors around the world represent the “great door of God’s mercy” and are generously opened to receive people’s repentance and offer the grace of God’s forgiveness, he said.

The recent Synod of Bishops on the family was an occasion to encourage the Church and all Catholics to meet God at this open door and to open their own doors to others — “to go out with the Lord” to encounter His children who are journeying, who are perhaps uncertain, perhaps lost, “in these difficult times,” he said.

“If the door of God’s mercy is always open, the doors of our churches, our love, our communities, our parishes, our institutions, our dioceses also must be open so that we all can go out to bring God’s mercy” to others, he said.

The jubilee year also represents the need to open the many small



PROVIDED BY MARY GLOWASKI

A pilgrim from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend captured this photo of Pope Francis during his general audience on Nov. 18. A group of pilgrims from the diocese participated in the Shrines of Italy tour, which included the papal audience. The pilgrimage was sponsored by Today’s Catholic Travel.

doors in everyone’s life so that “the Lord can come in or, many times, to let out the Lord imprisoned by our structures, our selfishness,” the pope said. “The jubilee means to let the Lord come in and go out.”

Don’t let the fact that so many homes and businesses deadbolt their doors for security reasons influence one’s personal approach to life, he said.

“We must not succumb to the idea of having to apply this system to our whole life, to family life,” to life in the city and community and much less to Church life, he said.

“It would be terrible. An inhos-

pitable Church — just like a family closed inside itself — mortifies the Gospel and parches dry the world. No bolted doors in the Church. None. Everything open,” he said to applause.

The symbolism of how a door is opened, how Jesus always knocks and asks permission to come in, “He never forces open the door” of one’s heart, is crucial, the pope said. The door is watched over and safeguarded by a custodian, but it is never slammed shut on anyone.

“The door is opened frequently in order to see if there is anyone outside waiting and perhaps doesn’t

have the courage, perhaps not even the strength, to knock,” he said.

“These people have lost trust, they don’t have the courage to knock on the doors of our Christian hearts, the doors of our churches, and there they are — they don’t have the courage, we took away their trust,” Pope Francis said. “Please, this must never happen anymore.”

How people watch over this door says a lot about the Church and the community, he said, so how one cares for “the doorway” calls for great discernment and must inspire confidence and trust in people on the outside.

Pope Francis said people can learn from concierges, porters and doormen around the world, who always smile and make people feel welcome and at home. Thanking them for their work, he said the astuteness and politeness they display right at the entrance set the tone for the whole building.

Jesus is the door and the good shepherd whose sheep hear, recognize and follow Him, the pope said referring to chapter 10 of the Gospel of St. John.

Like the sheepfold, where God’s people are gathered, the pope said, “the house of God is a shelter, not a prison.” Jesus is the gate that lets people go in “without fear and go out without danger.”

The role of the gatekeeper is to listen to the shepherd, to open the door and to let in all the sheep, “all of them, including the ones that were lost in the wilderness that the good shepherd went to bring back. The gatekeeper does not choose the sheep, the parish secretary doesn’t choose them,” the pope said. “All the sheep are invited. They are chosen by the good shepherd.”

The gatekeeper, that is, everyone in the Church, must obey the voice of God and remember “the Church is the custodian of the Lord’s house, not the master of the Lord’s house.”

The pope also said that it takes courage to “cross the threshold” and accept God’s invitation.

“Each one of us has something that weighs on us inside, right? We are all sinners,” he said. “Let us take advantage of this moment that is coming and cross the threshold of this mercy of God who never tires of forgiving, who never tires of waiting for us, who looks upon us and is always by our side. Courage! Let’s enter through this door.”

If miracle approved, Blessed Teresa could be canonized Sept. 4, 2016

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican calendar for the Year of Mercy deliberately set aside Sept. 4, 2016, as a possible date for the canonization of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata, if her sainthood cause is concluded by then.

The canonization would be celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square at the end of a three-day pilgrimage of people who, like Blessed Teresa was, are engaged in corporal works of mercy.

“Sept. 4 is a hypothesis or plan within the calendar for the jubilee year,” Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told Catholic News Service Nov. 19.

The Italian news agency AGI reported Nov. 18 that a panel of physicians convoked by the Congregation for Saints’ Causes agreed there was no medical or natural explanation for the recov-



BLESSED TERESA OF KOLKATA

ery of a Brazilian man suffering from multiple brain tumors. His healing after prayers for the intercession of Blessed Teresa was submitted as the miracle needed for her canonization.

Father Lombardi urged caution, however. “The process is still underway and official communications will be given at the

appropriate time.”

Members of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes still must review the physicians’ report on the healing. If the members have no further questions, Pope Francis would be asked to issue a decree recognizing the healing as a miracle worked by God through the intercession of Mother Teresa.

With the decree, the pope would survey the world’s cardinals and set a date for a consistory of cardinals who live in or could come to Rome for the occasion. They would be asked to recommend the pope canonize Blessed Teresa; if the pope agrees, he would set the date for the ceremony.

AGI had reported the likely date of the canonization would be Sept. 5 — Mother Teresa’s feast day and the anniversary of her death. However, Sept. 5 is a Monday in 2016 and Father Lombardi said the canonization would not take place on a Monday.

PRAY FOR PEACE, WEEP FOR WORLD AT WAR



CNS PHOTO/ANTONIO BRONIC, REUTERS

“Jesus wept.” Pope Francis opened his morning homily with those words as he spoke about the wars and violence engulfing numerous parts of the world. “Jesus is weeping today, too, because we have preferred the path of war, the path of hatred, the path of enmity,” the pope said during the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae where he lives. In this photo Migrants walk toward the Hungarian border after arriving at the train station in Botovo, Croatia, Oct. 6. As scores of migrants continue to flow into Croatia, there are reports that Hungary could close its unofficial border crossings.

The Saints go marching ... to Lucas Oil Stadium

BY JOSEPH AND JENNIFER MILLER

SOUTH BEND — The Bishop Dwenger Saints are one step away from accomplishing their dream. The Saints advanced to the Class 4-A state championship football game for the second consecutive year with a convincing 41-7 triumph over host Saint Joseph at Father Walter Bly Field Nov. 20.

Dwenger employed a balanced offensive attack and a stifling defense to end Saint Joseph's surprising play-off run.

The Saints vaunted running attack was the key to the victory. "We knew we had to be able to run the ball, and we did," said Dwenger Head Coach Ernie Bojrab. Led by offensive lineman Landon Campbell, Nick Maguire, Jeremy Herber, Sean McAbee and Landon Meyer, the Saints ran for 272 yards on the night.

Both teams showed early jitters by turning the ball over on back-to-back first quarter drives. Later, after Saint Joseph failed to cleanly field a punt deep in its own territory, Dwenger recovered on the four-yard line. Two plays later, junior quarterback Blake Podschne plunged into the end zone from two yards out to put the Saints on the scoreboard first.

Saint Joseph punted on its next possession and Dwenger took the ball over on its own 23 yard line. Behind their mammoth offensive line, the Saints marched the ball 77 yards down the field capped off by a two-yard touchdown stomp from



PROVIDED BY JOE AND JENNIFER MILLER

Father Terry Coonan, himself a Dwenger graduate and current Saint Joseph chaplain, offers a blessing to both teams, together, after the game.

junior fullback Peter Winkeljohn.

Moments later, Saint Joseph answered with a 13-yard touchdown pass from Tony Carmola to Mark Madden. That score cut the deficit in half with 5:29 left in the second quarter.

Saint Joseph's glimpse of hope proved short lived however as the Saints quickly posted two more touchdowns to take a commanding 28-7 lead to the locker room. The Saints two quick strikes came thanks to the fancy footwork of Amaun Clark on a 22-yard scamper and the arm of Podschne who connected on a 27-yard laser to Mike Hake.

In the second half the Saints continued to run and throw the ball with precision and strength. Podschne scored his second touchdown of the night from two yards out near the end of the third quarter and sophomore Michael Hauptert closed out the scoring with 32-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, the stout Dwenger defense, which has held four of its last five opponents to a touchdown or less, continued to shut down Saint Joseph in the second half. "Our defense has been keeping us in the game from the start of the season," said Bojrab.

The Indians certainly had nothing to hang their heads about. After a grueling regular season schedule, Saint Joseph entered the playoffs with 5-4 record. They then rattled off four straight wins picking up sectional and regional titles along the way.

Saint Joseph Head Coach Ben

Downey told his team he was proud of them after the game. "This was a tough way for it all to end because the score got to be so lopsided. But, what our guys did is in the history books now ... they won a couple of championships."

For the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, this high level matchup of two Catholic schools served as a proud testimony. To be competitors on the field and brothers in Christ off demonstrates the beauty of Catholic education. Father Terry Coonan, himself a Dwenger graduate and current Saint Joseph chaplain, visually and spiritually showed this reality as he offered a blessing to both teams, together, after the game.

Interestingly, Friday night's matchup marked the 25th anniversary of the 1990 meeting of the Indians and Saints in the semi-state game. Dwenger won that year and went on the following week to claim the first of what would be back-to-back state titles. Now, Dwenger returns to Lucas Oil Stadium for the second consecutive year and it's 10th state championship appearance overall. The Saints take on East Central this Saturday at 3:30 p.m. A determined Bojrab enjoined his players to "Enjoy tonight, because tomorrow it's back to work."

In Mishawaka, Marian too vied for a chance for an opportunity to advance to state in Class 3-A semifinals at Otolski Field. Hopes were dashed in the last five minutes of the game as No. 3 West Lafayette took possession of the ball and won, 14-10.

FORGIVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

communities. In an older generation, when it came to abortion, people "knew what they were doing, but there was no outlet to talk about it." No one showed her the baby's heart beating at 21 weeks, she shared, and no one told her that "abortion clinics were strategically placed in African American neighborhoods," to destroy that population.

Today, however, Thompson said, youth she talks with often show little shame when talking openly about the abortions of family members or friends. "They don't know what they're doing." Others added that in their communities, there is a stigma associated with putting one's child up for adoption. Participants urged the importance of continuing to raise awareness of these issues in a community that is on the one hand disproportionately affected by — and even targeted for — abortion, and simultaneously distanced from the mainstream pro-life movement, which is understood to be primarily white and conservative, and even anti-black on important political questions.

Amid such deeply entrenched issues, the most powerful part of Thompson's story was her testimony to God's mercy and faithful love. She has experienced God's



DEACON MEL TARDY

powerful forgiveness in the wake of her abortion, admitting the evil she had done. "Only Jesus can hold our hand in a time like this," Thompson said.

Immediately afterward, she resolved to live in a way pleasing to God. She understands the weight of temptation, Thompson said, and she understands the young ladies who feel like they can't even tell their mothers they are pregnant. Yet she also understands the power of God to help us live a "saved, celibate single life."

Yet as so many women and men can attest, the journey of healing still goes on to this day. The abortion remained quietly

devastating for years. Eventually, Thompson saw that it was a major source of her depression, which she expressed in over-commitment to work.

The Lord made use of all her pain. Today, she is the President of Urban Life Matters and serves on the Board of Directors for the Life Centers Pregnancy Care Centers (Indianapolis) and as a member of the National Black Pro-Life Coalition. She also cares for her 81-year-old mother.

She is even newly married for the first time at age 45. She and her husband sang "Great is Thy Faithfulness" as she began her story, testifying to the power of

Sally Thompson spoke at St. Augustine Church on Nov. 21. Her topic, "Abortion, Healing and Forgiveness: A Conversation with Sally Thompson, President of Urban Life Matters," addressed the abortion issue which is the leading cause of death for African Americans in the U.S.

God in their lives.

Other participants included Fred and Lisa Everett, who described the Women's Care Center and other efforts in the diocese to promote life, marriage and family. In particular, Fred described the effort to rebuild the trustworthiness of men and women, which in turn provides a foundation for healthy Christian marriages open to life. In the same spirit, Deacon Tardy said, there is a need to rebuild the trust among races and classes, including in the pro-life movement.

Organized by the Black Catholic Advisory Board of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Tolton Society in celebration of Black Catholic History Month, the event was an effort to discuss both the evil of abortion and the healing God desires to provide for every person among us affected by a past abortion. Many resources are available, both for women in crisis pregnancies and for women and men in need of healing from past abortions.

More information

Abortions are by far the leading cause of death for African Americans in the U.S. The strategic plan of the Diocesan Black Catholic Ministry (available at www.diocesefesb.org/DBCM) offers these resources:

- **Maafa 21:** www.maafa21.com
- **National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life:** www.blackcatholicsforlife.org
- **Protecting Black Life:** www.protectingblacklife.org

Another helpful site is: www.blackgenocide.org/black.html. "According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, black women are more than five times as likely as white women to have an abortion."

"Since 1973, Black women have had about 16 million abortions ... the number of current living blacks (in the U.S.) is 36 million ... the missing 16 million represents an enormous loss."

Christ Child Festival to celebrate 'Christmas in the Park'

FORT WAYNE — The Christ Child Festival will host "Christmas in the Park" on Saturday, Nov. 28, and Sunday, Nov. 29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Franke Park, 3411 Sherman Blvd.

Activities for the entire family include horse-drawn wagon/carriage ride, the "Streets of Bethlehem" with a Nativity featuring live animals. "Audience of One" youth theater troupe will offer re-enactments and interactions with visitors. Participants may walk through "Streets of Jerusalem" with live camels, puppet show on the ark float, booth on prayer with books for the children, animal balloons, crafts and games inside children's tent as well as an Animal Grams petting zoo. Musicians, singers and speakers will entertain in the talent-sharing tent.

Visitors may write a note to a veteran that will be delivered to the VA Northern Indiana Health Services Facility on Lake Avenue. The cards will accompany the decorated Christmas tree that is on display at "Christmas in the Park."

Visitors may also pack a "Bag of Blessings" to be distributed to area homeless, contribute toward the postage for the "Little Dresses For Africa" project and view a wide variety of displays in the heated pavilion including a "Make it ... Take it ... Say 'Merry Christmas,'" and a Nativity collection.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be served in the pavilion. For more information contact Judi Hapke at 260-447-9437 or visit www.christchildfest.org.

Lecture, panel to discuss helping those in need

FORT WAYNE — The Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne and Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend, in conjunction with the Alumni Association of the University of Notre Dame, will host a lecture followed by a panel discussion focused on current research and programs aimed at helping those in need. The lecture and panel discussion will be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. in the Allen County Main Library, Meeting Rooms B and C. The event will include a scholar from the University of Notre Dame and two panelists from the Fort Wayne community. Attendees will have an opportunity to interact with panel members during a Q&A session.

Panelists include:

- William N. Evans, Ph.D. — Professor Evans received his Ph.D. in economics in 1987 from Duke University. He was a faculty member at the University of Maryland for 20 years before joining Notre Dame as the Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Economics. His research covers a broad range of areas, including health economics, public finance and the economics

AROUND THE DIOCESE

BISHOP RHOADES JOINS BLUE RIBBON CELEBRATION



DERBY PHOTOGRAPHY

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joined the St. Pius X School community in a blue ribbon celebration on Nov. 6 where he signed a beam to be placed as part of the steel structure of the new church being built at St. Pius, celebrated an all-school Mass and enjoyed a reception. St. Pius X School was recently named one of 335 schools recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015 based on their overall academic excellence as nominated by The Council for American Private Education (CAPE). Father William Meininger, parochial vicar at St. Pius X, Principal Elaine Holmes, Assistant Principal Stephanie Molnar and art teacher Anne Bostwick attended a recognition ceremony on Nov. 9-10 in Washington, D.C. to receive the award. Pictured are, from left, St. Pius pastor Msgr. Bill Schooler, Assistant Principal Stephanie Molnar, Bishop Rhoades and Principal Elaine Holmes.

of education. Professor Evans is a co-founder of the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO), a unique research center that partners with local agencies such as Catholic Charities in an attempt to provide evidence-based poverty solutions.

- Gloria Whitcraft — Gloria Whitcraft is the Chief Executive Office for Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc. She possesses a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's of science in education with a counseling concentration, and is licensed in the state of Indiana as marriage and family therapist. Whitcraft has worked in social services for 20 years. She previously worked at Lutheran Social Services of Indiana, Park Center, Inc., Choices, Inc. and Liberty Behavioral Health.

- Nyein Chan — Nyein Chan's experiences as a displaced person and émigré have made him a knowledgeable, social worker in Catholic Charities' refugee resettlement efforts. Chan, a former refugee from Burma, came to the U.S. in 1994. He was sponsored by Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne and started working as a case manager in 2000. He was named resettlement director

in 2004. He has an undergraduate in Organizational Leadership and is completing his graduate studies.

The event is free and open to the public. RSVP by emailing Jacob Benedict at jacob@amiinvestment.com.

St. Bavo to host 'Festival of Lessons and Carols'

MISHAWAKA — St. Bavo Church, 511 W. 7th St. in Mishawaka, will host its 11th annual "Festival of Lessons and Carols" on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 4 p.m. The program will feature the Marian High School and St. Bavo Liturgical Choirs and the Antioch Youth Group. Father Bob Lengerich, pastor of St. Dominic Church in Bremen, will preside.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service celebrating the birth of Jesus. It is a brief journey through salvation history. The readings begin with the story of the fall of humanity, followed by the promise of the Messiah and then the birth of Jesus. All told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and choral music.

The public is invited and admission is free.

Internationalization efforts at Saint Mary's garner recognition

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College had much to celebrate last week during International Education/Modern Languages Week. The 2015 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange, released Monday, ranks Saint Mary's College 25th among all U.S. baccalaureate institutions in total undergraduate study abroad participation. The Open Doors Report study abroad findings are based on 2013-14 data. The Institute of International Education (IIE) publishes the Open Doors Report and releases it annually during International Education Week.

This is the second time this fall that the women's college, with an enrollment of about 1,600 students, has been recognized for the percentage of students who study abroad. In September, *U.S. News & World Report* (which uses a slightly different metric) ranked Saint Mary's College among the top 100 institutions in its list "Best Colleges: Most students studying abroad." The college was ranked 44th in the nation, with

51 percent of the college's 2014 graduates participating in study abroad programs.

Saint Mary's has also experienced continued growth in the international student population on campus due to the college's English Language School, the international student exchange program, the Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant program, and the four-year degree-seeking international students.

Beginning in the fall the college is partnering with the Training Program for Students and Teachers Proyecta 100,000 Estado de Mexico to host a cohort of students from Mexico for one month to learn English. Five students came to campus in October and another group of 20 students from the Proyecta program will attend the English Language School in December.

The College's Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) oversees the study abroad program and internationalization efforts on campus.

Arthur Snyder makes commitment as a Providence Associate

FORT WAYNE

— Fort Wayne resident Arthur E. Snyder deepened his relationship with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Saturday, Nov. 14, as he made a commitment as a Providence Associate, joining 27 other 2015 associates with the Sisters of Providence.

"Since I have been associated with the Sisters of Providence for many years, it was a more in-depth opportunity to understand the charism of the congregation," Snyder said. "This reinforced my connection to my faith and the Sisters of Providence particularly as it relates to love, mercy and justice."

Director of Providence Associates Sister Diane Mason said in order to become a Providence Associate, a candidate is paired with a Sister of Providence or Providence Associate companion and goes through a year of study, prayer and reflection. Snyder's companion was Sister Denise Wilkinson.

Sister Diane said the Nov. 14 commitment ceremony brought the total of Providence Associates to more than 220 in the United States and Taiwan. The relationship began nine years ago.

In late October of this year, more than 40 women and men began their journey as Candidate-Associates. The associate relationship is open to people of faith, ages 18 and older.

For more information visit ProvidenceAssociates.org or contact Providence Associate Debbie Dillow at 317-250-3294.



ARTHUR SNYDER

Advent

Waiting in the midst of a culture that does not want us to wait

BY EFFIE CALDAROLA

If you're old enough to remember Mr. Rogers, whose "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" children's program ran on public television for years, you may remember his song, "Let's think of something to do while we're waiting."

Ring a bell? If it does, you'll be humming "while we're waiting" in your head long after you've finished reading this. That's OK, because waiting is the theme of this piece, and waiting is something we all might ponder during Advent, the traditional time of waiting for Christ.

Mr. Rogers knew that waiting is very difficult for kids. Remember how it seemed as if your birthday would never arrive? Can you imagine family vacations without that refrain, "Are we there yet?"

We've all been that little child, waiting for grandparents or cousins to arrive, gazing out the window and down the street, longing impatiently to see our loved ones. Little kids even have a hard time waiting for their parents to serve dessert.

Life explodes with events for which we can't wait, but we must wait.

Fast-forward a few years, and waiting isn't quite the same for us adults. We've lost some of our sense of eager anticipation, haven't we? We know something kids don't know: Life is finite, so why rush it?

And some of our waiting is hard, such as the times we wait for a lab report from our doctor or wait to hear the garage door open to know that a teenager is home safe. And that next big birthday? It does not seem so urgent anymore, and we'd be just as happy to postpone it for as long as we can.

We sometimes feel ambivalent about certain events, such as a relative's visit, a dinner party, a holiday. Such an event would have had us in knots of frenzied expectation when we were children or the first time we experienced it.

At the same time, and rather paradoxically, we live in a culture that doesn't want or expect to wait, ever. We send an email and want an immediate response from the person we sent it to. We check our smartphones every few minutes. We don't wait to find out who wins the primary because now we've become accustomed to poll results keeping us constantly informed.

Merchants devise new plans to get our purchases to us practically as soon as we've ordered them, and some are exploring the idea of employing a drone to do so more efficiently and quickly.

But our purchases aren't the only thing we can't wait for. Want to lose 30 pounds this month? We know that's impossible, but our eyes are drawn to those ads. We don't want to wait.

The season of Advent arrives in the midst of frenzied lives that now live in an extremely demanding culture, a culture that refuses to wait. It's a short season, only four weeks, made shorter by the craziness of December.

Let's admit it: How many of us have ever silently wished that this spiritual season came at a less busy time? There are so many Christmas parties, so much shopping to get done, cookies and other holiday goodies to make, presents to wrap. Who has time, right?

Yes, culturally we've subverted our season of waiting by making Christmas an overwhelming endeavor, almost a race, rather than a time that should cause us to slow down and pray and focus on the reason for Christmas.

We've forgotten that Advent is intertwined with Christmas and is a time of waiting. The word itself comes from the Latin "adventus," which means coming or arrival. It means we're not there yet, folks. It means we're waiting, that activity we don't do very well in this culture.

We who thump the steering wheel when the red light seems as if it will never change are asked to contemplate the "people of God" waiting centuries for a Messiah. And we're asked to anticipate in Christ's coming again, in the fullness of time, which could be next week or next millennia.

How can I think about waiting for that? Who's got that kind of time? Is that who we want to be?

Perhaps that's the challenge we might take up for Advent this year. We can think about waiting. We can think about slowing down and perhaps try to imagine ourselves as the kid with her nose pressed to the window single-mindedly willing Grandma to appear down the street.

Sure, it's a busy time. But maybe we can turn waiting into prayer to the Christ for whom we wait. Let your mind seek stillness as you wait in long checkout lines. Find God when the yellow traffic light heralds your next delay. Turn off the television and give yourself 10 minutes, waiting, in a darkened room with a glowing tree.

Wherever you happen to be waiting impatiently, remind yourself to be mindful of waiting for the God who is waiting for you. Make time to wait, don't wait for it to happen.

Wait like a kid, in joyful anticipation.

Effie Caldarola is a freelance writer and columnist for Catholic News Service. She lives in Nebraska.

We don't like waiting for anything — for traffic lights, for weight loss or even comm

This contemporary abhorrence of waiting stands in stark contrast to Mary. Her gracef

Mary reminds us that waiting is part of our Catholic faith. Sometimes God's plan isn't

the only thing we know is that we don't know.



Looking to Mary

BY KELLY BOTHUM

Patience is like a parking space at the mall on Black Friday — it exists but it sure seems in short supply.

Instead, impatience has become the default. We don't like waiting for anything — for traffic lights, for weight loss or even commercials that interrupt our favorite shows. Even Christmas trees now come already decorated.

This contemporary abhorrence of waiting stands in stark contrast to Mary. Her graceful patience is something to consider, especially as Catholics begin the prayerful preparation of Advent.

Mary reminds us that waiting is part of our Catholic faith. Sometimes God's plan isn't visible. Sometimes it's nothing like we imagined. Sometimes the only thing we know is that we don't know.

In that way, Mary is Advent. She didn't know what was happening the day Gabriel, the angel, appeared to her. She was a frightened girl, barely a teenager

and already betrothed. Gabriel tells her to get on the surface so

She, a virgin, is to bear a baby by the Holy Spirit. The child will grow up to be the Son of the God. No one knows when it will happen. Just when it happens, Gabriel

And she accepts. She asks Gabriel to let her know when it's time to return at a certain time. She complains. She wonders about God's plan or why she should forget it.

Instead, she is told to remain the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to you, word" (Lk 1:38).

Her waiting extends far beyond the months of pregnancy. She endures more than most. Gabriel told her, but she didn't see a glimpse of what was to come. She would hold the child who would present Jesus in the world.

He says: "And you will pierce a sword through your thoughts of man" (Lk 2:35).

Mary watches the world from an infant's

ercials that interrupt our favorite shows.

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Iraqis experience the graceful patience of Mary in her preparation to become the mother of Jesus during a re-enactment of the Nativity at Ainkawa refugee camp near Irbil, Iraq, Dec. 19, 2014.

CNS PHOTO/SAHAR MANSOUR

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who gets lost in the temple and can't understand why His parents worry. She watches Him rise, nudging Him along for His first miracle at Cana, then suffers the ultimate heartache. She stands at the cross watching her son die a terrible death.

And still she waits.

Her patient waiting provides a roadmap of faith for us. Steady, obedient, faithful, she simply follows the path God has drawn for her.

During Advent, we should all be so willing to wait and listen to what God is really saying to us. That means slowing down and savoring the moment rather than pushing to get to the next great thing.

It also means accepting suffering, if need be, because we don't know when it will turn to joy. It means appreciating the struggles because eventually they lead to successes. It's treasuring the unexpected.

Mary did just that, and look how it turned out for all of us.

Kelly Bothum is a freelance writer and mother of three.

What do we desire?

BY MIKE NELSON

It was the first Sunday of Advent. In the assembly were two visitors, an 11-year-old boy and his mother. As Mass was about to begin, the cantor stepped before the assembly and announced, with a big smile, "Today, we're going to sing Christmas carols!"

The boy, son of a diocesan-certified liturgist, could not have been more alarmed had all his presents been stolen from underneath the tree. "Mom," he whispered anxiously, "they can't do that! It's Advent!"

His mom, mindful of her role as responsible adult and visitor, calmed him down as best she could. "They must do things differently here," she said quietly, though not without a good glare in the cantor's direction.

Such is the ongoing struggle experienced by many Catholics in Advent: trying to celebrate the season at hand amid a society that insists we play their game.

No, it's not easy, battling retailers who decree that Christmas shopping should begin on the Fourth of July (or, at the very latest, Labor Day). Or newspapers, TV and online ads that bombard us to "Buy now! Buy more!" before autumn even begins. Or Christmas music — sacred and secular — pumped through sound systems in shopping malls and grocery stores, in elevators and restaurants.

One radio station in Los Angeles has for years played nonstop Christmas music from Thanksgiving Day (or earlier) through Dec. 26. And they get the ratings to justify it (at least in their profit-driven world).

So what's our response, as Catholics wishing to celebrate Advent? Not shop? Not read the papers, watch TV or listen to the radio? Not go anywhere?

At the risk of sounding like Scrooge, I would suggest that we Catholics don't help the situation when we flood our parish calendars with too many events. As well-intentioned as these events may be, they all entail work on the part of someone (and in parishes, it's usually the same people doing most of the work).

My wife calls Advent her favorite season of the year. And yet, she has not enjoyed a truly spiritual Advent in more than 20 years. She has plenty of work as the parish liturgist and musician — planning and rehearsing the music, overseeing the liturgical environment, scheduling and preparing various ministers, writing scripts for celebrants and emcees, etc., etc., while doing her Christmas shopping, holiday baking and the regular day-to-day of running a household.

All of it she does amazingly well. But when is there time for her — or anyone in liturgical ministry, including priests — to really enjoy Advent?

Advent is a season of anticipation, but it might also be described as a season of desire. And what, above all, do we desire?

As liturgical musicians, my wife and I find comfort and nourishment in Advent's rich supply of music that speaks to our desire and longing for the Lord. Among my favorites is Bernadette Farrell's gentle "Litany of the Word," and its pleading refrain, "Maranatha," the Aramaic word that means "The Lord is coming" or, simply, "Come, Lord."

John the Baptist anticipates our desire, I think, in one of the season's most familiar Gospel readings: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths" (Mk 1:3).

The way of the Lord, it seems to me, is the way that leads directly to our hearts. But how straight — how uncluttered, actually — is our path?

"Where your treasure is," Jesus tells us, "there also will your heart be." Amid our seasonal "treasure hunts" in stores and online, it is worth our time to reflect during Advent on the kind of treasure that never fades, never breaks, never wears out and is impossible to return.

Amid the commotion and promotion of Christmas, let us make room in our hearts during Advent by focusing on God's greatest gift to us — the presence of Jesus — so that we fully receive, cherish and, yes, sing about it always.

Mike Nelson, a freelance writer, is former editor of *The Tidings*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Waiting seems like a long-lost virtue in a world that's increasingly in a hurry. But the Bible assures us that if we wait, great things will come our way. And perhaps Advent is the perfect time to put that into practice. Take a page from James, who advised us to be like a farmer who reaps rewards from waiting. But what we, as Christians, wait for is more precious than food.

"Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You, too, must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand" (Jas 5:7-8).

St. John the Evangelist mom needs kidney

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — It's not easy for St. John the Evangelist parishioner Elizabeth Lopez to talk about her illness and her need for a kidney donor, but she agreed to speak about it for two reasons — her family, including her two young sons, and others who like her, might need an organ donation to survive and thrive.

A 14-year Goshen resident, Lopez was born and raised in California. She and her husband moved to Goshen after visiting here. "We liked it and thought it would be a good place to raise kids — except for the snow," the native Californian admitted.

They've been members of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen, for 12 years and both sons, Oscar and Ruben, attended St. John School. Ruben is currently a fifth grader, while Oscar attends Goshen Middle School.

Lopez was diagnosed with Lupus — an auto-immune disease — 11 years ago, shortly after Ruben was born. The diagnosis came after her kidneys began failing. Lopez said she was able to control her illness well for about 10 years. The day before last Thanksgiving she became ill and was sick throughout the holiday. On Dec. 2 she was admitted to the hospital and her levels were dropping fast. She and her husband, Sandro, were told had they waited another day, this could be a different story.

She's had six surgeries since then and complications from the surgeries.

Lopez was put on the donor list in September of 2014. She said she's on the top of the list, but because she has a lot of antibodies in her blood, it's been hard to find a match. Her blood type is AB positive, which should be easily compatible but multiple blood transfusions have proven it difficult.

Perseverance, faith and family

Despite health issues, Lopez is still working. She's employed at Oaklawn, a mental health facility, and said her employer understands the time off that she's needed. "Working keeps me sane," she said. She is also taking classes at Ivy Tech in Business Administration and Human Resources.

Lopez said her pastor, Father Anthony Steinacker, and parishioners at St. John have been very supportive. "St. John's has been so helpful — they've brought so many meals and (parents) have taken the kids to school."

Her faith has definitely helped sustain her. "I believe God doesn't give me more than I can handle. I believe He helps me or I wouldn't be here. I believe He has a plan for me," she said.

One of those plans, she believes, is to be a co-facilitator of a local Lupus support group. She's contacted the Lupus foundation and



PHOTOS BY DENISE FEDOROW

Liz Lopez, center, lives by the motto displayed on the wall behind her. She and her boys Oscar, left, and Ruben, right, spoke in their Goshen home recently about how her disease affects their family and how their faith sustains them.

applied. She said people need a place to go for support, to vent and to talk with others who can truly relate.

She said her illness has been a strain on her family. "There's not a day I don't think about it or want to cry about it and sometimes I do on my way home — but I have to

be strong for my kids," said Lopez, adding that her boys have had to grow up fast. She describes them as shy and caring and always looking out for each other. They also help her out around the house and on bad days, cook while she supervises.

Lopez receives dialysis three days a week for four hours. It drains

her but she still goes to work, school and cares for her family.

Dr. Tim Taber, transplant nephrologist at IU Health, Indianapolis, said while dialysis is a good thing, it does shorten a patient's life expectancy. "The longer a patient is on dialysis their life expectancy is diminished and that's why a transplant is important," Dr. Taber said. Dr. Taber said of the 300-400 kidney transplants done at IU Health, 35-40 percent are living donors. "If you give a kidney to someone on the waiting list, that moves someone else up so you're really helping to get two people transplants," he said.

She said it would "mean the world" to her to get a kidney and her sons expressed the same. Ruben said he prays a lot about it — "For mom to get a kidney donated so she can feel better." Oscar said if his mom got a kidney donated she'd have more energy and feel good. "I hope one day someone actually goes in to donate."

Lopez said she also wants to spread the word about the importance of organ donation. "Please think of becoming an organ donor. I know it's hard to think of giving a kidney — you have a family, too. But please consider it. If not for me, then for someone else," she implored. "And if not a live donor, then think about when you pass on — you have the ability to save so many lives."

To assist Lopez, contact IU Health Live Donor Coordinator Kathy Carnes at 1-800-382-4602 or by email at kcarnes@iuhealth.org. To learn more about living kidney donation visit iuhealth.org/transplant or donatelifenet.org/living-donation.



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The death crawl and purgatory?

Since November is the month of purgatory, I want to write about purgatory here in an unusual way, as a model for men — physical and spiritual fathers. You might be familiar with the movie “Facing the Giants,” where a “losing coach with an underdog football team faces their giants of fear and failure on and off the field to surprising results” (IMBD.com). The film’s pivotal moment is the “death crawl.” Brock, the team’s captain, cynical about winning, is challenged to give more than he has been giving. Coach Taylor has him carry another player on his back, “crawling” on his hands and feet — not his knees — blindfolded. Coach is on his hands and knees, in Brock’s face, screaming encouragements to do better: “Don’t tell me you can’t be giving me more than what I have been seeing!” “Give me all you got!” “Don’t quit! Don’t quit! Don’t quit!” “I know it hurts — don’t quit on me!” “It’s all heart from here!” Brock exceeds his own expectations by 80 yards! Coach saw Brock’s potential and loved him enough to challenge him to be his best self.

In my mind this illustrates purgatory: God knows our potential and loves us enough to challenge us to become our best self, a.k.a. holy. If after death we have some remaining effects of sin that have not yet been purged through our earthly suffering, in purgatory we will be purged of the rest, because nothing unclean enters heaven (Rev. 21:27). In purgatory God’s total and complete love for us will be present — love beyond our wildest imagination — a full-on,

no-holds-barred love that will completely challenge us — no fig leaves, no hiding in the bushes (or in electronics) — a purifying love that will allow us an even greater experience of His love in heaven!

Back on earth we are loved by God: He totally gives Himself to us in Jesus; He makes us His beloved sons (Mk 1:11); we are “chosen” (Jn. 15:16), “a gift” (Jn. 17:24, NAB), forgiven, delighted in and given everything God has (Lk. 15:11-35). We need to experience this kind of love, then we also need challenge. And God does not disappoint — He challenges us tremendously — He calls us to pick up our cross daily (Mt 16:24), to die to sin (Rom. 6:8), and to lay down our lives for our brides — the Church or physical brides (Jn. 15:13; Eph 5:25-28). We are to forgive as we have been forgiven, love our enemies (ouch!), make disciples of all nations and love the least among us. These challenges are impossible without His love animating us.

Love and challenge are at the heart of spiritual and physical fatherhood and relationships, too. If one is emphasized over the other, distortions arise, not only in families, but in our Church and society. In my counseling practice I constantly deal with people who have not experienced love that enables them to love as they should. They’ve grown up in homes where they were never good enough and feel they don’t deserve love. They received challenge, but little love.

Consider Holocaust rescuers — some of the greatest unsung heroes of the last century, people like Oscar Schindler and those who helped Anne Frank’s family. In 1992, the



DAVE MCCLOW

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

Oliners researched the factors that produced such heroes. They found it was not religion, economic status, etc., but how the rescuers were fathered that made the difference. Their fathers were respectful and sensitive to them. They used reason and teaching as discipline, rarely resorting to corporal punishment.

Our Catholic catechesis after Vatican II has been seen as mostly “balloons and banners.” It has lacked challenge, and we have lost two generations in part because of it: only 26 percent of Catholics attend Mass weekly. Our culture tends to focus on love, especially in schools where some stress self-esteem and rewards for all. They accept the students where they are without challenging them to greater heights. Love without challenge breeds passivity, and challenge without love breeds emptiness and brutality. Neither are Catholic; neither help us to flourish as God intended.

Spiritual and physical fathers must drink deeply of God’s love, then love with their head, heart and hands, and then challenge their children to love others. Cardinal Ratzinger, a.k.a. Pope Benedict XVI, says, “This fatherhood is a love that avoids two traps: the

MCCLOW, PAGE 12

The grittiness of Christian faith

JERUSALEM. Walking through the narrow, winding streets of Jerusalem’s Old City on my first visit here in 15 years, I was powerfully struck once again by the grittiness of Christianity, the palpable connection between the faith and the quotidian realities of life. For here, as in no other place, the believer, the skeptic, and the “searcher” are confronted with a fact: Christianity began, not with a pious story or “narrative,” but with the reality of transformed lives. Real things happened to real people at real places in real time — and the transformation wrought in those real people by those “real things” transformed the world.

The most transformative of those “real things” was the encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, the one those real people had first known in this real place as the young rabbi Jesus from Nazareth. That encounter, and the radical transformation of lives that to which it led, remains, today, the greatest “proof” of the Resurrection. For how else would a ragtag bunch of men and women from the bleachers of civilization have found the commitment and courage to go out and change the world, had not something utterly unprecedented happened to them: something that shattered the boundaries of their expectations of the possible; something that demanded to be shared?

All that happened, just as the pre-Passion ministry of Jesus happened, amidst the daily give-and-



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

take of life in the bazaar that the Middle East was, is, and probably always will be. There’s nothing ethereal-Gothic about Jerusalem’s Old City or its Christian focal point, the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher: it’s all grit all the way down, as you walk past stall after stall of souvenir and curio stalls, their sameness broken by the occasional spice shop with its distinctive aromas of cinnamon and cloves, en route to the places where, according to ancient tradition, the events that changed the world and the cosmos took place — Calvary and the Empty Tomb. And the basilica itself is the very embodiment of grittiness, for there is no aesthetically pleasing symmetry here, but rather a hodgepodge of architectural and decorative styles, ranging from classic Byzantine to delirious-modern-Italian.

Yet none of that matters, really. For if the Son of God came into the world, not to fetch us out of our humanity but to redeem and glorify us in it, then the places most closely associated with the redemption should

WEIGEL, PAGE 12

The message of Jesus is timeless



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

1st Sunday of Advent Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

With this First Sunday of Advent, the Church begins a new liturgical year. As such, the readings for the year to come will be from the “C” cycle of the Lectionary, the collection of biblical texts used by the Church for lessons at Masses.

The first reading for this weekend is from the Book of Jeremiah, written when times were hard for God’s people. The dynasty formed by King David had disappeared, extinguished by infighting and internal intrigue. Its collapse had deep religious implications.

God had a covenant with

David, and with David’s successors. Their task was not just to govern, but also rather to keep the nation of Israel faithful to God.

With the end of the unified monarchy under David and his heirs, no other figure or authority had God’s commission to exercise the role of strengthening the national bond with the Almighty.

More ominously, it seemed as if the instrument selected by God for this purpose, namely the Davidic dynasty, somehow yielded to pressures and temptations. It seemed as if too often the monarchs forgot their obligation to preserve the people’s relationship with God.

Despite these circumstances, Jeremiah promised that indeed God will endure. His justice will endure. The people must not lose faith.

For its second reading, the Church presents a passage from the First Epistle to the Thessalonians. The reading calls upon the Christians of Thessalonica to love each other. The call was simple, but not

easily achieved given human nature. Christians must love all, no one exempted.

The Epistle insists that the Lord soon will return to earth, in triumph, as the great judge. It will be a revolutionary moment. All evil will be subdued. Good and truth will reign supreme. Jesus will reign.

Christians should prepare themselves for this great event by loving others in the model of Jesus, who loved all humankind even to the point of sacrifice on Calvary.

St. Luke’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. When reading, or hearing a reading from any of the Gospels, it is important to realize that the Gospels were written generations after Jesus.

This does not mean that the Gospels are fiction. Rather it recognizes the fact that each evangelist saw the coming of Christ, and happenings in the life of Christ, with his own perception and also as the meaning of this life influenced events occurring after Jesus. The message of Jesus is timeless.

When Luke’s Gospel was

written, the tide was turning against Christians. The culture was against them. So was the law. They were in danger.

The author of St. Luke’s Gospel recalled words of Jesus to encourage and embolden Christians. Come what may, so the Gospel reassures, the Lord will return. Despite whatever anguish of a particular moment, Jesus will be victorious and will come again.

Reflection

Advent often is described as a time to prepare for Christmas. It is this, but it has two other purposes. It exists to enable us to reform ourselves, so that the Lord can come to us on any day.

Finally, it calls us to prepare ourselves for the decisive coming of Jesus when we die, and at the end of time, by reminding us that we are mortal, and that Jesus will return to the earth. He will vindicate the right. The forces of evil will wither and die. They will fall before the glory of the Risen Lord.

He will reign forever.

Everything else will pass away.

We must be with the Lord or place ourselves opposite the Lord. If we reject God we shall die.

How do we prepare for all this? We prepare by keeping first and foremost our purpose to love God above all else, and by making everything secondary to that determination.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 1 Thes 3:12-4:2

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Rom 10:9-18 Ps 19:8-11 Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Parents and 'sex ed'

While some parents might be happy to avoid the awkward conversations that arise around human sexuality by allowing the school system to provide their children's sex education, it is nonetheless important for parents to recognize that they are the most significant teachers and models for their own children as they mature sexually.

Instilling a healthy attitude about sexuality in young people involves a variety of considerations, including conveying a proper sense of constraints and boundaries. These boundaries arise organically through the virtue of chastity, by which a person acquires the ability to renounce self, to make sacrifices and to wait generously in consideration of loving fidelity toward a future spouse, out of self-respect, and out of fidelity to God. This critical process of developing sexual self-mastery is an area where parents are particularly well suited to help their children.

At the end of the day, the parental duty to influence in a positive way a child's upbringing around sexuality cannot be abdicated or delegated. Parents know their children in a personal and individual way and are able to determine their readiness for, and receptivity to, sexual information. Moreover, the reality of parental love towards their children enables a parent to say certain "hard things" in love that may need to be said, in a manner that only a parent may effectively be able to say it.

I recall the story that a middle-aged woman once shared with me about something that happened when she was 12. She was at home watching TV with her mother, who was the strong authority figure in the family. At a certain moment, a scene came across the screen where a woman was removing her clothing

and dancing in front of a group of men. Her mother glanced over at her and without skipping a beat said: "I'll kill you if you ever do that." Her daughter understood, of course, that she didn't mean it literally, but appreciated that her mother cared enough about her to be very direct: "What my mom said on that and many other occasions stayed with me for years afterwards, and helped me to reflect carefully on the right use of my sexuality." Parents influence their children in thousands of different ways, sometimes not even realizing how particular comments or observations they make can become highly significant to their child's thinking.

Helping children to think correctly about human sexuality remains a delicate and challenging task in the midst of a sex-saturated society like our own. Indeed, our thinking about human sexuality can easily go off the rails, and sexual activity itself can quickly degrade into a selfish and self-referential kind of activity, even within marriage, if we aren't careful to attend to deeper realities.

Spouses who have made a lifelong marital commitment to each other in the presence of God are uniquely empowered to live in a way that exceeds merely viewing each other as objects or as a means to satisfying their appetites; they become called to, and capable of, a higher kind of love that involves friendship, sacrifice and self-giving.

Otherwise, a dominance of things over persons can take over, leading to forms of selfishness in which persons are used in the same way as objects are used. In the context of this kind of selfishness, a woman, for example, can become a mere "object" for a man, and children can be reduced to mere "hindrances" on the part of their parents.



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

The human sexual love that is nurtured within a healthy marriage, meanwhile, generates communion between persons, as each comes to consider the good of the other as his or her own good. Marital sexuality is thus meant to go beyond merely existing with someone else and using them for selfish gain, and instead calls a person to existing for someone else through total self-gift.

As husband and wife seek to live out these truths of their human sexuality, they impart valuable and important lessons to their children about generosity, unselfish living, and chastity, where that chastity is seen as the spiritual energy capable of defending love from the perils of selfishness and aggressiveness. Parents are in the unique position of being able to model for their children a healthy example of sexual integration, generosity, and self-mastery within marriage. Under these circumstances, parents also convey to their children the beautiful message that human sexuality reaches far beyond the biological, and touches on the most intimate core of the human person, particularly as experienced in his or her capacity for personal and radical self-gift to another in marriage, faithful even unto death.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

McCLOW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

total subjugation of the child to the father's own priorities and goals, on the one hand, and the unquestioning acceptance of the child as he is, under the pretext that this is the expression of freedom, on the other." ("The God of Jesus Christ")

Being loved then challenged is imprinted on our being and is seen in the death crawl, purgatory and Holocaust rescuers. It is how men operate. It is why I named the column "The Ultimate Challenge!" and why I will close with a challenge: experience God's unbelievable love; live a heroic life of spiritual fatherhood and love your spiritual children until it hurts, and then challenge them to love others. Build the civilization of love.

Dave McCLOW, M.Div. is a counselor with the Pastoral Solutions Institute Tele-Counseling Services. Read more at CatholicExchange.com.

WEIGEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

reflect the grubby diversity of the human condition. And so it is here, as pilgrims from all over the world hustle, bustle and jostle their way toward the Twelfth Station, the site of the crucifixion, and the Aedicule that surrounds the Empty Tomb. The distractions don't distract, though; the Twelfth Station remains the easiest place in the world to pray, in Brother Lawrence's sense of prayer as "practicing the presence."

Today, when the basic institutions of civilization are being deconstructed in the name of personal willfulness and "autonomy," the Old City of Jerusalem is a powerful reminder that there are Things As They Are, and that the road to human happiness (which the Gospels call "beatitude") lies through, not around, those givens in the human condition. At a parallel moment in his-

tory, when the newly-recognized Christian Church was threatened by a Gnostic heresy that denied the goodness of creation and imagined the spiritual life to be an escape from grittiness, the Dowager Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, came here to find the True Cross — the hard, tangible fact of the redemption; the emblem of Christianity's utter groundedness in reality. What you find in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in 2015 has little to do with what Helena found here, in the sense that what you see here hasn't much to do with what she saw here; it takes an extraordinary act of imagination to conjure up Golgotha and the rocky tomb in today's ramshackle church. But the basilica is here because she came here and became a special witness to the fact that Christianity begins — and continues — with lives transformed by an encounter with the Risen One, who makes all things new.

And that makes all the difference.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for November 29, 2015

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

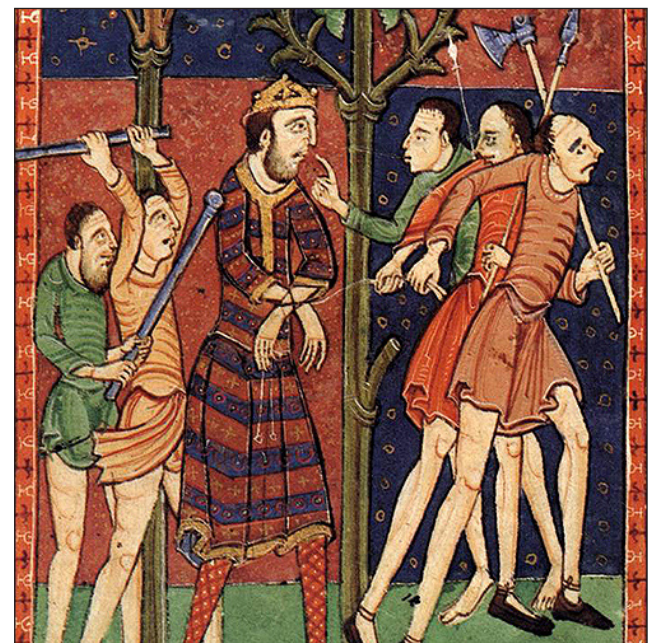
Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent, Cycle C: words of encouragement for hard times. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THE SUN ON EARTH AT THE SEA COMING BEGAN DRUNKENNESS STRENGTH	MOON NATIONS WAVES CLOUD RAISE THAT DAY TO ESCAPE	THE STARS ROARING BE SHAKEN POWER HEARTS AT ALL TIMES STAND
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LOOK UP

H	A	A	T	A	L	L	T	I	M	E	S
K	T	O	M	L	P	O	W	E	R	N	S
W	T	G	E	S	I	A	R	J	O	E	E
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T	H	A	T	D	A	Y	E	L	A	N	D

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Edmund the Martyr

841 - circa 869

Feast: Nov 20

An English patriot-king, Edmund began life with a Saxon lineage and Christian upbringing. He may have been elected king of East Anglia as early as 855, when he was 14, and of Suffolk the following year. He ruled wisely and was regarded as a good man. The great Viking invasion of 866, led by Ingvar, reached his domain a few years later. Because of his faith, Edmund repeatedly rejected Ingvar's attempts to have them rule jointly. Ingvar finally had him scourged, pierced with arrows and beheaded. Edmund is sometimes depicted in art with the wolf that allegedly guarded his head after his murder, and is the patron of wolves.

All Diocese Team

The All-Diocese Team highlights athletes from Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. These student-athletes are recognized in character, sportsmanship, leadership, athletics and Catholic values. The athletes are selected by their coaches.

BISHOP LUERS

Boys' cross-country



Patrick Rorick senior, Most Precious Blood

Girls' cross-country



Maria Lill senior, St. Therese

Football



Mick Palmer senior, OL/DL, St. Therese



Austin Mack senior, WR/DB



Jack Johnston senior, QB/DB, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel



Marcus Reeder senior, OL/DL



Justin Dippold senior, TE/LB, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Girls' golf



Sarah Braun senior, St. Therese



Katie Prendergast senior, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Boys' soccer



Jake Fabina senior, M, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne



Luke Fabina senior, D, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne



Tyler Huth senior, F, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Girls' soccer



Madeline Reibold senior, M, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



Jordan Turpchinoff senior, D



Takyra Merritt senior, MF

Boys' tennis



Ethan Brown senior, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

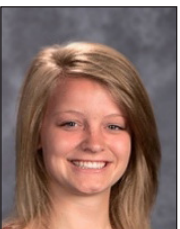


Cole Scheible sophomore, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Volleyball



Kayla Knapke senior, S, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel



Kathryn Knapke sophomore, MH, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

SAINT JOSEPH

Boys' cross-country



Matt Morris senior

Girls' cross-country



Grace Beehler freshman, Corpus Christi

Football



Ryan Mannell senior, RB/LB, Christ the King



Jack Deahl senior, WR/LB



Peter Wiegand senior, OL/DL, Holy Cross



Dominic Matthys senior, OL/DL, St. Anthony de Padua



Mark Madden senior, WR/DB, Holy Cross

Girls' golf



Allison Coyne sophomore, Christ the King



Bri Hart senior, St. Pius X

Boys' soccer



Louie Nanni junior, midfielder



Gunnar Sadoway junior, goalie, St. Thomas the Apostle



Max Otiato senior, forward, St. Anthony de Padua

Girls' soccer



Gabby Douglas senior, defender, Christ the King



Jeanie Freeby senior, midfielder, Corpus Christi



Emily Meyer senior, midfielder, St. Monica

Boys' tennis



Thomas Pries freshman, No. 1 singles, St. Joseph



Leo Romanetz junior, No. 2 singles

Volleyball



Nicole Lukens senior, OA



Mary Madden junior, MH, Holy Cross

MARIAN

Boys' cross-country



Jacob Imus senior, St. Monica



Connor Loesch sophomore, St. Matthew

Girls' cross-country



Hannah Stein sophomore, St. Bavo



Madeleine McTigue junior, St. Pius X

Football



Christian Dennis senior, OL, St. Monica



Nicholas Pingel senior, OL, St. Bavo



Kenneth Derucki senior, TE, St. Matthew



Patrick Ernst senior, OL, St. Matthew



Gavin Verslype senior, LB, St. Bavo

Girls' golf



Molly Pendergast junior, St. Matthew



Morgan Guynn sophomore, St. Anthony de Padua

Boys' soccer



Kevin Torres-Villa senior, MF, St. Thomas the Apostle



Christian Verstraete senior, D, St. Patrick



Max Frausto junior, D, Holy Family

Girls' soccer



Megan Rieker senior, D, St. Pius X



Abby Felix senior, MF, St. Joseph, Mishawaka



Sarah Eperjesi senior, D, Sacred Heart, Lakeville

Boys' tennis



Michael Deranek junior, No. 3 singles, St. Jude



Evan Kovatch junior, No. 2 singles, St. Pius X

Volleyball



Abby Whitfield senior, OH/DH, St. Joseph, Mishawaka



Abby Pozivilko senior, S, Little Flower

BISHOP DWENGER

Boys' cross-country



Alex Barton senior, St. Vincent de Paul



Jake Gloudemans senior, St. Vincent de Paul

Girls' cross-country



Megan Brelage senior, St. Jude



Rose Tippmann senior, St. Charles Borromeo

Football



Zach Norton senior, DB, St. Charles Borromeo



Landon Campbell senior, OL, St. Vincent de Paul



Jeremy Herber senior, OL, St. Vincent de Paul

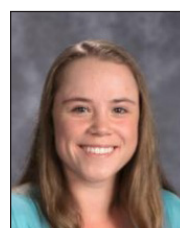


Amaun Clark junior, RB



Austin Burns senior, DB, St. Vincent de Paul

Girls' golf



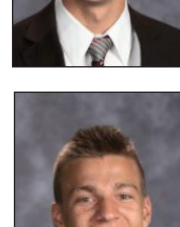
Sarah Frazier sophomore, St. Charles Borromeo



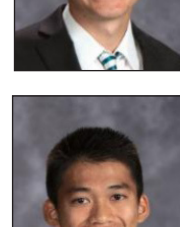
Katherine Hill junior, St. Jude



Trevor Landers senior, St. Charles Borromeo



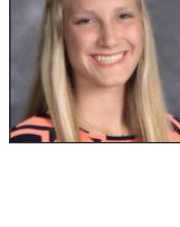
John Pollifrone senior, St. Vincent de Paul



Austin Ly junior, St. Charles Borromeo



Alexa Siegel senior, defender, St. Vincent de Paul



Karysn Kleinrichert junior, forward, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



Julianna Stureman freshman, midfield, St. Vincent de Paul



Gavin Williams senior, St. Vincent de Paul



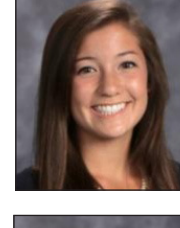
Griffin LaPan senior, St. Jude



Abbie Grace Lee senior, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



Caitlyn McTague senior, St. Charles Borromeo



Carly Robinson senior, St. John the Baptist, New Haven

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 4, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8.50, children 5-12 \$3.50. Shrimp available for \$9, chicken strips for \$8.50, and cheese pizza for \$1 per slice for children under 12.

Day of recollection planned

Fort Wayne — An Advent Morning of Reflection will be Saturday, Dec. 5, at Our Lady of the Angels Oratory, 2610 New Haven Ave. Mass at 7:45 a.m. will be followed by rosary and Holy Hour with two conferences with Brother Fidelis Maria. A potluck lunch will end the day at 1 p.m. Catholic books and gifts available. Free will offering. Call 260-739-6882 for information. Sponsored by Confraternity of Penitents.

St. Monica concludes 100 year anniversary celebration

Mishawaka — St. Monica Parish, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave., will celebrate the conclusion of its centennial year with a Mass Sunday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m. followed by a reception in the church lower level. The St. Monica choir will sing and the 100-year banner will be taken in procession to a permanent location in the church. Visit www.stmonicamish.org or www.facebook.com/stmonica100.

Lessons and Carols

Elkhart — St. Vincent de Paul Parish and School, 1108 S. Main St., will present an Advent festival of Lessons and Carols on Monday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. Music provided by parish, school and community choirs. Reception to follow in Vincent Hall. No charge for admission.

Journey through Advent

Fort Wayne — Bob Deck will present "A Journey through Advent" Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the spiritual center at St. Vincent de Paul Church. Lunch will be potluck style and a free-will offering will be taken. Call 260-909-2113 by Dec. 4 to register.

Christmas cookie and candy sale

Monroeville — The St. Rose Altar and Rosary Society will have a Christmas cookie and candy sale sold by the pound on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Monroeville Fire Station, 205 W. South St.

Camp Program Director SHARE FOUNDATION

Job Description: Share Foundation seeks a person to take over the camp program at Sharing Meadows.
Responsibilities: Responsibilities include recruiting and scheduling staff for each camp; recruiting, inviting and scheduling campers for each camp session; organizing paperwork; establishing themes, planning menus, craft projects and activities for each camp session; purchasing food and supplies and keeping an inventory; conducting orientation and training for camp staff; and evaluating each camp session. The position will also include marketing the camp building for rental to outside groups, scheduling rental contracts and seeing that renter's needs are met.
Qualifications: Candidate should have a bachelor's degree in human services or a related field, good organizational skills, proficiency in Microsoft Office, proven public speaking skills and be able to work with minimal supervision.
Benefits: This full-time position offers a salary commensurate to experience, health insurance, vacation and paid holidays. More importantly, the right person will be a part of meaningful experience and know the joy of making a difference in the lives of our other abled campers.
 Please submit a résumé to share@sharefoundation.org or by mail to: Share Foundation - P. O. Box 400 - Rolling Prairie, IN 46371 **EOE**



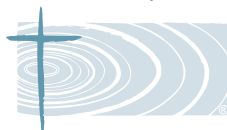
Director, Human Resources PHJC Ministries

The Center at Donaldson is part of a faith-based, not-for-profit group of ministries sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ located in Donaldson, Indiana. We are seeking a Director, Human Resources PHJC Ministries. Although the position will be housed on the Donaldson, IN campus, it will have responsibility for all 16 ministries sponsored by The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. The ministries are located in Donaldson, East Chicago, Fort Wayne, Hammond, Hobart, and Gary, IN, and also includes a ministry located in East Saint Louis, MO. The Director, Human Resources PHJC Ministries is responsible for ministry-wide strategic human resource planning and directing that includes recruitment, policy development, performance management, compensation and benefits administration, organizational training and development, and worker's compensation. Qualified candidates will have a Master's degree in Human Resources or another related organizational discipline with 10 years experience in Human Resources and five years in a Director, Human Resources role. A professional certification in Human Resources is required. Previous experience working in a not-for-profit, faith-based environment would be a definite plus. This position requires regional travel to all ministries on a regular basis.

Please visit our website at www.poorhandmaids.org or www.thecenteratdonaldson.org to learn more about our ministries.

We offer a competitive wage, and excellent benefit package. Résumé, including salary history, should be submitted by December 11, 2015 to:

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

The Center at Donaldson
 Attn: Human Resources
 P.O. Box 1
 Donaldson, Indiana 46513
 Phone: 574-936-9936
 Fax: 574-935-1735
 E-mail: hr@poorhandmaids.org
EOE

REST IN PEACE

Arcola

Mary Francie Strack, 85, St. Patrick

Donaldson

Sister Kathleen Morrissey, PHJC, 79, Catherine Kasper Chapel

Sister Maxine

Peppenhorst, PHJC, 97, Catherine Kasper Chapel

Elkhart

Peter B. Gilles, 79, St. Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne

Henry Keith Arnold, 98, St. Charles Borromeo

Sally Lou Swartz, 78, St. Peter

Leroy Andrew Leffers, 82, St. Vincent de Paul

Virginia C. Cronkhite, 102, St. Jude

Ella Mae Hess, St. Patrick

Granger

Robert Leo Murphy, 75, St. Pius X

New Haven

Anne A. Szajna, 72, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Brother Francis J. Gorch, CSC, 93, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

James Patrick

O'Connor, 54, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Brother Donald M.

Fleischhacker, CSC, 78, Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel

Plymouth

Sister Julienne Smith, PHJC, Ancilla Domini

Rome City

Donald Curtis, 75, St. Gaspar

South Bend

Mary Ann Hansen, 82, St. John the Baptist

Aldo Manolo Coria-Garcia, 20, St. Adalbert

Agnes Hibshman, 96, St. Therese

Mark Christopher Kroll, 65, St. Augustine

Loretta V. Maure, 90, St. Casimir

Gertrude J. Downs, 92, St. Adalbert

Guadalupe Bueno, 81, Our Lady of Hungary

William E. Gray, 88, St. Matthew Cathedral

Maria Orozco-Vilchis, 82, Our Lady of Hungary

Eugene J. Wizeck, 89, St. Anthony de Padua

Yoder

LaDonna J. Tennyson, 88, St. Aloysius

Christmas Sale Nov. 23-28, 2015

20% off Religious Christmas Cards
 20% OFF one item with this ad!

(Expiration date: Nov. 30, 2015)



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H.O.P.E. CLUB PACKS 325 FOOD BOXES



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Each year the Saint Joseph High School's h.o.p.e. (Helping Other People Endure) Club hosts a food drive that gives a box of food/toiletries to needy families in Michiana. Students pledged a donation amount in their first hour class that was applied towards \$50 food baskets. The school raised over \$25,000 and will provide 325 boxes of food to families.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 7:00 P.M.

ST. MATTHEW CATHEDRAL, South Bend, IN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 - 7:00 P.M.

SACRED HEART CHURCH, Warsaw, IN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 - 7:00 P.M.

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS, FORT WAYNE, IN

ROBERT GOLDSTINE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

TICKETS & INFO: Contact the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
(260) 399-1448 | info@diocesefwsb.org | www.diocesefwsb.org/faustina

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Meet & Greet

Christmas Network Event

Diversify your business network!
Create new connections with other Catholic business professionals from northern Indiana.

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 5-7 p.m.
Brookside Mansion

at the University of Saint Francis
2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne

RSVP by December 8

www.todayscatholicnews.org/meetandgreet
or call (260) 399-1457

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Christmas Network Event

Diversify your business network!
Create new connections with other Catholic business professionals from northern Indiana.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 5-7 p.m.

Antonio's Italian Ristorante

1105 Goshen Ave., Elkhart

RSVP by December 1

www.todayscatholicnews.org/meetandgreet
or call (260) 399-1457

\$10 Per person includes
hors d'oeuvres,
Cash Bar available.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit
The Women's Care Centers.